

# Historical accounts of fish passage

- The Evening Herald, a Klamath Falls paper, on September 24, 1908.  
**"There is a natural rock dam across the river-below Keno, which it is almost impossible for fish to get over."**
- In their effort to do so, thousands of fine salmon are so bruised and spotted by the rocks that they become worthless."
- Peter Ogden remarked "here for some distance in advance and in our rear as far as we can is one continued rapid fall & Cascade our Guide (Shasta Indian) informs us **beyond this the Salmon do not ascend,** ..."
- **The Ogden comments seem to describe the 14 miles of white water rapids that flows into Copco Lake from the Oregon line.**

# John Hamilton's 2005 & 2011 & 2021 articles provide many misstatements / falsehoods



- **#1 Falsehood:** Mr. Hamilton misstates in this article, "The first impassable barrier to anadromous fish on the mainstem Klamath River was Copco 1 Dam, completed in 1918... Prior to dam construction, anadromous fish runs accessed spawning, incubation, and rearing habitat in about 970 km (600 miles) of river and stream channel above the site of Iron Gate Dam"

- **FACT:** John D. Fortune, Arthur Gerlach, and C.J. Hanel in 1966 conducted a detailed review of all the available evidence of salmonoids in the Upper Klamath Basin and clearly state, "There is some evidence there once was a strong run of spring chinook, but **it had declined to its present level before 1890...A log crib, rock-filled dam was constructed by the Klamath River Improvement and Lumber Company in 1889, forming a mill pond on the Klamath River at Klamathon. This operation continued until 1902. The dam was reported to be 10 or 12 feet in height. and apparently an obstacle to migrating fish...According to Shebly (1918) , the Federal Bureau of Fisheries began operating fish racks at Klamathon in 1910, leaving little chance for passage of upstream migrants after that time."**

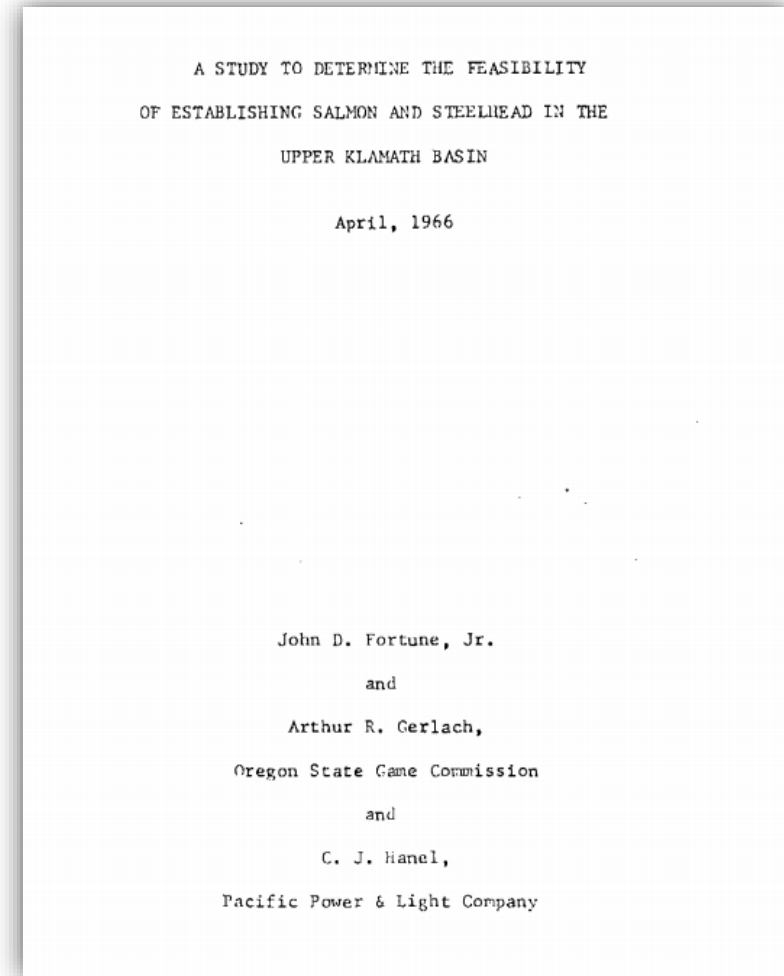
# HAMILTON “SALMON” in the 2005 Article

Hamilton’s 2005 article clearly states, **“When documents identified fish as only salmon, we assumed they were Chinook salmon.”** This is clearly an error given a quick read of Fortune et al 1966.”

- Hamilton further **ignores Gatchet’s inability to define between a salmon, trout, and “salmon trout”** ...likely the Red Band Trout (Salmon).
- In "documents and reports" of Hamilton’s 2011 article, the authors again fail to acknowledge Fortune et al (1966) finding that **everyone in the region was confused about the term "salmon."** Locals, to include tribes, could not, and did not have the technical capability to distinguish between a trout (assuming Red Band Salmon) and other large species of fish. In fact, throughout the historical accounts, the term "Salmon Trout" is used in numerous first-hand accounts. Fortune explains clearly this term was an issue related to fishing regulations and confusion caused by the very large local Klamath trout species.

# "Salmon" in the Upper Klamath Basin?

- In explaining the fishery methods used by the Klamath tribe, Spier wrote that fishing with nets was the primary method. Spears were not used much because of the dark water of Williamson River and Klamath Lake, other than the Pelican Bay area. Salmon were sometimes speared from river banks and from the rocks at Klamath Falls. Hooks were used chiefly for **large fish like salmon and "salmon trout"**.
- The Evening Herald, April 8, 1912. Irving Wilson, State Fish Culturist, states...To the majority of fishermen, **a rainbow, dolly varden, or steelhead does not mean any more than a salmon trout.**
- Fuel was added to the controversy on April 9, 1912, when - The Evening Herald carried a statement: by **David Starr Jordan classifying all trout on the Pacific Coast as salmon trout.** On the same day, the paper printed a letter from W. H. Stiebly, Superintendent of Hatcheries, California, to Ilany Telford, Oregon Deputy Game and Fish Warden. It **The name salmon trout is only a local name applied to any species of Larger trout, There is not any such fish as a salmon trout, considered from a scientific standpoint. The large fish in the Klamath are called salmon trout,** The large fish in Pyramid Lake, an entirely different variety, are known locally as salmon trout. It is a name given to any large trout, but scientifically there does not exist any such fish," **Klamath fishermen apparently supported Jordan, using the term "salmon trout" in order to fish when trout season was closed, as there was no closed season on "salmon trout".**



# Trout or Salmon?

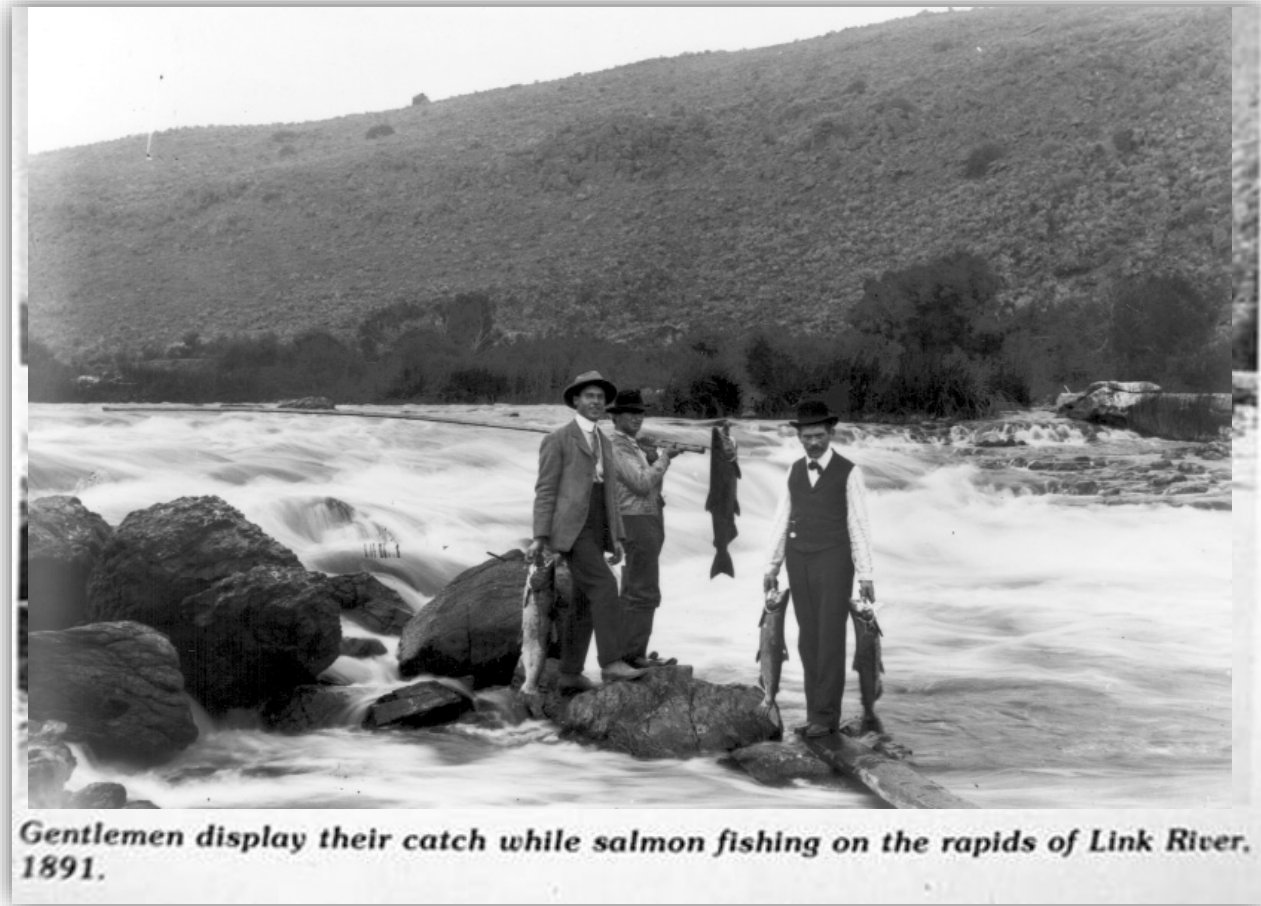
- In June 1894, Gilbert sampled **rainbow trout from Klamath River** and Upper Klamath Lake. He was unable to distinguish them from typical *Salmo gairdneri*, stating that the **larger specimens had the characteristics of sea-run or land locked fish with a few spots and a truncate tail**. He described the smaller specimens as having fewer spots and more silvery appearance than *gairdneri* from coastal streams.

- **Rainbow Trout** are a type of ocean-going **trout**.
  - The [steelhead](#) branch of the rainbow trout spends most of their time in the ocean, while the main branch spends all of its time in freshwater.
  - Outside of Alaska, **redband trout in the Upper Klamath are the largest-bodied strain of native rainbow trout that remain in freshwater their entire lives**. Fish over 24 inches are common and 30-inch trout are caught each year.



# Explaining Link River accounts of “Salmon”

- Klamath Echoes Account of George Miller
  - “The day before, Father had caught a large salmon in the river and had cleaned it...after my (ten pound fish) was landed, Father cleaned it and placed it inside the first fish and sent both across the mountains.”
- Many point to one bit of evidence that chinook salmon did run to the Upper Klamath Basin is a picture of some fish taken from Link River. *Dr. C. E. Bond, Professor of Fisheries at Oregon State University*, examined the picture and positively identified a [single] chinook salmon. All other fish pictured were rainbows, some appearing to be native Klamath residents and others like steelhead, but positive separation of these races cannot be made from a picture.



Rumors insinuate this photo opportunity was staged for tourism purposes. Some allege at least the Chinook salmon, and if present, steelhead were brought with the photographer in case no fish were caught for the promotional photo. Note the lack of any fishing poles, tackle, or nets.

# Circumstantial Evidence

- From nearly two years of field work with Klamath and **Modoc informants in the 1870s**, Albert Gatschet developed a **"Topographic List of Camping Places."** He said that these were either **camping sites for seasonal fishing or hunting or places of permanent settlement.** The locations his informants named were "Camping Places on Klamath Marsh," "Camps Along Williamson River," "Eminences Around Upper Klamath Lake," "Camping Places in Sprague River Valley," and "Camping Places of the Modoc Country."
- **His informants did not name any places in the upper Klamath River Canyon.**
- **Salmon Runs above Keno are not mentioned in the 1900 promotion book. Given nature of the book, it should be mentioned if it were remotely true.**
- Evidence shows Shasta Tribes established annual and seasonal hamlets along the Klamath River which were supported by big game and fishing.
- In contrast...
- **A research of historical villages, camps, hamlets of the Modoc peoples do not indicate permanent nor seasonal sites along the Klamath River below Keno although their territory included a significant portion of the river.**
- **A lack of reliable fishing over time immemorial may be a contributing factor.**
- **Lack of Klamath salmon "ceremonies"**

