



## WORKING TO HONOR, PROTECT AND RESTORE THE COLUMBIA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES



The Yakama Nation established Yakama Nation Fisheries in 1983 to restore nearly extinct runs of salmon and the river habitat upon which they depend. From its inception, Yakama Nation Fisheries has employed scientific expertise in concert with traditional ecological knowledge to develop innovative projects and partnerships, which are credited with restoring culturally important fish runs in the Columbia River.

Our goal is to have a healthy Columbia and to restore salmon runs so that there will be fish to sustain the Yakama now and in the future.

## Our History: Honoring salmon is our way of life

The relationship among the Yakama, the salmon and the Columbia Basin is the foundation of our time-honored laws. Yakama children's earliest memories include sitting at the ceremonial table and waiting for the water to be poured.

Next the salmon is placed on the table, followed by the deer, roots and berries.

Yakama teachings mandate that we advocate for the resources because they cannot speak for themselves. The Yakama Nation accepts responsibility as steward of the salmon and the Columbia River, which we call Nch'í Wána.

*"This river system has always provided for our people. The salmon will return and our tribal members will be here to meet them."*

— Gerald Lewis,  
Yakama Nation Tribal Councilmember  
and Fisheries Committee Chairman

## Yakama Nation Fisheries Today

Yakama Nation Fisheries' 200 employees manage more than 100 projects in 10 Columbia River sub-basins (White Salmon, Little White Salmon, Wind, Klickitat, Rockcreek, Yakima, Wenatchee, Entiat, Chelan, and Methow). By restoring habitat, supplementing stock and collecting informational data that informs innovations in fisheries management, we ensure sustainable harvests.

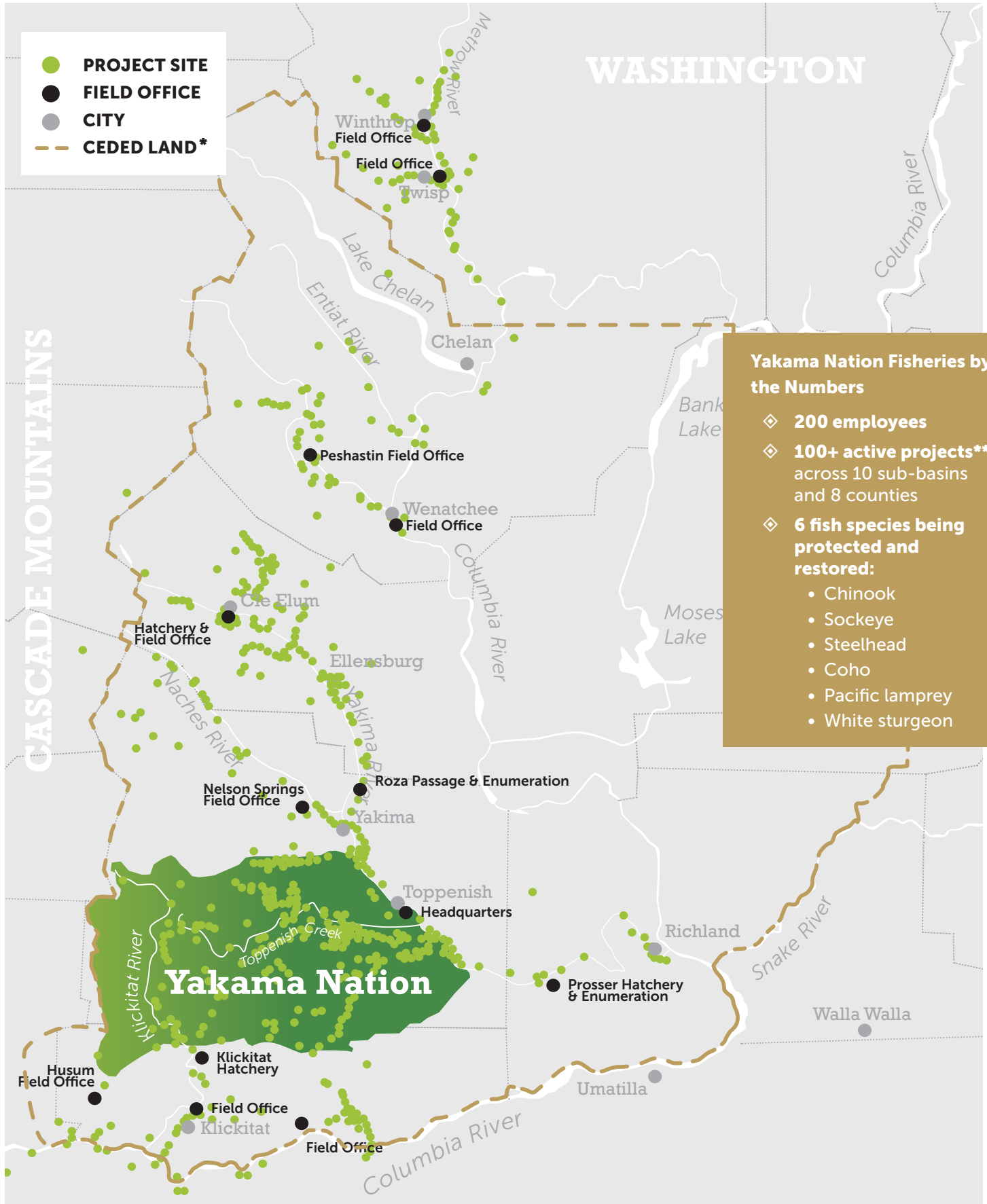
The Yakama Nation protects the Columbia River resources through responsible management with our partners, and our unique treaty rights and sovereign status within the United States. In 2008, the Yakama Nation and its federal partners signed the Columbia River Fish Accord, which funds the ongoing work of Yakama Nation Fisheries.

Today, some say there wouldn't be salmon in the Columbia if it weren't for Yakama Nation Fisheries and its innovative projects:

- ◆ **Cle Elum Research and Supplementation Facility** is the first large-scale test of systems that minimize adverse genetic impacts in hatchery-raised spring Chinook. By randomly selecting brood stock at nearby Roza Dam, the salmon are reared with minimal human contact to increase the chances of these genetically strong salmon surviving their arduous journey to the Pacific Ocean and back again as adults when they can be harvested.

- ◆ **Yakama's white sturgeon hatchery** seeks to rebuild fishery in the mid-Columbia to historic levels. Yakama works with local counties to release more than 10,000 juveniles per year at the Priest Rapids, Wanapum and Rocky Beach reservoirs. White sturgeon were once an important food source for the Yakama Nation, and could be again because of this hatchery.
- ◆ **Yakama began restoring coho salmon** in the Upper Columbia Basin in 1996 when the fish was nearly extinct in the Wenatchee, Methow and Entiat rivers. Through annual stocking of juvenile salmon in these rivers, aided by habitat restoration, 40,000 coho returned to spawn in 2011, leading to the first coho sports fishing season on the Wenatchee and Methow rivers in three decades.
- ◆ **Condit Dam Removal** was breached on October 26, 2011. The Yakama Nation advocated for removal with the dam's corporate owners for more than a decade. Since 1913, the dam blocked and confined several runs of culturally important salmon and other fish to the lower 3.3 miles of the river. By summer, after dam removal, spring Chinook, fall Chinook and bull trout were seen in the upper reaches of the White Salmon River, far above the former site of the dam.

# Yakama Nation Fisheries Projects



\*Ceded land (shown, and Usual and Accustomed area) spans the Northwest

\*\*Sources: cbfish.org Active Work Elements 03/28/2013; HWS Active/Recent Complete Projects 02/13/2013





## About the Yakama Nation

- ◆ 10,361 tribal members
- ◆ 14 tribal council members
- ◆ 1.3 million acre reservation
- ◆ Core businesses:
  - ◆ Yakama Nation Cultural Center
  - ◆ Yakama Nation Forest Products
  - ◆ Yakama Nation Land Enterprise
  - ◆ Yakama Nation Legends Casino
  - ◆ Yakama Nation Museum
  - ◆ Yakama Nation Resort RV Park
  - ◆ Yakama Power
  - ◆ Yakama Transit



For more information about Yakama Nation Fisheries and its projects please visit [Yakamafish-nsn.gov](http://Yakamafish-nsn.gov).

Or contact Yakama Nation Fisheries' public relations specialist

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*"The Yakama people have been fishing and hunting here since time immemorial. Our grandparents depended upon the river's resources for subsistence, as will our children."*

— JoDe Goudy, Yakama Nation Chairman