



Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

*Introduction to December, 2013
Workshop – Tom Eaton, EPA*



Task Force Goal

We will work collaboratively to characterize the sources of toxics in the Spokane River and identify and implement appropriate actions needed to make measurable progress towards meeting applicable water quality standards for the State of Washington, State of Idaho, and The Spokane Tribe of Indians.



Task Force Objectives

- Bring the Spokane River into compliance with water quality standards
- Better understand how PCBs enter and move through river
- Identify data obtained and needed to address data gaps

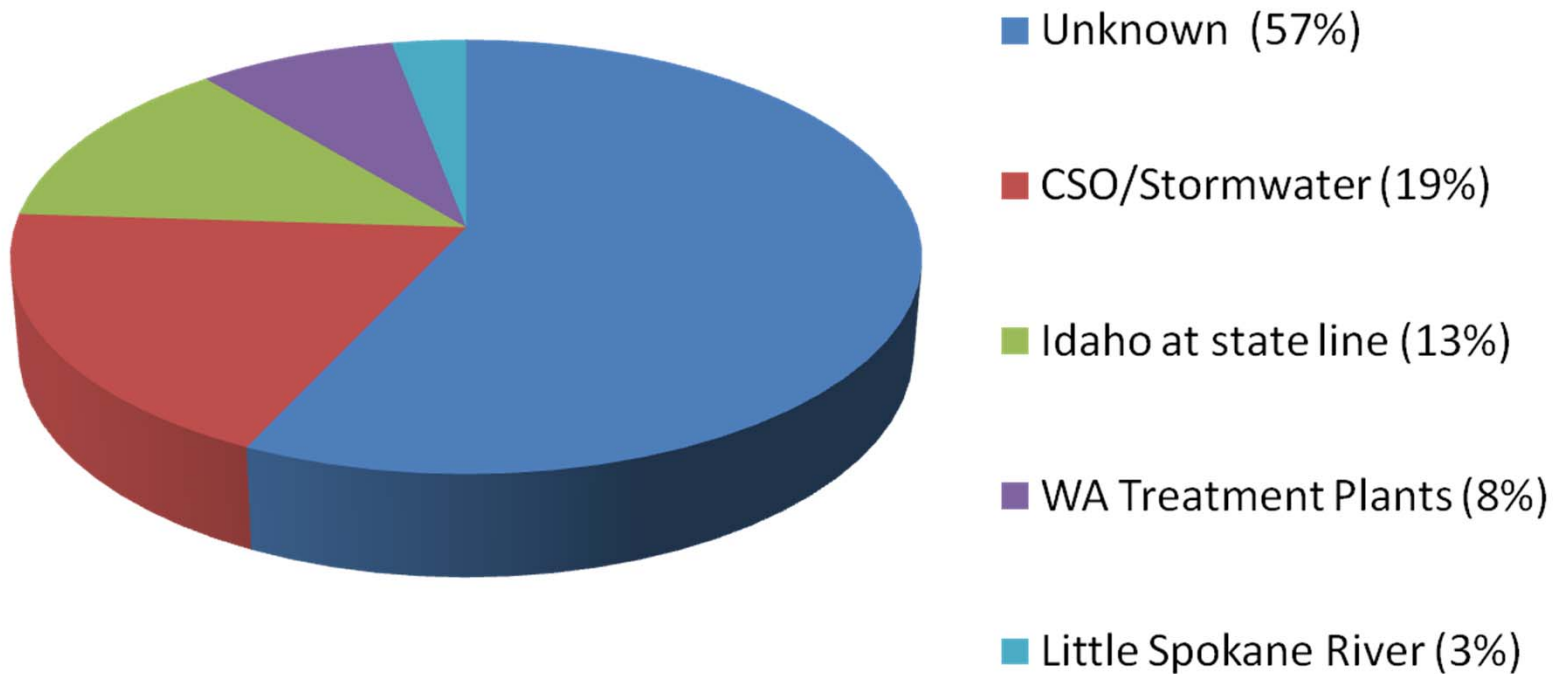


Who We Are





How Do PCBs Enter the River?



Reference: Ecology Spokane River PCB Source Assessment, April 2011



Current Water Quality Standards



170 picograms/l



3.4 picograms/l

Welcome to The Spokane River

Let's Protect, Preserve and Enjoy It

Protect Our Shoreline and Water Quality

- Pack it in, pack it out
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave habitat the way you found it
- Remove litter

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe

- Follow the fish consumption advisory
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device
- Know your abilities on the river
- Know river flows and conditions
- Observe warning signs and never boat immediately above or below a dam
- Use proper clothing and equipment
- Carry a first aid kit

Fish Consumption Advisory

- From the Main Border to Upriver Dam:**
Do not eat any fish. Catch and release only.
 - From Upriver Dam to Nine Mile Dam:**
Do not eat largescale sucker
All other fish, one meal per month
 - From Nine Mile Dam to Little Falls Dam:**
Two meals per week: rainbow trout and yellow perch
One meal per week: mountain whitefish
One meal per month: brown trout and largescale sucker
 - From Little Falls to Lake Roosevelt:**
Two meals per month: walleye
Four meals per month: sucker or burbot
- Statewide Mercury Advisory:** Women who are or plan to become pregnant, nursing mothers, and young children should not eat northern pike/minnow and limit largemouth and smallmouth bass to two meals per month.

For more information, call Spokane Regional Health District: 509 324-1574

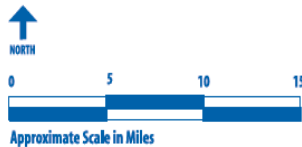
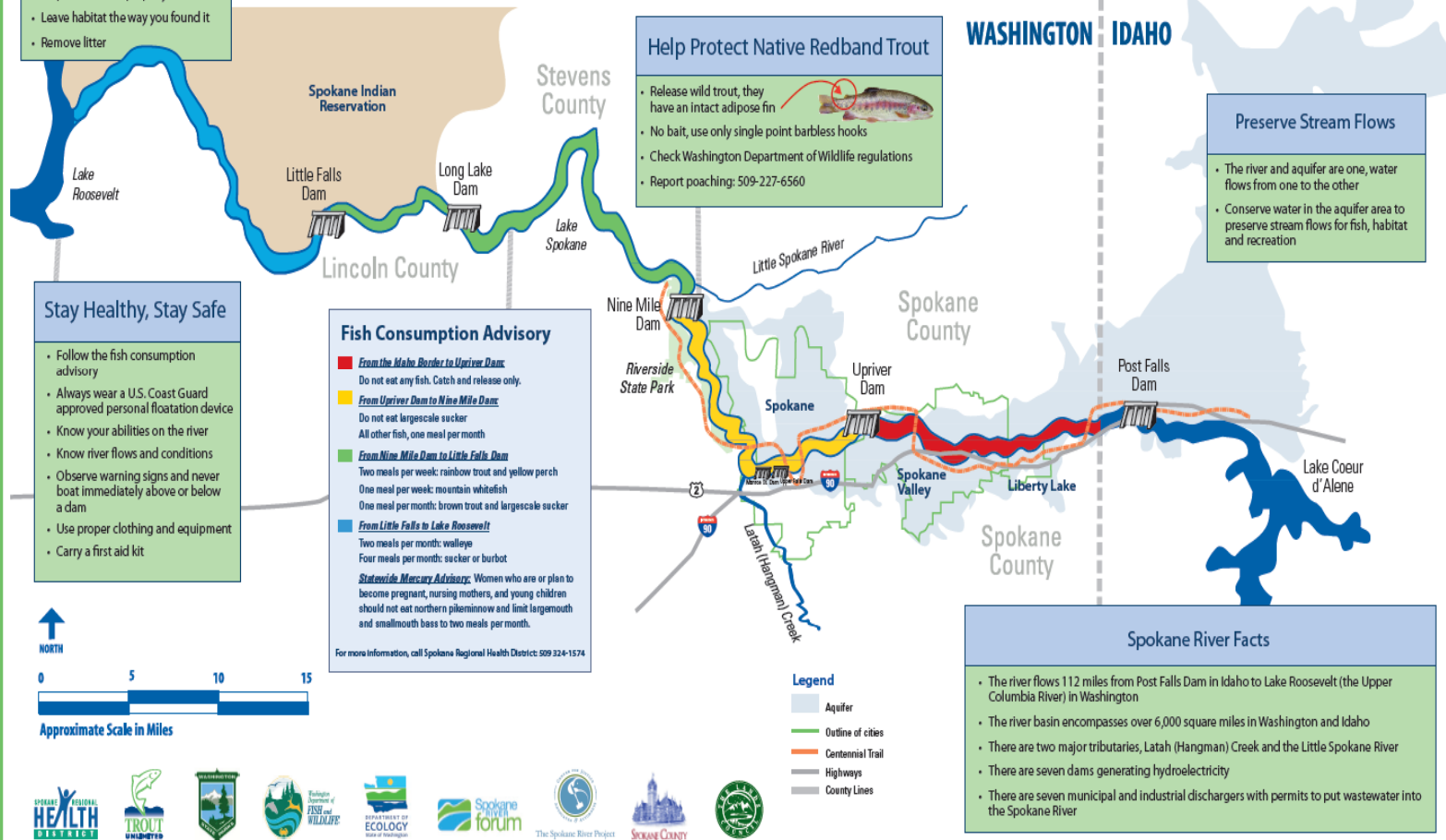
Help Protect Native Redband Trout

- Release wild trout, they have an intact adipose fin
- No bait, use only single point barbless hooks
- Check Washington Department of Wildlife regulations
- Report poaching: 509-227-6560

Preserve Stream Flows

- The river and aquifer are one, water flows from one to the other
- Conserve water in the aquifer area to preserve stream flows for fish, habitat and recreation

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- Legend**
- Aquifer
 - Outline of cities
 - Centennial Trail
 - Highways
 - County Lines

Spokane River Facts

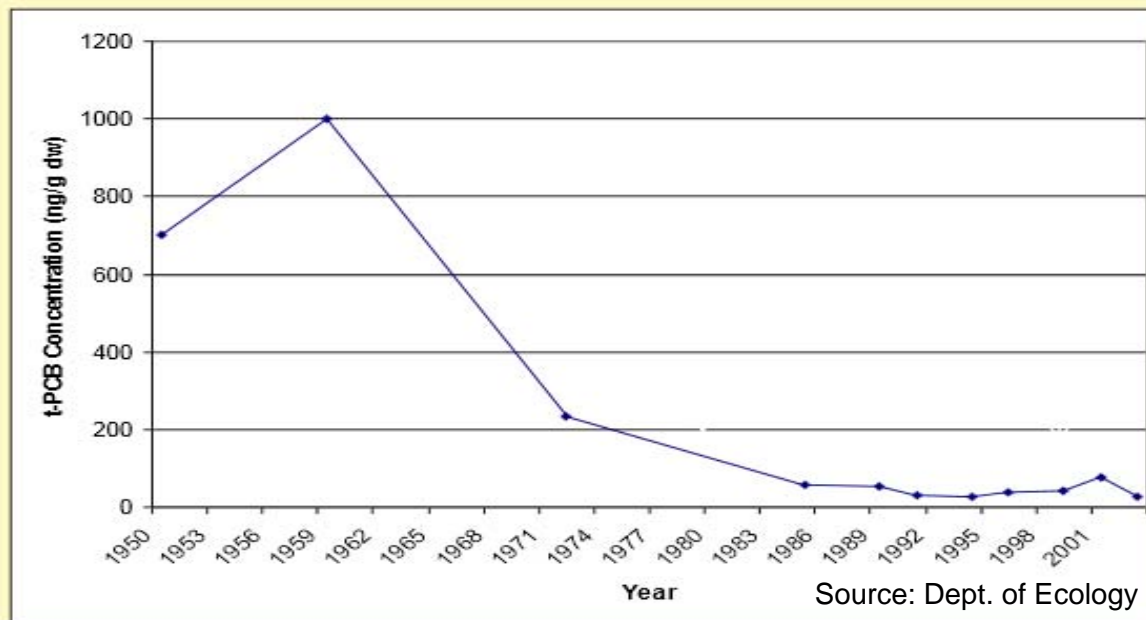
- The river flows 112 miles from Post Falls Dam in Idaho to Lake Roosevelt (the Upper Columbia River) in Washington
- The river basin encompasses over 6,000 square miles in Washington and Idaho
- There are two major tributaries, Latah (Hangman) Creek and the Little Spokane River
- There are seven dams generating hydroelectricity
- There are seven municipal and industrial dischargers with permits to put wastewater into the Spokane River





Decline of 50% Over 20 Years

PCBs History from Sediment Record Lower Lake Spokane



Total PCBs in Age Dated Sediment Core (2003)

- Steep declines from 1960s through mid-1980s
- Approximately 50% decline in 20 years (1980-2000)



Some Spokane Specific Aspects to Consider Regarding Monitoring

- River system with lakes, dams and snowmelt
- Minimal areas of sediment
- Upstream boundary
- High level of unknown sources
- Budget constraints