

Columbia Basin Collaborative
Structured Decision Making Sub-group Proposal
Draft 6-12-2024

Background

The Structured Decision Making (SDM) Sub-group was convened to further understand SDM and how it might be applied in the Columbia Basin Collaborative (CBC) process. The Sub-group expressed interest in looking at the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force Report (CBPTF) scenarios and exploring structured decision-making to build transparent data-driven, integrated recommendations. The following proposal outlines an approach for building scenario-based recommendations for consideration by the Integration/Recommendation Group (I/RG). Currently, there isn't any identified funding for this effort nor clarity on sovereign/stakeholder/facilitator capacity to participate given funding and workload limitations. If these shortfalls are adequately addressed, the following pilot process could be initiated. Additionally, this pilot process is not intended to waylay or circumvent opportunities to fund and implement management actions already identified in numerous planning processes already completed (e.g., Consent Decrees, Court orders, federal recovery plans, watershed plans, status reviews, etc.).

Process

The following steps could be taken to develop these scenarios:

1. Ensure that all participants in the SDM pilot clearly understand both the quantitative and qualitative goals of the CBP and the Social, Cultural, Economic, and Ecological (SCEE) values identified in the CBPTF Phase 2 Report.
2. Look at the scenarios that were developed as part of the CBPTF Phase 2 Report and identify all the actions (e.g., habitat restoration, predator control action, hydro action, etc.) that collectively make up the scenarios.
3. Identify any other actions that may need to be explored, that were not identified with the CBPTF Scenarios.
4. Ensure that there is agreement on the use of existing analyses, coupled with supplemental analyses as needed (e.g., salmon slider, heat map, etc.) and how they will be used to assess scenarios.
5. Assess and summarize the benefits, i.e., reduction in the level of each heat map impact factor, of each action on the salmon stock(s) (e.g., Mid-Columbia Steelhead).
6. Consider and analyze the temporal dimensions of the impacts of each action to determine when benefits will be realized when considering scenarios that meet the CBP goals
7. Analyze each action to determine the impacts on the SCEE values.
8. Create a scenario by combining the actions that will positively impact Mid-Columbia Steelhead and balance SCEE outcomes, and bring the scenario, along with the analysis, to the Integration/Recommendation Group for review and consideration.

Pilot phase:

The SDM Sub-group proposes conducting this analysis on a single stock, Mid-Columbia Steelhead. Once this pilot is complete, the I/RG can evaluate this process, make modifications as needed, and determine the next steps.