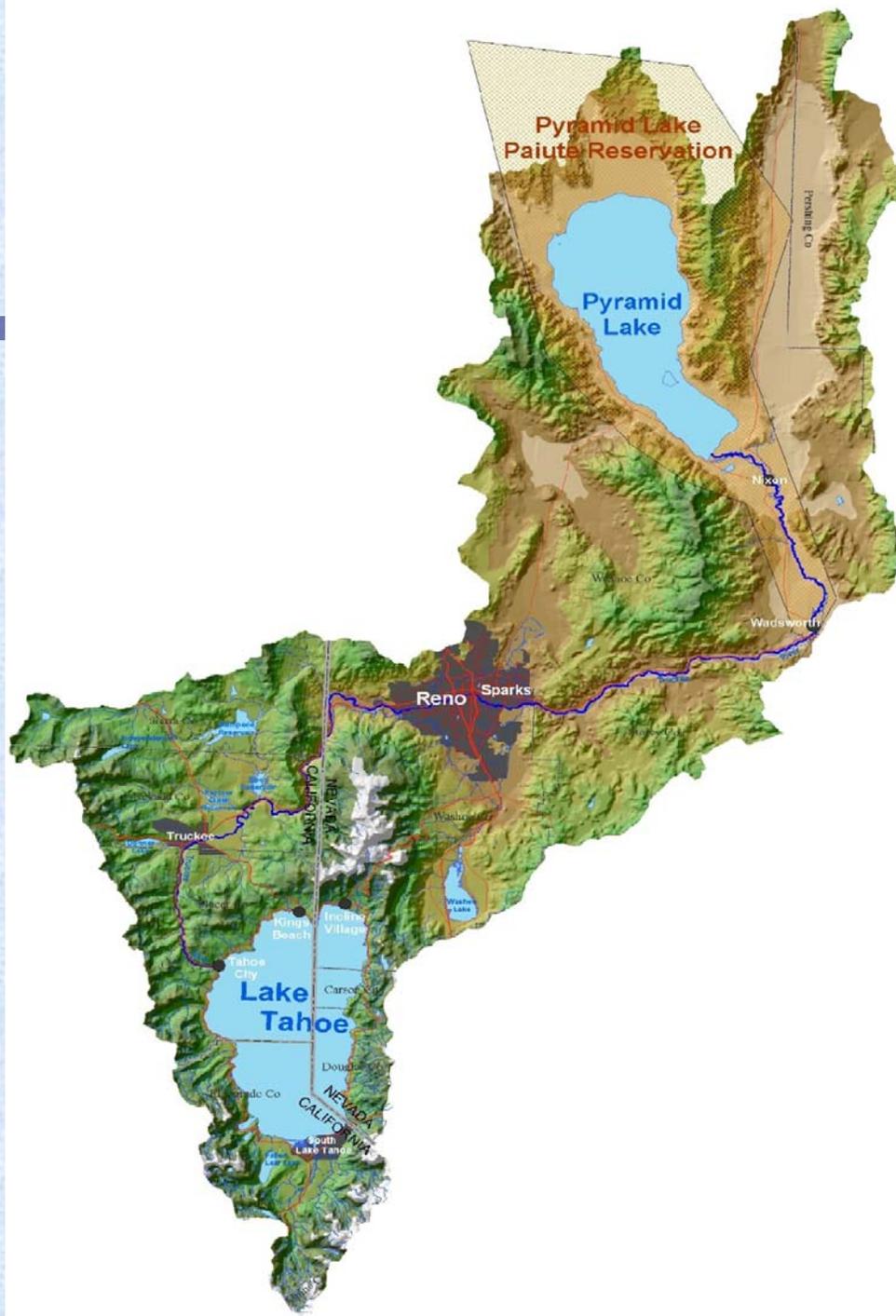
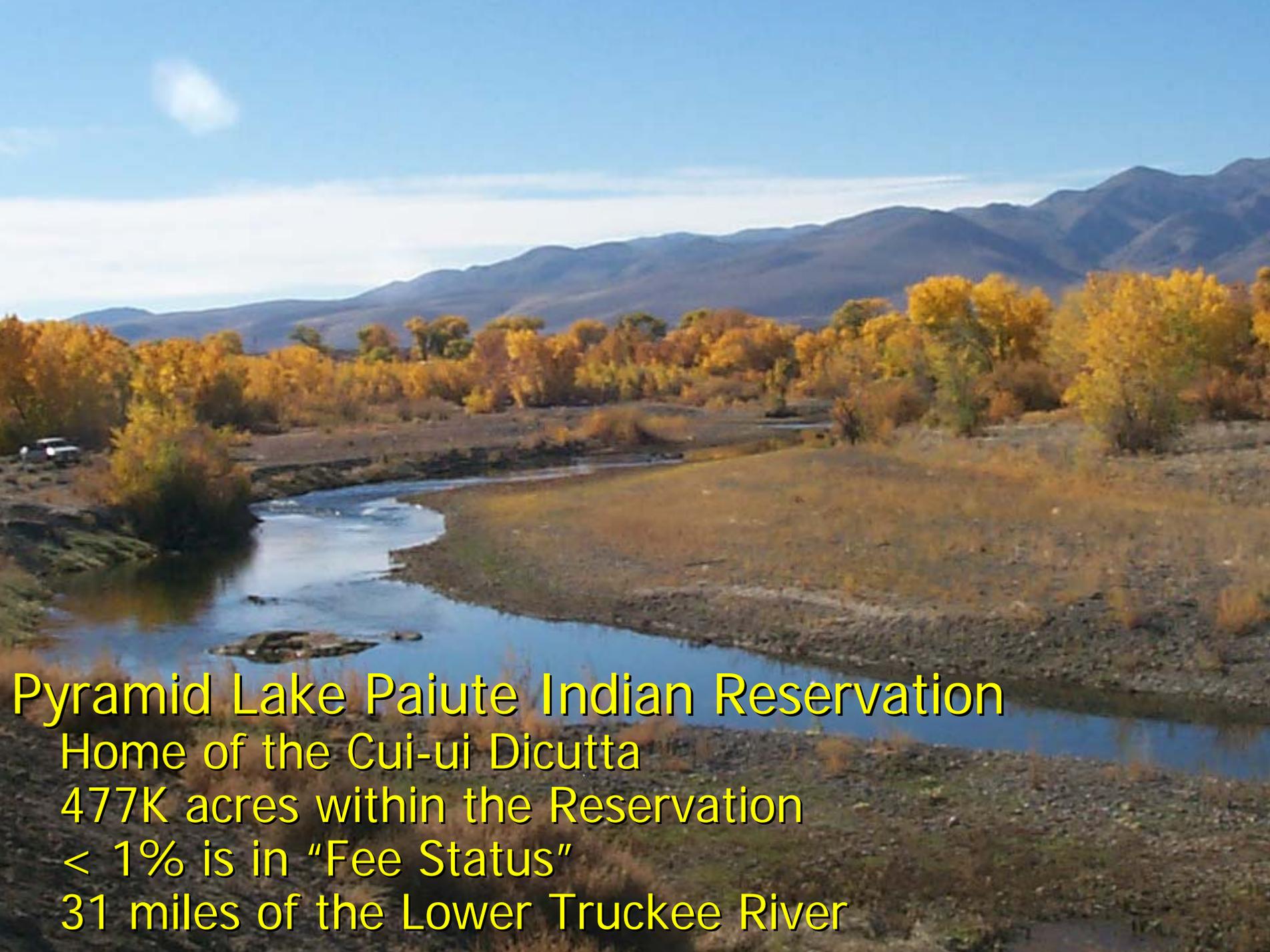


# Development of WQS on the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation Nevada

**Daniel Mosley**  
**Environmental WQ/ Specialist**  
**Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe**





## Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Reservation

Home of the Cui-ui Dicutta

477K acres within the Reservation

< 1% is in "Fee Status"

31 miles of the Lower Truckee River

# Pyramid Lake

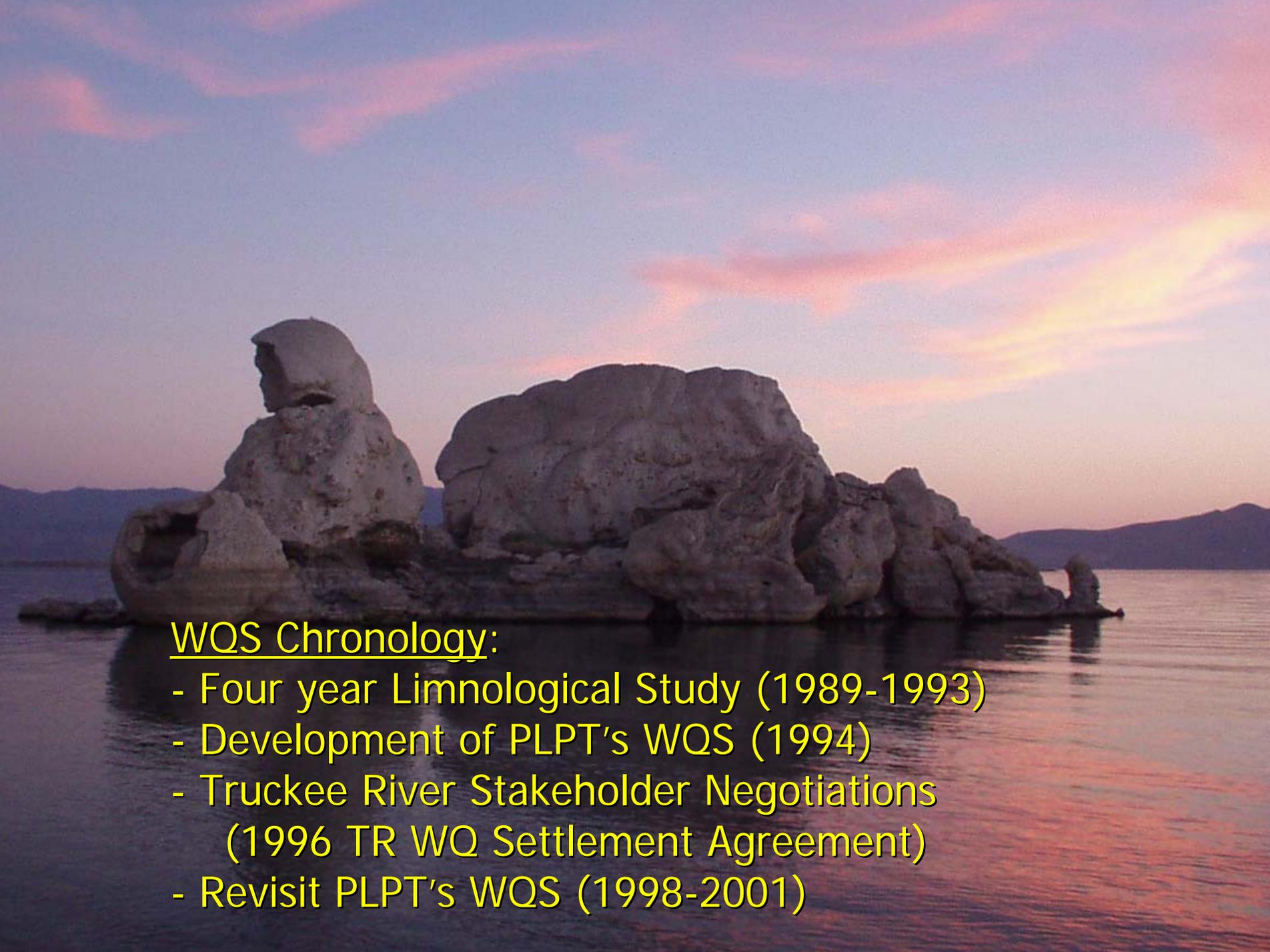
- Terminus of the Truckee River
- Mesotrophic, Monomictic lake
- 115,000 Surface acres
- Scenic Highway & Byway
- Year round Recreational area
- Pyramid Lake Fish

Endangered Cui-ui

Threatened Lahontan Cutthroat Trout



- (1) recognition by the Dept of the Interior 'meeting' the definitions found in Section 518 of the CWA;
- (2) having governing body in place (Tribal Council) which carries out substantial duties and powers;
- (3) demonstrated authority to manage and protect water resources within the borders of the Reservation; and
- (4) in the judgment of the Regional Administrator (USEPA), reasonable expectation that the PLPT is capable of carrying out the functions of an effective water quality standards program.
- On the basis of current Tribal capabilities, and their history of involvement with local and regional water quality and quantity issues, program authority was granted to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

A large, light-colored rock formation with several distinct peaks and a central rounded mass sits in the middle of a calm lake. The sky is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and blues, indicating a sunset or sunrise. The water reflects the colors of the sky. In the background, low mountains are visible under the twilight sky.

## WQS Chronology:

- Four year Limnological Study (1989-1993)
- Development of PLPT's WQS (1994)
- Truckee River Stakeholder Negotiations  
(1996 TR WQ Settlement Agreement)
- Revisit PLPT's WQS (1998-2001)



- Dec. 2000 - Tribal Council adopts resolution to begin 45 day comment period.
- Jan. 8, 2001 - Conducted Public Workshop.
- Jan. 18, 2001 - Conducted Public Hearing.
- May 2000 - Final revision of WQS based on some comments and concerns from the comment period.



- **May 24, 2001 - Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council adopts the PLPT WQCP, submitted to the U.S. EPA for review & approval on July 18, 2001.**
- **2004 - PLPT updates application to EPA for CWA 303 & CWA 401.**
- **2005 - PLPT responds to EPA's comments on WQCP.**
- **April 15, 2005 - Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council adopts the PLPT WQ Ordinance (updated from 1994).**



## PLPT's Response to EPA's Comments.

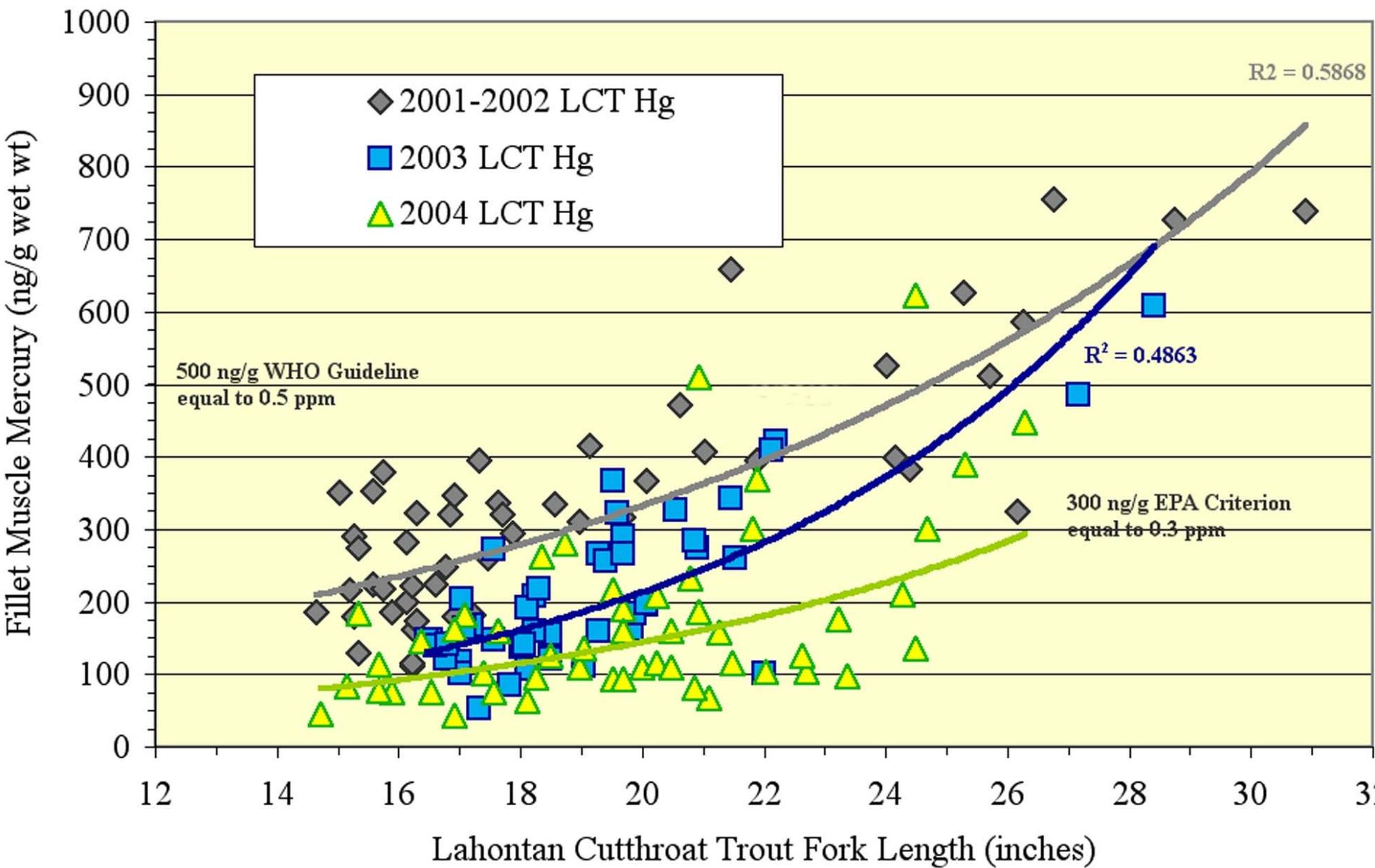
- Strengthen the Tribes "Antidegradation" Policy.
- To include "Wetlands" under "Beneficial Uses" and under "Narrative Standards." Per the US Tributary Rule: Tributaries include 'wetlands' and all waters of the U.S. shall have designated uses.
- Include a list of all surface waters within the PLIR.

**2004 – PLPT's  
Reponse to EPA's  
Comments (cont.)**



**“Human Health Criteria: Methylmercury” EPA guidance:  
PLPT will adopt a 0.28 mg methylmercury/kg in fish tissue  
criterion**

- **Force upstream entities to deal with methylmercury issues, and to be in compliance.**
- **Protects Pyramid lake fish, and the lake from becoming a toxic dumping ground.**



**Sec. 101(a).** The objective of the Act is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and **Biological** integrity of the Nation's waters ...

**Sec. 101(a)(2).** It is the national goal that wherever attainable, an interim goal of water quality which provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife and recreation in and on the water...

# PLPT's Narrative Biocriteria

## Species Composition

Communities and populations of aquatic biota, including invertebrate, vertebrate and plant species, shall not be degraded as a result of point or nonpoint source discharge.

This applies to transient as well as cumulative conditions. Short-term variances from these objectives may be allowed for actions that are being taken to fulfill statutory requirements under Tribal law or the Federal Endangered Species Act.



- ## PLPT Ongoing Concerns:
- Competing uses for water
  - Irrigation Diversions
  - Instream Flows
  - Growth & Development
  - Methylmercury,...



