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July 24, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Stacy Horton, Washington Policy Analyst/Biologist

SUBJECT: Kalispel Tribe of Indians Update on Efforts to Suppress Northern Pike and Policy Implications

The Kalispel Tribe has undertaken a significant effort to reduce Northern pike, an illegally introduced, and voracious non-native predator. Northern pike threaten to undermine significant investments by the Tribe, State and Federal agencies, private utilities, USACE, and BPA to restore native species, including ESA-listed bull trout. Furthermore, Northern pike pose significant risks to the anadromous fisheries of the Columbia River basin and the trust/treaty fisheries of the lower Columbia River tribes if left to emigrate further downstream.

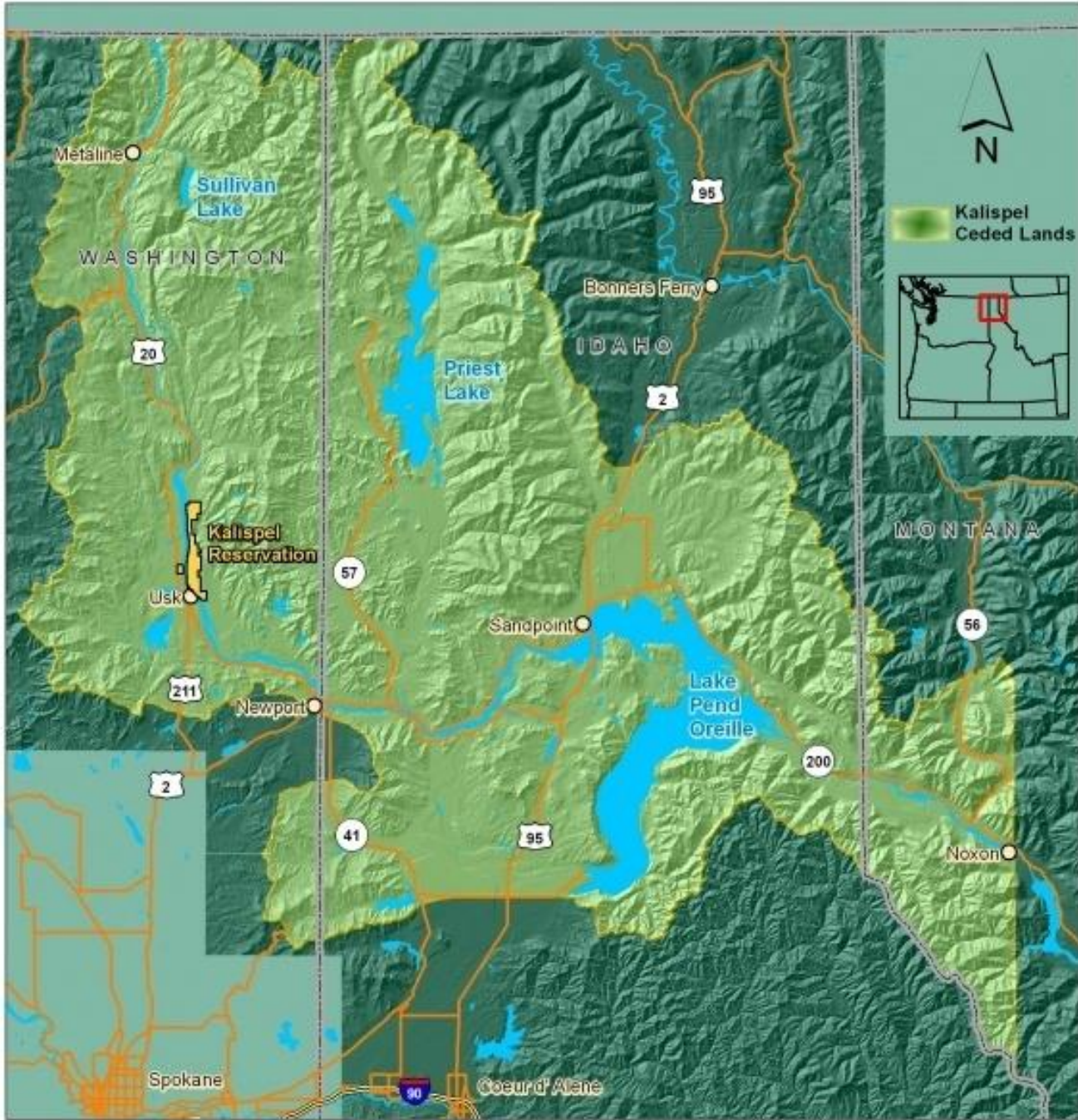
Representatives from the Kalispel Tribe would like to update the Council on their suppression efforts and discuss some of the policy implications. Deane Osterman, Executive Director of Natural Resources, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, and Jason Connor, Fisheries Project Manager, will share insights with the Council about this significant threat.

Invasive Northern Pike in the Pend Oreille River, Washington

Presented by
Deane Osterman

Kalispel Tribe
Natural Resources Department





Kalispel Ceded Lands

NE Washington,
Idaho and Western
Montana
Over 2.3 million
acres

Reservation

NE Washington
4,750 acres
1,900 additional
acres in Trust status
since 1997

Background

- Northern pike established prior to 2004
- Began monitoring the population in 2005
- Increased exponentially from ~ 400 in 2006 to > 5,500 in 2010
- Range expanded throughout reservoir as well as downstream; Boundary Reservoir and Upper Columbia River
- All other species except smallmouth bass and tench have declined significantly

Threats of Expanding Population

- Local
 - Native species conservation and ESA recovery in lower Pend Oreille watershed
 - Box Canyon, Boundary dams FERC license implementation
 - Further illegal introductions into neighboring waters
- Columbia River
 - ESA recovery
 - Tribal, recreational, commercial salmon and steelhead fisheries
 - Lake Roosevelt resident fish mitigation and substitution

Management Objective

- 87% reduction in abundance (CPUE) by 2014
 - From 13.2 NP/net night to <1.73 in southern ½ of BCR
 - From 2.9 NP/net night to <0.5 in northern ½ of BCR

Determination of % CPUE reduction (Standard Warmwater gill net) to achieve 2004-2006 level:

(2004) .72 NP/net → (2011) 5.50 NP/net

Return to 2004 level = 87% reduction from 2011 SPIN CPUE (13.2 pike/net) = **1.73 NP/net**

(2011) 13.2 NP/net → (2004) 1.73 NP/net

- Back-calculated from population estimates and gill net CPUE assuming 1:1 relationship

Three-Pronged Approach

1. Increase angler exploitation through education and outreach.
2. Promote fishing contests that provide financial incentive for harvest.
 - PikePalooza 2012 (\$10,000)
3. Mechanical Suppression
 - Intensive gill netting
 - 12-20 nets per day

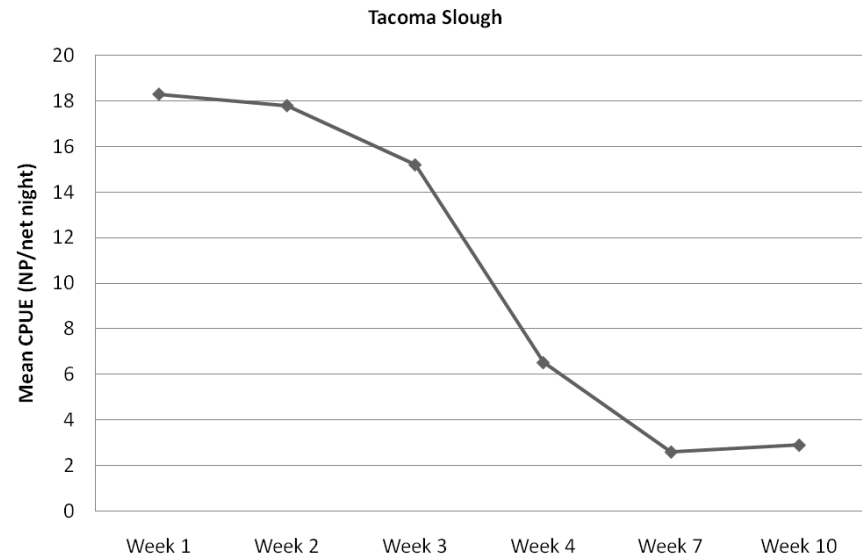
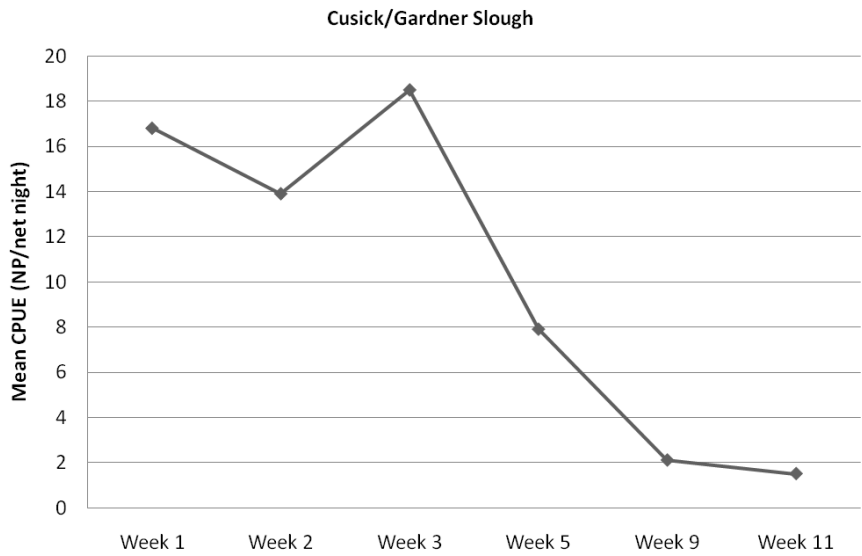
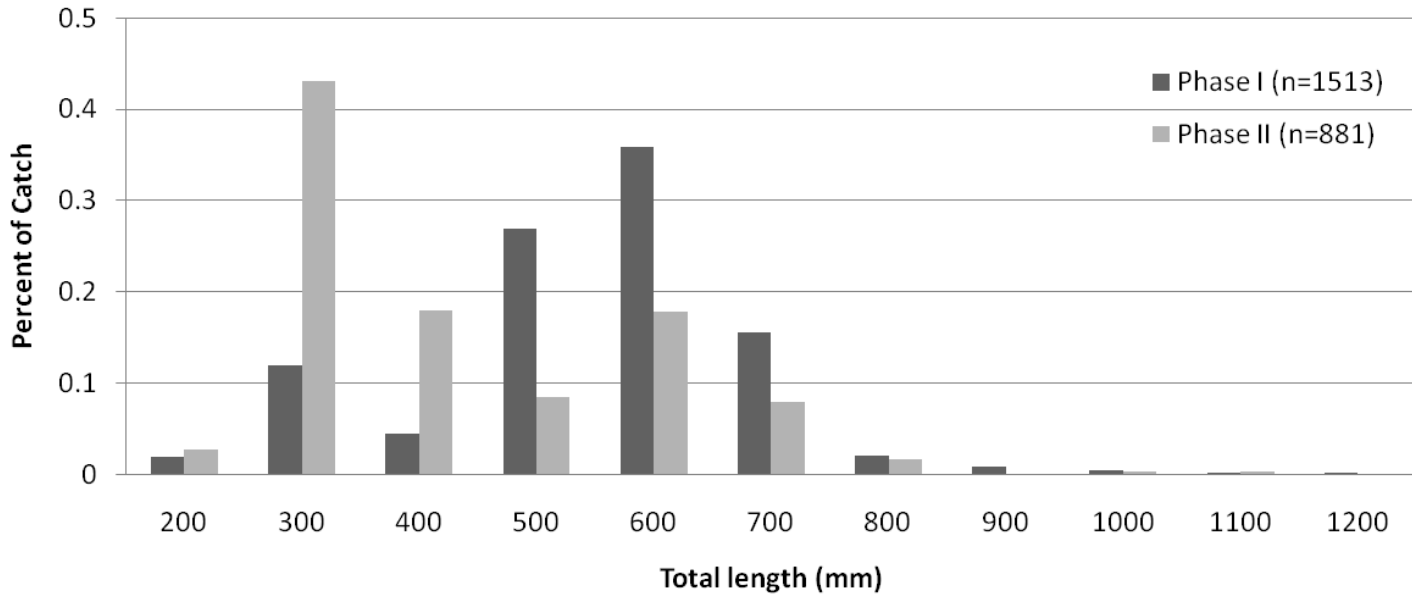




Results (March 19-June 13)

- 1,031 gill nets set (47.1 Km)
- 5,808 NP (~ 8.5 mT)
- Mean TL 538 mm (21 in), 1,300 g (2.9 lbs)
- 46% female
- 20 fish species, 17,459 individuals, ~90% survival

BBH	1529	SMB	170	YP	7439	BLT	2
LNS	34	LMB	320	WALL	33	LKT	1
LRS	175	PMO	882	GP	1	RBT	44
BC	1659	NPM	134	LWF	8	BRT	150
PS	1237	TNC	3611	WCT	3	EBT	28



PikePalooza 2012

First Event June 29-July 1

- 138 anglers pre-registered online, 70 onsite
- 33 anglers harvested 81 pike
- Most fish category winner: 14 pike
- Pike from 286-1178 mm harvested
- 74% juveniles <450 mm
- No tagged fish harvested

Second Event August 3-5

- www.kalispeltribe.com/northern-pike



Next Steps: Implementation

- SPIN (Annually), Expand to Boundary (2013)
- Reservoir-wide warmwater survey (2014)
- Mechanical suppression at current level through 2014
- Explore other control measures ??
- Report to ISRP (2014)
- PikePalooza ??



Next Steps: Regulatory & Policy

- Coordination: **Regional**, National, International
- Regulations and disincentives
 - Mandatory kill (anglers, tournaments, scientific collectors)
 - Eliminate waste rules
 - Increase penalties for transportation/possession & prosecution
- Take immediate decisive actions when detected
- Pike toxicity/consumption advisories

Acknowledgements

- Bonneville Power Administration
- US Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Avista Corporation
- Seattle City Light
- Eastern Washington University
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Questions?