

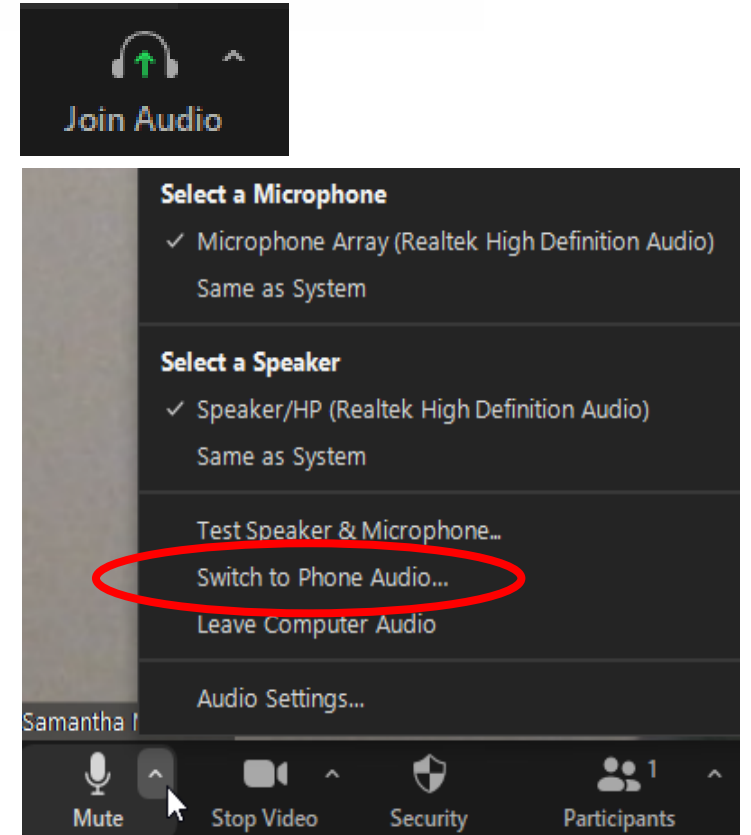
# **Columbia Basin Collaborative Integration/Recommendations Group**

**November 14, 2024**

**10:00am-4:00pm PT / 11:00am – 5:00pm MT**

# Zoom Webinar Features

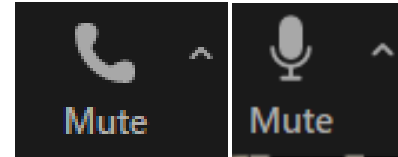
- If you have not **connected your audio**, click on the “Join Audio” at the bottom left of your screen.
- To **switch to phone**, click the arrow next to the microphone icon and select “Switch to Phone Audio”.
- If you have joined by browser, please click “Audio Settings”



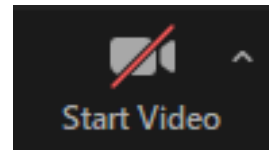
*For technical support, please contact Samantha Meysohn, 360-536-3660*

# Zoom Webinar Features – I/RG Members

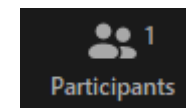
Keep yourself on mute when not speaking.



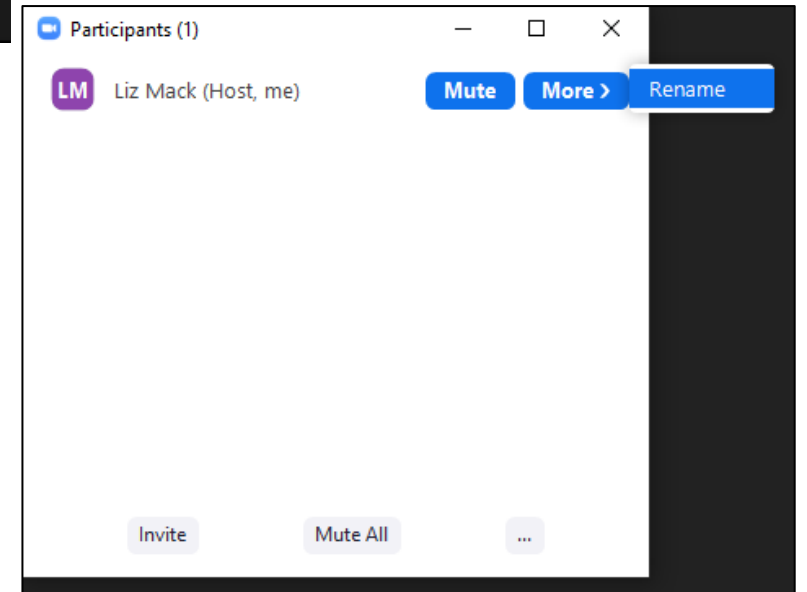
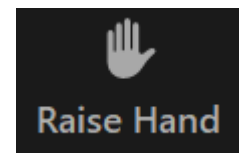
Use video, if possible, to promote face to face communication.



If needed rename yourself in the participant panel.



Find your raise hand function at the bottom of your screen



# In-Person Participation Reminders

Please **limit side conversations** and background noises

**Turn your table tent vertically** when you would like to speak

Remember, the **microphones are push-to-talk!**

# **Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Proposed Agenda**

# Agenda Review

Time (PT)	Topic
10:00-10:20am	Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Proposed Agenda
10:20-10:50am	Updates from Around the Region
10:50am-12:15pm	External Forums Updates
12:15-1:00pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00-1:45pm	SDM Steelhead Pilot Sub-group Report
1:45-2:45pm	Funding Sub-group Report
2:45-3:45pm	Assessment & Trends Sub-group Report
3:45-4:00pm	Next Steps and Summary
4:00pm	<i>Adjourn</i>

# Meeting Guidelines

- Honor the agenda
- Listen to understand and ask questions to clarify
- Balance speaking time
- Don't pile on
- Be hard on the problems, soft on the people
- Seek alignment and common ground wherever possible
- Be present



# **Updates from Around the Region**



# Updates from Around The Region

Please provide brief introductions and share updates relevant to CBC process.



# **External Forums Updates**

# External Forums Updates

- Columbia River Treaty
- Upcoming Northwest Power and Conservation Council Fish and Wildlife Addendum Process
- Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement (RCBA)
  - US Government Commitments
  - Columbia River Task Force
  - Presidential Memo
  - Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative (CBRI)
- Phase 2 Implementation Plan
- Upper Snake River Habitat
- Avian Predation

# Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Process

IRG, November 14, 2024

Patty O'Toole

Director, Fish and Wildlife Division

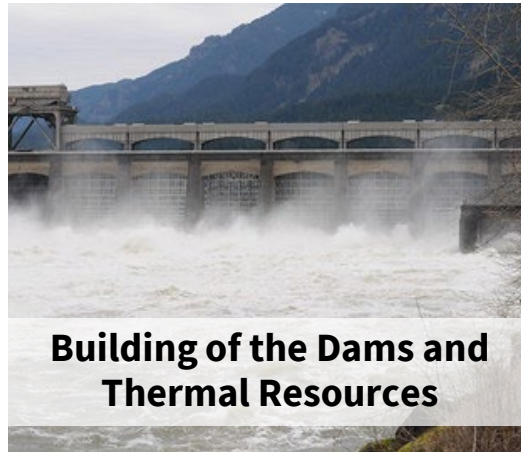


Northwest **Power** and  
**Conservation** Council

# Northwest Power Act and Council Overview



# Why we are



# Who we are

- Authorized by Congress through the Northwest Power Act in 1980 to give the region a greater voice in planning for energy and protecting fish and wildlife.
- Governors of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington each appoint two members to the Council
- The Act requires the interstate Council to develop, *with broad public participation*, a regional power plan and a *Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife program*.
- U.S. gov agencies that operate or regulate Columbia hydroelectric facilities have legal responsibilities under the Act towards the Council's plans and programs.





# What we do: Power planning

- Develop, via an extensive public process, a Power Plan to ensure an **adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply** for the Pacific Northwest
- Components include load forecasting and analysis of available generating resources and conservation measures
- The Council's plan guides BPA's acquisition of cost-effective conservation and generating resources to add to the region's existing power supply. Plan also serves as an independent reference for the region's utilities, regulatory commissions and policymakers.
- Review and revise the Power Plan every five years



Power lines near Kalispell, MT



# What we do: Columbia River Basin Fish & Wildlife Program

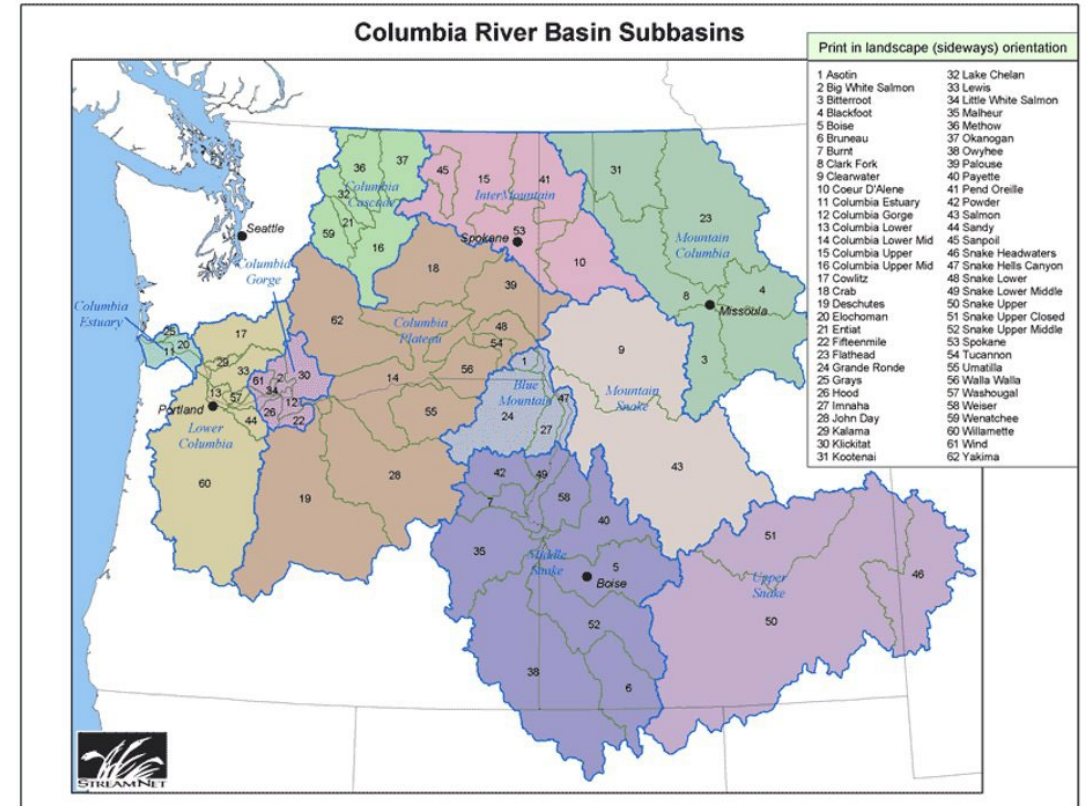
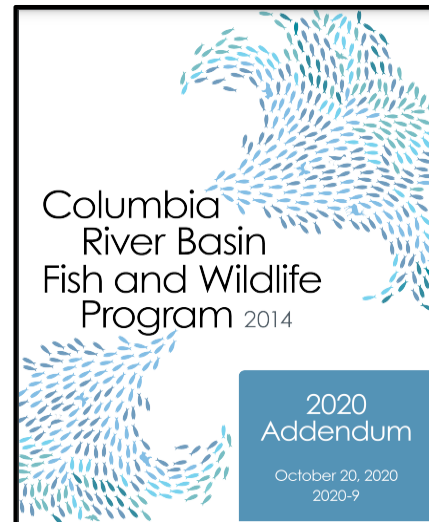
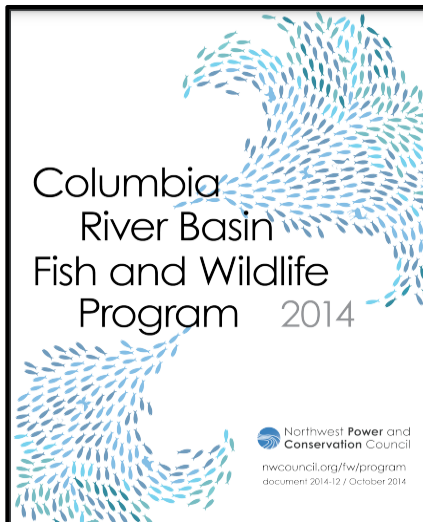
- Develop – also via an extensive public process – a program to **protect, mitigate and enhance** fish and wildlife affected by hydropower system in the Columbia River Basin
  - All hydropower, not only federal
  - All fish and wildlife impacted by hydropower; salmon and steelhead have special significance, non-listed and listed
- Updated every 5 years, recommendations from state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, tribes, and others form the raw material for Program
- Program includes on-site (flow, passage) and off-site (habitat restoration, artificial production) measures
- Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process is completed first and becomes an element of the Power Plan.



Columbia River salmon

# Current Program: 2014 + 2020 Addendum

- Measures grouped into 23 strategies and 59 subbasin plan management plans
- Goals and objectives reviewed and revised in 2020 Addendum



# Current Program: Program Strategies

- **Ecosystem Function**

- Habitat
- Strongholds
- Non-native and invasive species
- Predator management
- Protected areas
- Water quality
- Climate change
- Mainstem flow and passage
- Estuary
- Plume and nearshore ocean
- Wildlife mitigation

- **Artificial Production**

- **Other strategies:**

- Wild fish
- Use of hatcheries for reintroduction
- Anadromous fish mitigation in blocked areas
- Resident fish mitigation
- Sturgeon
- Lamprey
- Eulachon
- Asset management
- Public engagement



# **Fish & Wildlife Program Amendment Process**

# Overview of Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment steps



# Important Dates (planned)

- **January 17, 2025** – Council release letter calling for recommendations
- **April 17, 2025** – Close of recommendation period, open comment period
- May 30, 2025 – Close of comment period
- April 2026 – Council adopt final amended Fish and Wildlife Program

# Submitting recommendations and comments

- Website will be available for submissions after official request for recommendations
- Contacts:
  - Patty O’Toole (legal, policy and process questions)  
**[potoole@nwcouncil.org](mailto:potoole@nwcouncil.org)**
  - Eric Schrepel (technical questions about submitting recommendations):  
**[eschrepel@nwcouncil.org](mailto:eschrepel@nwcouncil.org)**







# Questions?



A scenic landscape featuring a wide river or stream in the foreground, surrounded by tall, golden-brown grasses. In the background, there is a rocky hillside with sparse vegetation and a line of trees under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and natural.

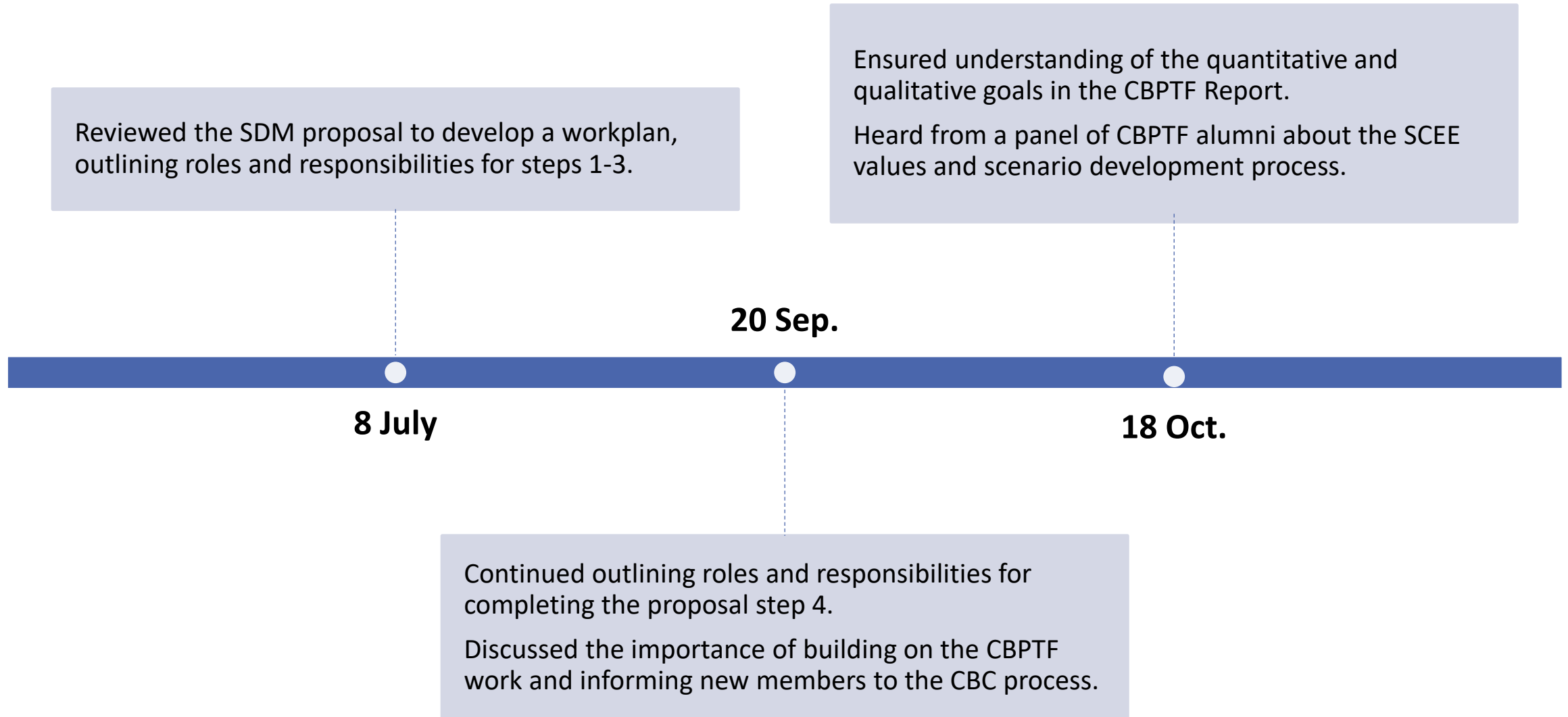
**Lunch**  
**See you at 1pm PT**

# **Structured Decision Making (SDM) Steelhead Pilot Project Sub-group Report**

# Structured Decision Making Sub-group

- Formed to address Caucus Feedback received earlier this year
- Met throughout Spring
- Resulted in SDM Sub-group Proposal Draft
- The I/RG supported the sub-group to implement the proposal over the next 6 months with existing resources.

# SDM Steelhead Pilot Project Sub-group Overview



# SDM Steelhead Pilot Project Sub-group

## Upcoming Meeting Topics

- Review the scenarios from the CBPTF Report and identify the actions that make up the scenarios.
- Work planning steps 5-8.
- Recap conversations about the Salmon Analyzer Tool.

# SDM Steelhead Pilot Project

## Question for the I/RG:

- The sub-group was convened as a sub-set of I/RG members/participating organizations.
- The Steelhead Pilot Project is interested in expanding sub-group to include additional staff from the regional recovery organizations to provide Mid-Columbia specific insights.
- What guidance does the I/RG have on expanding work group participation?

# **Funding Sub-group Report**

# Funding Sub-group

- The Four States supported the CBC since October 2020, and funding for facilitation and operation support will run out Q1 2025.
- The I/RG convened the Funding Sub-group to identify process funding sources.
- The group met twice in August and October.



# Funding Sub-group Status Overview

Brainstormed potential funding sources including state agencies, grants, and federal agencies.

15 Aug.

28 Oct.

Developed recommendation for short-term and long-term funding options.

Discussed potential framing for CBC including climate adaptation and collaborative data hub.

# Funding Considerations

- State FY25 budgets (July 2025-2026) have left governors offices and can only be amended through the legislative processes.
- Federal FY25 budget is extended through a Continuing Resolution until Dec. 20, 2024.

# Internal Funding Recommendations

## Short-term:

- Make short-term requests to leverage existing budgets programs from the states or other CBC members to cover CBC operations until June 2025.
- NGO or tribal advocacy for state budget contributions in FY25 budget.
- Seek advice on short-term funding options from the Columbia River Task Force.

## Long-term:

- Discuss the funding model for the future of the CBC.
- NGO or tribal advocacy for long-term, stable, state funding.
- Seek advice on long-term funding options from the Columbia River Task Force.
- Consider potential NGO support from foundations and philanthropic organizations.

# **Assessment & Trends Sub-group Report**

# Assessment & Trends Sub-group

- At the June I/RG Meeting fish and wildlife managers shared current status updates on several stocks around the basin.
- The I/RG discussed a need to regularly track progress towards the CBPTF goals, leveraging existing information.
- The I/RG convened the Assessment & Trends Sub-group to further explore the process and bring a proposal.

# Assessment & Trends Sub-group Overview

Brainstormed information needs for tracking progress against CBP goals, including level of detail and effort required, as well as existing information.

Began drafting proposal for tracking progress against CBPTF goals.

StreamNet identified as frontrunner, with a need for improved public-facing materials, and support for fish & wildlife managers to fill data gaps.

24 Sep.

20 Aug.

24 Oct.

Recapped information needs identified in first meeting & reviewed existing information including: StreamNet, Washington's State of Salmon report, NOAA 5-year reviews, NWPCC indicators, Snake River Report Card.



# Assessment & Trends Sub-group Proposal

## Proposal:

- Reach out to StreamNet manager to identify data gaps and advocate for funding for fish and wildlife managers to compile data.
- Work with StreamNet to identify data summary staffing needs and advocate for funding to develop public facing dashboards.
- These dashboards will be for non-scientist audiences and will show adult abundance by stock compared to the CBP quantitative goals as well as hatchery mitigation status compared to hatchery goals.
- An annual report will be provided to the I/RG 5-6 stocks at a time to cover all stocks over 5 years.

## Questions for the I/RG:

- Where does the funding come from?
- Where do the dashboards live?

# **Next Steps and Summary**

# Next Steps

- Confirm topics, tasks, and next steps
- Preview of Day 2 Agenda
  - Virtual attendees: be sure to use the Nov 15 link for tomorrow's webinar
- Acknowledgements and summary

# Tomorrow's Agenda

Time (PT)	Topic
7:45 – 8:00am	<i>Arrival</i>
8:00 – 8:15am	Welcome and context
8:15-9:45am	Next Steps for Previous CBC Recommendations
9:45-10:45am	Next Steps
10:45-11:00am	Confirm Upcoming Topics, Next Steps, and Summary
11:00am	<i>Adjourn</i>

# Dinner

- Time: 6:00 pm PT
- No-host dinner at Big House Brew Pub
- 11 S Palouse Street, Walla Walla, WA





# Thank you



Photo credit: Bonnie Moreland



# **Columbia Basin Collaborative Integration/Recommendations Group**

**November 15, 2024  
8am-11am PT / 9am – 12pm MT**



# **Welcome and Context**

# Agenda Review


Time (PT)	Topic
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11:00am	<i>Adjourn</i>

# **Next Steps for Previous CBC Recommendations**

# Previous CBC Recommendations

- Discuss next steps for recommendations that have achieved I/RG consensus

# Consensus Recommendations

-  Fully fund the Phase 2 Implementation Plan
-  Pursue Increasing Salmon Production to Support and Sustain a Stable and Dedicated Source of Fish in the Upper Snake.
-  Assess run timing and entry timing of natural origin juvenile salmon and steelhead
-  Maintain and improve mainstem reach survival estimates and Smolt to Adult Return (SAR) data by installing PIT tag detection systems at key mainstem hydro-projects
-  Manage double-crested cormorants in the Columbia River Estuary
-  Enhance and modify the Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 120 Pinniped Removal Program
-  Develop and initiate testing of a comprehensive piscine predator monitoring and evaluation program for the Columbia River Basin
-  Develop and fund a robust Columbia River Northern Pike and invasive nonnative fishes monitoring project

## ▼ Predation Recommendations

### 📄 Enhance and Modify the Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 120 Pinniped Removal Program 📄

Steller sea lions (SSL) and California sea lions (CSL) residing at Bonneville Dam and Willamette Falls consume salmon up to 6% mortality rate. The ODFW, WDFW, IDFG, and CRITFC jointly manage and implement lethal removal of SSLs and CSLs under the Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 120 Pinniped Removal Program. This recommendation supports extending authorization of MMPA and asks to fully fund the status-quo 120(f) permit scope. The recommendation also asks for one-time funding for new sea lion removal equipment and to replace outdated equipment. In addition, the recommendation asks for funding to increase the capacity to remove sea lions and process animals, including a program to maintain an on-call veterinarian roster and a training program for biologists and technicians for seasonal work. The recommendation calls for extending and fully funding pinniped abundance estimation and kill rate monitoring programs, e.g., USACE Bonneville monitoring, as well as pursuing research and development into lethal tributary removals and the use of darts.


**Status: Reached consensus by Integrations/Recommendations Group at April 2023 Meeting.**





# Next Steps CBC Recommendations

- What could next steps look like for these recommendations?
- How can the I/RG Representatives identify and advocate for funding?
- How can the CBC add value?



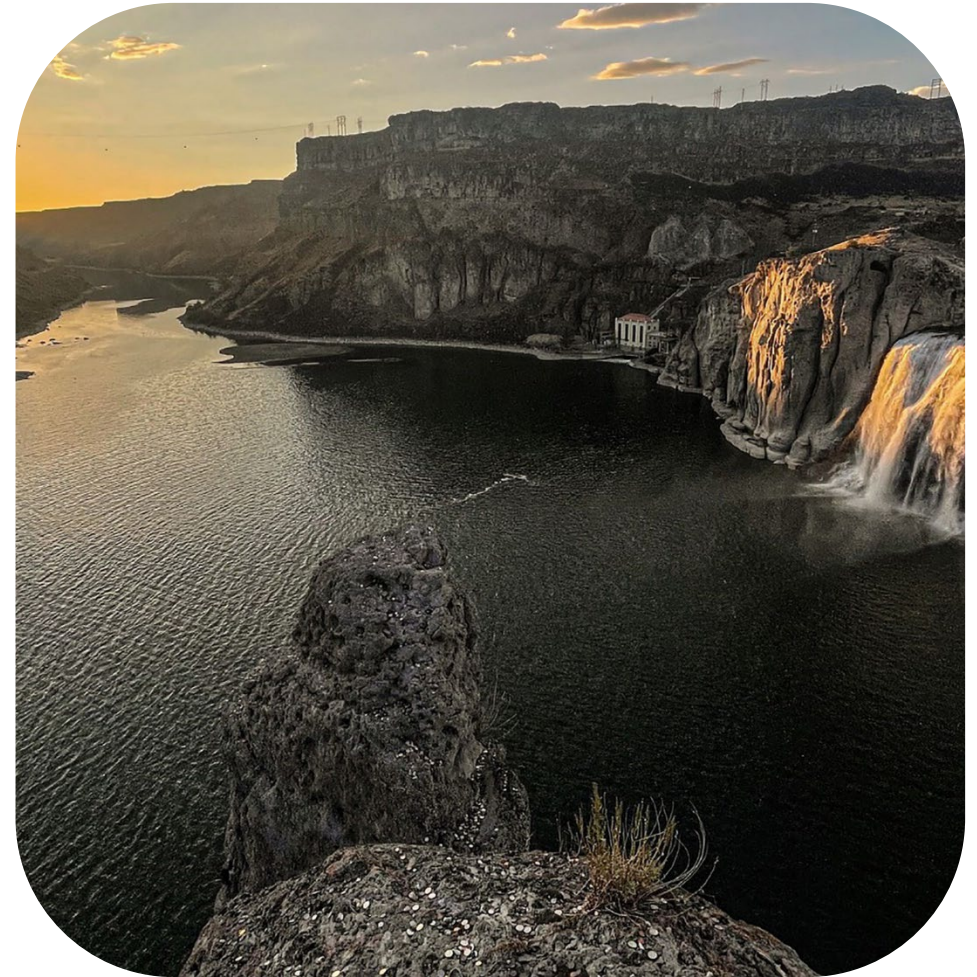
**Break**  
**See you at 9:30am PT**

# Next Steps

# Next Steps

Which work would the CBC like to focus on for the rest of this year and beginning of the next?

Future directions for the work groups?





# Work for Next 6 Months

## Structured Decision Making Steelhead Pilot Project

- Continue work on implementing the eight-step proposal

## Funding

- Dedicate a few Project Team meetings to this topic and invite others to join

## Assessment & Trends

- KW to develop and circulate a recommendation for tracking progress on CBPTF goals.
- Tom to send out language that individual members can use to take action

# **Confirm Upcoming Topics, Next Steps, and Summary**

# Action Items

- **KW:** Develop materials including a 2-pager handout and slide deck summarizing the history of the CBPTF and the high-level consensus recommendations.
- **Kevin:** Reach out to select Stakeholder/NGO I/RG members to brainstorm strategies for outreach.
- **Scott/Dennis:** Share a few sentences to accompany the Upper Snake River hatchery recommendation.
- **KW:** Draft a recommendation that the region should fund basin-wide reporting for tracking towards the CBP Goals and circulate to the I/RG for the consensus process.
- **KW:** Send out a call for I/RG members to participate in funding discussions at upcoming Project Team meetings.
- **All:** Reach out to I/RG members to learn more about how projects fit in with implementing CBC recommendations.
- **All:** Send relevant materials that you would like to circulate to the I/RG to KW team.
- **All:** Plan for the next I/RG meeting in Feb-March 2025, aiming for in-person meeting if funding is available.



# Thank you



Photo credit: Bureau of Land Management