

UPRIVER DAM HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (P-3074)

CITY OF SPOKANE



OPEN HOUSE
NE COMMUNITY CENTER, SPOKANE
MARCH 3, 2026





Agenda

- FERC Relicensing
- Schedule
- Upriver Dam Project
- Existing Environment
- How to Stay Involved
- Questions



FERC Relicensing

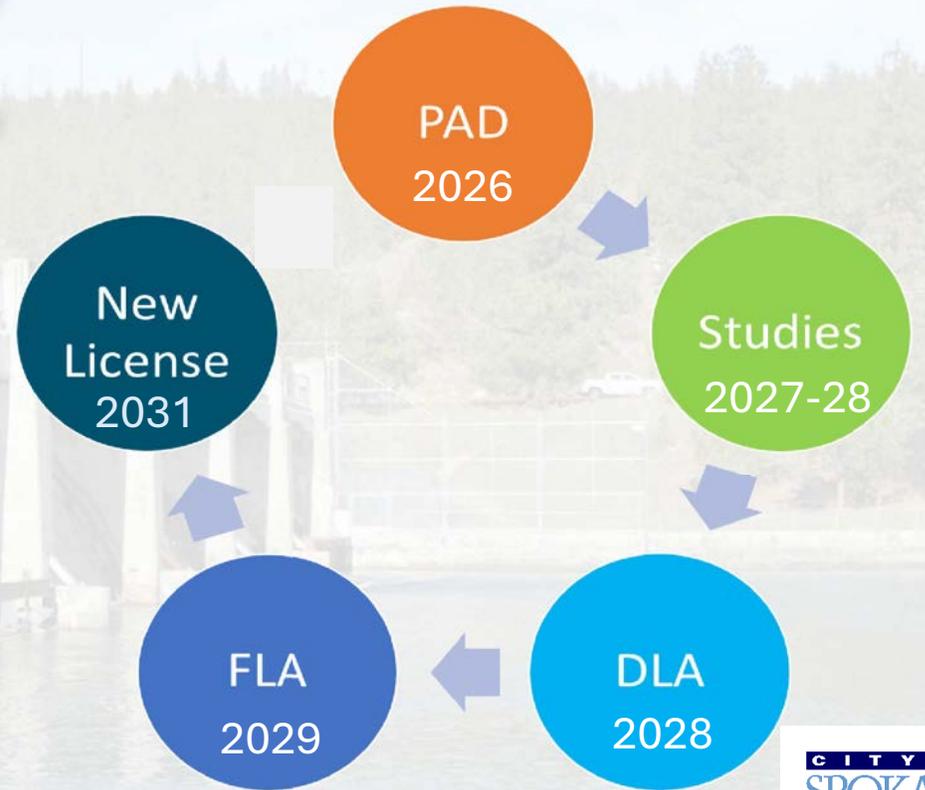


Integrated Relicensing Process (ILP)

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC's) default process
- Includes FERC involvement early in process
- Provides defined study request criteria (18 CFR § 5.9(b))
- Defined filing deadlines and comment periods
- FERC involvement and the ILP schedule starts once Notice of Intent (NOI) and Pre-Application Document (PAD) are filed
 - April 9, 2026



Key Relicensing Milestones



Key Relicensing Milestones

- **Notice of Intent (NOI)**
 - Statement of the Licensee's intention to file an application for a new license
- **The Pre-Application Document (PAD) is the Intro Document – Existing Conditions (not pre-Project)**
 - Introduction / general description of the basin
 - Project location, description, facilities, operations, and specifications
 - Existing environment – resource areas
 - Preliminary issues, Project effects, and proposed studies

PAD Exhibit E – Resource Areas

- Existing Conditions

- Geology and Soils
- Water (Quantity and Quality)
- Aquatic and Fisheries Species and Habitat
- Terrestrial, Wildlife, and Botanical Species and Habitat
- Wetland, Riparian, and Littoral Habitat
- Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species (Aquatic and Terrestrial)
- Recreation and Land Use
- Aesthetics
- Socioeconomics
- Cultural
- Tribal

Key Relicensing Milestones

• Studies

- Follow study request criteria (18 CFR § 5.9(b))
 - Goals and objectives of study
 - Relevant resource management goals
 - Existing information and need for additional information
 - Nexus between Project operations and effects
 - Study methodology and generally accepted practices
 - Level of effort and cost
- Studies provide FERC the necessary information to conduct its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental analysis



Key Relicensing Milestones

- **Draft License Application**

- A draft of the Applicant's proposal to relicense the Project
- Provides Project information, proposed operations, and environmental analysis
- Relicensing participants have an opportunity to review and comment before the Final License Application

- **Final License Application**

- Project description – final facilities, operations, and proposed changes
- Environmental analysis
- Protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures
- ILP study results
- Consultation summary
- Updated maps and engineering drawings
- License condition requests

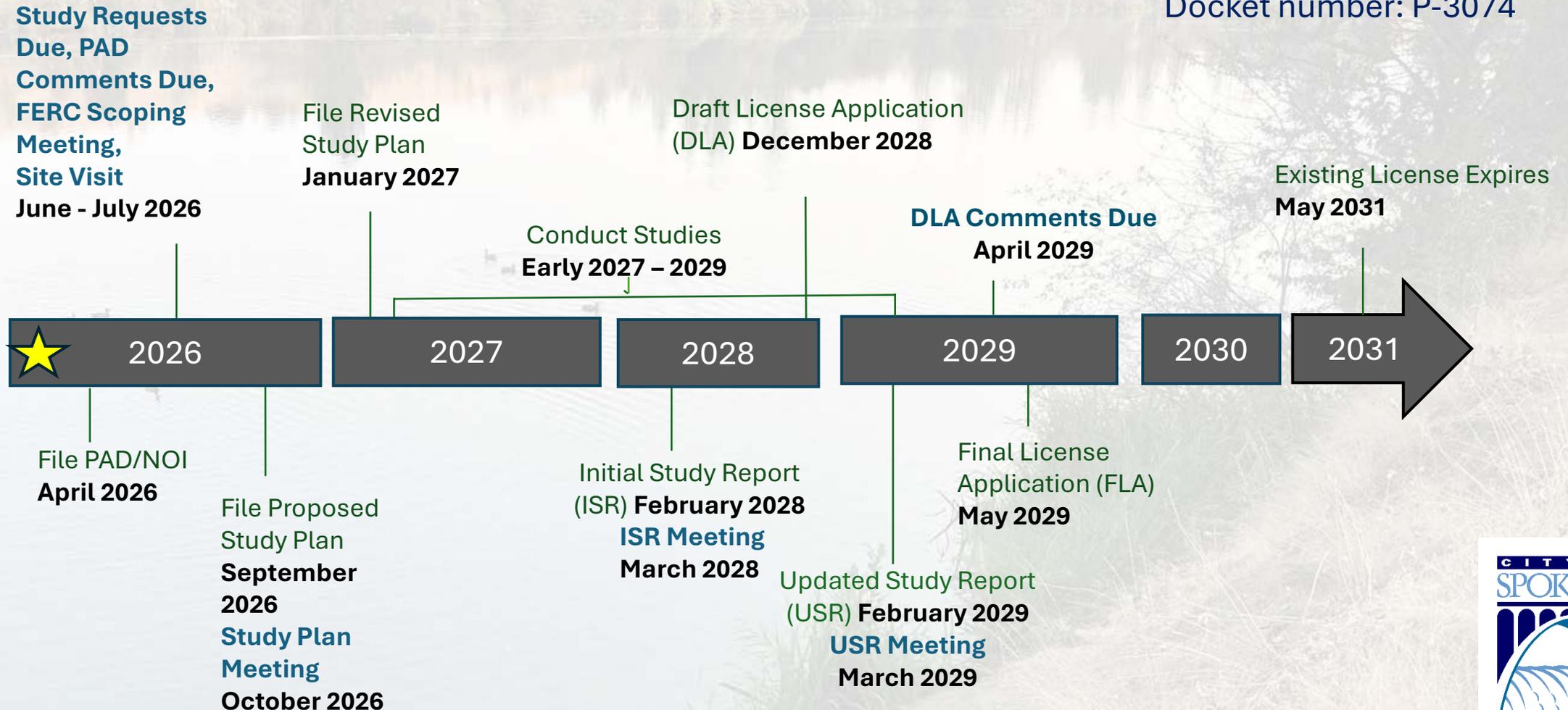
Post Final License Application

- FERC conducts formal NEPA review (environmental analysis)
- FERC may request additional information post filing to complete the environmental analysis
 - Request 401 Water Quality Certification
 - Final Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP)
 - Draft and Final NEPA Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement
- FERC issues decision on license application
- FERC issues License with Terms and Conditions



Upriver Dam Relicensing Project Key Milestones

Subscribe to FERC e-filings at
FERC's Website: www.ferc.gov
Docket number: P-3074



Questions?



Upriver Dam Project Overview

Spokane River Basin



- FERC Project Boundary
- Spokane River Basin (USGS HUC6)
- Spokane River Subbasin (NPCC)
- State Boundary

- Tribal Reservation Boundary
- City of Spokane Upriver Dam Hydroelectric Project (P-3074)
- Avista Spokane River Hydroelectric Project (P-2454)
- Avista Little Falls Hydroelectric Project (P-3509)

Data Source: USGS NHD 2023, USCB 2025, NPCC 2023

**UPRIVER DAM
HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
FERC NO. 3074**



11/19/2025



Upriver Dam Historic Project Facilities

1884: Original Timber Crib Dam

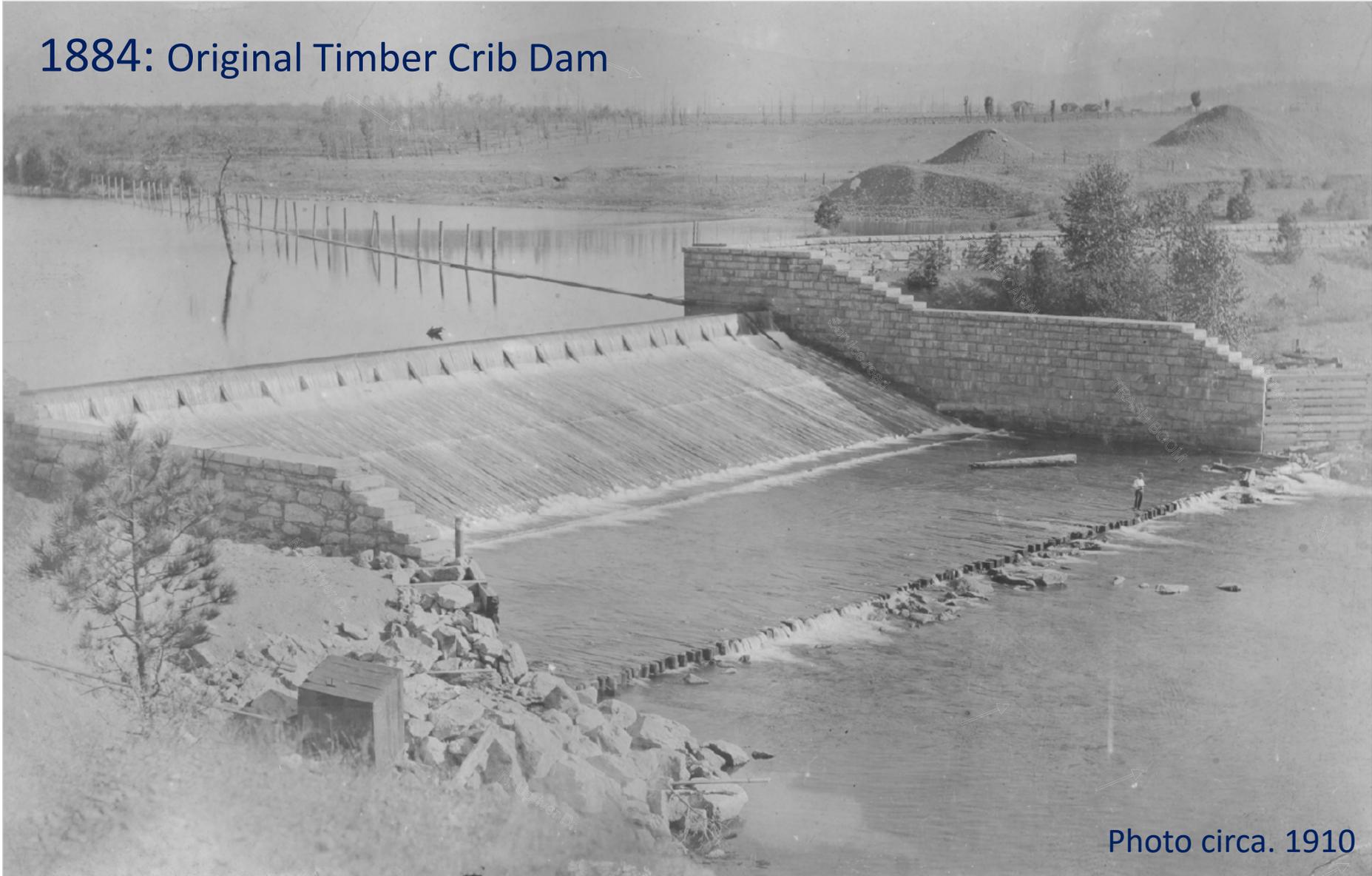


Photo circa. 1910

Upriver Dam Project Facilities

1936: Existing Concrete Dam and Powerhouse No. 1

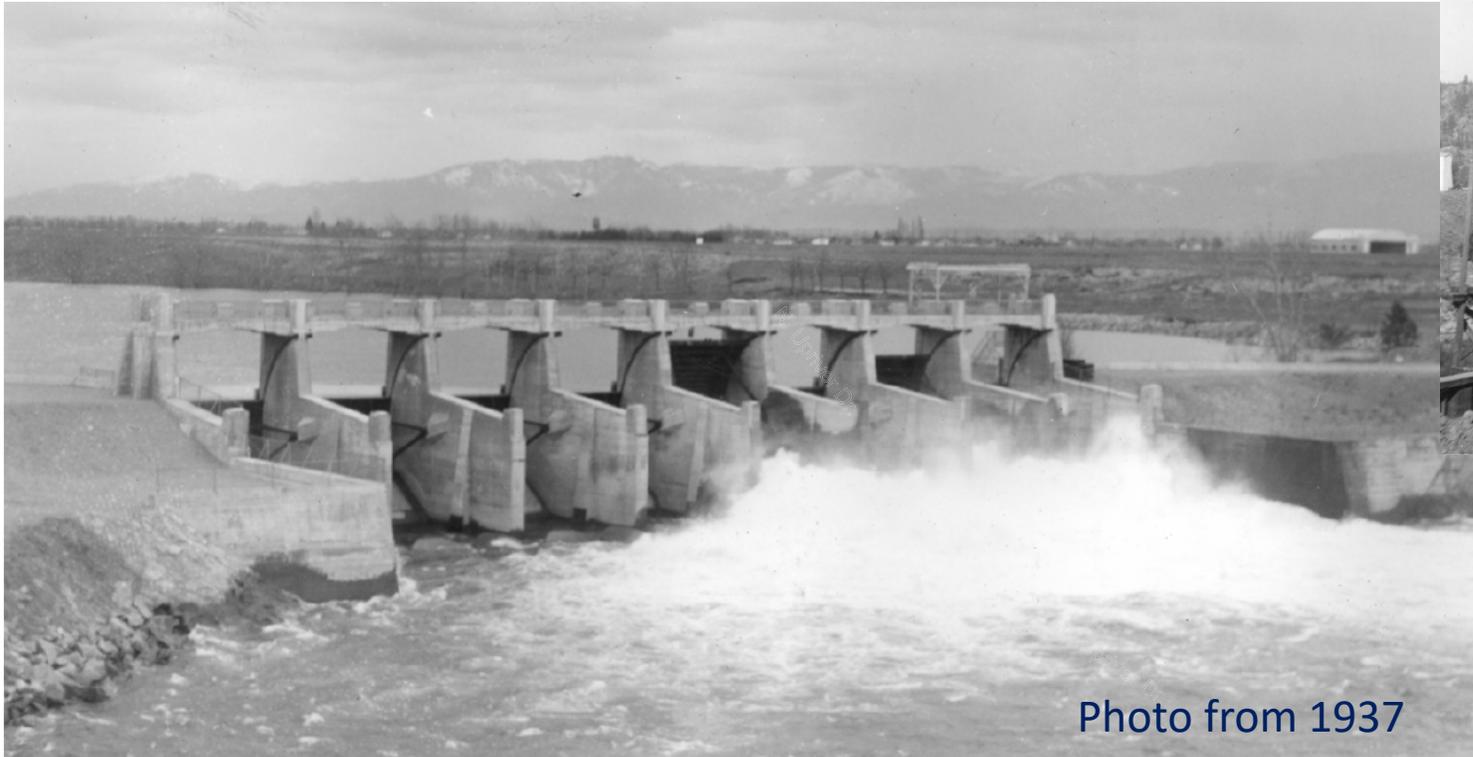


Photo from 1937



Photo from 1936

Upriver Dam FERC Project Facilities

1984: Powerhouse No.2



Current configuration

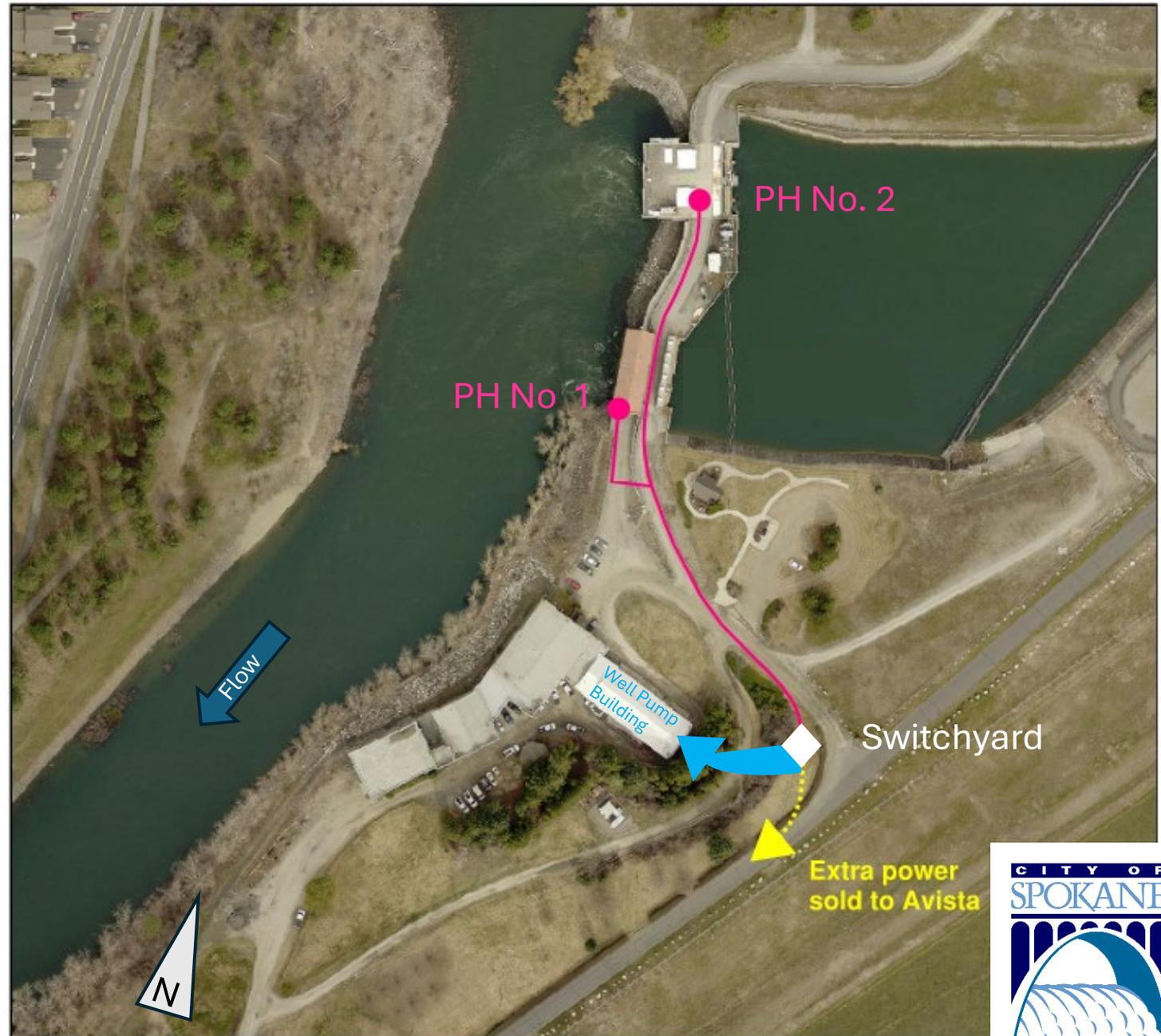
Regulatory Roles

Upriver Dam

- Regulated by FERC
 - Dam operations
 - Maintenance
 - Power generation
- Relicensing process focuses on the Upriver Dam Hydroelectric Project

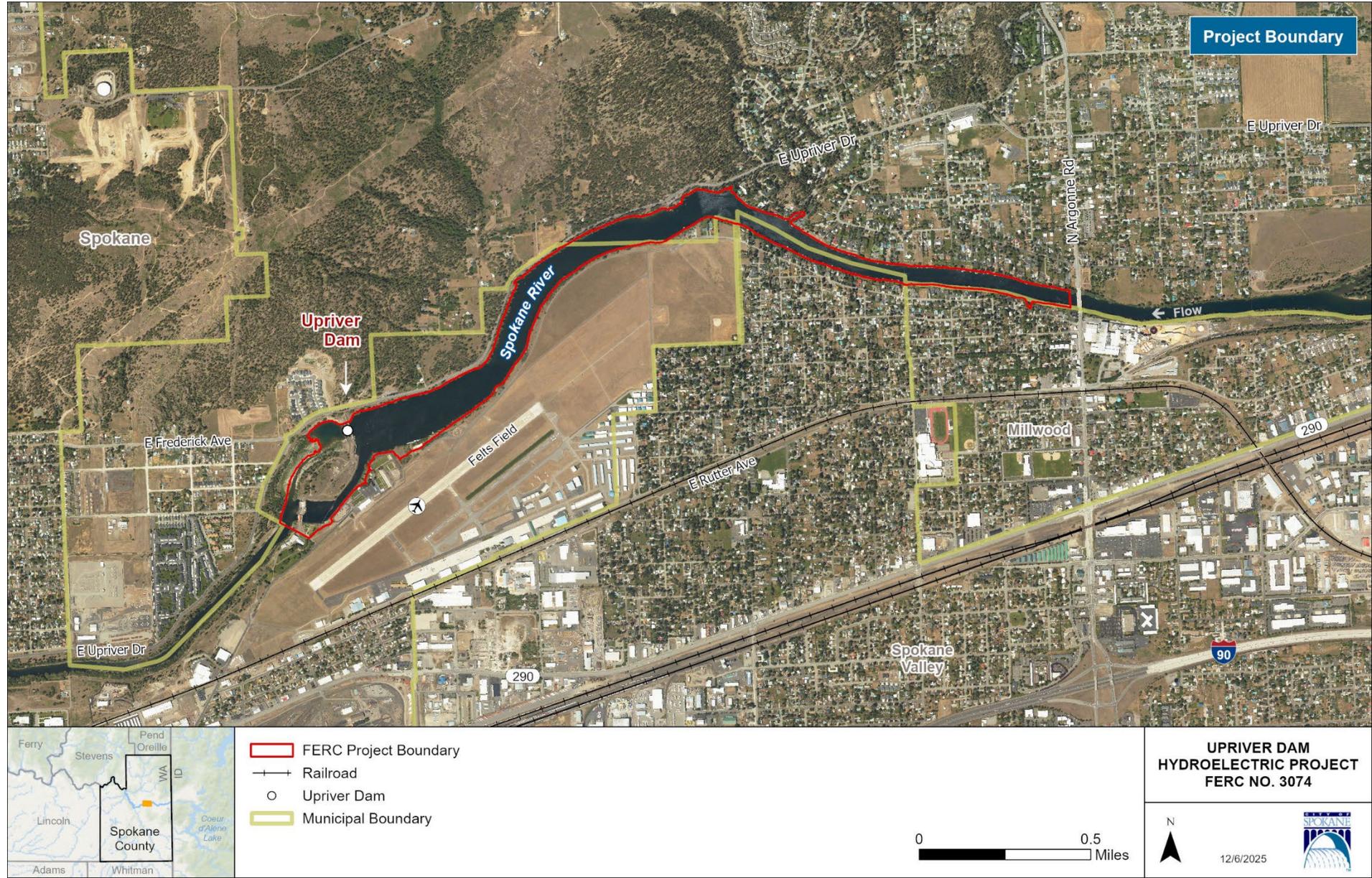
Drinking Water System

- Regulated by the Washington State Department of Health
- Unrelated to relicensing process



Upriver Dam FERC Project Boundary

- Project Location
 - Spokane River
 - City of Spokane
- City of Spokane owns and operates Project
- City owns all Project lands
- No federal lands within Project boundary



Upriver Dam FERC Project Facilities

- 50-year License
(June 1981 – May 2031)
- 17.7 MW installed capacity
- Normal Pool El. 1927 ft
(City Datum)



Upriver Dam Project Operations

- **Current**

- The dam operates as a “run-of-river” project and uses the natural flow and elevation drop of the river to produce electricity without creating a large reservoir for water storage
- Project provides generation to the City for the operation of groundwater pumps that supply drinking water to regional customers
- Groundwater pumps and drinking water system are not part of the FERC Project
- Excess power is sold to Avista Corporation

- **Future**

- Continue current operations



Questions?



Existing Environment

Water Resources

- **Hydrology and Flow Regime**
 - Project is run-of-river
 - Reservoir maintained at constant elevation
- **Water Quality**
 - The Spokane River is listed as impaired for bacteria (fecal coliform), dissolved oxygen, and toxic contaminants such as lead, zinc, mercury, PCBs, and PBDEs
 - Sediments near Upriver Dam are impaired for multiple metals and PCBs and currently managed by Washington State Department of Ecology



Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources

- **Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat**

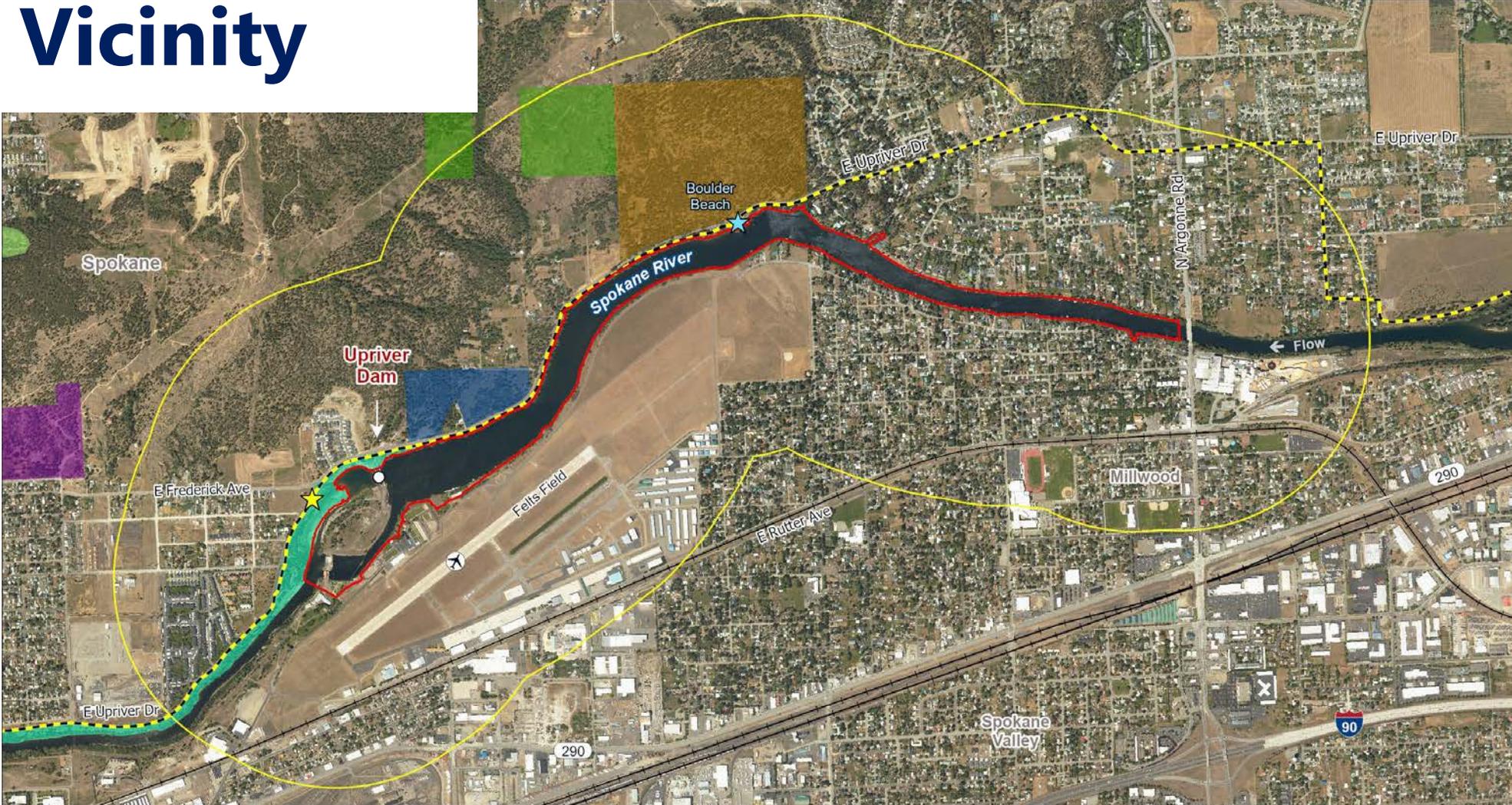
- Native Redband Trout present in area
 - Spawning habitat upstream of Project and outside Project boundary
- No threatened or endangered (ESA) species or designated critical habitat present in Project area
- No anadromous species in the Project area

- **Wildlife and Terrestrial Habitat**

- No threatened or endangered (ESA) species or designated critical habitat present in Project area
- Minimal land included in Project boundary; primarily open water



Recreation Resources in Project Vicinity



- FERC Project Boundary
- Resource Area (0.5 Mile Buffer)
- Railroad
- Upriver Dam
- Camp Sekani Conservation
- Camp Sekani Park
- Esmeralda Golf Course
- Minnehaha Park
- Upriver Drive Parkway
- John H. Shields Park
- ★ Boulder Beach
- ★ Outlook
- Centennial State Park Trail

Data Source: COS 2025, WSPRC 2026



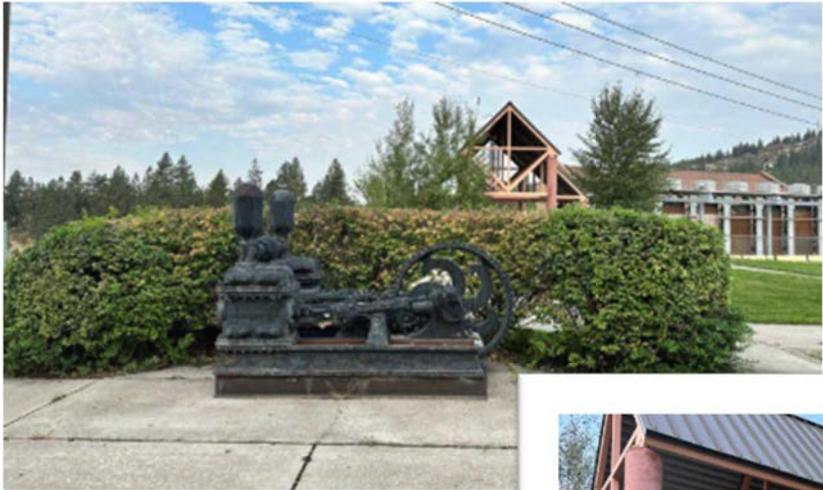
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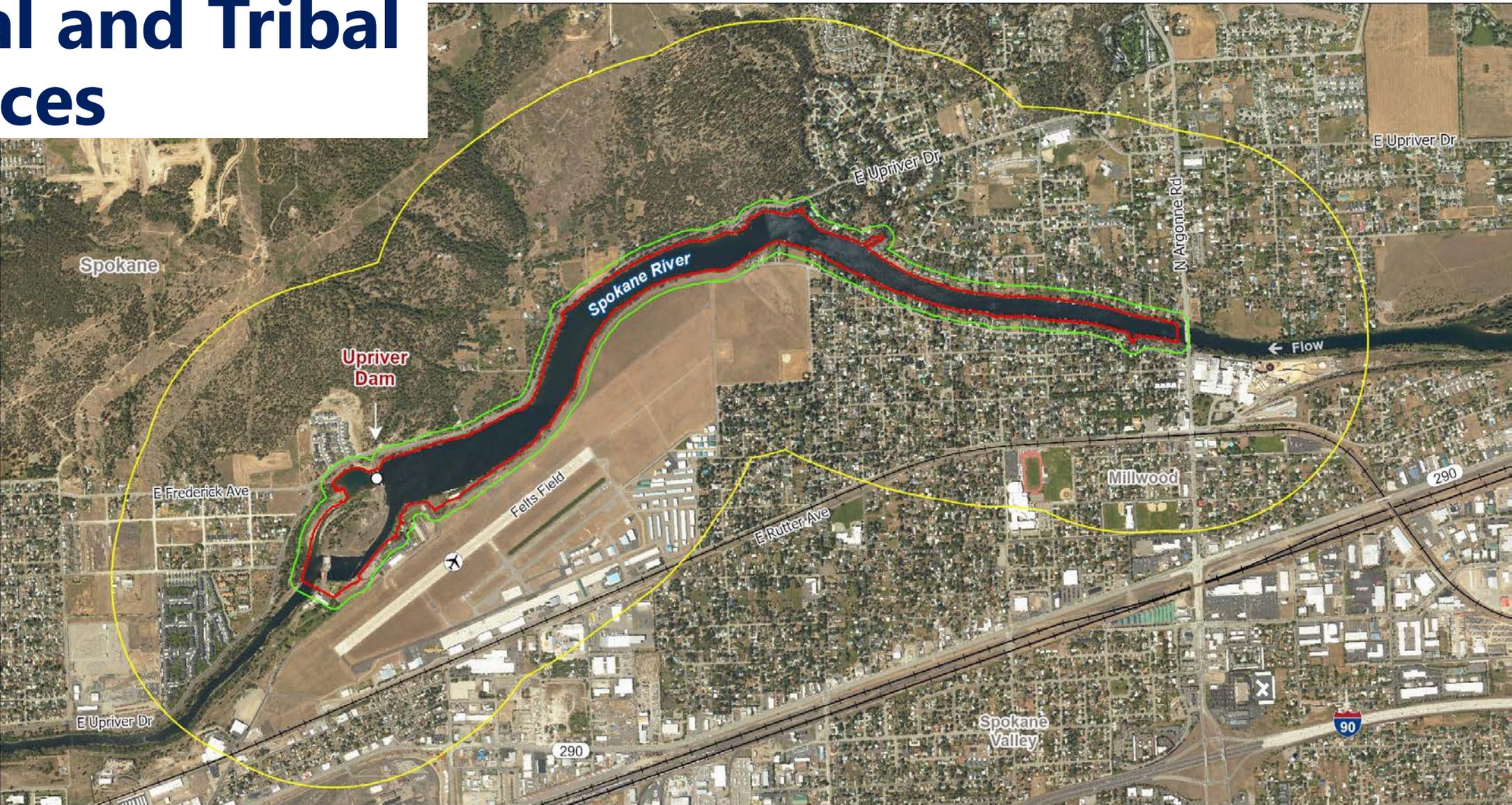
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Project Recreation Resources

Southside Development
Interpretive Visitor Center



Cultural and Tribal Resources



- FERC Project Boundary
- Built Environment Study Area (150 Foot Buffer)
- Archaeological Study Area (0.5 Mile Buffer)
- Railroad
- Upriver Dam



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1/27/2026

Cultural and Tribal Resources

- **Spokane corridor cultural significance**
 - River corridor has supported Indigenous lifeways for thousands of years
 - Fishing and aquatic resources
 - Seasonal movement and settlement
 - Spiritual connections to specific landforms and riverine features
- **One recorded traditional cultural property, Mount Spokane, located 17 miles northeast of the Project**



Cultural Resources – Existing Information

- **Precontact Archeological Resources**
 - 14 recorded archaeological sites within Project area
- **Historic-Era Changes and Impacts**
 - River flow and fish passage
 - Access to traditional fishing locations
 - Physical integrity of riverbanks
- **Built Environment Resources**
 - Upriver Dam, constructed in 1936, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- **Previous Investigations**
 - 17 cultural resource investigations (archeological and built environment)



Questions?



How to Stay Informed

- **Upriver Dam Relicensing Project Manager**

Rich Proszek, P.E., Project Manager, 509-742-8158

- **Project Website:**

<https://my.spokanecity.org/publicworks/water/upriver-dam-relicense/>

- **Email:** UpriverDamRelicense@spokanecity.org

- **Project QR Code**



- **FERC's Website:** www.ferc.gov

- Subscribe to receive FERC e-filings on the docket (P-3074)
- Public database with all FERC issuances and all submissions from other parties

