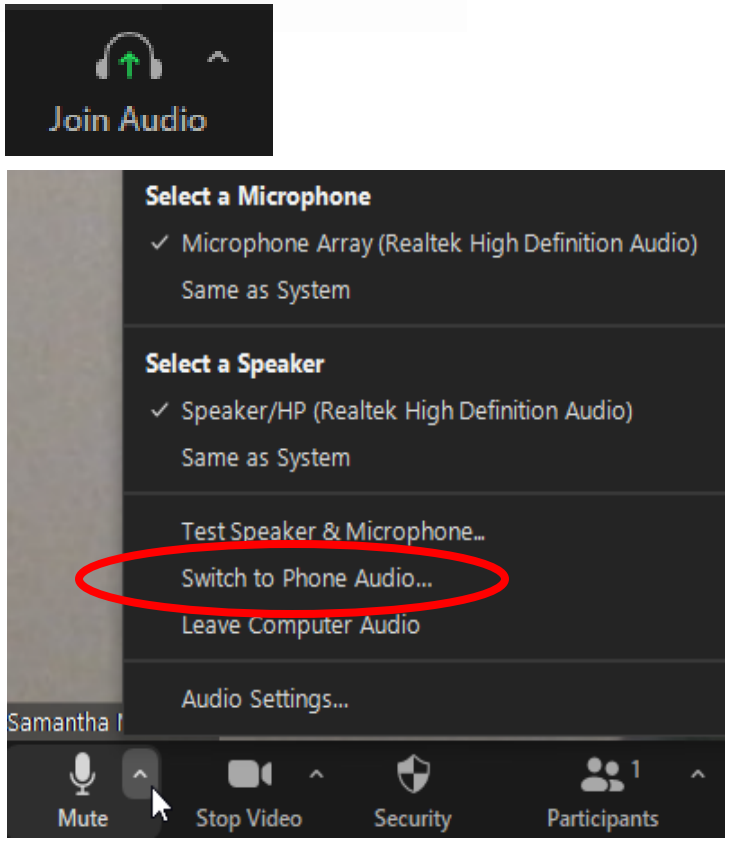
Columbia Basin Collaborative Integration/Recommendations Group

May 27, 2026
11:30am-5:00pm PT / 12:30pm-6:00pm MT

Zoom Webinar Features

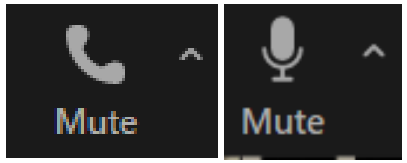
- If you have not **connected your audio**, click on the “Join Audio” at the bottom left of your screen.
- To **switch to phone**, click the arrow next to the microphone icon and select “Switch to Phone Audio”.
- If you have joined by browser, please click “Audio Settings”



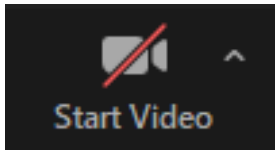
For technical support, please contact Angela Hessenius, 203-885-9586

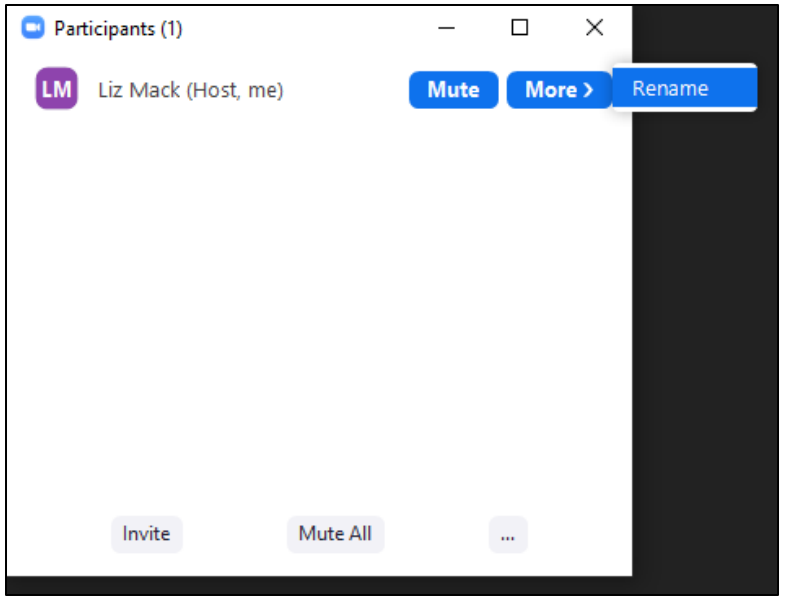
Zoom Webinar Features – I/RG Members

Keep yourself on mute when not speaking.

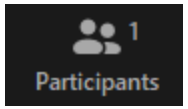


Use video, if possible, to promote face to face communication.

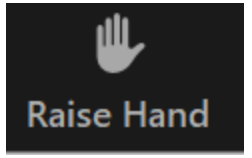




If needed **rename yourself** in the participant panel.



Find your **raise hand function** at the bottom of your screen



In-Person Participation Reminders

Make sure the **green light** is turned on before speaking.

Please **limit side conversations** and background noises.

Turn your table tent vertically when you would like to speak.

Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Proposed Agenda

Agenda Review

Time (PT)	Topic
12:30-1:00pm	Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Proposed Agenda
1:00-1:20pm	Updates from Around the Region
1:20-2:00pm	External Forums Updates
2:00-2:15pm	*Break*
2:15-3:30pm	Discussion on the "Whole of Government" Approach
3:30-4:45pm	FY 27 Appropriation Request
4:45-5:00pm	Next Steps and Summary
5:00pm	*Adjourn*

Meeting Guidelines

- Honor the agenda
- Listen to understand and ask questions to clarify
- Balance speaking time
- Don’t pile on
- Be hard on the problems, soft on the people
- Seek alignment and common ground wherever possible
- Be present



Updates from Around the Region

Updates from Around The Region

Please provide brief introductions and share updates relevant to CBC process.



External Forums Updates

External Forums Updates

- Hell's Canyon FERC Process Updates
- Lower Columbia River Predation Updates
- Discussion on Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) Fish and Wildlife Program Updates and Power Plan Updates

Hell's Canyon FERC Process Updates

Pinniped Predation in the Columbia River

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

- **Doug Hatch**, Senior Scientist

Columbia Basin Collaborative
IRG, May 2026



photo: L. E. Baskow

Presentation Outline



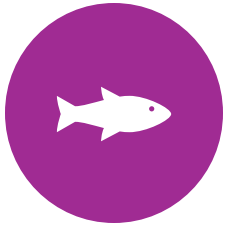
MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT



STATUS AND HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA AND STELLER SEA LIONS.



HOW BIG IS THE SEA LION PROBLEM?



SEA LION IMPACTS ON SALMON



WHERE DO THE IMPACTS OCCUR?



WHAT ARE THE CONTROL ACTIONS?



WILL CONTROL ACTIONS WORK?



BROADER ACTION: AMEND THE MMPA

Marine Mammal Protection Act

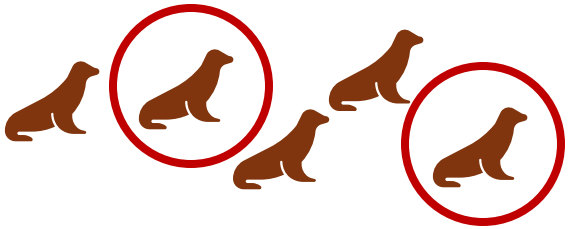
- Designed to address extinction threat.
- No population management provisions and no “delisting” process like ESA.
- Amended in 1994. §120 limited take of individual sea lions having a significant negative impact on ESA listed salmonids. Implemented at Ballard Locks, Bonneville, Willamette Falls.
- Amended in 2018. §120(f) recognizes tribal co-management, allows area-based management of sea lions in Columbia River.



Photo: NOAA FIsheries

MMPA Amendment Comparison

§120



Individual Sea Lion-based

- Oregon Washington 2008-2020
- California sea lions only
- Separate authorizations for Bonneville Dam and Willamette Falls
- Must be **individually identifiable & having a significant negative impact on listed salmonids** – this required trapping, marking, and releasing the animal
- Individual sea lions observed feeding on a salmonid and/or present for a certain number of days

§120(f)



Area-based

- PL115-329 signed in 2018; permit issued 2020; permit extended until 2030
- Eligible Entities (OR, WA, ID, NPT, WS, YN, CTUIR, CRITFC, Willamette Committee)
- Any sea lion from Columbia River Mile 112 and River Mile 292; and,
- Columbia River Basin tributaries that include spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead.
- **California AND Steller sea lions**
- **Trap, collect, chemically euthanize OR Dart, collect, chemically euthanize are only removal methods allowed.**

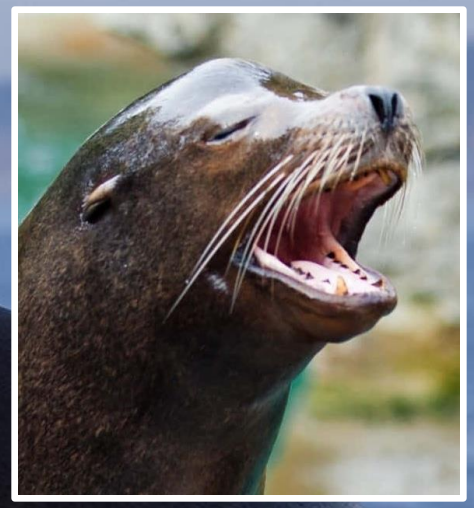
STELLER

- Rounded head
- Lighter brown color
- Males 800-2000 lbs
- Status: abundance ~70,000 growth rate ~5%/yr
- PBR = 2,178 annually



CALIFORNIA

- Point on head
- Darker brown color
- Males 500-1200 lbs
- Status = near carrying capacity
- PBR = 14,011 annually





How many sea lions are around?

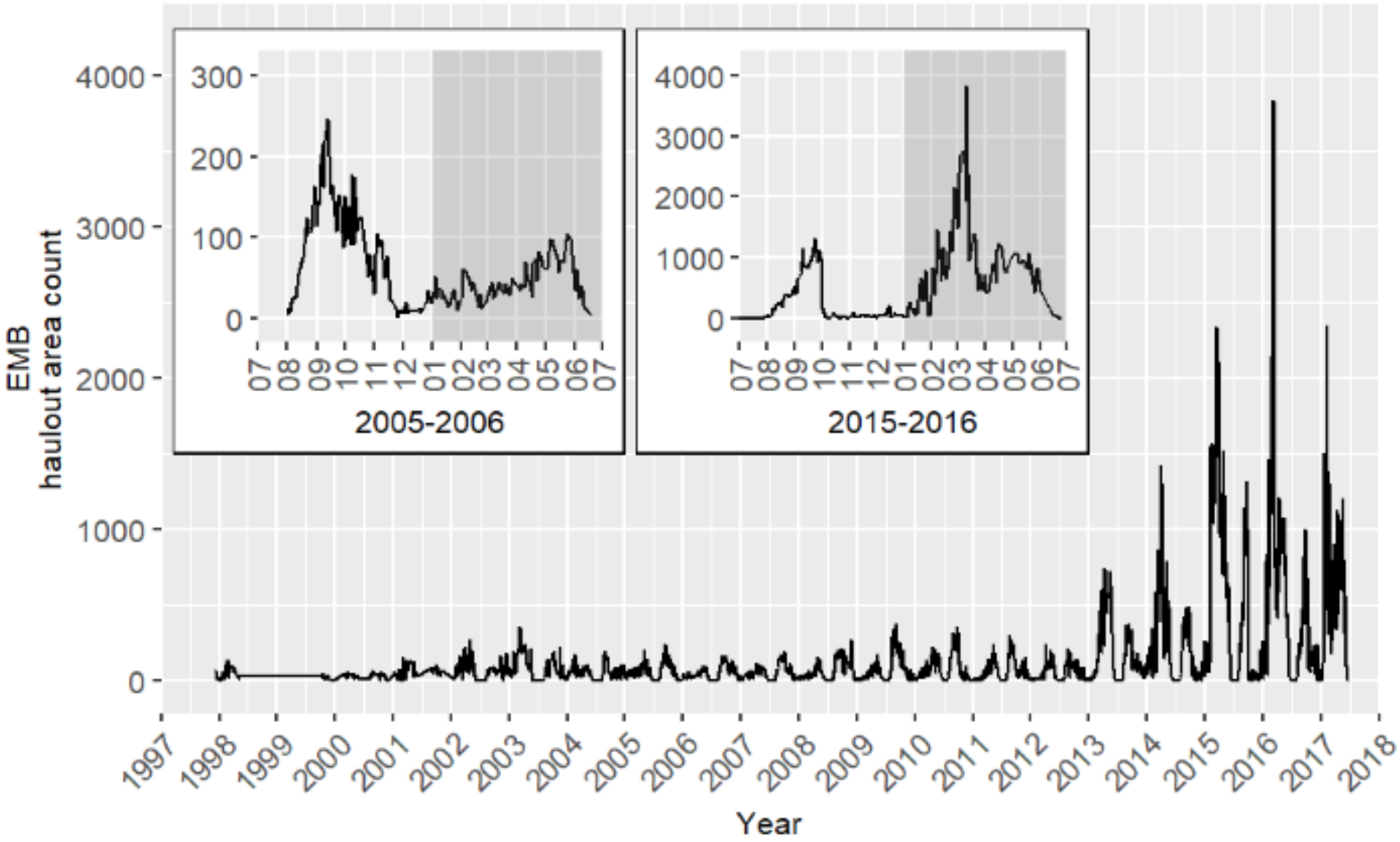
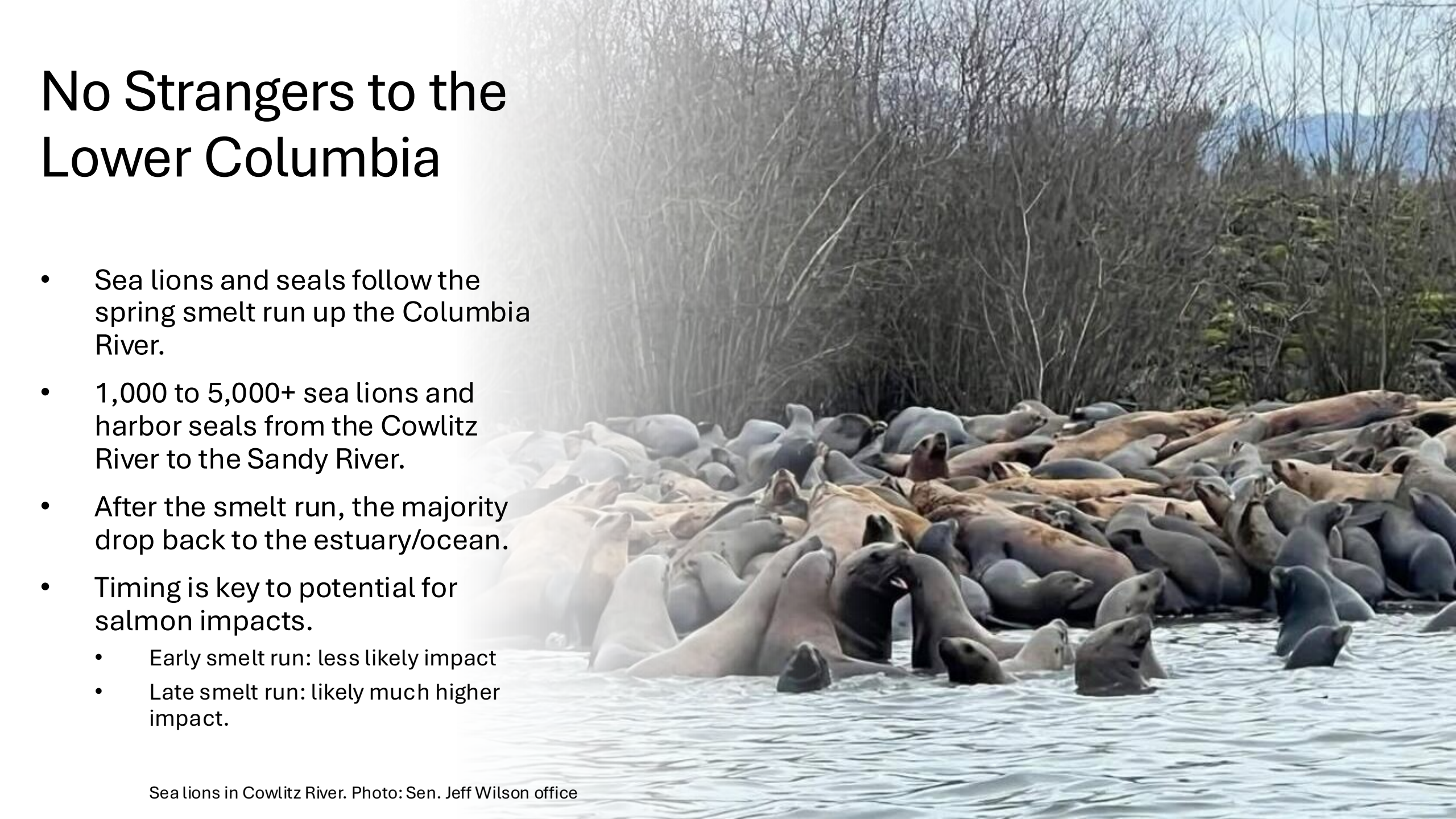


Figure 2. Time series of California sea lion haul-out area counts at the East Mooring Basin (EMB) in Astoria from December 1997 to June 2017. Insets illustrate the changes in magnitude and seasonality of California sea lion occurrence over the study period (x-axis denotes month; note difference in magnitude of counts on the y-axis scale between the two inset figures).

No Strangers to the Lower Columbia

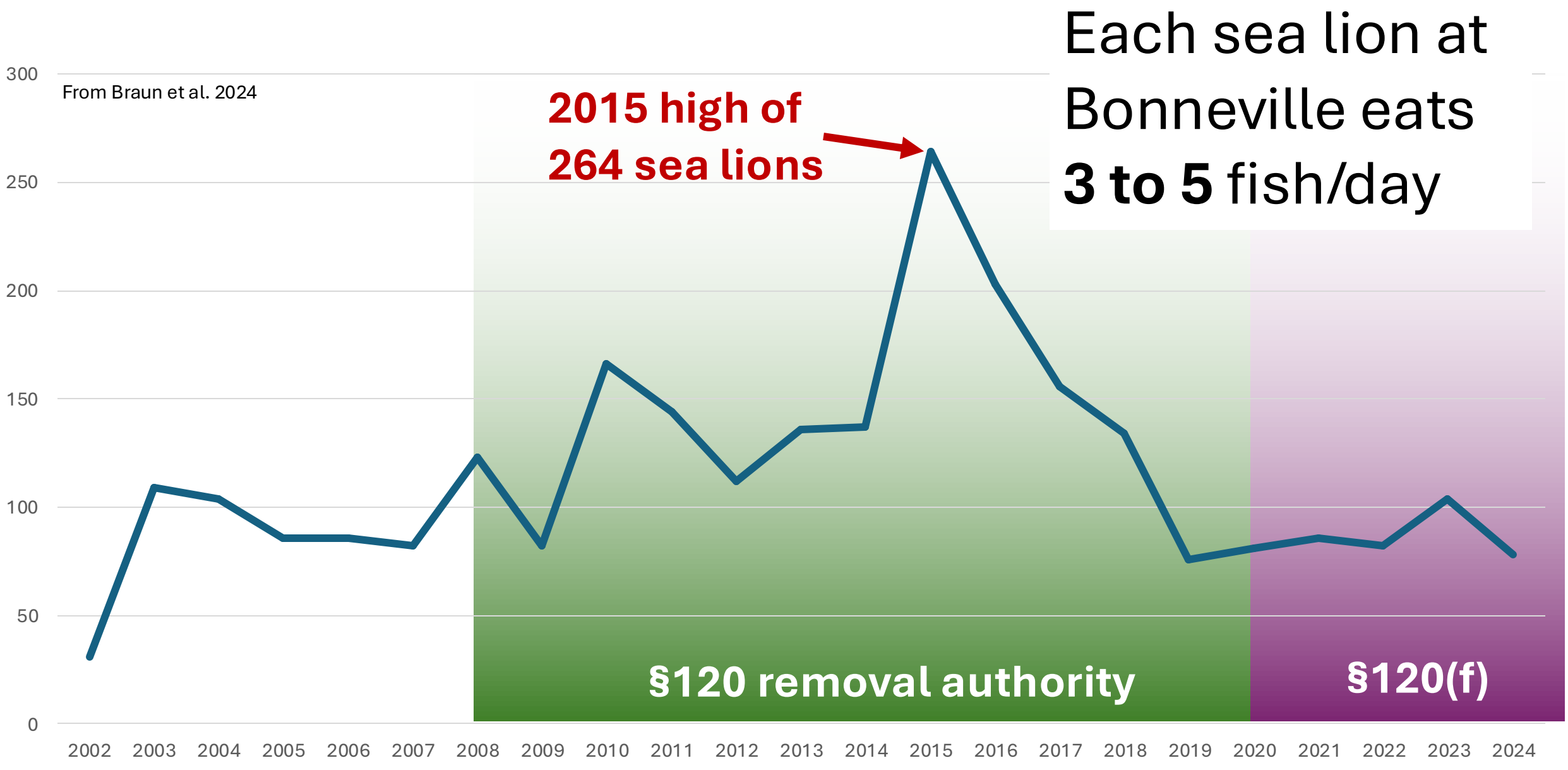
- Sea lions and seals follow the spring smelt run up the Columbia River.
- 1,000 to 5,000+ sea lions and harbor seals from the Cowlitz River to the Sandy River.
- After the smelt run, the majority drop back to the estuary/ocean.
- Timing is key to potential for salmon impacts.
  - Early smelt run: less likely impact
  - Late smelt run: likely much higher impact.



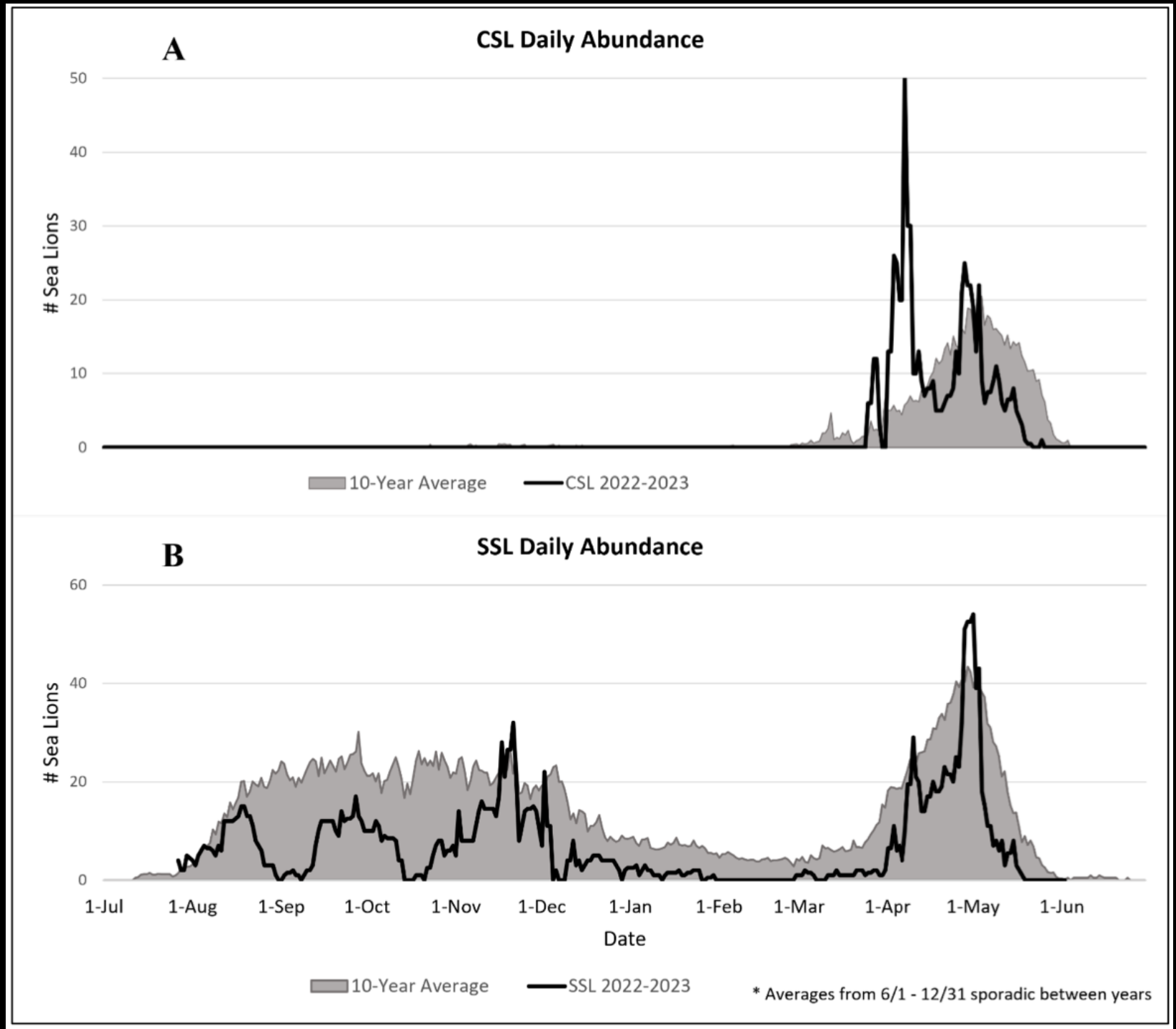
Sea lions in Cowlitz River. Photo: Sen. Jeff Wilson office


Sea Lions at
Bonneville Dam

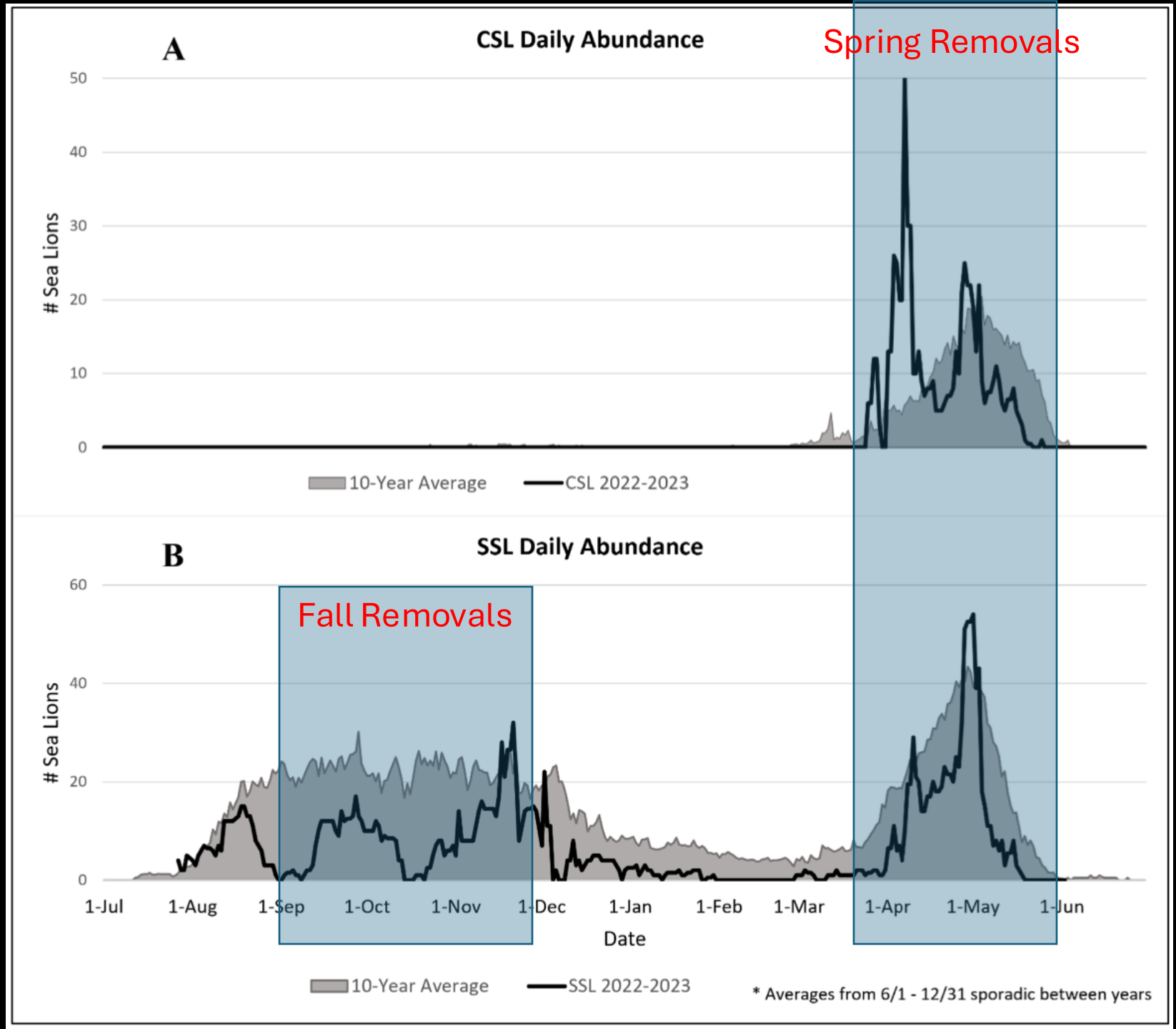
Sea Lion Numbers at Bonneville Dam



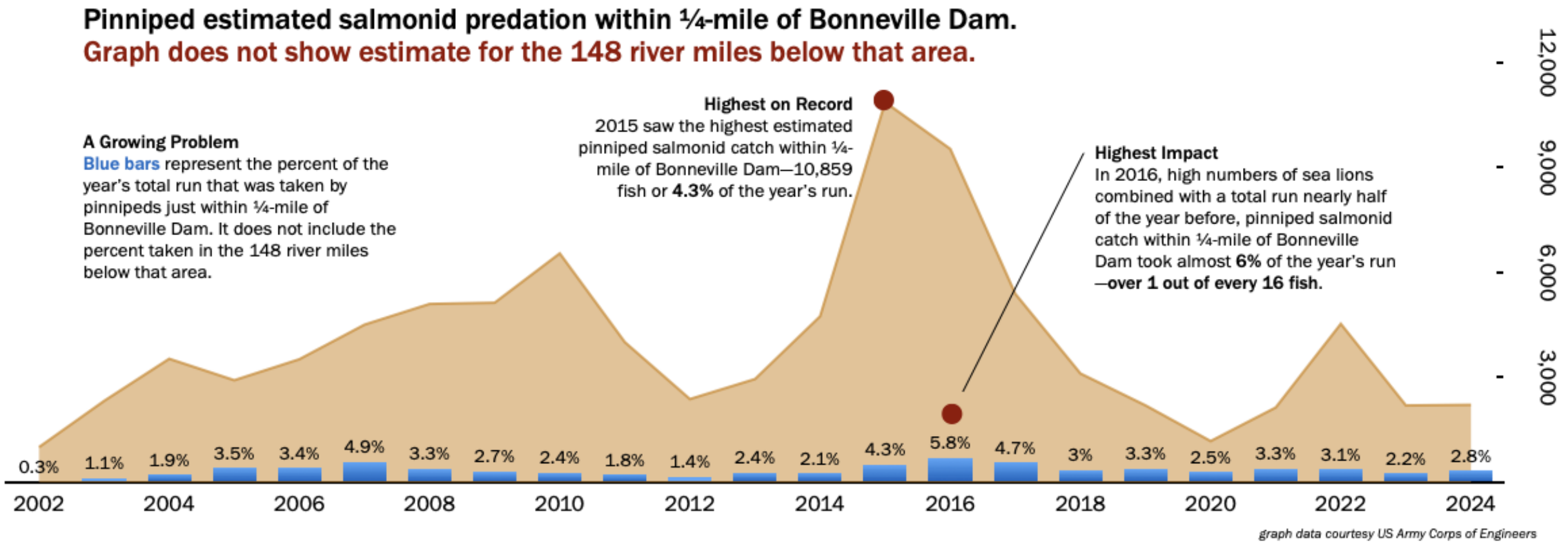
Sea lion temporal distribution at Bonneville



Sea lion temporal distribution at Bonneville



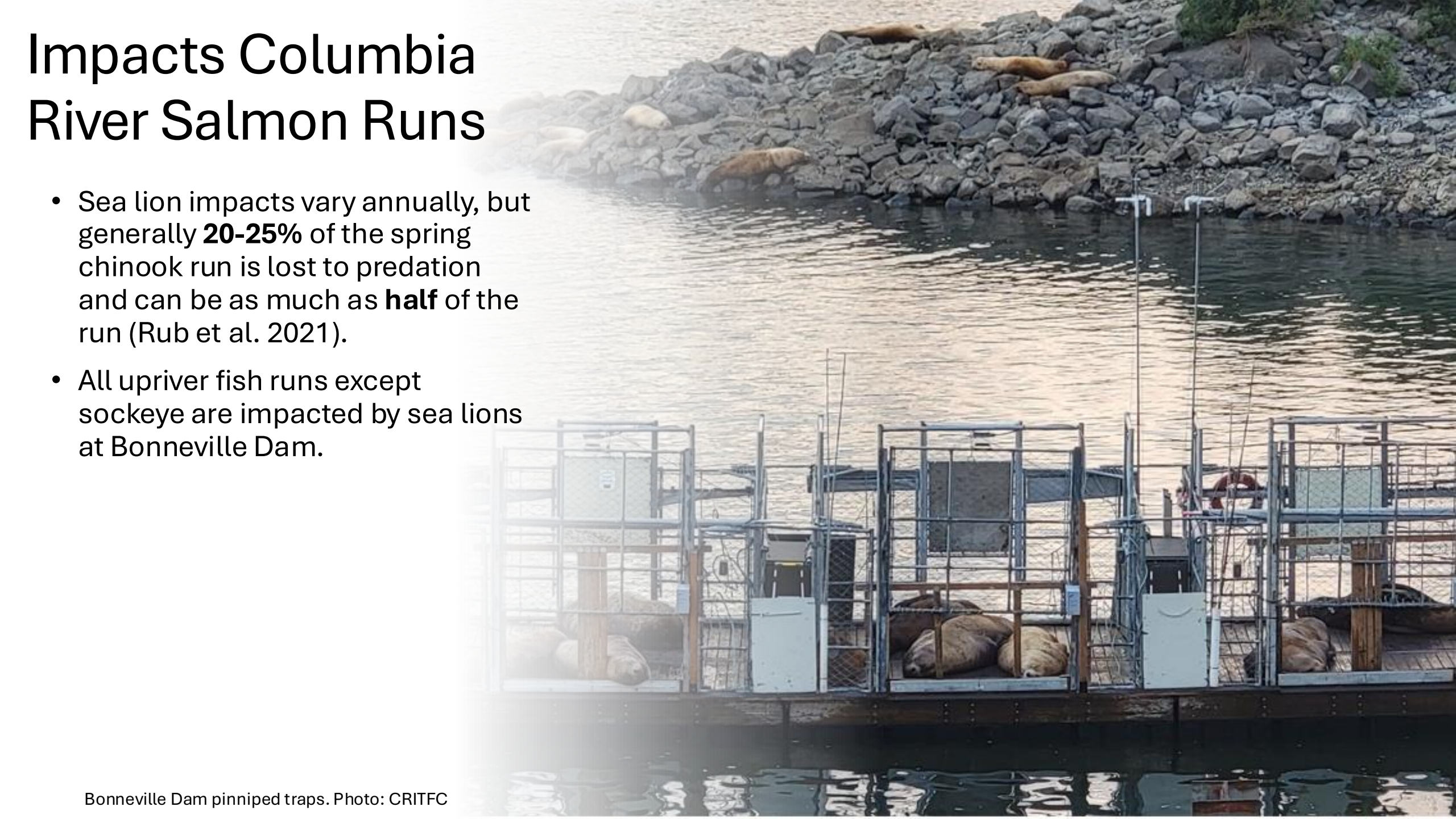
Predation on Salmon Run at Bonneville



From Braun et al. 2024

Impacts Columbia River Salmon Runs

- Sea lion impacts vary annually, but generally **20-25%** of the spring chinook run is lost to predation and can be as much as **half** of the run (Rub et al. 2021).
- All upriver fish runs except sockeye are impacted by sea lions at Bonneville Dam.



Bonneville Dam pinniped traps. Photo: CRITFC

Predation loss at **Bonneville** and the **lower river**

		BONNEVILLE TAILRACE		LOWER RIVER	
	Bonneville salmonids passage (Jan 1 – May 31)	**Lost to Predation** Adjusted salmonids consumption estimate in Bonneville tailrace	**% of run** (Jan 1 – May 31)	**Lost to Predation** Predation of spring chinook between estuary and Bonneville	**% of run** (Jan 1 – May 31)
2010	267,194	6,542	2.39%	77,560	22%
2011	223,380	4,007	1.76%	59,480	21%
2012	171,665	2,382	1.37%	51,750	23%
2013	120,619	2,954	2.39%	35,210	23%
2014	219,929	4,746	2.11%	98,470	31%
2015	239,326	10,859	4.34%	224,450	**48%**

From Tidwell et al. 2018 and Wargo Rub et al. 2019

Removal Timeline

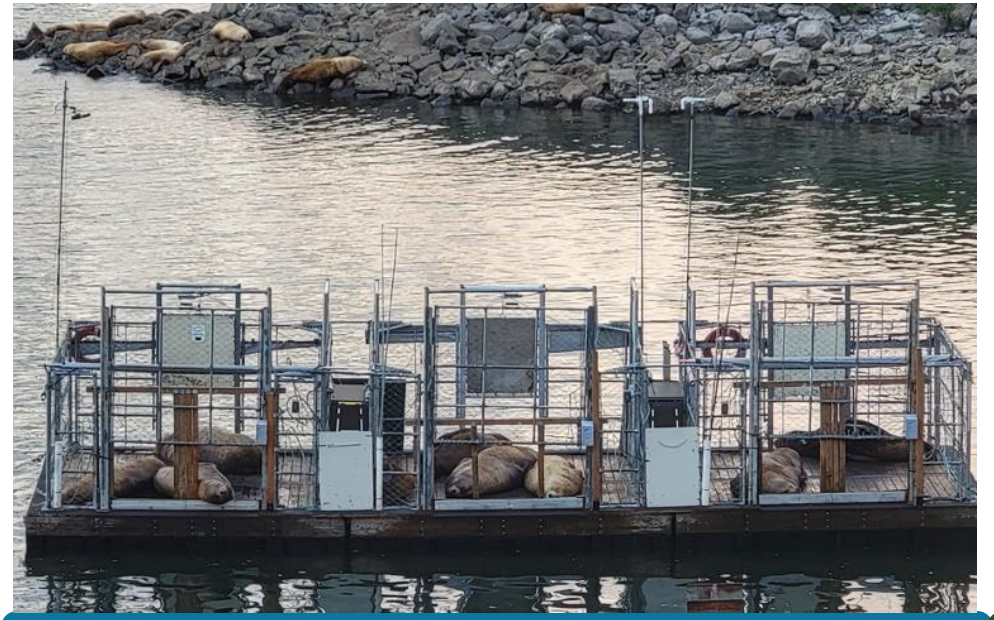
Observation



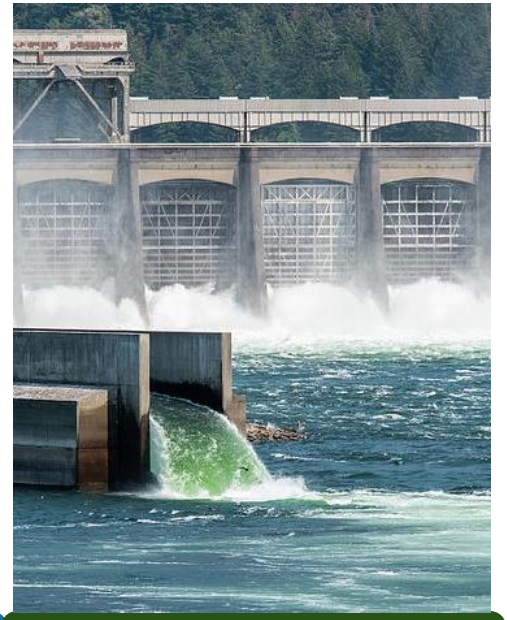
Hazing



Individual-based Removal



Area-based Removal



2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2025

- 574 animals removed by the program: **433 CSL | 141 SSL**
- 120(f) permit **allowed** (*remaining*) take: **540** (*389*) CSL and **176** (*38*) SSL

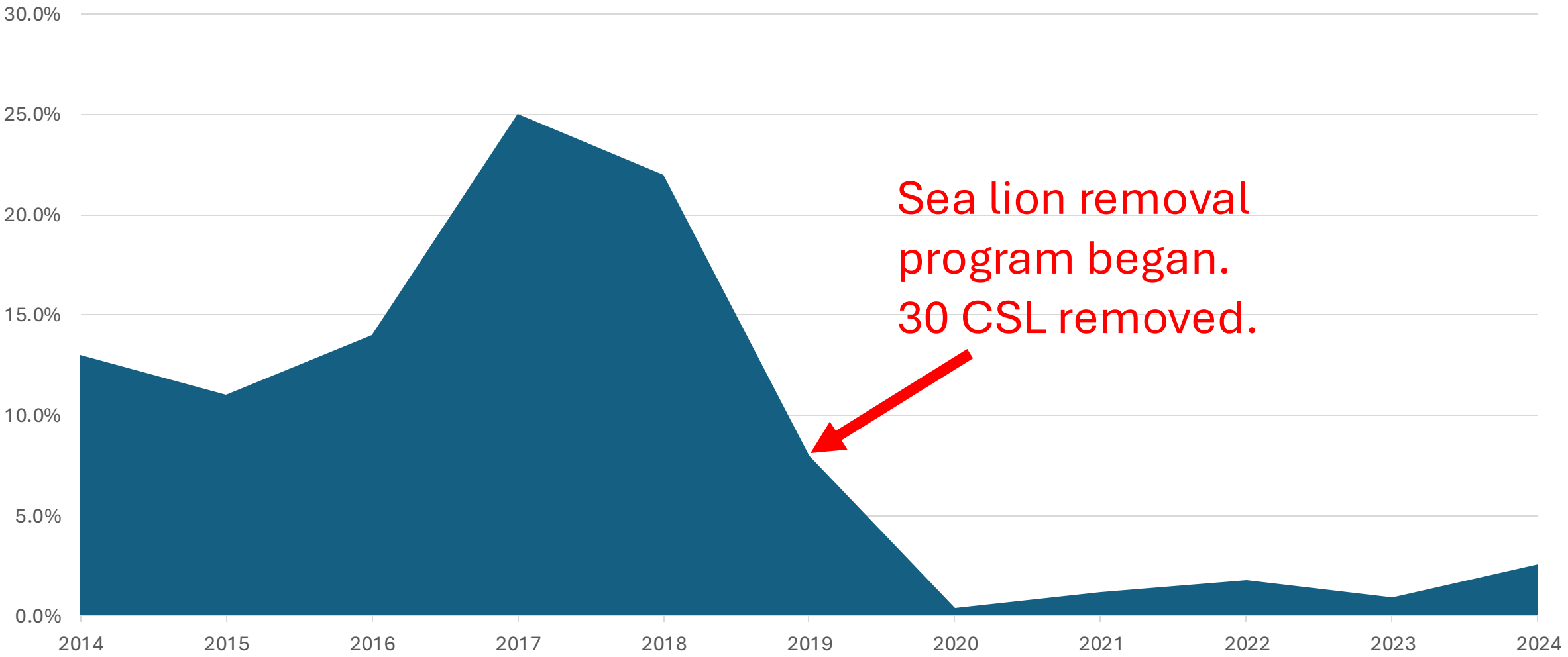


Bonneville Dam pinniped traps. Photo: CRITFC

Removal Benefits for Anadromous Fish

- Sea lion removal programs have shown great benefits to Columbia River salmon, steelhead, lamprey and sturgeon stocks.
- Fish savings are all additive; little to no chance of compensation.
- Very conservative estimates of benefits include approximately **100,000** adult Col R salmonids saved between 2008–2023.

Does Removal Work? Look at Willamette Falls.



% of potential winter steelhead escapement lost to sea lions at the base of Willamette Falls



Challenges with Tributary Removals

- Most trappable haul out sites are in the mainstem Columbia but permit only allows for removal in the tributaries.
- Gearing and crewing up to work more in the lower river tributaries.
- Asking for Congressional appropriations and 6S funding.
- Need legislative fix to allow removal of animals trapped in the lower mainstem of the Columbia.

Phoca Rock on the Columbia River. Photo: CRITFC



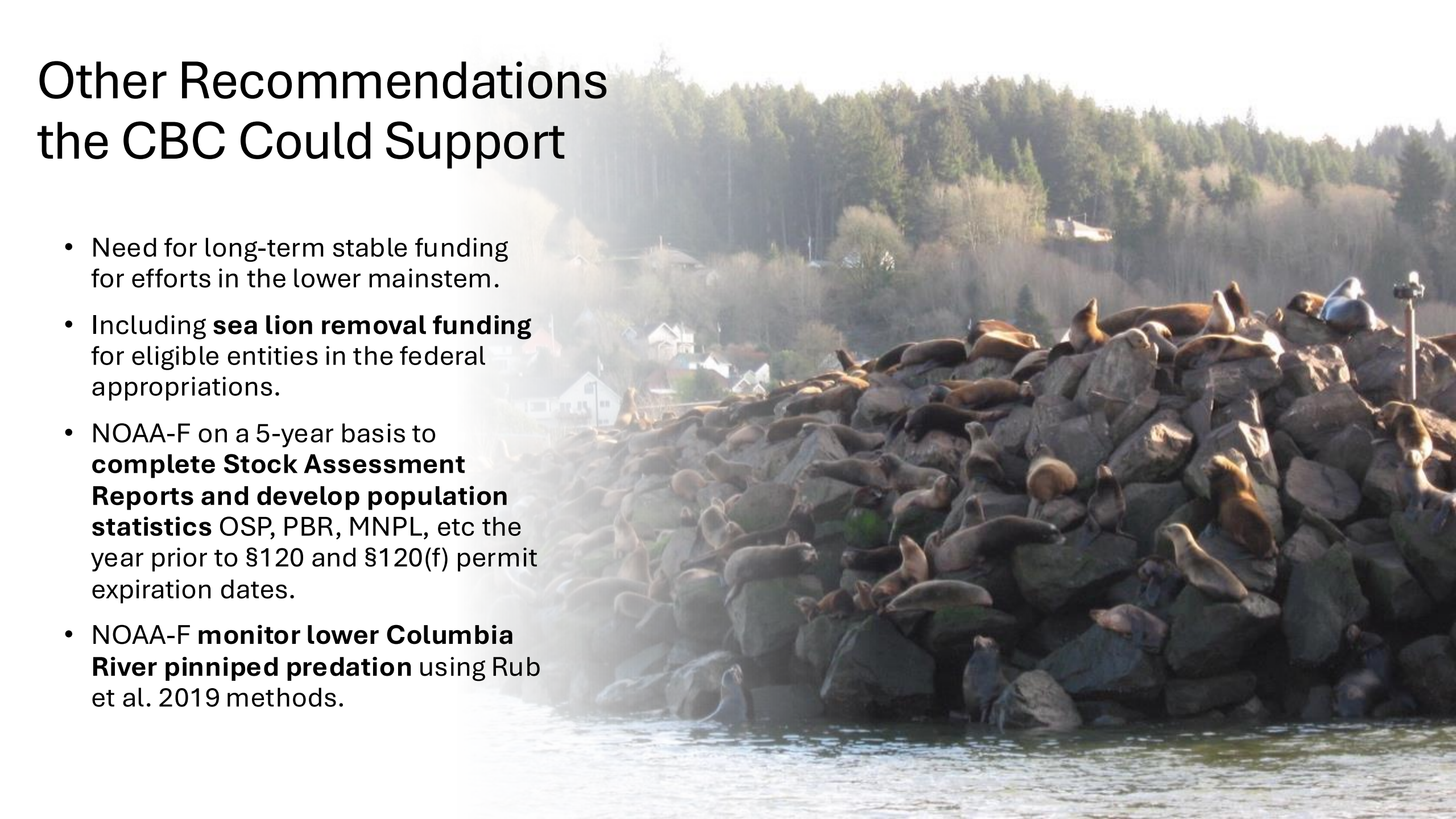
Our MMPA Amendment Recommendations

- **Recognize tribal co-management authority throughout the MMPA**
  Tribal authority is only recognized in the specific case of the Columbia River under §120(f). This oversight should be corrected for the entire Act.
- **Include all of the Columbia River in the Pinniped Mgt Area**
  Provide tools to allow tribal and state co-managers flexibility to manage pinnipeds where benefits to fish populations can result.

  As pinniped populations grow, additional interactions with at-risk fish populations occur at new locations. With management tools in place, co-managers can react quickly and alleviate pinniped-fishery interactions before they escalate, conserving both fish and pinnipeds.

Other Recommendations the CBC Could Support

- Need for long-term stable funding for efforts in the lower mainstem.
- Including **sea lion removal funding** for eligible entities in the federal appropriations.
- NOAA-F on a 5-year basis to **complete Stock Assessment Reports and develop population statistics** OSP, PBR, MNPL, etc the year prior to §120 and §120(f) permit expiration dates.
- NOAA-F **monitor lower Columbia River pinniped predation** using Rub et al. 2019 methods.





OREGON
Fish & Wildlife

BONNEVILLE
POWER ADMINISTRATION

CRITFC
YAKAMA • UMATILLA • WARM SPRINGS • NEZ PERCE

IDAHO
FISH & GAME

Washington
Department of
FISH and
WILDLIFE

Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) Fish and Wildlife Program Updates and Power Plan Updates

Break

See you at 2:15pm PT

Photo credit: Bureau of Land Management Oregon and Washington

Discussion on the "Whole of Government" Approach

Context

Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force Phase 2 Report:

"Funding must be targeted to achieve the Partnership's Quantitative and Qualitative Goals. New funding sources should be identified. Funding must come from multiple sources, consider the burden across communities, and account for past, present, and potential impacts."

Context

Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative 2023 Proposal:

"Implementation of the proposed CBRI should be structured to ensure a transparent 'whole of government' approach, where federal agencies coordinate to use their funds and authorities to prevent salmon extinction and restore healthy and abundant Columbia Basin fisheries."

Context

NPCC 2026 Draft Fish & Wildlife Program:

“The Council agrees with and embraces the recent emphasis on a ‘whole of government’ approach to salmon and steelhead protection, mitigation and improvement, recognizing the shared responsibility of all the levels of governments for the impacts to and solutions for Columbia River salmon, steelhead and other native fish and wildlife.”

Context

CBC Comments on Draft Fish & Wildlife Update

"The CBC also supports the 'whole of government' approach referenced in the Draft Program, as the CBPTF identified 'funding must come from multiple sources, consider the burden across communities, and account for past, present, and potential impacts.'"

Discussion

- What does a “whole of government” approach mean?
- How does this approach relate to the CBC?

FY 27 Appropriations Request

FY27 Federal Appropriations Request

- CBC submitted letter of request on May 18
- Congressional subcommittees are reviewing and working through appropriations May-October.

Process for Creating the FY27 Letter

- I/RG reviewed FY26 appropriations letter at January meeting and heard updates on the FY26 budget and American River's approach to appropriations.
- I/RG agreed to develop a FY27 letter based on FY26 and convene an advocacy strategy subgroup.
- Michael Garrity volunteered to create a first draft of the FY27 letter.
- The Facilitation Team circulated the letter for edits through three rounds of review.

Discussion

- How can the CBC improve the appropriations request process in the future?
- Were items missed in the FY27 letter?

Next Steps and Summary

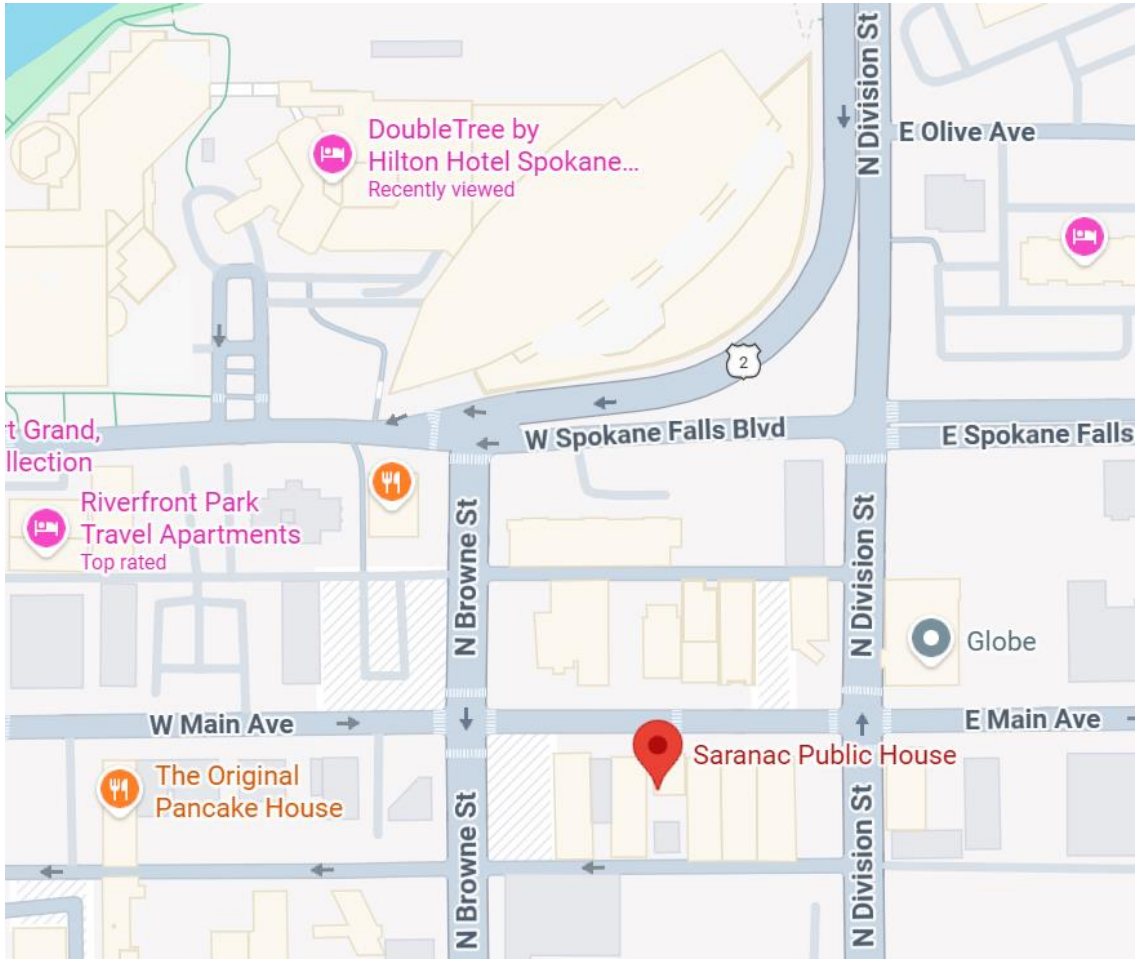
Tomorrow's Agenda

Time (PT)	Topic
8:30-9:00am	*Arrival*
9:00-9:15am	Welcome and Context
9:15-10:30am	CBC Advocacy Strategy
10:30-10:45am	*Break*
10:45am-12:30pm	CBC Scope, Work, and Focus
12:30-1:00pm	Confirm Upcoming Topics, Next Steps, and Summary
1:00pm	*Adjourn*

*Virtual attendees: be sure to use the May 28 link for tomorrow's webinar

Dinner

- Time: 6:00 pm PT
- No-host dinner at Saranac Public Host
- Reservation under Columbia Basin Collaborative or Sarah Davidson
- Located at 21 W Main Ave, Spokane, WA



Thank you



Photo credit: Bonnie Moreland

Columbia Basin Collaborative Integration/Recommendations Group

May 28, 2026
8:30am-1:00pm PT / 9:30am – 2:00pm MT

Welcome and Context

Agenda Review

Time (PT)	Topic
8:30-9:00am	*Arrival*
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12:30-1:00pm	Confirm Upcoming Topics, Next Steps, and Summary
1:00pm	*Adjourn*

CBC Advocacy Strategy

Advocacy Strategy Sub Group

- Kevin Scribner
- Neil Maunu
- Eric Crawford
- Urban Eberhart
- Leslie Druffel
- Paul Arrington

Draft Advocacy Strategy

CBC Recommendations Status

Blocked Areas

- Fully Fund the Phase 2 Implementation Plan



- Pursue Increasing Salmon Production to Support and Sustain a Stable and Dedicated Source of Fish in the Upper Snake



CBC Recommendations Status

Hydropower

- Assess Run Timing and Entry Timing of Natural Origin Juvenile Salmon and Steelhead



- Maintain and Improve Mainstem Reach Survival Estimates and Smolt to Adult Return (SAR) Data



CBC Recommendations Status

Predation

- Enhance and Modify the Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 120 Pinniped Removal Program
- Manage Double-crested Cormorants in the Columbia River Estuary
- Develop and Fund a Robust Columbia River Northern Pike and Invasive Non-Native Fishes Monitoring Project
- Develop and Initiate Testing of a Comprehensive Piscine Predator Monitoring and Evaluation Program (PPMEP)



CBC Recommendations Status

General

- Monitor Progress on the CBPTF Goals



Break

See you at 10:30 am PT

Photo credit: Bureau of Land Management Oregon and Washington

CBC Scope, Work, and Focus

How does the CBC want to move forward?

Consider the following:

- Near-term and long-term priorities for the CBC
- Role of the CBC
- Future work group direction

Next Steps

- KW to update the Advocacy Strategy and circulate for review.
- KW to circulate the CBC mailing list names.
- KW to circulate past CBC slide deck for review.
- KW to start list of CBC members who can attend advocacy meetings.
- KW to start tracker of CBC external advocacy meetings.
- Reconvene hydropower subgroup to review recommendations and discuss implementation specifics.
- Reconvene predation subgroups to review recommendations, make updates, and discuss implementation.
- KW to add partial implementation status to recommendations tracker.
- Scott H to draft letter about the Hells Canyon FERC process for I/RG review.
- Consider priority items for FY28 Appropriations and bring forward in Fall

Topics for Fall I/RG meeting

- Hear updates from Work Groups on recommendations and what is needed to move it forward.
- Hear updates on progress towards CBPTF quantitative and qualitative goals.
- Hear updates on FY27 budget
- Discuss appropriations priorities for FY28 and have a start to a cross cut budget.
- During External Update, hear presentation on data centers and Columbia River Clean Up Act HR6422.

Other topics discussed

- Hells Canyon FERC Process
- Path forward Working Group

Confirm Upcoming Topics, Next Steps, and Summary

Thank you

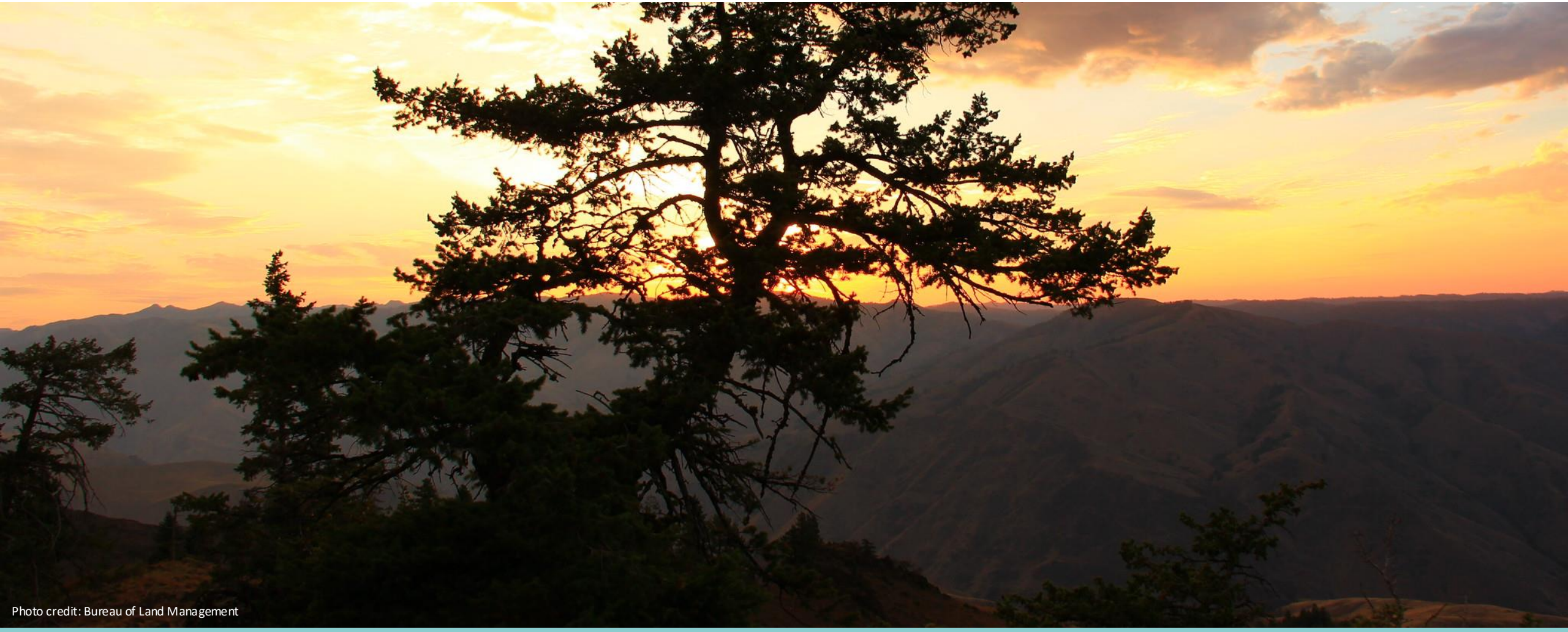


Photo credit: Bureau of Land Management