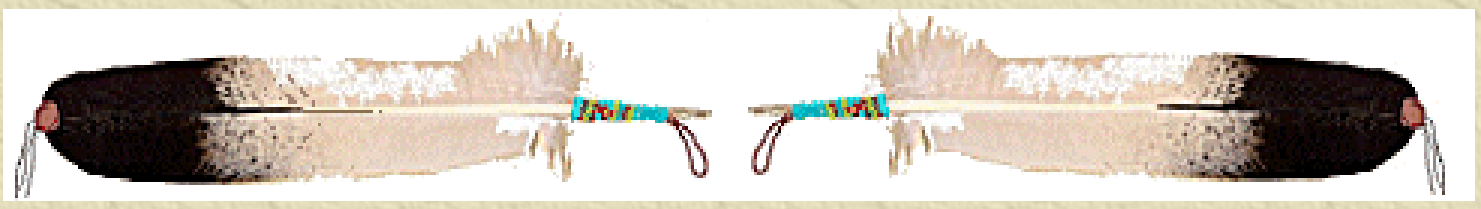
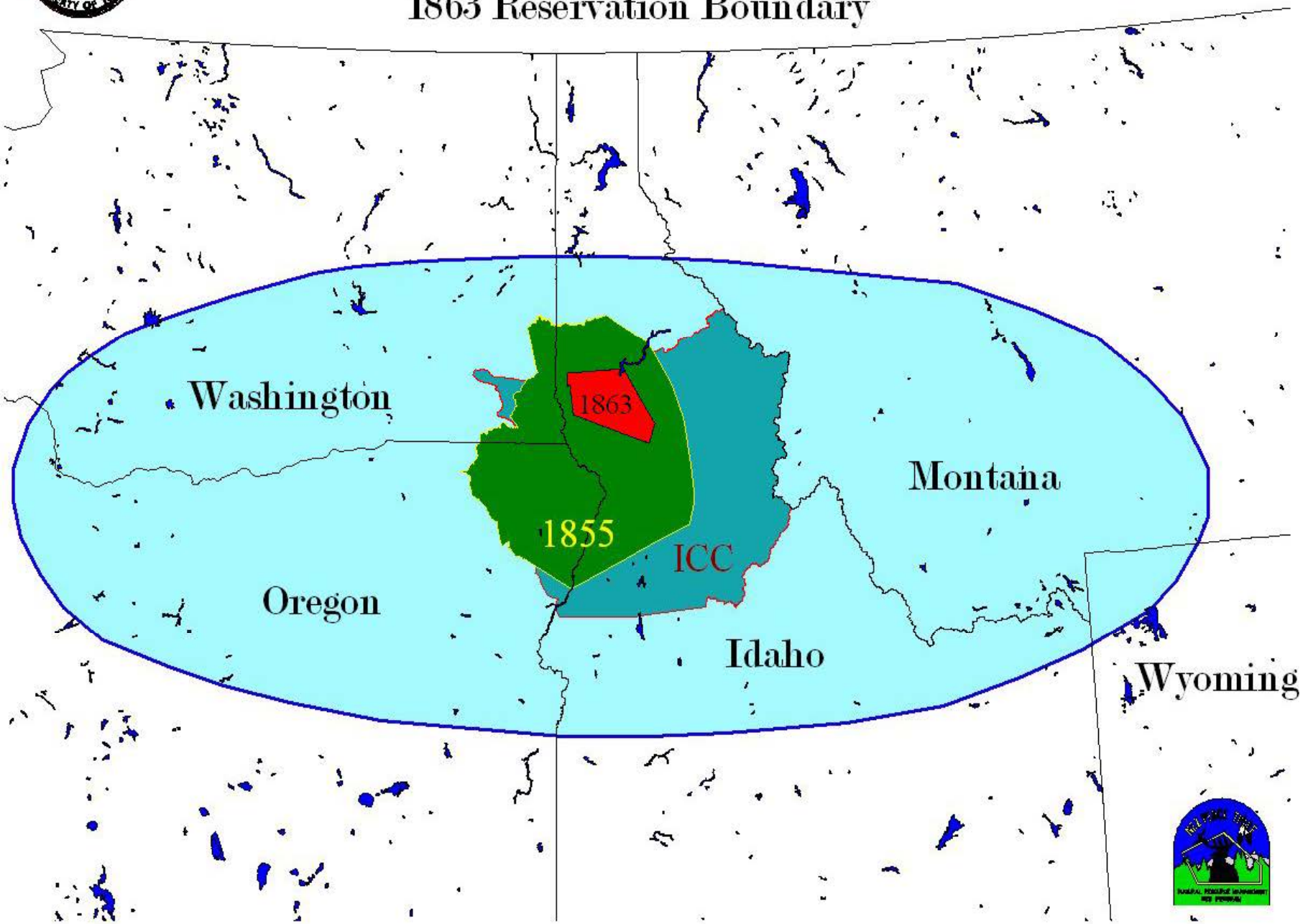
Department of Natural Resources

by: Aaron Miles, Sr.



Nez Perce Tribe
Area of Use and Influence
1863 Reservation Boundary



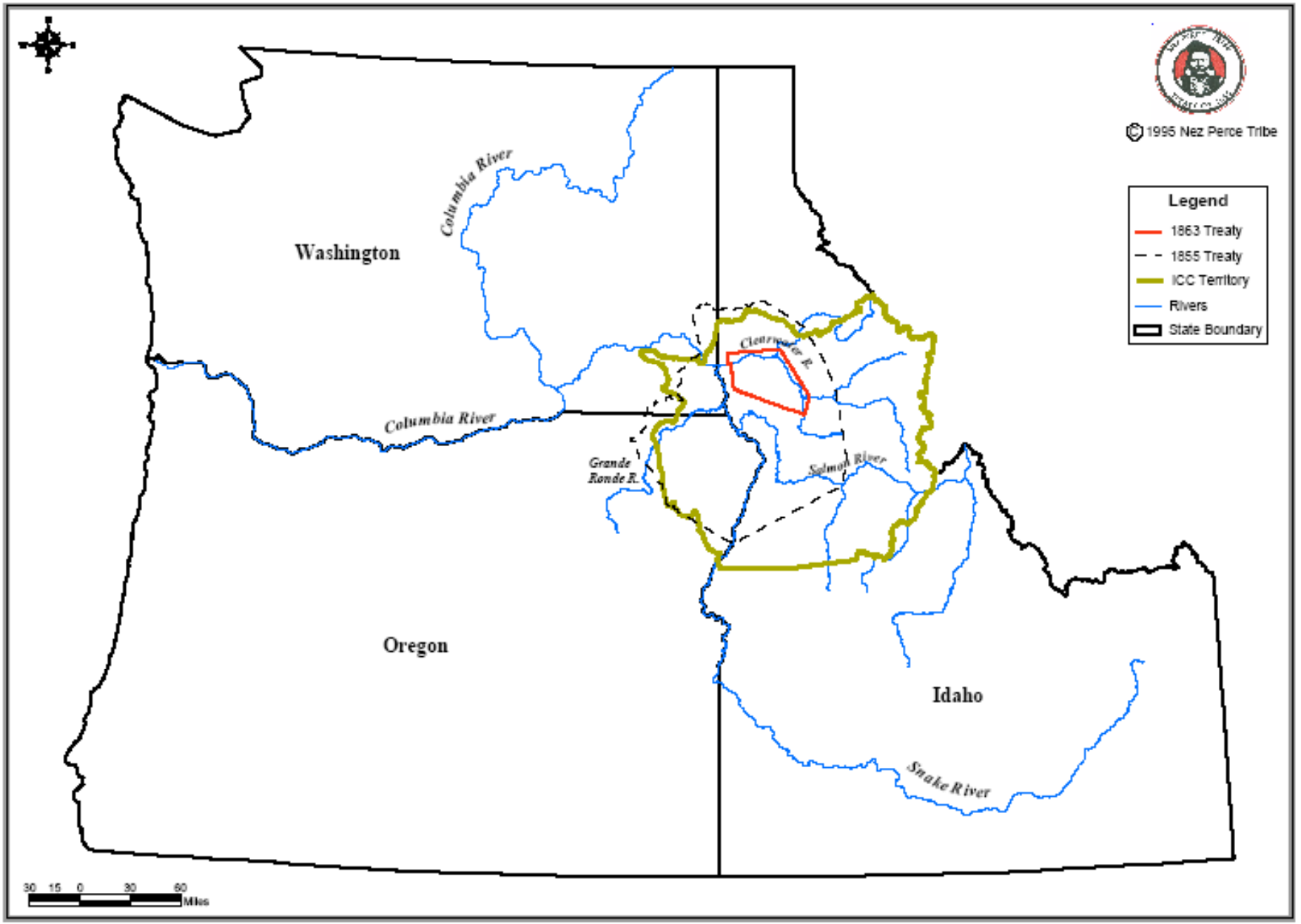
- Arrival of the Spanish people in the early 1700's introduced the horse, allowing for hunting and trading far beyond their original lands.

87744

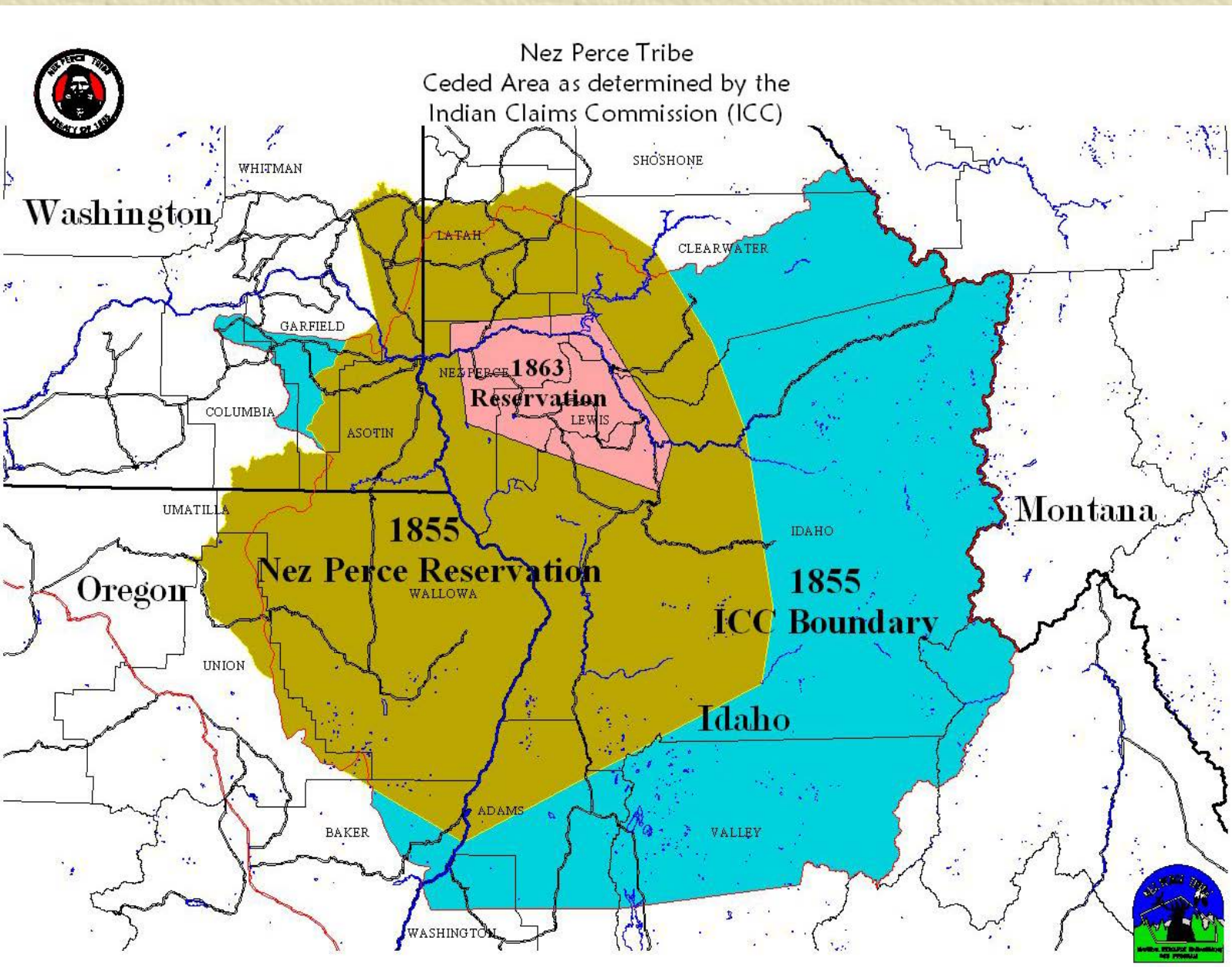
In the telling
of legends comes
the understanding of
great Truth...
"...I am the oldest Chief,
the chief chief when your
brothers Lewis and Clark
visited this country."
Hohots Illppip (Red Grizzly Bear)
The Great Spirit
sees and hears
everything and
he never
forgets.
Chief Joseph
The Nimiipuu
revered all
animal life...
You might expect rivers to run backward
as that a man born free should be denied
liberty to go where he pleases.
Chief Joseph

Territory of the Nez Perce Tribe

Reproduction of map depicting findings of Indian Claims Commission Docket No. 175



Ceded Territory



- **1836 -** Henry Spalding begins a school in "Nez Perce Country" to Christianize and assimilate Nez Perce People at Lapwai

Fishing at Celilo Falls

Treaty Rights

"the exclusive right of taking all fish…"

Today the Tribe is heavily involved with the federal government through its trust obligation to protect and preserve Nez Perce Treaty Rights and Culture.

The Nez Perce Way of Life is under constant attack through federal laws meant to assimilate individuals into the mainstream.

In 1975, the Nez Perce Tribe contracts almost all responsibilities from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Through Forestry, all of Natural Resources and Fisheries are born. The Forestry program employs less than 15 people.

Treaty of 1855

- The United States negotiates a treaty with the Nez Perce to put them 13.5 million acre reservation.

Treaty of 1863

- Known to the Nez Perce as the Thief Treaty.
- This Treaty reduces the reservation to 750,000 acres.
- The tribe retains its right to hunt, fish, and gather on the former reservation boundaries.

Nez Perce War of 1877

Chief Joseph once said:

- "I believe the old treaty has never been correctly reported, if we ever owned the land we still own it we never sold it…
- "…this is the way that they (the land) were bought."

1893 Dawes Allotment Act

- The US government opened the reservation due to the discovery of gold and for more grazing land for Euro Americans.

- The Tribes ownership was reduced from 750,000 acres to 32,000 acres.

Reorganization Era (1928-1945)

- In **1924** the Nez Perce become Citizens of the United States
- In **1948**, the Nez Perce Tribe adopts a Constitution and By-laws, a very different way of conducting business among the tribe from the hereditary “headsman” or Chief system.

Termination Era (1945-1961) – Approximately 50 Tribes were terminated by the United States Government or Congress.

- In **1956**, the Indian Relocation Act intended to assimilate reservation Indians into urban Indians. Young men and women from the Nez Perce Reservation were sent to Los Angeles and Seattle/Tacoma to forgo their way of life. The tribes' see this as an attack on their communal lifestyle to a single person lifestyle.

E.S. Paxson. Courtesy Missoula Art Museum

Self-Determination Era (1961-present?) In recognizing its abuses onto Tribes, the United States tries to reform tribal governments to expand their authority.

Indian Civil Rights Act of **1968**

In the mid-**1970**'s the tribes contract services away from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. For example the Nez Perce Tribe no longer trusted the BIA to manage it tribal trust lands and allotted lands so they contracted the funds from the BIA and managed for themselves.

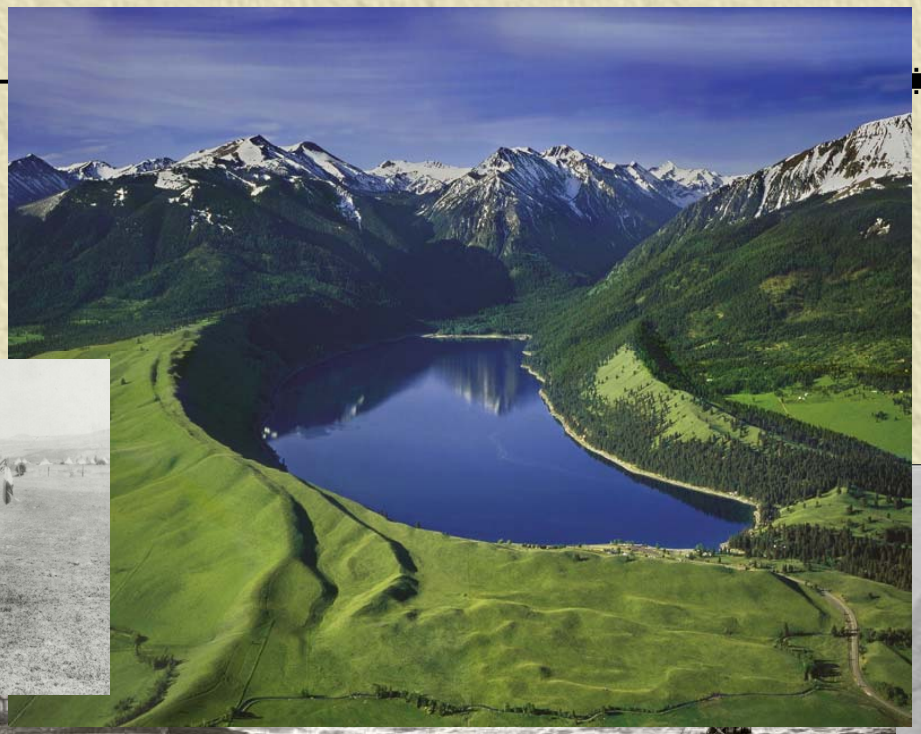
Rapid River Confrontation

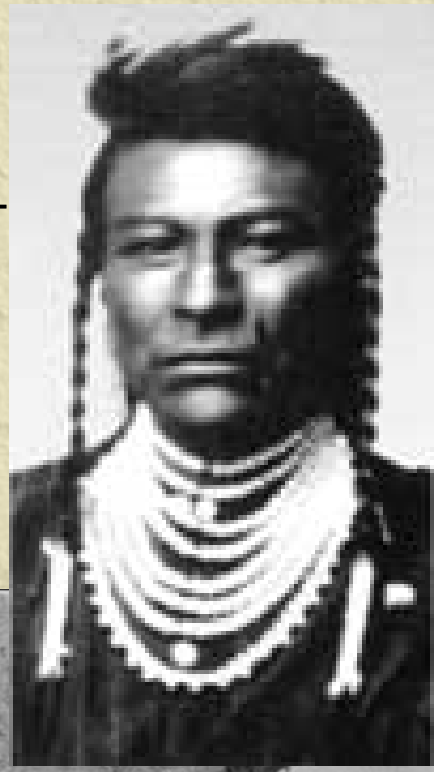
- In **1980**, the Nez Perce people fights for its fishing rights at Rapid River near Riggins, ID.
- **In spite of all the treaties, the assimilation, and termination era's, the Nez Perce Tribe is presently working towards self-determination, and economic prosperity for its people.**

Toohoolhoolzte words:

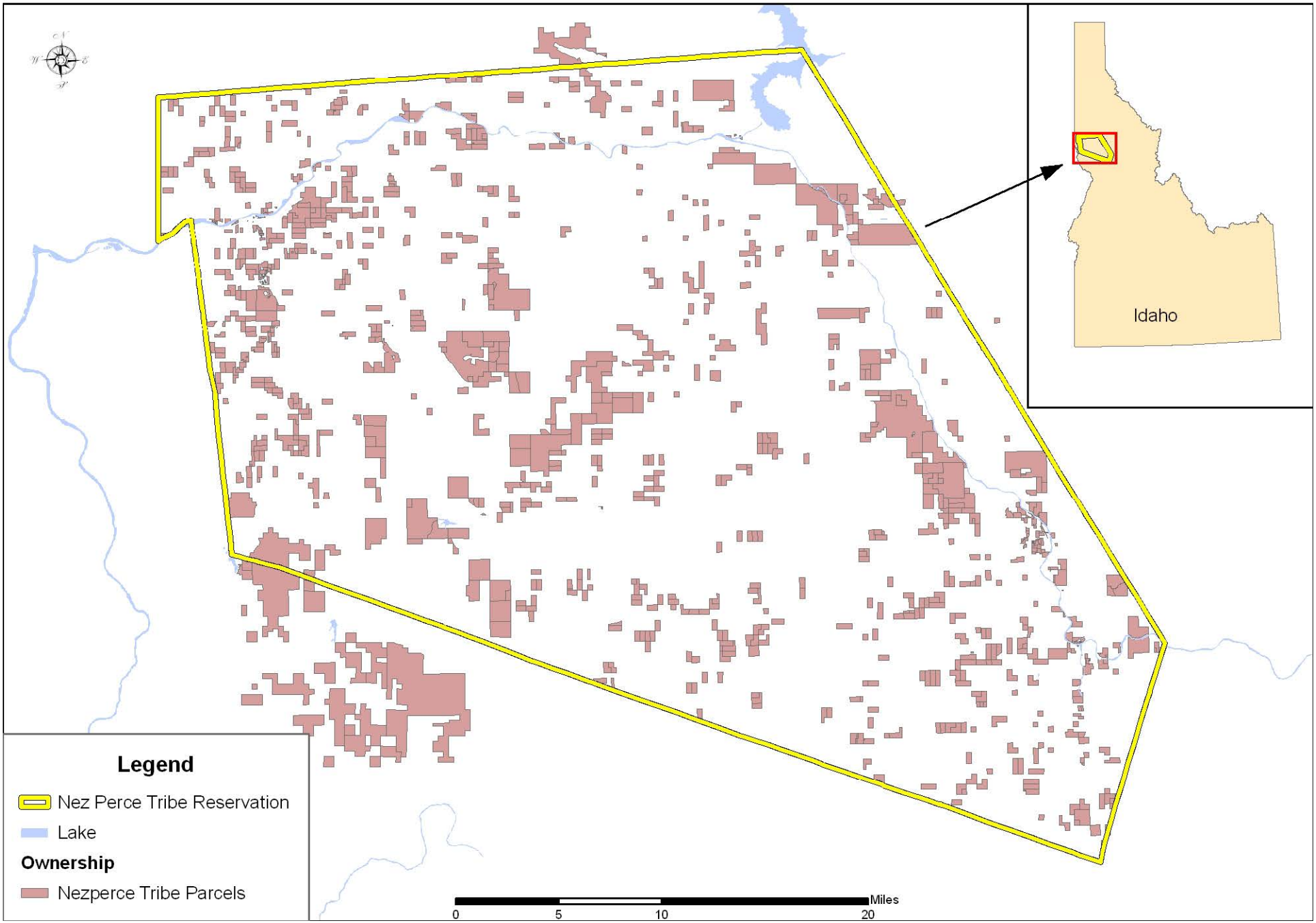
- “The earth is part of my body….I belong to the land out of which I came.

Leadership





Nez Perce Tribe Land Holdings



Department of Natural Resources

- 90 FTE's with approximately 20 Part-time or furloughed employees.
- The Department deploys the Wildland Firefighters.
- 6 divisions in the department
- Environmental Restoration & Waste Management, Cultural Resources, Forestry & Fire Management, Land Services, Wildlife, and Water Resources

ERWM

- Environmental Restoration & Waste Management is responsible for the Tribe's cooperative management with the DOE for clean up efforts on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation
- The focus is to restore, remediate, and provide long-term stewardship for the reservation once known as a place to trade with other tribes on the Columbia River.
- The branch of Natural Resources has recently embarked on a Natural Resource Damage Assessment.

continued

- The branch of Natural Resources has recently embarked on a Natural Resource Damage Assessment.
- There are many issues that the Tribe monitors included contaminated, human remains of our ancestors, the protection of Rattle Snake Mountain, destroyed native habitat, and many other issues.

continued

- ERWM is also responsible for monitoring the air quality on the reservation under the Federal Air Rules for Reservations (FARR).
- The Tribe regulates and permits small and large burns, as well as forestry and agriculture burns on the reservation.
- Air Quality staff monitor and work with permittees to coordinate burn times

For 10,000 years the Tribe lived on 13 million acres of valleys, prairies, plateaus, and mountains all provided by the Creator (in areas of present day Idaho, Washington, and Oregon).

Cultural Resource Division

- There are 4 major areas of emphasis:
- Archeology
- Ethnography
- Nez Perce Language
- Arts

continued

- Archeologist Pat Baird
- In addition to Pat's work he is also our Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
- The primary goal of the archeology program is to protect our ancestral human remains along with funerary objects and objects characterized as archeological that belong to our tribe's history and culture.
- The Tribe's resources are impacted by projects

continued

- Ethnographer: Nakia Williamson
- Through Nakia's work the Tribe is able to provide the "substance" to archeological work.
- The primary goal of the program is archive data and manage the data for the future.
- The work provides a link to our recent and distant past.

Forestry & Fire Management

- John DeGroot is the Director, directing the following areas:
- Trust Land Forestry
- Allotted Land Forestry
- Fee title Land Forestry
- Forest Regeneration
- Inventory & Planning
- Fire Management

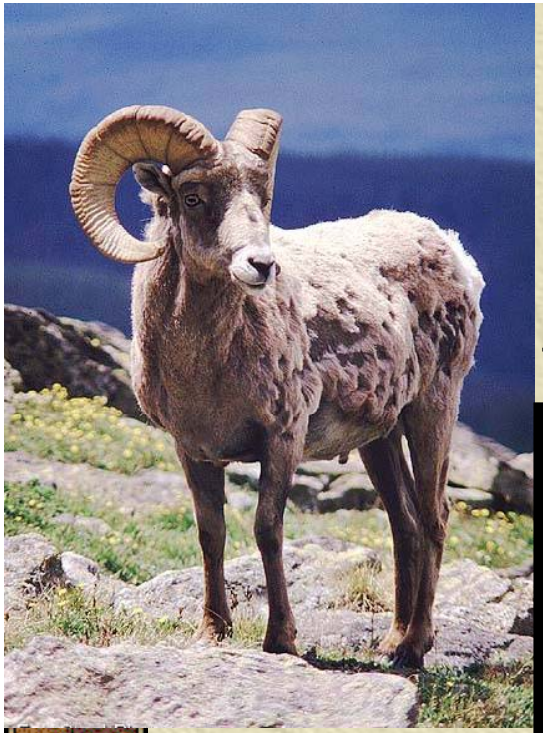
Land Services Division

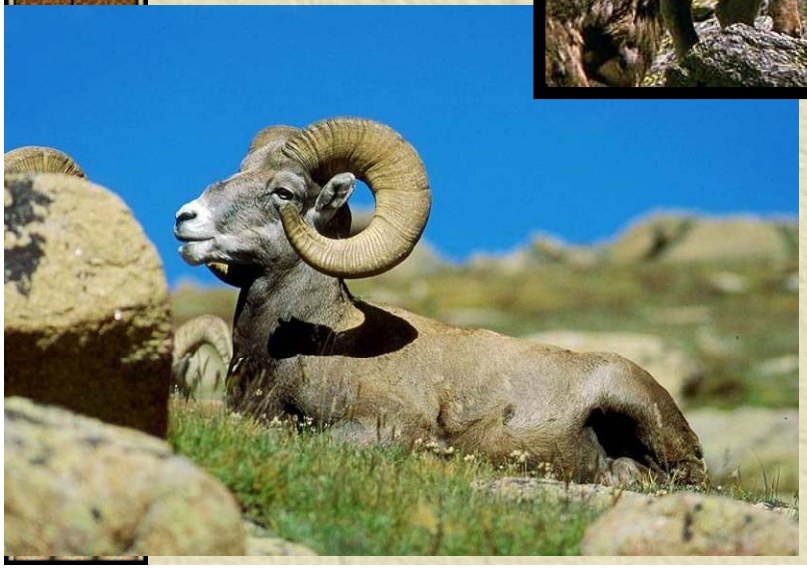
- Kim Cannon is the Director, directing the following areas:
- Tribal & Allotted Trust Agricultural Lands
- The Horseman's Program
- Bio-Control Program
- Horse Registry
- Geographic Information System

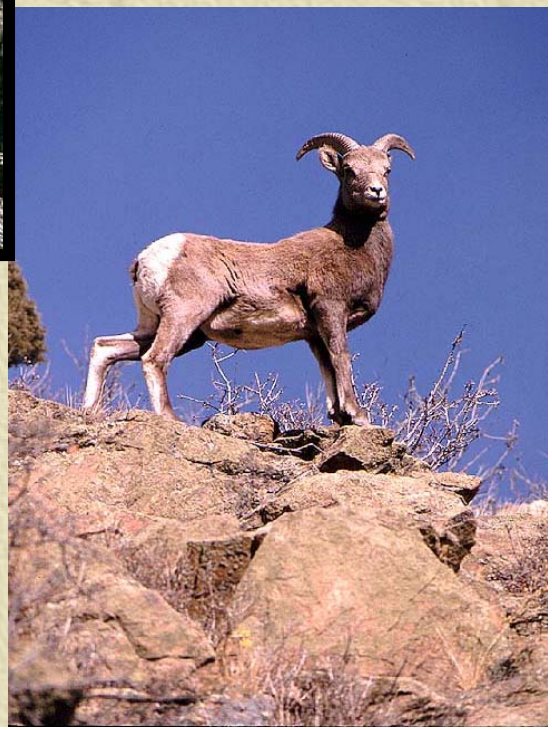
Wildlife Division

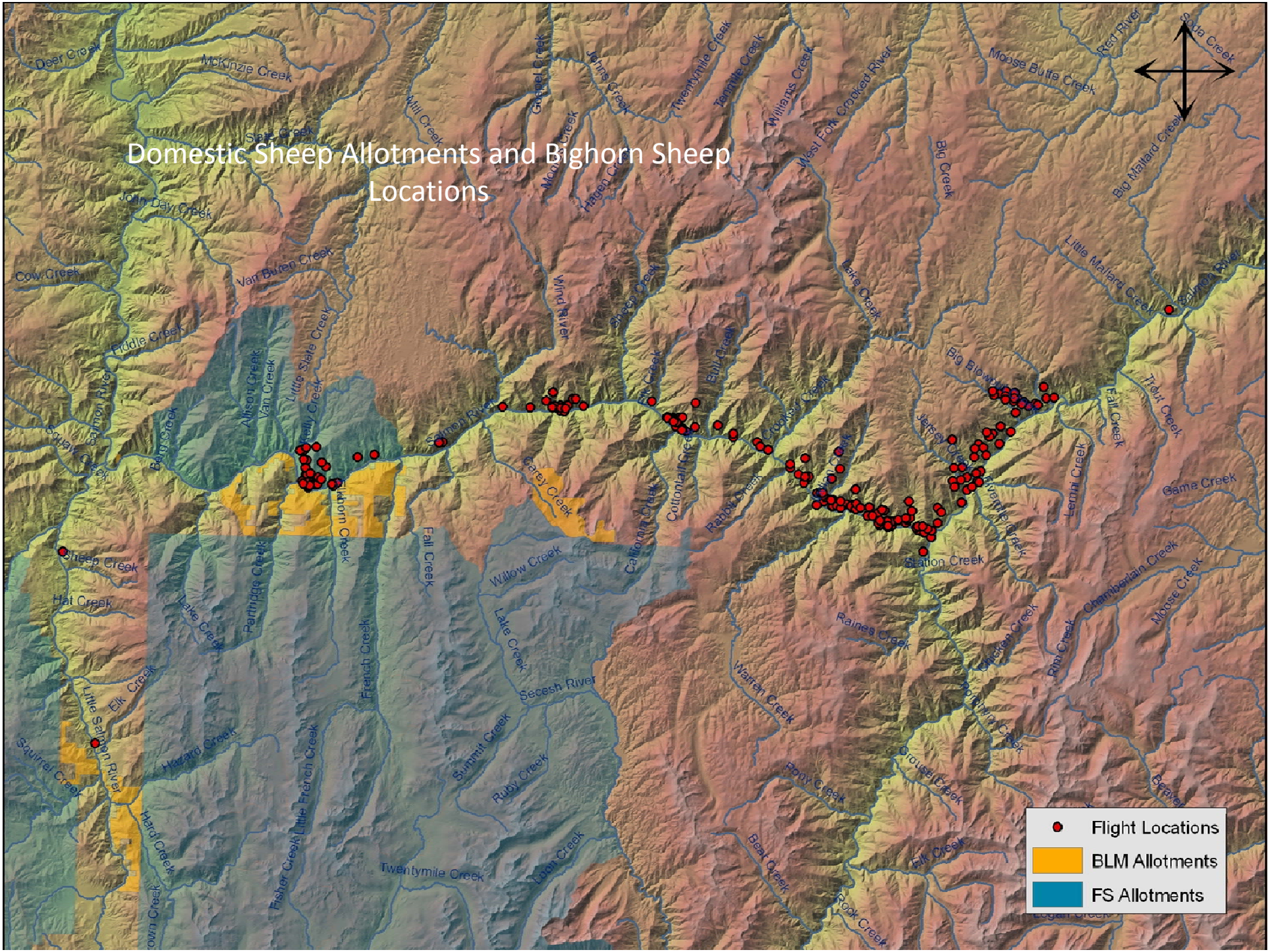
- Keith Lawrence is the Director, directing the following areas:
- Bighorn Sheep remediation efforts
- Precious Lands
- Dworshak Mitigation
- Bison Management through the Hellgate Treaty
- Ship and slaughter program

Cooperators








Domestic Sheep Allotments and Bighorn Sheep Locations
Flight Locations
BLM Allotments
FS Allotments
Deer Creek
McKinzie Creek
Slate Creek
John Day Creek
Cow Creek
Van Buren Creek
Fiddle Creek
Squaw Creek
Salmon River
Bear Creek
Allison Creek
Van Creek
Little Slate Creek
Kelly Creek
Bighorn Creek
Mill Creek
Gospel Creek
Moose Creek
Hazen Creek
Jenne Creek
Twentymile Creek
Tennille Creek
Williams Creek
West Fork Crooked River
Moose Butte Creek
Red River
Soda Creek
Big Creek
Big Mallard Creek
Little Mallard Creek
Wind River
Sheep Creek
Lake Creek
Bull Creek
Crooked Creek
Jersey Creek
Trout Creek
Fall Creek
Lemini Creek
Game Creek
Chamberlain Creek
Moose Creek
Station Creek
Carey Creek
Cottontail Creek
California Creek
Rabbit Creek
Willow Creek
Partridge Creek
French Creek
Fall Creek
Sheep Creek
Hat Creek
Elk Creek
Little Salmon River
Squirrel Creek
Hazard Creek
Secesh River
Summit Creek
Ruby Creek
Twentymile Creek
Fisher Creek
Little French Creek
Hard Creek
Loon Creek
Warren Creek
Raines Creek
Rhett Creek
Pony Creek
Grouse Creek
Beaver
Beat Creek
Elk Creek
Rock Creek

07 Captures

Animal ID	Date	Sex	Age	Fate
E1	11/8/07	E	4.5	
R2	11/7/07	M	5.5	Missing since 12/5/08
R3*	11/7/07	M	1.5	
R4*	11/7/07	R	3.5	
E5	11/8/08	F	2.5	
R6*	11/14/07	M	3.5	Legally Taken
R7*	11/15/07	M	2.5	
E8	11/15/07	F	5.5	
R9	11/15/07	M	7.5	Capture Mortality
E10	11/16/07	F	4.5	
E11	11/17/07	F	8.5	Predation
R12*	2/18/08	M	6.5	
R13	2/18/08	M	3.5	
R14*	3/14/08	M	6.5	
R15*	3/14/08	M	1.5	
R16	3/14/08	M	1.5	Lethally Removed

*GPS collar

Radiocollaring Efforts

Bison Management

Usual & Accustomed Rights

Water Resources Division

- James Holt is the Director, directing the following areas:
- Utilities Program
- TMDL - Water Quality Program
- Wetlands Program
- Underground Storage Tank Removal

Jefferson commissions the Corps of Discovery