An aerial photograph of a coastal region. A large, deep blue bay occupies the left and center of the frame. To the right, a rugged coastline features steep, forested hills in shades of green and brown. A network of roads and rivers is visible on the land. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

Salmon Nation Field Guide



WELCOME TO SALMON NATION

Thirty-three million people share our home in this place we call Salmon Nation.

It spans 9.7 million square miles of land and sea—about the size of North and Central America. From central California north to the Arctic, it includes 1.2 million square miles of land in Canada and the United States and generates between \$1.2 and \$1.9 trillion in economic activity each year. While salmon still occupy much of their original range, their numbers are only a sliver of what they once were. The historic salmon runs remind us of our heritage—what is, was, and, maybe, could be again. Salmon Nation offers a framework for our thinking—a nature state, not a nation state—based on interconnection and the broad distribution of wealth between marine and terrestrial, freshwater and saltwater, urban and rural. Our work is to figure out how to organize our communities and economies to sustain—or even restore—that wealth into the future. Salmon Nation is about the connection between people and place—loving where you live and leaving it better than you found it.

\$1T+

The region generates between \$1.2 and \$1.9 trillion in economic activity every year.



Salmon Nation spans 9.7 million square miles.



PEOPLE & CULTURE

Since the beginning of time First Peoples have called Salmon Nation home.

The rich cultural diversity of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and First Nations is extraordinary, just like the lands and waters of their homelands and the languages that they speak. There were at one time over 125 different languages with 200 different dialects spoken in Salmon Nation. These languages express the intimate understanding indigenous people have of the natural world. Many of these languages are no longer spoken or are endangered. The arrival of newcomers intent on taking Native land and resources and the concerted efforts of governments and churches are responsible for this rupture in Native cultures. Yet indigenous peoples are still, and will always be, connected to this landscape.

The dramatic shift in the demographics of Salmon Nation continues to this day. By 1900 there were just over one million people living in Salmon Nation. By 1950 that number had jumped to over seven million people. Today there are over 30 million people with some estimates having that population at close to 50 million by mid-century. The proportion of people of Hispanic descent will dramatically increase as many of the newcomers to the region will be immigrants from Central and South America. Latinos are projected to become the largest racial/ethnic group in Salmon Nation by 2020 and to constitute a majority by 2050.



Indigenous languages of Alaska.

Source: Krauss, Michael E., Gary Holton, Jim Kerr, and Colin T. West. 2011. Indigenous Peoples and Languages of Alaska. Fairbanks and Anchorage: Alaska Native Language Center and Institute of Social and Economic Research.



125+

There were once over 125 languages spoken in Salmon Nation.

50M

By 2050, Salmon Nation is projected to be home to 50 million people.*

*Source: Winkler, Richelle, Kenneth M. Johnson, Cheng Cheng, Jim Beaudoin, Paul R. Voss, and Katherine J. Curtis. Age-Specific Net Migration Estimates for US Counties, 1950-2010. Applied Population Laboratory, University of Wisconsin- Madison, 2013. Web. Accessed: 2-27-2018 at <http://www.netmigration.wisc.edu/>.



THRIVING CITIES

Dynamic and creative cities define our region.

Salmon Nation is known for our iconic mountains, rivers, and unpopulated coastlines as well as our abundant natural resources: fish, food, and forests. But our fast growing, amenity rich, progressive urban areas also define our region. Major cities, such as Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco, are some of the fastest growing in North America. Smaller cities, such as Olympia and Bend, are experiencing rapid growth as well. Populous, dynamic, and creative, cities are the economic drivers of our region, impacting not only the citizens that reside within their boundaries but also surrounding communities.

Much of our growth is driven by people migrating here from elsewhere. Between 2000 and 2010, 1.3 million more people moved here than left—we call this net migration. And the story of migration is not only about the cities of our region: unlike much of the country, many rural areas in Salmon Nation are seeing positive net migration.

This draw, however, can result in increased housing prices and other competition that can disproportionately affect the historically underserved in our communities. We must be thoughtful in our growth to secure the well-being of the people who call Salmon Nation home.



From San Francisco to Vancouver and beyond, Salmon Nation's cities draw people from around the world.



Growth

Salmon Nation is home to some of the fastest growing cities in North America.

1.3M

1.3 million more people moved to Salmon Nation than left between 2000 and 2010.



A RICH MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The North Pacific

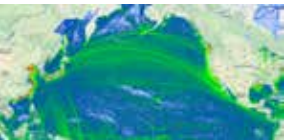
The North Pacific is an extremely diverse and productive marine environment. Constant winds at its surface foster the upwelling of cold, nutrient rich water from deep in the ocean. These nutrients act as fertilizer for surface waters and support extremely high biological productivity. This productivity is expressed through our rich bounty of marine fisheries. The U.S. ranks 3rd worldwide in terms of weight of commercial marine fisheries landed, and of the total catch, 64 percent comes from Salmon Nation and 13 percent of these landings are salmon.

In addition to its biological productivity, the Pacific represents a connection to some of the fastest growing economies of the world. The Pacific is traveled by tens of thousands of vessels each year, connecting us to regions like Eastern Russia, the Korean Peninsula, China, Japan and Southeast Asia, many of which are increasingly important trading partners. Of the roughly \$226 billion of exports from our region, nearly three-quarters (\$162 billion) originate from other Pacific countries. Likewise, of the over \$500 billion of imports, over \$400 billion comes from these same countries. While our cultures may be vastly different from many of these Pacific rim countries, our economies are more closely linked than to other parts of the United States and Canada.



Upwelling

Upwelling provides cold, nutrient rich water from deep in the ocean resulting in high biological productivity throughout the entire marine food chain.



The North Pacific is traveled by thousands of vessels each year connecting the far east to North America.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2017: Business & Industry, Foreign Trade, U.S. International Trade Data - Web. Accessed: <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/state/data> Marine Traffic: 2017. Accessed from web on from: <https://www.marinetraffic.com>



Nearly one out of every four wild salmon landed worldwide comes from Alaska.



COASTAL TEMPERATE RAIN FOREST

Home to large, long-lived cedar, Douglas fir, spruce, and hemlock.

The coastal temperate rain forests of North America are some of the most productive forests in the world that support abundant coastal fisheries and sequester more carbon per acre than any other forest type on the planet. A nearly snow-free climate promotes rapid tree growth, while frequent fog sustains a diverse crop of mosses and lichens. Unlike other temperate forest types, catastrophic fires that cause large landscape disturbance are rare in coastal temperate rain forests. Instead, smaller-scale disturbances such as wind-throw and landslides create many smaller openings in which young trees germinate and grow. The resulting forest naturally includes vigorous trees of all ages as well as dead and dying trees. This diversity of tree ages and sizes creates a wide variety of microhabitats for other plants and animals.



25M



The Great Bear Rainforest along the North Coast of British Columbia represents some of the largest contiguous patches of undeveloped coastal temperate rain forests in the world.

Coastal temperate rain forests sequester millions of tons of carbon every year and through management, have the potential to sequester even more.

There are over 25 million acres of coastal temperate rain forests in Salmon Nation representing over 70% of all remaining coastal temperate rainforests in the world.



ICONIC WATERWAYS

The Pacific Ocean is fed by Salmon Nation’s millions of miles of rivers.

These waterways carry nearly 500 trillion gallons of rain and snowmelt each year. They are the circulatory system for all the natural and human systems that have evolved here, storing and transporting water for ecosystems, croplands, and people, as well as providing energy and transportation corridors—for both humans and the iconic species that travel across our entire region on their way home. Salmon can swim over 1,200 miles to reach their spawning grounds, avoiding bears and eagles, swimming up waterfalls and fish ladders, and through sediment-laden waters behind dams, or even being shot from “fish cannons.” And while their numbers have been greatly reduced since the first European settlers arrived in the area, salmon still swim strong in much of Salmon Nation, particularly in the north where habitats remain largely unaltered.

If rivers are the connective tissue of our region, the estuaries are the lungs and kidneys. These dynamic systems, where rivers meet ocean, are among the most productive on earth as nutrients from land and sea meet. They provide essential habitat for over 75 percent of the commercial fish catch, act as natural filters for runoff, and are nursery grounds for many species of birds, fish, and other animals.



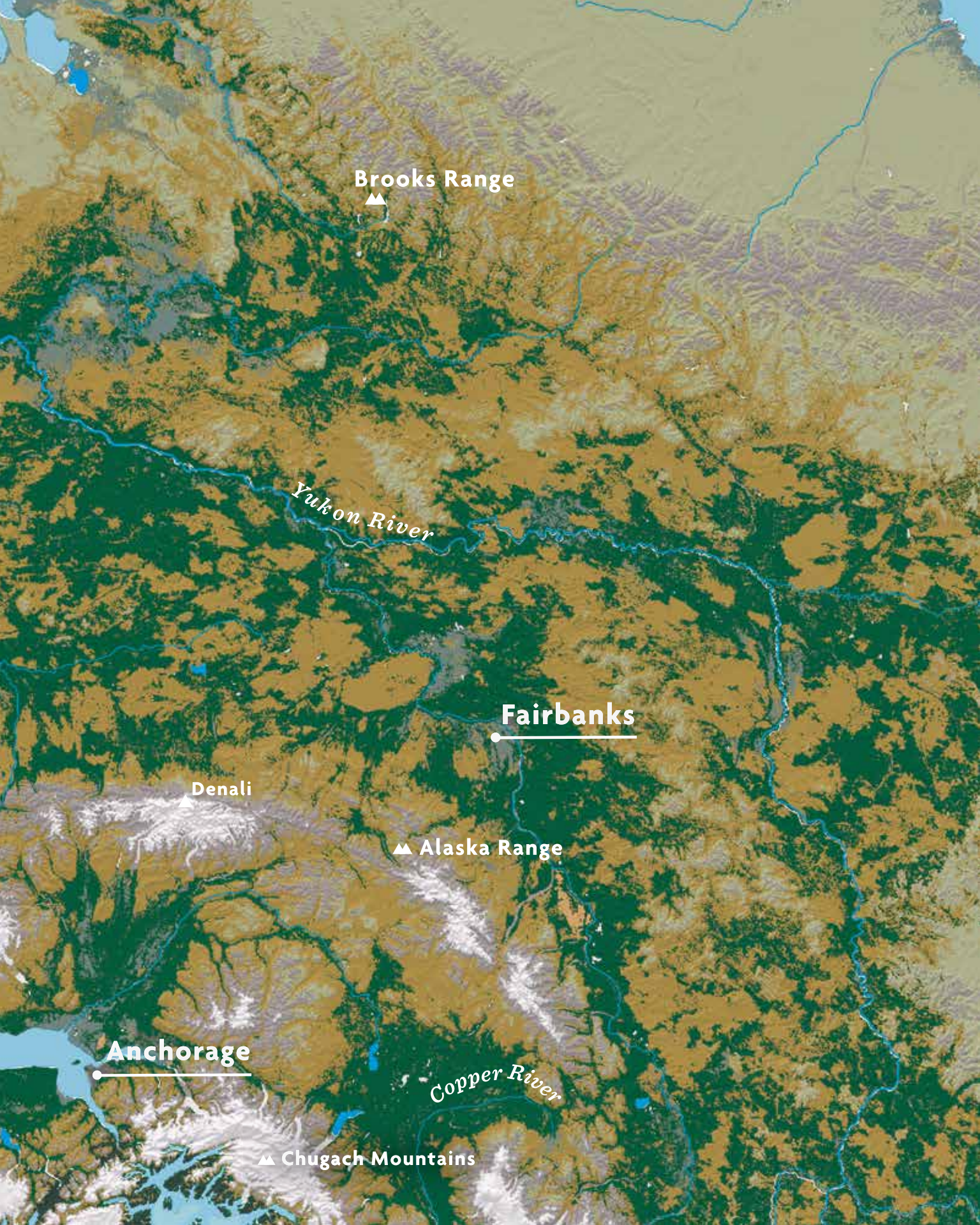
The Columbia River has connected the region’s culture, ecology, and economy since time immemorial.

1M

The Columbia River once produced between 10 and 16 million salmon a year—today, less than one million fish swim the river and 13 stocks are listed as Threatened or Endangered.



Salmon swam beyond the former Glines Canyon Dam just three days after it was blown up, and 102 years after it first blocked the Olympic Mountains’ Elwha River.



HIGH MOUNTAIN RANGES AND COLD WATER REFUGES

There are few places in the world where the mountains climb so dramatically from the sea.

These towering ranges, rising as high as 20,000 feet, so close to the vast Pacific, shape the region in two fundamental ways. First, from the Sierra Nevada in the south to the Chugach Mountains in Alaska, almost all parallel the coastline, contributing to our iconic rain by wringing the wet air that's blown in from the Pacific. Second, they capture some of that moisture as snow, which melts slowly and seasonally. This abundant snowmelt provides critical cold water for returning salmon and many other aquatic species. It also provides over 65 percent of drinking water for the region and 75 percent of the irrigation for the region's surrounding farmlands.



20,000 ft.

Salmon Nation's pristine towering mountain ranges shape the region.

65%

of the region's drinking water comes from snowmelt from Salmon Nation's high mountain ranges.



The Brooks and Alaska Ranges feed the region's iconic Yukon River.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND PLACES OF SALMON NATION AT [ECOTRUST.ORG](https://ecotrust.org)