

Columbia Basin Collaborative Integration/Recommendations Group - SCEE / Public Forum Meeting

Meeting Summary

Thursday, June 1st, 1:00pm – 2:30pm PT/ 2:00pm – 3:30pm MT

Welcome and Agenda Review

Liz opened the meeting by reminding members that this meeting was convened to address the Social, Cultural, Economic and Ecological (SCEE) considerations that were on the agenda at the last Integration/Recommendations Group meeting in April 2023, but were not addressed due to time constraints. Liz invited Joe Oatman, Nez Perce Tribe, and Kevin Scribner, Conservation Representative, to share their updates on a SCEE proposal.

Check in on SCEE and Public Forum Concept

Joe Oatman and Kevin Scribner outlined their process for developing a proposal for SCEE considerations which started with Kevin sharing an early draft of this idea at the January I/RG meeting. He received feedback and revised the proposal with additional support from Joe. Joe and Kevin shared and updated proposal and materials related to the Columbia Basin Task Force's (CBPTF) Phase II report, specifically Appendix B, which provided information on SCEE via email in April. They outlined two main points the proposal achieves: 1) examining the foundational elements of the SCEE and how they can be utilized by the Integrations/Recommendations Group (I/RG), and 2) presenting a proposed pathway for the SCEE process moving forward.

Joe Oatman went over the proposed document. He highlighted that the Columbia Basin Collaborative's (CBC) Charter seeks to consider and respect cultural values and promotes responsibility of federal government to tribes and that the SCEE values are a major connection between the Columbia Basin Partnership (CBP) and the CBC. He noted that the Phase II Report already outlined a useful SCEE framework.

Joe went on to state that the proposal seeks to create a "heat map" for SCEE to provide a visual tool for identifying impacts and determining where to focus efforts. It also proposes coordinating with existing forums to provide information. Joe encouraged members to review the SCEE proposal document and mentioned that a more formal recommendation for the SCEE may come forth at the next I/RG meeting in Fall. Joe and Kevin stated they hoped to have other members on the SCEE team to develop and refine tasks before that meeting.

Liz noted that a Fall 2023 I/RG Meeting is being planned. The group had the following comments and questions:

- Question: Are SCEE and the Public Forum separate proposals?
 - Answer: Yes, they are separate. The proposal for the Public Forum will be circulated for review via email.

- Question: The I/RG always intended to evaluate qualitative and quantitative goals and SCEE considerations. What would a SCEE tool or forum add to the CBC that isn't already happening? What type of resources might this group need? Would using more funds be necessary?
 - *Answer: It would be best for the CBC to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts. Appendix D of the Phase II Report contains information that can be used as a jumping off point to address SCEE adequately. A heat map could build on this information, potentially without engaging with external expertise. It would be best for I/RG members to look through the materials sent today. More time is needed to understand exactly what the SCEE process will look like, especially in its relationship to recommendations.*
 - *Answer: We don't know what outside experts we may need. The CBPTF was able to muster up an incredible roster of salmon ecologists in the basin who brought in wisdom and expertise. That team was able to pull valuable information pertaining to salmon recovery with ease. The CBC should aim to replicate that ease of obtaining information by bringing together SCEE specialists who can share information relating to the SCEE components of salmon recovery. Right now, it appears the I/RG needs more information than they currently have in order to evaluate the SCEE impacts of the recommendations.*
- Question: Would you consider a proposal that ensures these values are considered by the TSWGs because there are probably SCEE components that need to be built into their work?
 - *Answer: That is the intention. The aim is not to have a SCEE forum that functions as another topic specific work group, but rather a consideration that is incorporated into the CBC.*
- Question: Will the SCEE heat map be used to evaluate recommendations after they have been drafted or will it be used to identify recommendation concepts and used as a proactive planning tool?
 - *Answer: A report card is a fair way of conceptualizing the heat map concept. In other words, it would be a visual tool that acts as a checklist for SCEE considerations. The salmon recovery slider dials that were used previously in the CBPTF are a good example of a similar visual tool that is acting as inspiration.*
- Multiple members expressed a concern for the number of resources a SCEE heatmap would require of the CBC. Several members stated that they felt the CBC was maxed out on engagement and introducing a SCEE process or group, although well intentioned, would place too much demand on limited and critical resources and bandwidth from the group. Kevin noted that he and Joe were not asking for other's bandwidth, they were mostly asking for encouragement from the group, and they were comfortable dedicating time and resources to further develop this proposal.
- Multiple members expressed hesitation about the proposed heat map tool. One member stated they believed such an item could lead to unnecessary conflict and could foresee a situation where the heat map goes against the findings of a technical work group after months of effort, which should be avoided.
- Several members stated that they felt that cultural impacts and other SCEE values were already integrated into the TSWGs process during the development of the recommendations. One member stated that the I/RG already inherently addresses these topics given the diversity of background that members of the group represent. Another member proposed that the most beneficial way forward would be for the work groups to

evaluate SCEE by outlining exactly how each of these values are addressed through a recommendation.

- Multiple members stated that they would like to see any SCEE requirements or tool focus on individual elements of a recommendation or individual geographies. One member suggested that analyzing the impact of a recommendation on SCEE values with greater specificity could be a helpful frame to conceptualize the SCEE process.
- Members discussed the integration of SCEE values in a recommendation's timeline. Multiple members member stated that SCEE should be a part of the TSWGs conversations. Other members stated that once a recommendation is drafted and there are specific actions, then SCEE values could be applied. One member stated that if workgroups were asked to consider SCEE values, that the ask should be as explicit as possible.

Based on the discussion and feedback, the I/RG did not object to Kevin and Joe continuing to develop the proposal for integration of SCEE within the TSWGs. The group agreed to have a check-in on this topic as a part of the Fall 2023 I/RG Meeting. Additionally, the group agreed that it would be best to coordinate on the Public Forum concept, which was not addressed at this meeting due to time constraints, via email.

Confirm Next Steps and Summary

- **All:** Review Public Forum concept sent via email and provide input
- **KW:** Circulate meeting summary of this meeting
- **KW:** Schedule Fall 2023 I/RG Meeting
- **Joe and Kevin:** Continue to workshop SCEE tool and concept

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.