Lesson 4: Slideshow Part 2, The Winnemem and the Newcomers

1) The Winnemem Wintu lived on their river for thousands of years before newcomers renamed it the McCloud River.

2) After the first European explorers and trappers reached the river in the early 1800s, many Native people died from foreign diseases.

3) The discovery of gold in 1848 brought a rush of Americans and foreigners to California.

4) Not much gold was found in the McCloud River...

5) ...but that did not protect the peaceful Winnemem people from government bounty hunters, or from massacres by settlers during those violent times.

6) In 1872, a government fish hatchery was established at a prime Winnemem salmon fishing spot. Despite their fear and anger towards the outsiders...

7) …many Winnemem went to work for the hatchery, which sent salmon eggs to rivers across the U.S. and as far away as New Zealand.

8) A copper mining boom brought a new rush of people to the region. The air, land and water were fouled by the mining.

9) Trees near the copper smelters died from sulfuric gases.

10) The fish hatchery closed down.
11) Born in 1907, Florence Jones was a Winnemem healer. She went on to lead her people through the 20th century—a difficult time.

12) The Winnemem Wintu were forced off their lands by miners, settlers, and government agents. Many traditional Winnemem lands were bought by wealthy San Francisco families.

13) In the 1930s the United States government built Shasta Dam.

14) Winnemem lands were flooded for the new reservoir, and the people had to leave their river.

15) As the dam was built, the needs of the salmon were also ignored.

16) No passageway was constructed to allow the world-famous McCloud River fish...

17) ...to reach their spawning grounds in the upper rivers.

18) Blocked by the dam, the Chinook salmon are now an endangered species.

19) But they do not give up. They continue to migrate up the river from the sea and lay their eggs to become the next generation of fish.

20) The Winnemem people still return to the McCloud River, above the dam and reservoir, for ceremony.

21) Caleen Sisk, in the center, has succeeded Florence Jones as Chief.

22) The Winnemem people continue to speak up...
23) ...for the restoration of their sacred lands, and for bringing back the salmon.

24) And the McCloud River salmon that were sent from the hatchery long ago?

25) Of all the rivers they were sent to, it appears they only thrived in one other place: a river in New Zealand.

26) The Winnemem tribe has proposed reintroducing Rakaia River salmon back into the McCloud, and the creation of a fish swimway around Shasta Dam.