

WILD HOPE 3: Reclaiming Bear River

November 6, 2024

	TIME CODE	VIDEO	AUDIO
1.	01:00:00:00		BRAD PARRY: This used to be a place of joy that provided for my ancestors. We didn't take more than we needed. There was always fish and deer and waterfowl.
2.	01:00:20:18	GRAPHIC: Title WILD HOPE Reclaiming Bear River	BRAD PARRY: The Bear River Massacre was the largest massacre of Native Americans in United States history. This is a graveyard. This is our Arlington Cemetery. This is where our people had to fight for their freedom and to exist. I want to take this land back in time to when it was wild, and restore our connection to it. [EXCAVATOR OPERATING]
3.	01:01:14:20		NARRATOR: THE NORTHWESTERN BAND OF THE SHOSHONE NATION LOOKED AFTER THE BEAR RIVER ECOSYSTEM FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. THE NOMADIC TRIBE CAME HERE, TO THE PLACE THEY CALL "WUDA OGWA," EVERY WINTER. THE CLEAN WATER TEEMED WITH TROUT AND GAME BIRDS. [DUCK SPLASHING] HOT SPRINGS HEATED THE GROUND, ALLOWING YEAR-ROUND PASTURE FOR HORSES.
4.	01:01:53:04	GRAPHIC: Lower Third BRAD PARRY Tribal Vice Chairman	BRAD PARRY: While there's snow and cold everywhere else, the warmth of the earth is heating your teepee. We were dependent on Mother Earth. [LEAVES RUSTLING]

		GRAPHIC: Lower Third PATTY TIMBIMBOO- MADSEN Tribal Historian	NARRATOR: IT WAS ALSO THE SITE FOR AN IMPORTANT, ANNUAL GATHERING: THE WARM DANCE. PATTY TIMBIMBOO-MADSEN: We would have other Shoshone people come in and they would meet and they would dance and have ceremony, find mates, exchange stories, see relatives.
5.	01:02:30:10		NARRATOR: THEN, IN 1863, EVERYTHING CHANGED. [GUNFIRE] BRAD PARRY: In one day, thousands of years of warm dance celebration crumbled. 500 native men, women and children were killed by the United States Army. A lot of people know Wounded Knee, and a lot of people know Sand Creek, but we were bigger than both of them.
6.	01:03:01:02		NARRATOR: THE MASSACRES WERE SPURRED BY THE SETTLERS' BELIEF IN MANIFEST DESTINY, THAT THEY HAD A GOD-GIVEN RIGHT TO CONTROL ALL OF NORTH AMERICA. LIKE SO MANY OTHERS, THE NORTHWESTERN BAND OF THE SHOSHONE WERE EITHER KILLED OR DISPLACED.
7.	01:03:23:13		NARRATOR: SINCE THAT DAY, THE TRIBE HAS BEEN LANDLESS, WITH NO PLACE TO PRACTICE THEIR TRADITIONS OR CALL "HOME." BRAD PARRY: We were promised a reservation but never given one. And it's taken us 160 years just to get back to the numbers that we had when we camped here.
8.	01:03:44:16		PATTY TIMBIMBOO-MADSEN: My mom, she would tell us, she says, run and hide. They're going to kill you. So I grew up with that.

			I've always felt like I was a visitor. I never felt like I belonged here.
9.	01:04:03:01		<p>NARRATOR THEN, IN 2018, THE TRIBE PURCHASED THESE 400 ACRES IN SOUTHERN IDAHO WITH A VISION TO RESTORE THEIR ANCESTRAL LAND AND RECLAIM THEIR ROLE AS STEWARDS OF THE BEAR RIVER.</p> <p>BUT THE LAND THEY PURCHASED LOOKED NOTHING LIKE THEIR ANCESTORS' CAMPING GROUNDS.</p>
10.	01:04:33:12		<p>NARRATOR: FOLLOWING THE MASSACRE, FARMERS HAD RESHAPED IT FOR LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURE.</p> <p>BRAD PARRY They cut down all the trees, brought in extra silt and extra dirt to flatten everything out. They completely rerouted the water and how they used it.</p>
11.	01:04:53:05	GRAPHIC: Animation	<p>NARRATOR: BATTLE CREEK IS A TRIBUTARY OF THE BEAR RIVER, NOW TRAPPED IN A CANAL, BUT IT USED TO MEANDER FREE, CREATING PONDS AND WETLANDS.</p> <p>NATIVE VEGETATION SUPPORTED ANIMALS AND PEOPLE ALIKE.</p> <p>BRAD PARRY: This place would've been covered in trees and willows and chokecherries. It's just a flat field, nowadays.</p>
12.	01:05:22:00		<p>BRAD PARRY: Where you're standing right now is basically ground zero, the massacre site.</p> <p>We're restoring our home. That's why we're doing this project. And we appreciate all the help, the Tribe can't do it on its own.</p>
13.	01:05:36:05		<p>NARRATOR: BRAD HAS BROUGHT IN A SKILLED TEAM TO RESTORE THIS LAND.</p>

			THEY MUST REDIRECT WATER, REPLACE INVASIVE TREES WITH NATIVE ONES, AND RECOVER LOST WETLANDS.
14.	01:05:56:07		<p>BRAD PARRY: We'll be reestablishing the things that are supposed to be here, which will help the land.</p> <p>You need biologists, and you need geologists and you need engineers. You need native people, you need that native knowledge. You need contractors and construction workers that understand this place.</p> <p>RIOS PACHECO: Thank you.</p>
15.	01:06:20:06		<p>BRAD PARRY: The first thing we need to do is return the water's natural flow. That makes everything else possible.</p> <p>NARRATOR: FOUR YEARS OF PLANNING LED TO THIS MOMENT.</p> <p>[EXCAVATOR OPERATING]</p> <p>CONTRACTORS WILL BREACH THE CANAL THAT RESTRAINS BATTLE CREEK.</p> <p>THEY INSTALL A PIPE TO DIVERT THE WATER OUT OVER THE FIELDS.</p>
16.	01:06:55:20		<p>BRAD PARRY: We have to use modern machinery and modern technology to force the water back.</p> <p>[DEBRIS FALLING]</p> <p>It will be a wonderful sight to see that water free flowing over the ground instead of in this ditch.</p>
17.	01:07:15:21		<p>BRAD PARRY: We just had trickles before.</p> <p>[WATER RUSHING]</p>

18.	01:07:33:00		<p>BRAD PARRY: This is awesome!</p> <p>BRIAN ANDREWS: Isn't that exciting?</p> <p>BRAD PARRY: Seriously. That is way cool. That is a great job.</p> <p>[WATER FLOWING]</p>
19.	01:07:47:05		<p>NARRATOR: WITH THE WATER FREED, BATTLE CREEK WILL SLOWLY BE REBORN, CARVING ITS NEW ROUTE TO THE BEAR RIVER.</p> <p>BUT THAT'S ONLY STEP ONE.</p> <p>BRAD PARRY: Battle Creek has some of the dirtiest water in the entire Bear River watershed.</p> <p>The water quality is just gone because of all the sediment and pollutants that get in there due to farming practices.</p>
20.	01:08:15:02	<p>GRAPHIC: Lower Third ROSE SMITH Stream Ecologist</p>	<p>NARRATOR: SO FARTHER UPSTREAM, BRAD DEPLOYS A SECOND TEAM TO CLEAN UP THE MESS, BORROWING A TRIED-AND-TRUE TECHNIQUE FROM NATURE.</p> <p>ROSE SMITH: Today, we're gonna be building what's called a beaver dam analog. They are human-made structures that mimic beaver dams.</p>
21.	01:08:35:20		<p>[WATER FLOWING]</p> <p>NARRATOR: BEAVERS ARE NATURAL-BORN BUILDERS. THEY CONSTRUCT DAMS AND LODGES THAT SLOW THE FLOW OF WATER, FILTERING OUT IMPURITIES.</p> <p>BRAD PARRY: You take the beaver out of that equation, you have chocolate milk water like we have now.</p>

22.	01:08:53:18		<p>NARRATOR: THEY ALSO CREATE POOLS, WHICH PROVIDE REFUGE FOR FISH DURING THE DRIEST MONTHS.</p> <p>BRAD PARRY: We camped here because there were trout here. That was a really basic food source that was always on hand.</p> <p>If you have beaver, you have fish. If you have fish, you have birds. That water gets displaced, so then we have willows and cattails and milkweed.</p> <p>[MACHINERY HUMMING]</p>
23.	01:09:42:16		<p>NARRATOR: NEARBY VEGETATION AND CLUMPS OF MUD CREATE A NATURAL BARRIER THAT PREVENTS SEDIMENT FROM TRAVELING DOWNSTREAM.</p> <p>ROSE SMITH: I'll hand you a shovel. We can start taking muck, and mud and kind of pile it in there.</p>
24.	01:10:06:16		<p>BRAD PARRY: It will start to back the flow of water up. And so that sediment gets dispersed, and then that dam acts as that water quality filter, the same way an actual beaver dam would.</p> <p>And we want to start seeing that water quality get better. Hopefully in 10 years, it's half as muddy and murky as it is right now.</p> <p>NARRATOR: BRAD PLANS FOR 30-PLUS MAN-MADE, AND EVENTUALLY BEAVER-MADE, DAMS ALONG BATTLE CREEK. THIS IS DAM NUMBER ONE.</p>
25.	01:10:39:09		<p>BRAD PARRY: It will promote more beavers to come because we're just recreating a habitat for them, so when they do come back, they'll start creating their own.</p> <p>The more beaver we have, the more success we'll have in the area.</p> <p>[BEAVER SPLASHING]</p>
26.	01:10:58:17		<p>NARRATOR: WITH THE NEW WATERWORKS UNDERWAY, THE TEAM TURNS TO THE NEXT MASSIVE TASK:</p>

			<p>GETTING RID OF INVASIVE TREES THAT THREATEN THE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM.</p> <p>BRAD PARRY: A Russian olive tree will take out of the system 75 gallons of water a day, and just take it.</p> <p>And they erode the banks. As you can see through here, the banks are just eroding backwards and backwards and all that dirt and everything's getting down in there.</p> <p>NARRATOR: FARMERS INTRODUCED THESE TREES AS ORNAMENTALS AND WINDBREAKS, BUT THEY QUICKLY SPREAD OUT OF CONTROL.</p>
27.	01:11:34:14	<p>GRAPHIC: Lower Third RIOS PACHECO Tribal Elder</p>	<p>RIOS PACHECO: We don't have a few, we have more like hundreds of thousands of them.</p> <p>NARRATOR: THE RUSSIAN OLIVES SUCK THE REGION DRY. THEY MUST BE REMOVED IF THE RESTORATION PROJECT HAS ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS.</p> <p>[CHAINSAW REVVING] [TREE FALLING]</p>
28.	01:12:05:02		<p>BRAD PARRY: If we remove all of those invasive plants and plant native trees and native grasses, it'll hold those banks together.</p> <p>Native plants are absolutely essential in fixing the water quality problem. The cottonwood trees and the willows and the cattails, those are the types of plants we need.</p>
29.	01:12:25:19		<p>NARRATOR: BUT TO REPLACE SO MANY INVASIVE TREES, THE TRIBE NEEDS HELP.</p> <p>[SHOVEL DIGGING]</p> <p>BRAD PARRY: I'm standing here in the middle of the field, it's about nine o'clock. My stomach has dropped because I'm like, how do we get 10,000 plants in before the end of the season.</p>
30.	01:12:54:05		<p>BRAD PARRY: And then people started to arrive.</p>

			<p>We had over 400 people that came out and donated their time to plant 10,000 trees in four hours on one Saturday.</p> <p>This isn't their land. This isn't their project, but they just want to be part of it, and they want to help out.</p>
31.	01:13:26:06		<p>NARRATOR: IT WILL TAKE DECADES FOR THE BEAR RIVER ECOSYSTEM TO REACH ITS FULL POTENTIAL, BUT ALREADY, IT'S COMING BACK TO LIFE.</p> <p>THE SAPLINGS ARE TAKING ROOT AND THE DIVERTED CREEK AND DAMS HAVE STARTED TO CREATE WETLANDS.</p> <p>[BOAT DRAGGING]</p> <p>THE TRIBE BRINGS IN SCIENTISTS TO MONITOR THE RESULTS.</p>
32.	01:13:56:14		<p>NARRATOR: THEY CONDUCT ACOUSTIC SURVEYS FOR BATS, REGULAR BIRD COUNTS.</p> <p>ERIC LAMALFA: That's the camera.</p> <p>NARRATOR: AND SET UP CAMERA TRAPS TO TRACK THE RETURN OF WILDLIFE TO BEAR RIVER.</p>
33.	01:14:24:12		<p>BRAD PARRY: There's a refuge around here that was boasting, "Yeah. We've seen 65 bird species." Well, we've got 95 now, just because we've opened up the water.</p> <p>[FROG CROAKING]</p> <p>Frogs, they're starting to come back. We've been hearing sandhill cranes. We've seen pelicans out here.</p> <p>[WATER SPLASHING]</p> <p>We're really gonna grade this place on, on the animals that return.</p>
34.	01:14:58:15		<p>NARRATOR: THE TRIBE'S CONNECTION TO BEAR RIVER IS RETURNING AS WELL. THE RESTORED LAND IS BECOMING A LIVING LINK TO THEIR PAST, AND A VITAL CLASSROOM FOR SHOSHONE YOUTH.</p> <p>RIOS PACHECO:</p>

			Our people, the Newe, we call this “sipi” or “saip.” It’s either way, “sipi” or “saip.” And that means a water plant.
35.	01:15:29:17		<p>PATTY TIMBIMBOO-MADSEN: I've always felt that if you don't learn that language, you will never see the world through the eyes of how our people saw it.</p> <p>CORA AND GRACE MONCUR: Sipi, saip.</p> <p>RIOS PACHECO: Right. And what they call nets in Newe is wana.</p> <p>RIOS, CORA, GRACE: Wana.</p> <p>PATTY TIMBIMBOO-MADSEN: Don't think of ourselves. Think of the future generations.</p> <p>Find those children who will take it to their heart, so we won't disappear.</p>
36.	01:16:09:05		<p>BRAD PARRY: For thousands of years we were here.</p> <p>We lived in harmony with this land.</p> <p>We want to recreate that relationship and make this a place my ancestors would recognize.</p> <p>We're trying to honor them by doing this.</p>
37.	01:16:39:15	GRAPHIC: Credits	
38.	TRT: 17:26		OUT