

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho



SPOKANE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY UPDATE

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Kootenai Tribe of Idaho*

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Kootenai elders have passed down the history of creation and the beginning of time, much of it uniquely Kootenai and so sacred that it cannot be shared with outsiders. It can be told, however, that the Kootenai people were created by Kwiḥqa Nupika , the supreme being, and placed on earth to keep the Creator-Spirit's Covenant.

The Covenant says:

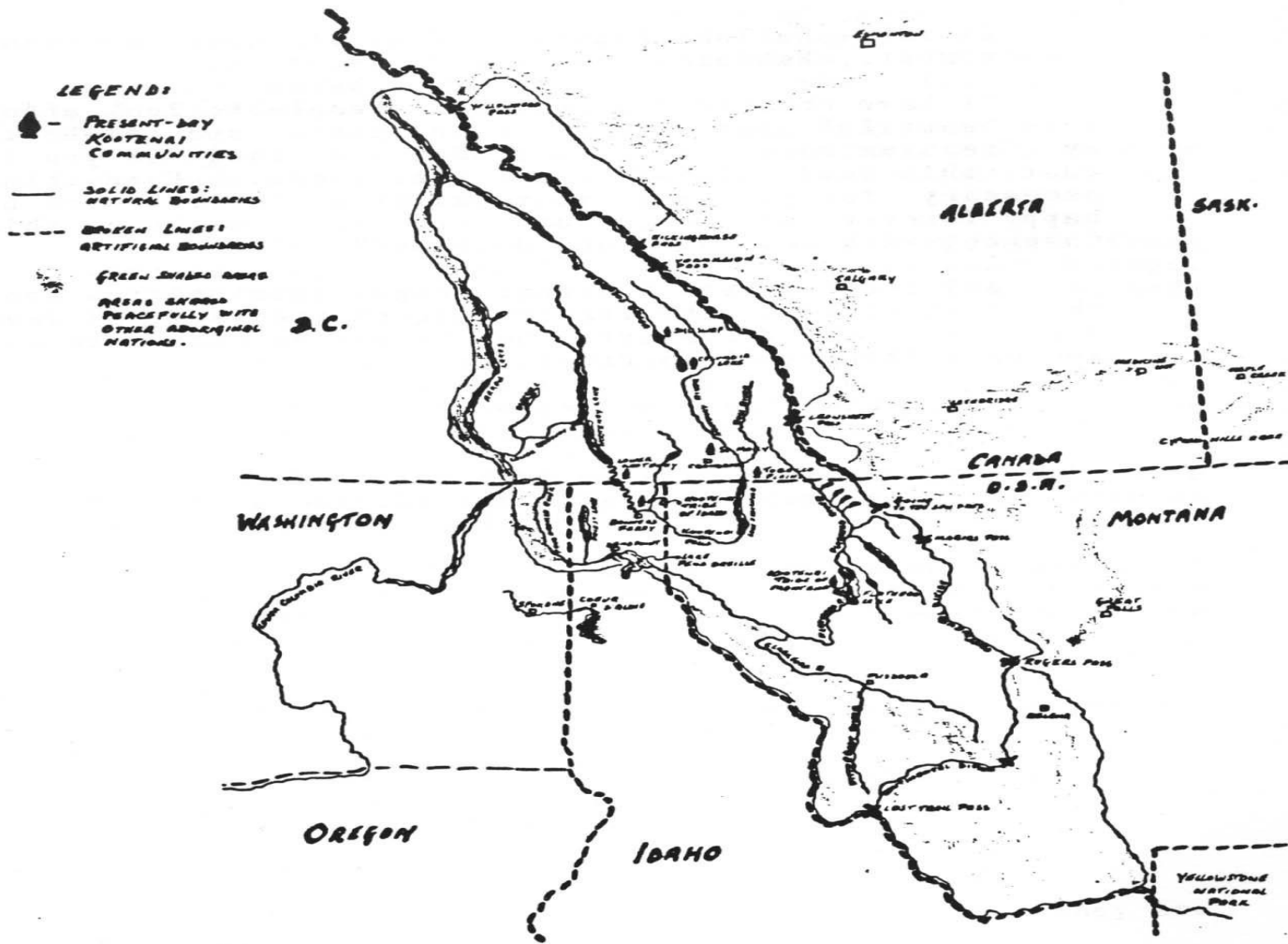
“I have created you Kootenai people to look after this beautiful land, to honor and guard and celebrate my creation here in this place. As long as you do that, this land will meet all your needs.

Everything necessary for you and your children to live and be happy forever is here, as long as you keep this Covenant with me.”

Columbia River Basin



Kootenai Aboriginal Territory







White Sturgeon: Endangered



Bull Trout: Threatened

Westslope cutthroat: Petitioned



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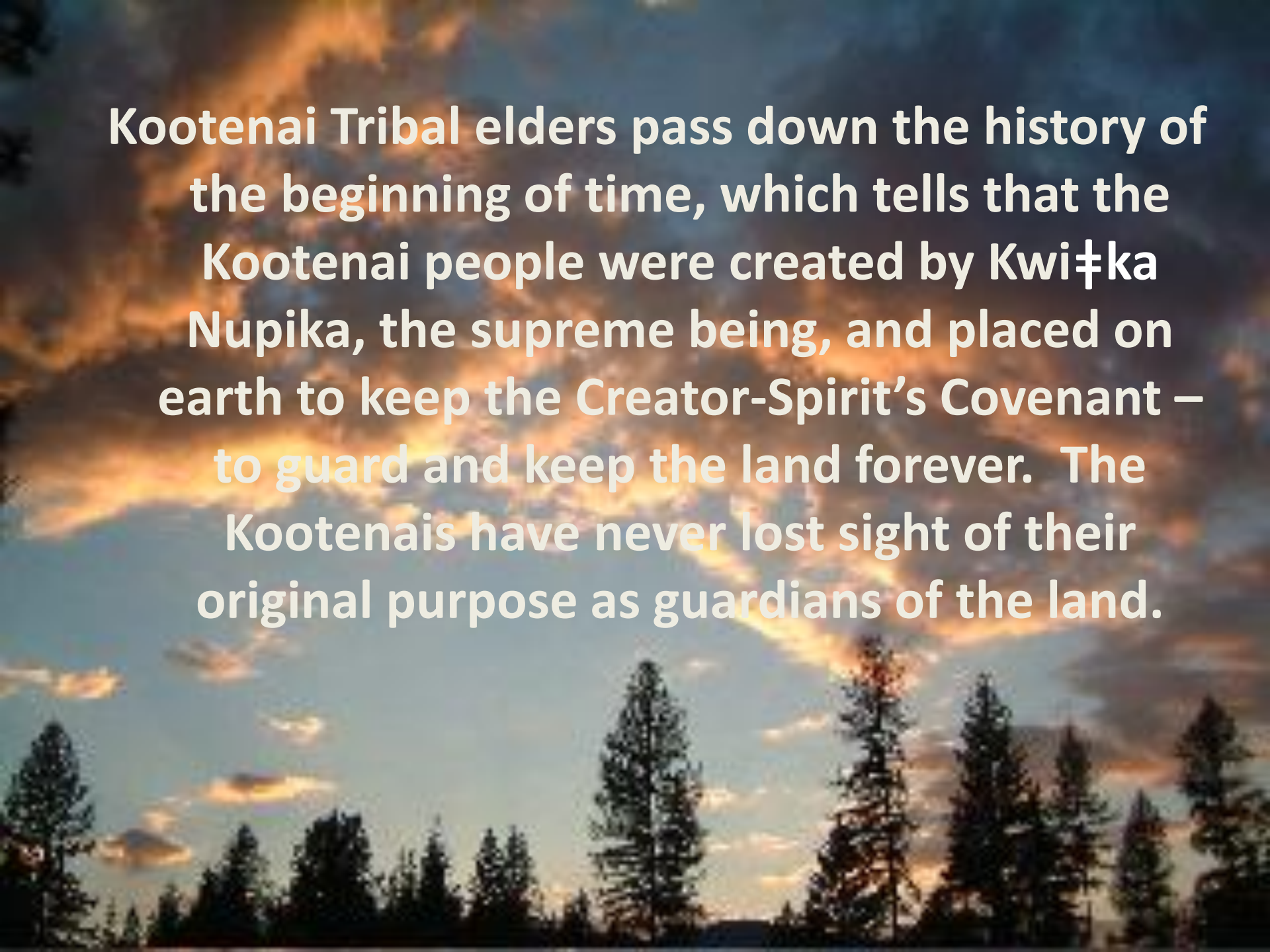
South Arm Kokanee: Functionally Extinct



Burbot: Petitioned

[Summary of the Agreement in Principle to Modernize the Columbia River Treaty Regime - United States Department of State](#)

[Details About the Key Elements Agreed Between the United States and Canada Regarding Modernization of the Columbia River Treaty Regime - United States Department of State](#)

A photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a forest of evergreen trees. The sky is filled with soft, glowing clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The trees in the foreground are silhouetted against the bright sky.

Kootenai Tribal elders pass down the history of the beginning of time, which tells that the Kootenai people were created by Kwiḥka Nupika, the supreme being, and placed on earth to keep the Creator-Spirit's Covenant – to guard and keep the land forever. The Kootenais have never lost sight of their original purpose as guardians of the land.