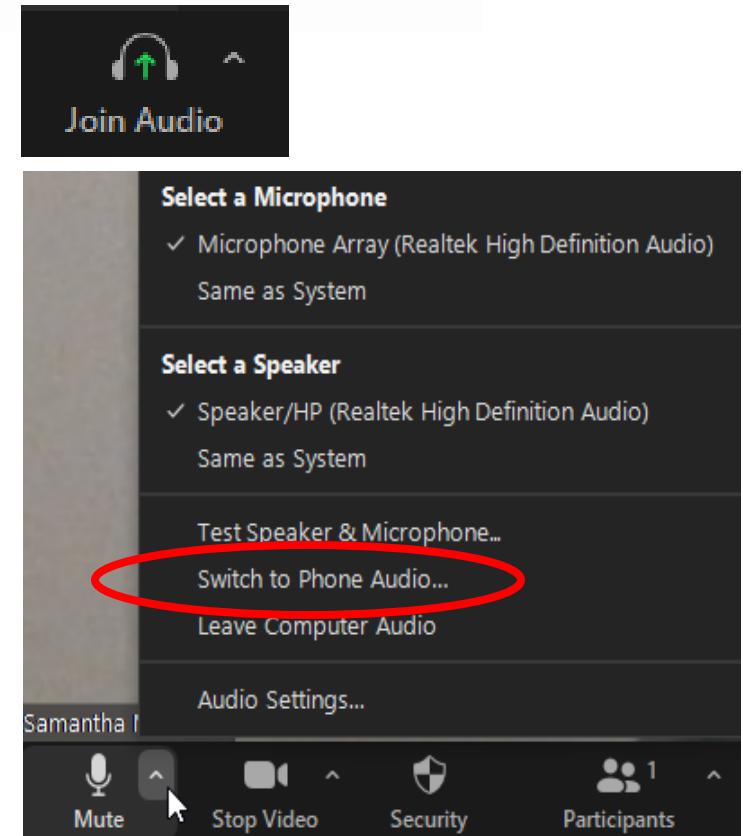


Columbia Basin Collaborative Integration/Recommendations Group

**January 28, 2026
12:30pm-4:30pm PT / 1:30pm – 5:30pm MT**

Zoom Webinar Features

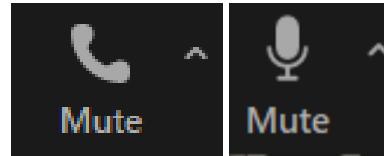
- If you have not **connected your audio**, click on the “Join Audio” at the bottom left of your screen.
- To **switch to phone**, click the arrow next to the microphone icon and select “Switch to Phone Audio”.
- If you have joined by browser, please click “Audio Settings”



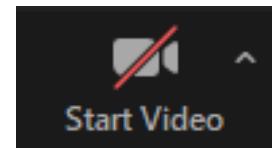
For technical support, please contact Angela Hessenius, 203-885-9586

Zoom Webinar Features – I/RG Members

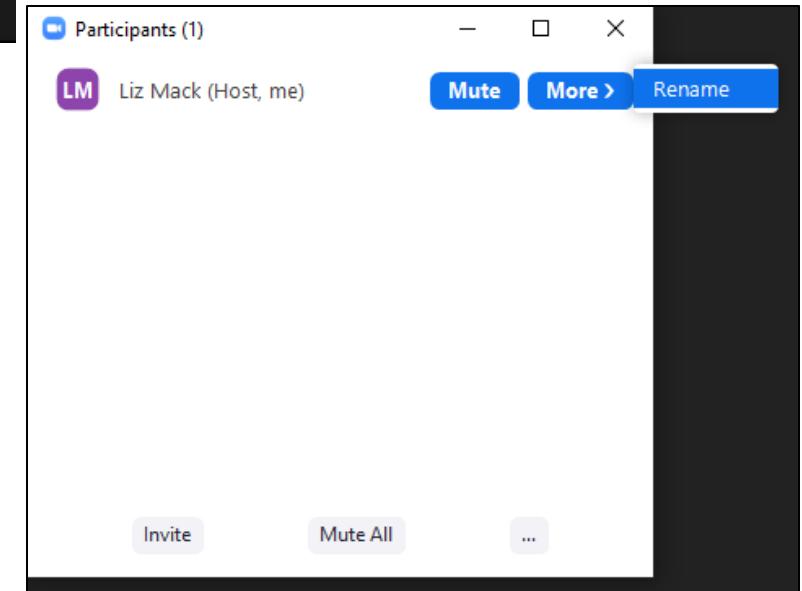
Keep yourself on mute when not speaking.



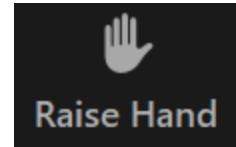
Use video, if possible, to promote face to face communication.



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.

Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Proposed Agenda

Agenda Review

Time (PT)	Topic
12:30-12:50pm	Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Proposed Agenda
12:50-1:15pm	Updates from Around the Region
1:15-2:45pm	External Forums Updates
2:45-3:00pm	<i>Break</i>
3:00-4:15pm	Northwest Power and Conservation Council Fish and Wildlife Program Updates
4:15-4:30pm	Next Steps and Summary
4:30pm	<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

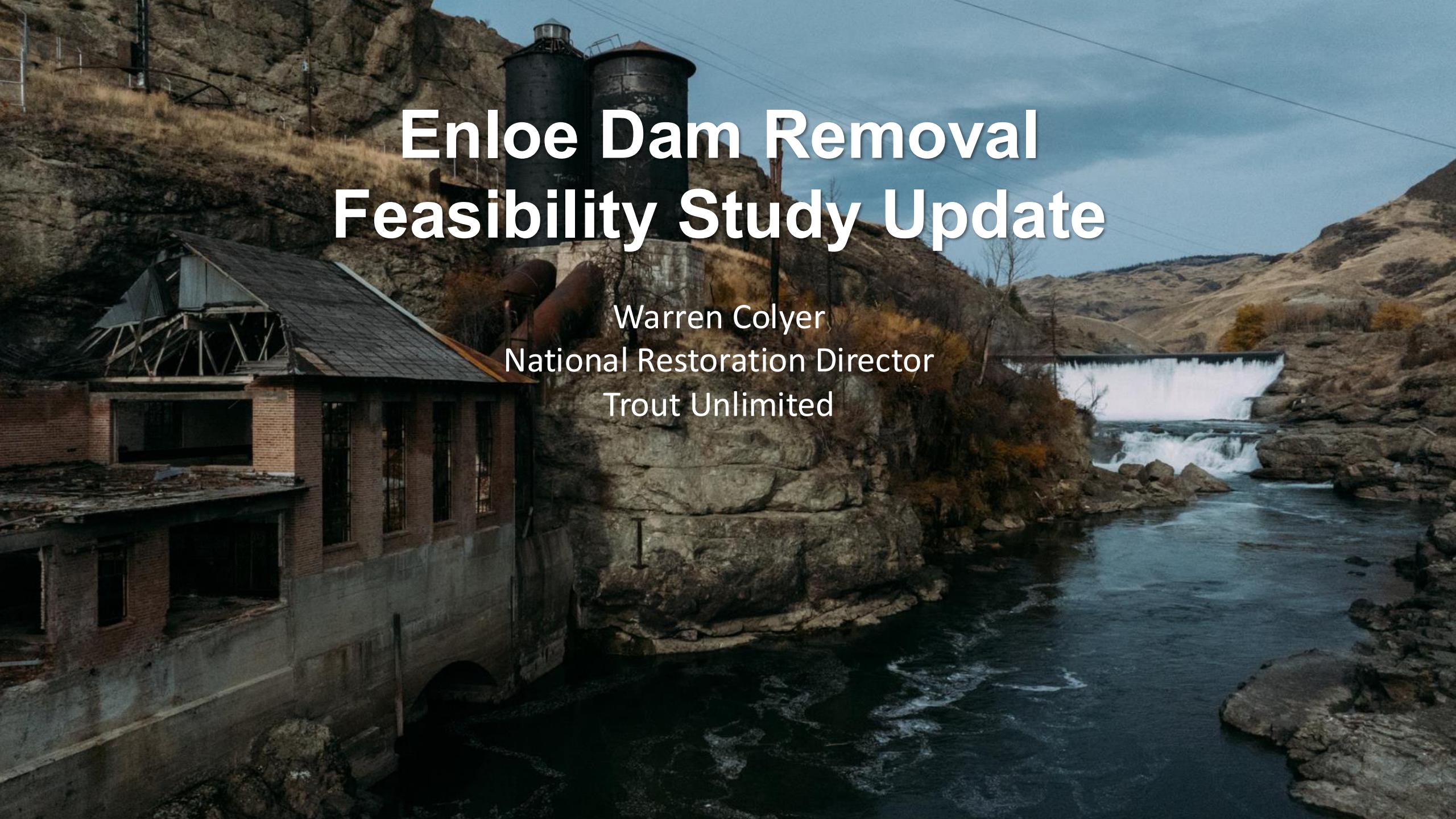
Please provide brief introductions and share updates relevant to CBC process.



External Forums Updates

External Forums Updates

- Phase 2 Implementation Plan
- Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative
- Litigation Schedule
- Enloe Dam Removal
- Yakima Basin Integrated Plan
- Bateman Island Causeway
- Walla Walla 2050 Planning
- Region 10 EPA Columbia River Basin Restoration Program

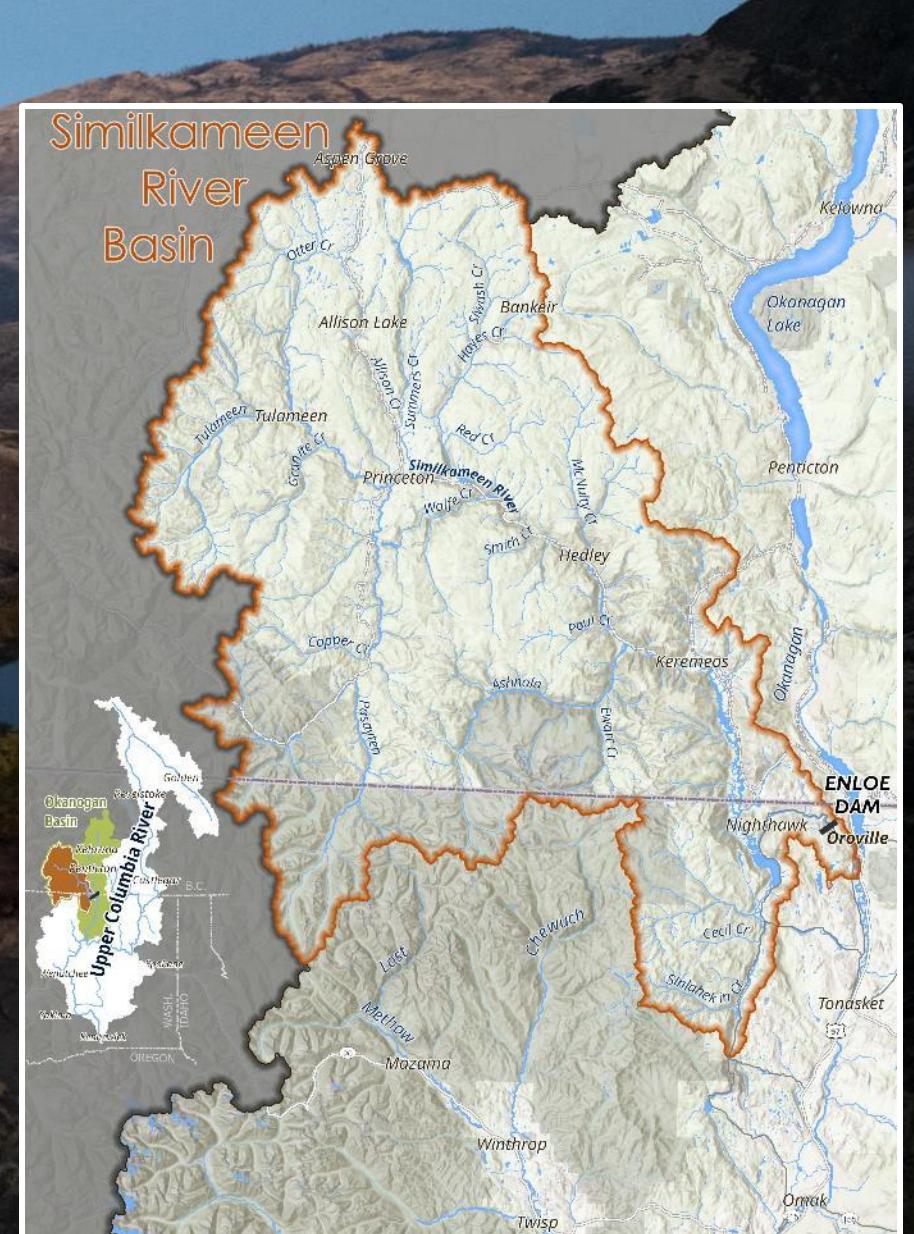
A historical dam structure with a brick building and a water tower, with a waterfall and river in the background.

Enloe Dam Removal Feasibility Study Update

Warren Colyer
National Restoration Director
Trout Unlimited

Enloe background

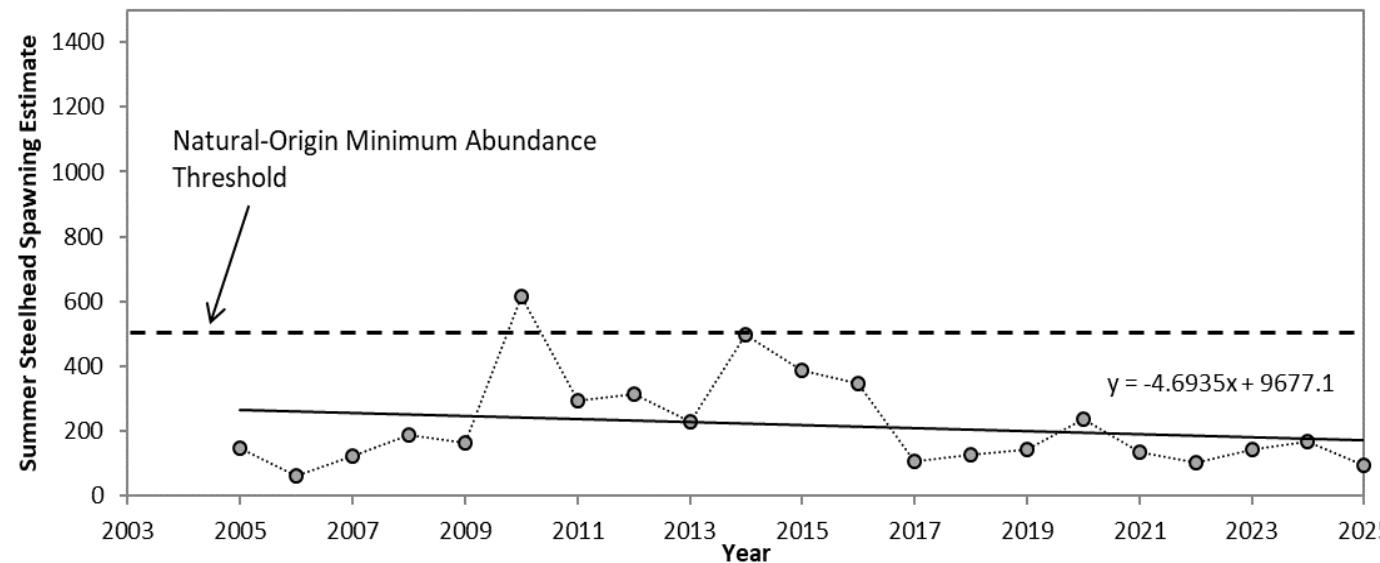
- 54 ft. tall and 276 ft. wide (1/2 size of Elwha; 1/3 size of Iron Gate)
- Last generated power in 1958
- Located on the Similkameen River near Oroville, WA, in Okanogan County
- Similkameen Basin is 7,500 km²
- Largest tributary to the Okanogan River (70% of flow)
- Dam blocks access to 1520 miles of upstream habitat (~80% in Canada and 2/3 at >3,000 ft. elevation).
- Upper Columbia River steelhead and Spring Chinook are listed under the ESA



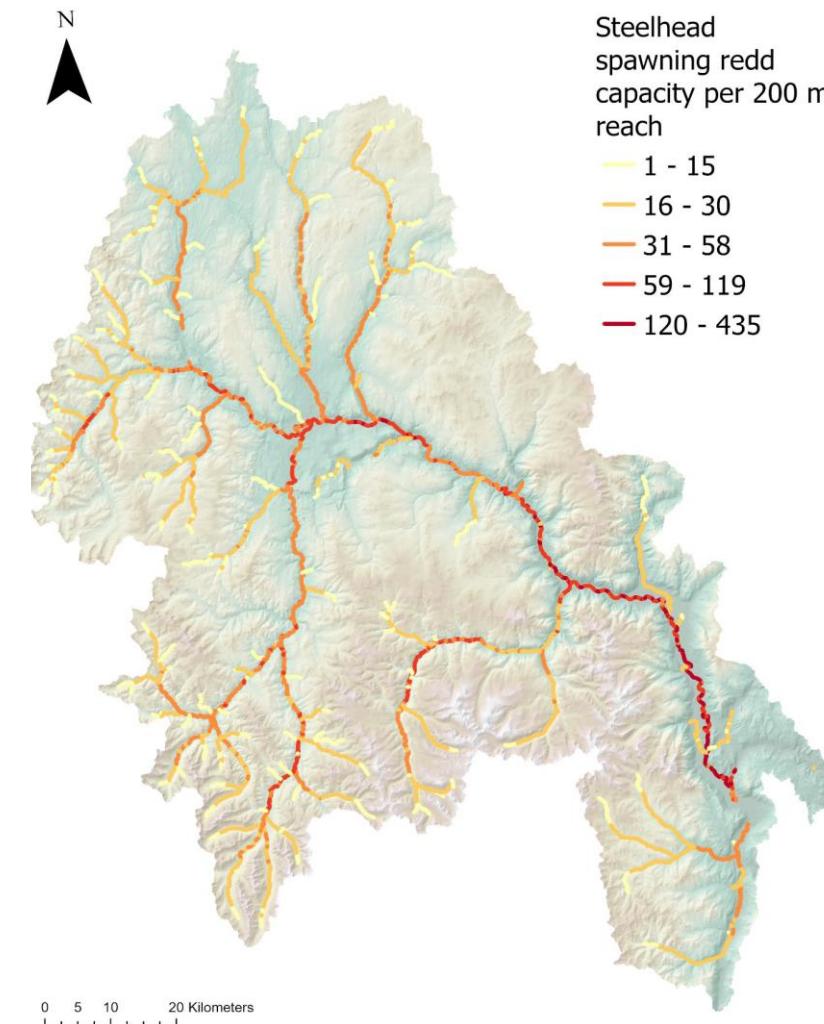
Estimated Salmonid Production – Similkameen Basin

- Redds: Chinook: 77,863
Steelhead: 203,310
- Adult: Chinook: 7,800 to 47,000
Steelhead: 29,000 to 118,000*

*Bond, M. H., T. J. Beechie, and G. R. Pess. 2023. Habitat Capacity for Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Spawning and Rearing in the Similkameen River Basin. U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Contract Report NMFS-NWFSC-CR-2023-01.
<https://doi.org/10.25923/xf8y-x065>

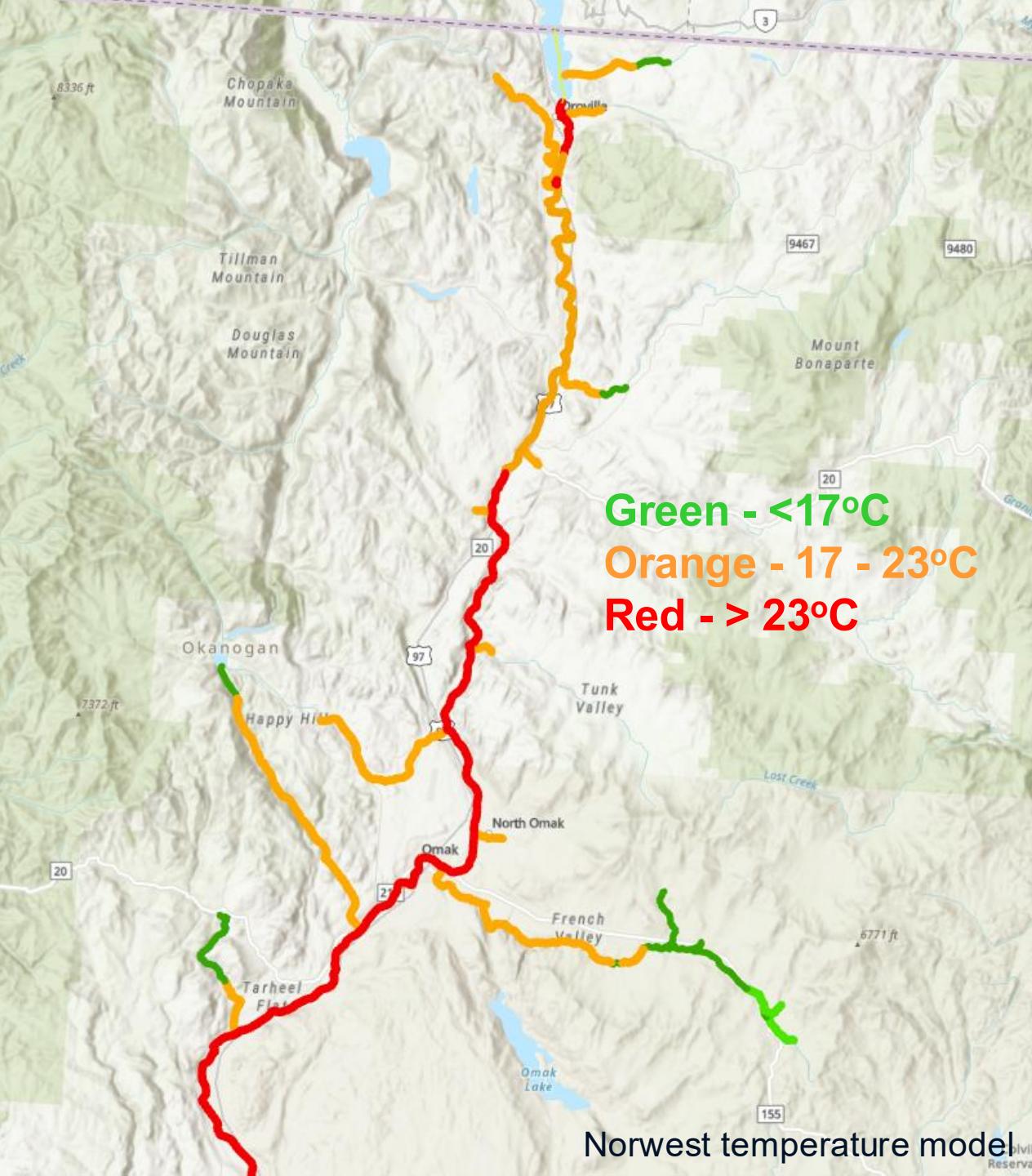


Okanagan Basin Monitoring and Evaluation Program – CTCR Fish & Wildlife



Every River
Needs A Champion





Okanogan Basin 2040 Mean Monthly Water Temperatures

Thermally Suitable Habitat

- 90 km in 2020
- 40 km in 2040

Every River
Needs A Champion



Enloe Project Timeline

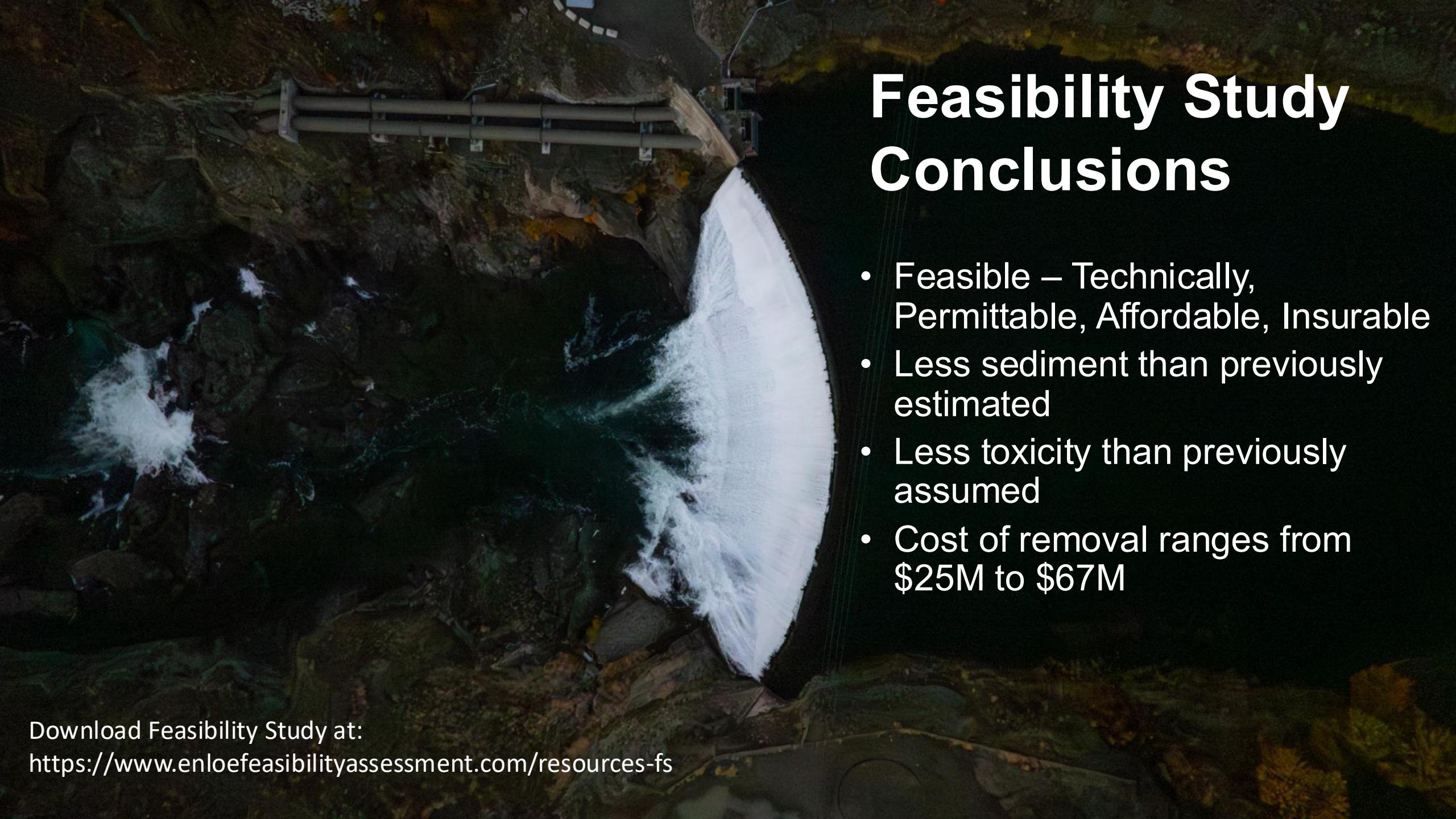
- 1920 – Enloe Dam constructed
- 1958 – Ceased operation
- 2019 – FERC license terminated
- 2019 – USGS sediment sampling
- 2021 (March) – Resources Legacy Funding to TU:
 - Water & Power Law Group Memo
 - NOAA habitat capacity modeling
 - LSIB, USIB habitat surveys
 - Coyote Falls fish passage analysis
- 2022 (April) – DOE sediment sampling
- 2022 (July) – Okanogan PUD Resolution #1775 “supporting a process to evaluate potential Enloe Dam removal”
 - Authorizes OPUD staff to collaborate on Feasibility Study



Enloe Project Timeline

- 2022 (November) – TU contract with WDFW for Legislative Proviso Funding:
 - Project Roadmap; Sediment Management; Stakeholder Outreach; Dam Removal Entity Investigation
- 2023 (March) – NOAA Fish Passage grant awarded (Feasibility + 30% design)
- 2023 (July) – Stantec contract executed
- 2023 (November) – Supplemental funding from Rocky Reach Tributary Committee
- 2024 – USFWS Fish Passage grant awarded (60% design, DRE, permit applications)
- 2024 – Stantec sediment sampling/analysis
- 2025 – Supplemental funding from Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
- 2026 – Feasibility Study complete; 30% design underway



A dark, high-angle aerial photograph of a dam. A massive, turbulent white plume of water cascades down the right side of the dam. The dam structure itself is a light-colored concrete or stone. In the background, a winding road with a white dashed line is visible, and the surrounding landscape is covered in dense green trees and shrubs.

Feasibility Study Conclusions

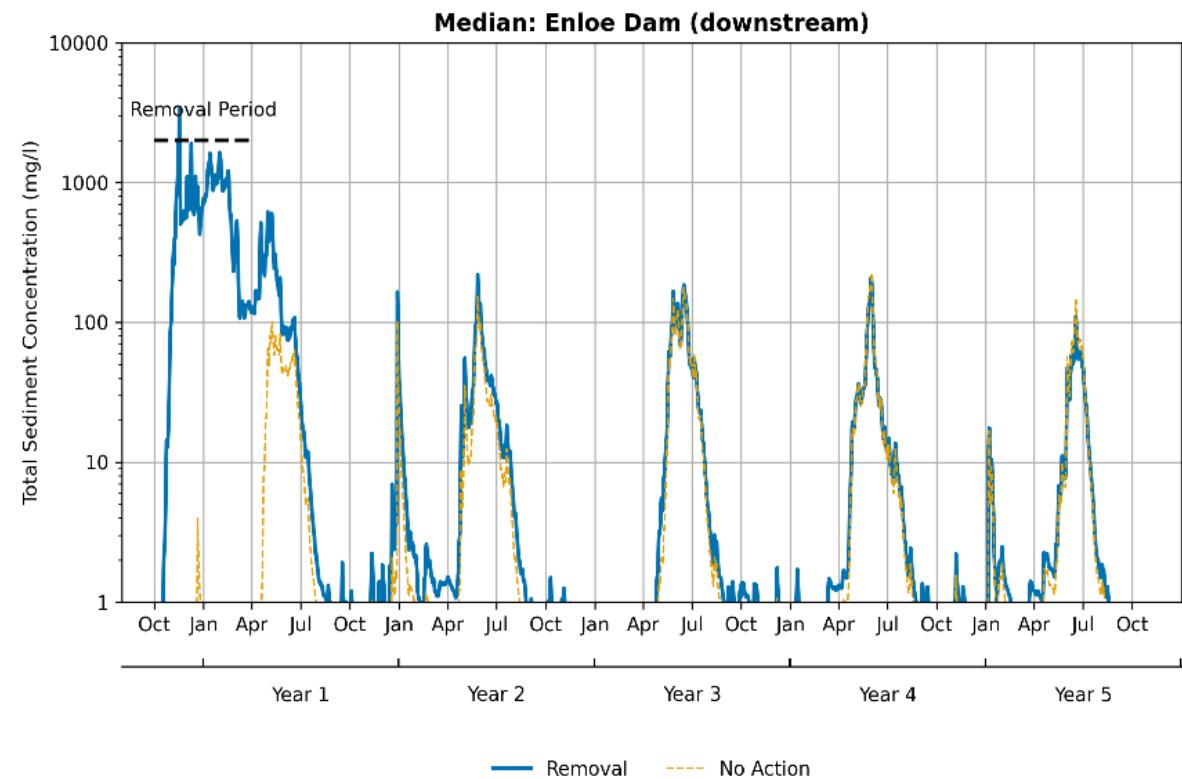
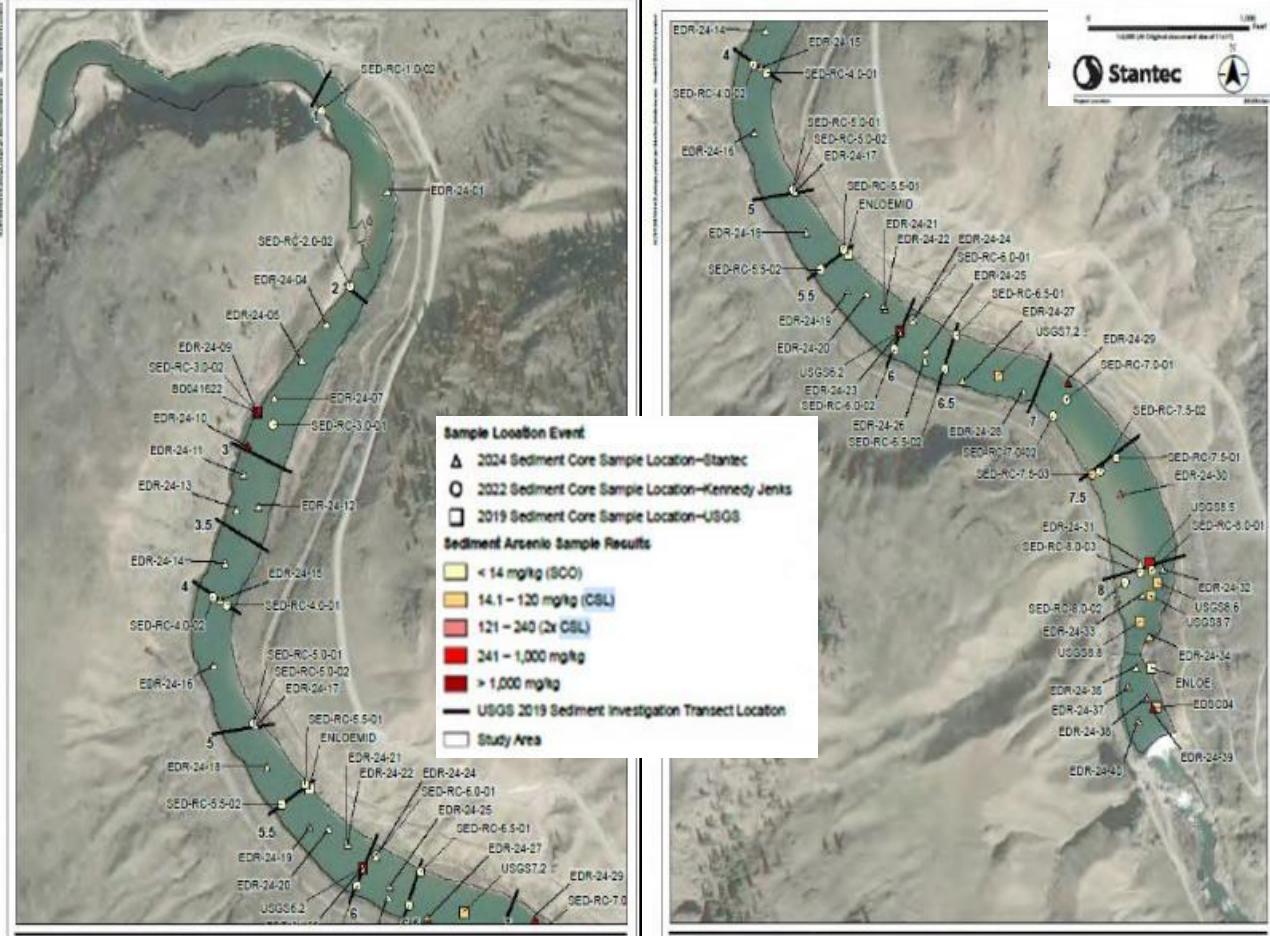
- Feasible – Technically, Permittable, Affordable, Insurable
- Less sediment than previously estimated
- Less toxicity than previously assumed
- Cost of removal ranges from \$25M to \$67M

Download Feasibility Study at:

<https://www.enlofeasibilityassessment.com/resources-fs>

Next Steps

- Select action alternative
- Public outreach
- 30% design & Basis of Design Report
- Dam Removal Entity formation
- Liability management plan
- 60% design & permit applications



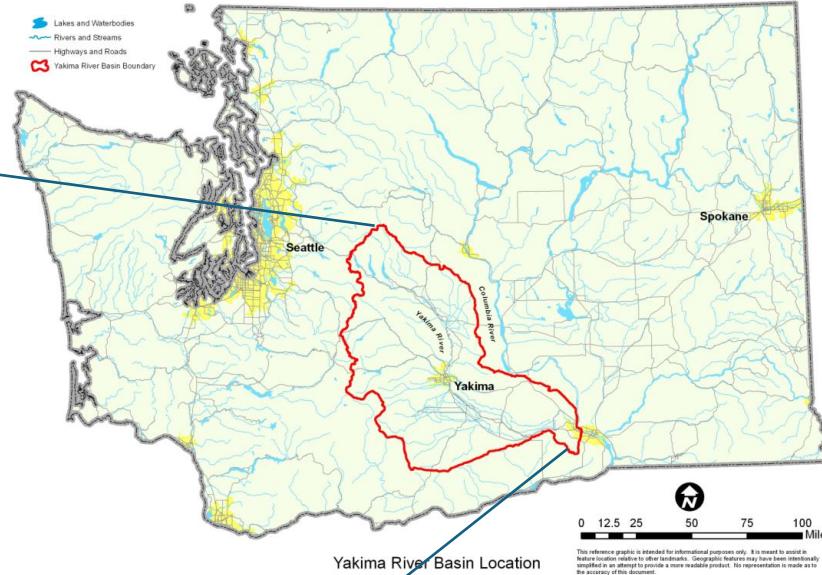
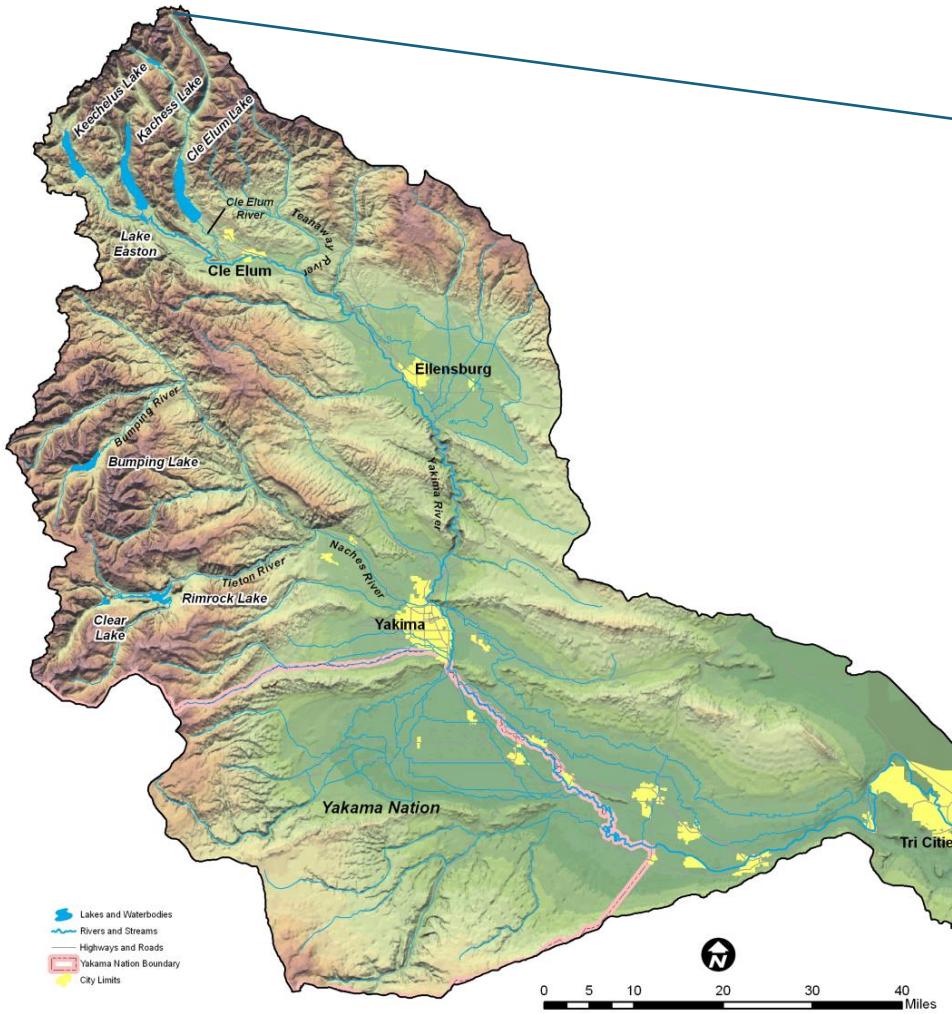


Yakima Basin Integrated Plan

Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District

Columbia Basin Collaborative
Integration/Recommendations Group
January 28 - Portland, Oregon

Yakima Basin



- Basin size: 6,155 sq. miles
- Population: 360,000
- \$4.5 billion agriculture economy
- Historically, second only to Snake River in supporting Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead runs



Yakima Basin Integrated Plan - Goals

**Reliable Irrigation
Supply**

**Increased
Municipal Supply**

Restored Fishery

**Climate
Resilience**

**Robust Regional
Economy**

**Collaborative
Implementation**

Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage

Reservoir Passage

- Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage
- Tieton Fish Passage Complex
 - Cle Creek Dam
 - Tieton Dam
 - S.F. Tieton

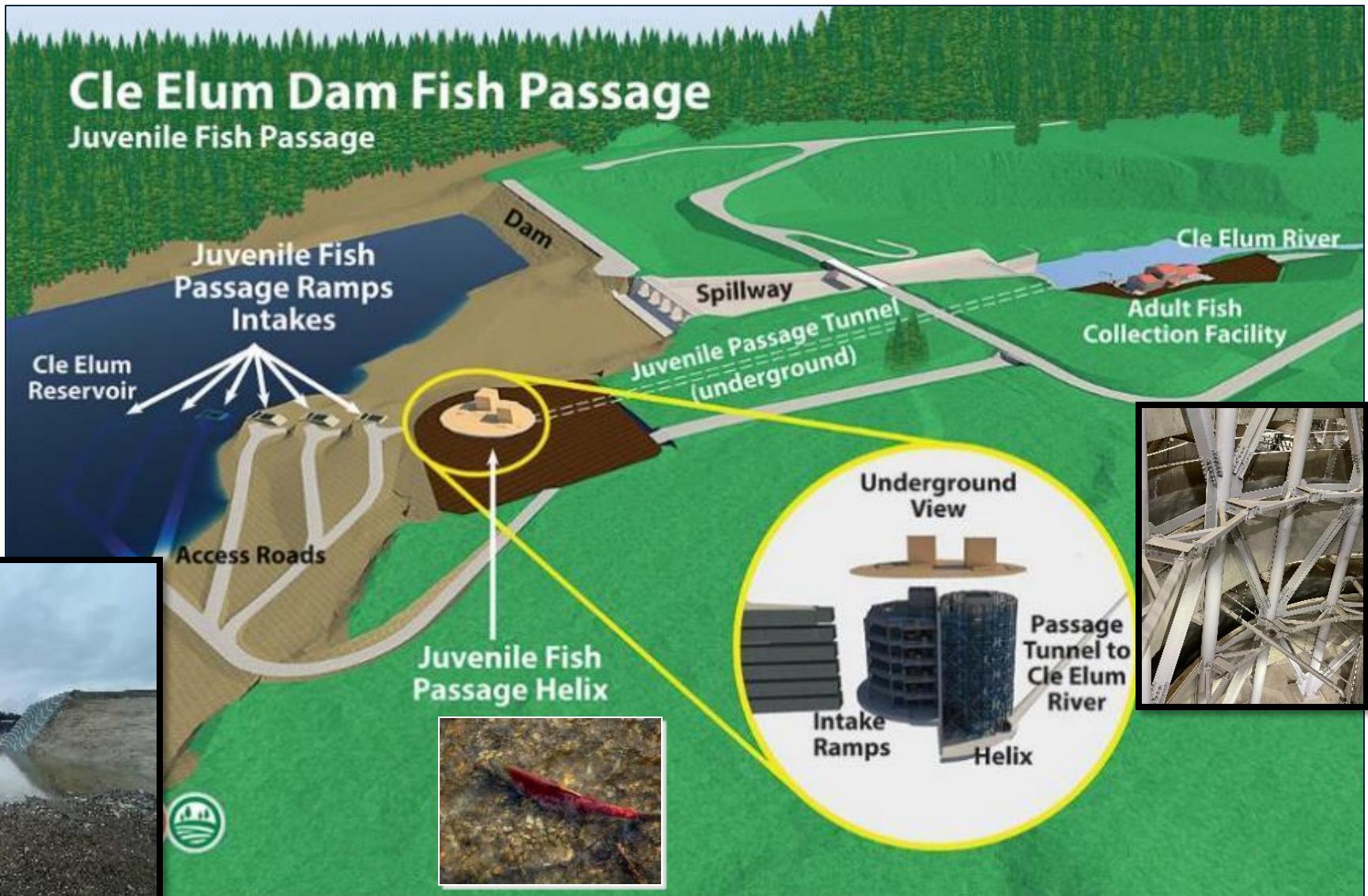
Lower River Fish Passage Improvements

- Roza Dam and Diversion
- Wapato Dam and Diversion
- Sunnyside Dam and Diversion
- Prosser/Chandler Dam and Diversion
- Wanawish Dam and Diversion
- Bateman Island



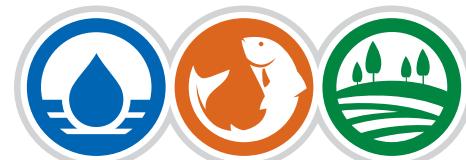
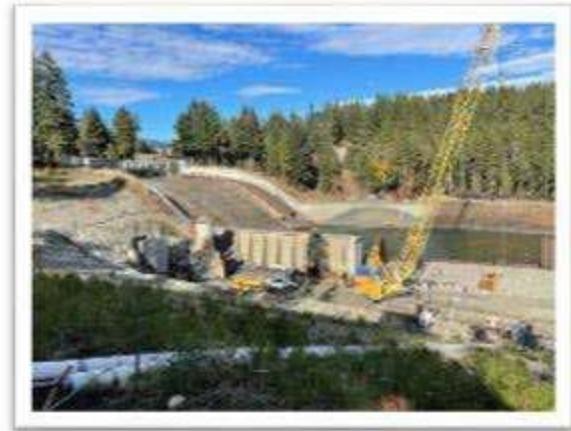
Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage

- Adult and juvenile passage in process
- \$220M innovative project
- Cost Share Reclamation/WA
- Final contract (adult collection) in construction 2024
- Anticipate operational – 2026/27

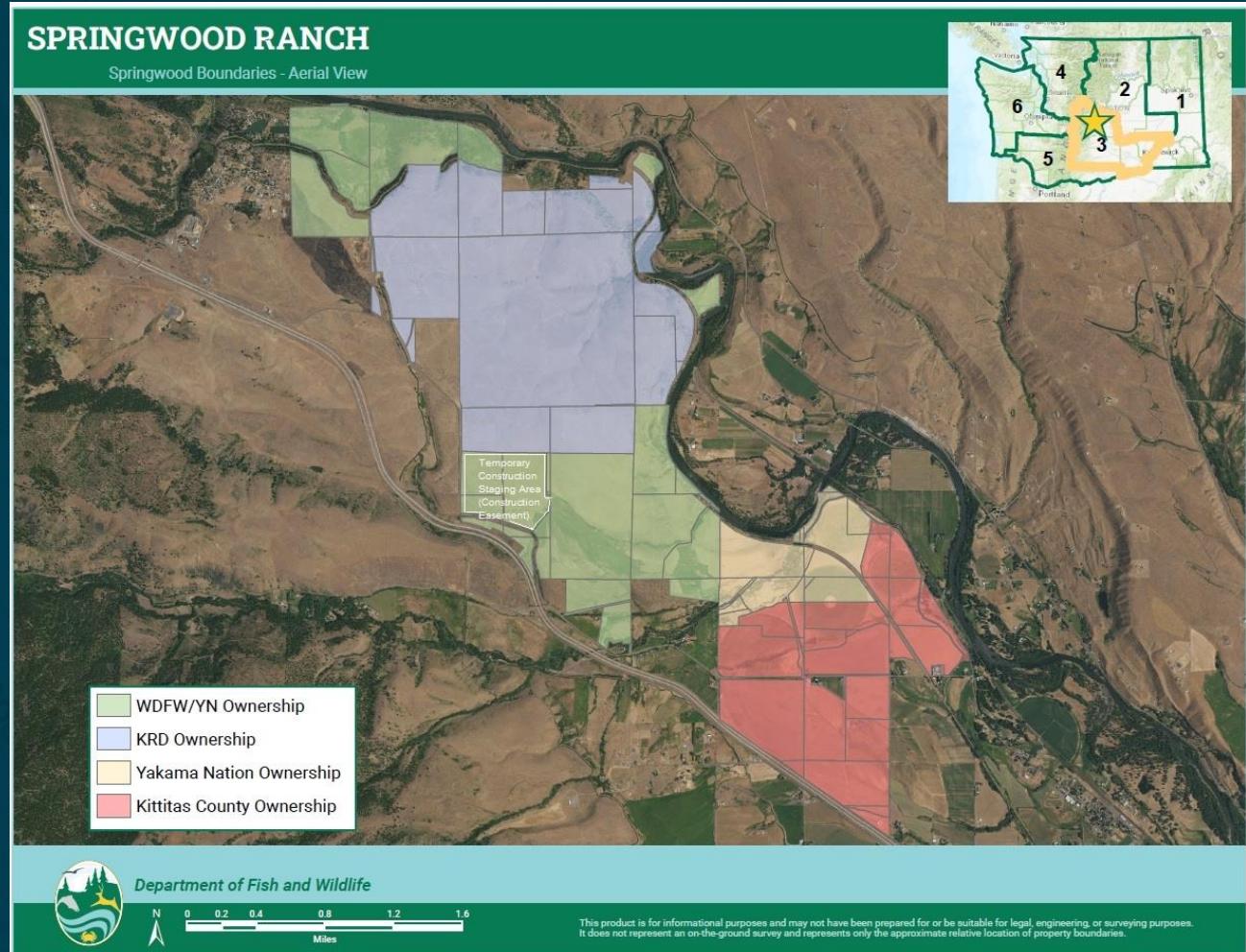


Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage

- Adult Collection Facility



Upper Yakima Basin Storage



Springwood Reservoir

- Purchased by Trust for Public Lands, March 2023.
- Approximately 3600 acres.
- Transferred ownership, Oct 24.
 - Yakama Nation
 - WDFW
 - Kittitas Reclamation District
 - Kittitas County
- Feasibility Study
 - Geotechnical Phase 2 begins April – November 2026.

Tributary Supplementation



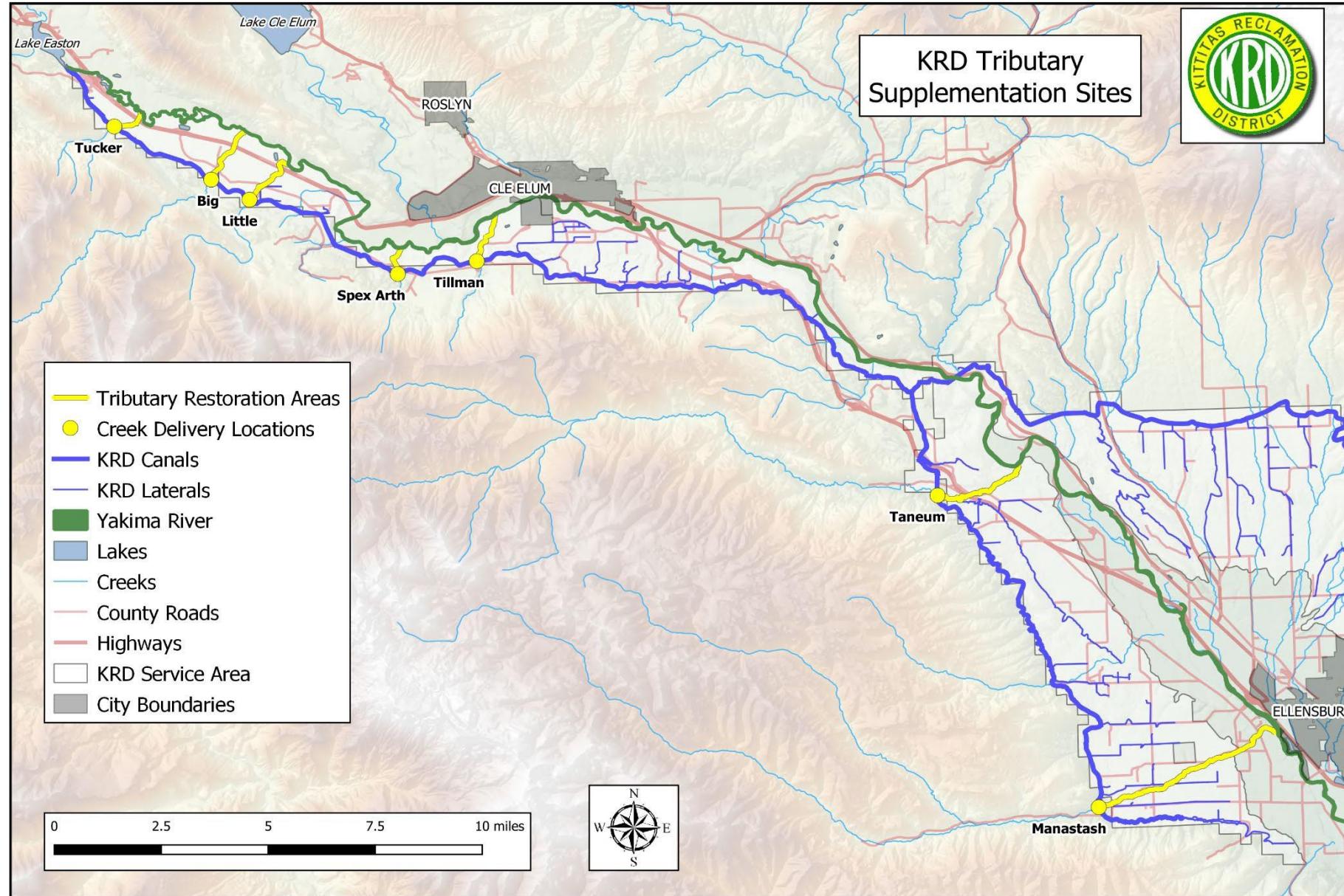
Little Creek – Above KRD 10/30/2025



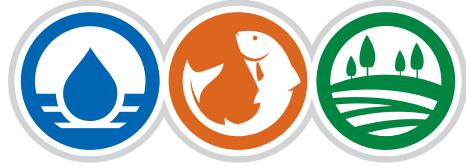
Little Creek, 11/3/2025

- **Canal improvements create more capacity.**
- **Increase in capacity allows for infrastructure to carry water for:**
 - **Tributary supplementation**
 - **Surface/ground water storage**





Tributary Supplementation



Manastash Creek at Serenity Ln –
August 2011



Manastash Creek at Serenity Ln –
August 2019



Manastash Creek at Serenity Ln –
August 2023

Bateman Island

Causeway Removal

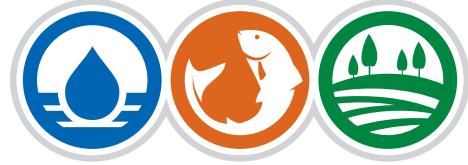


Bateman Island Causeway, Photo by Jason Jaacks



Yakima River Delta, Photo by Benton Conservation District

- Natural flow restored on January 14, 2026

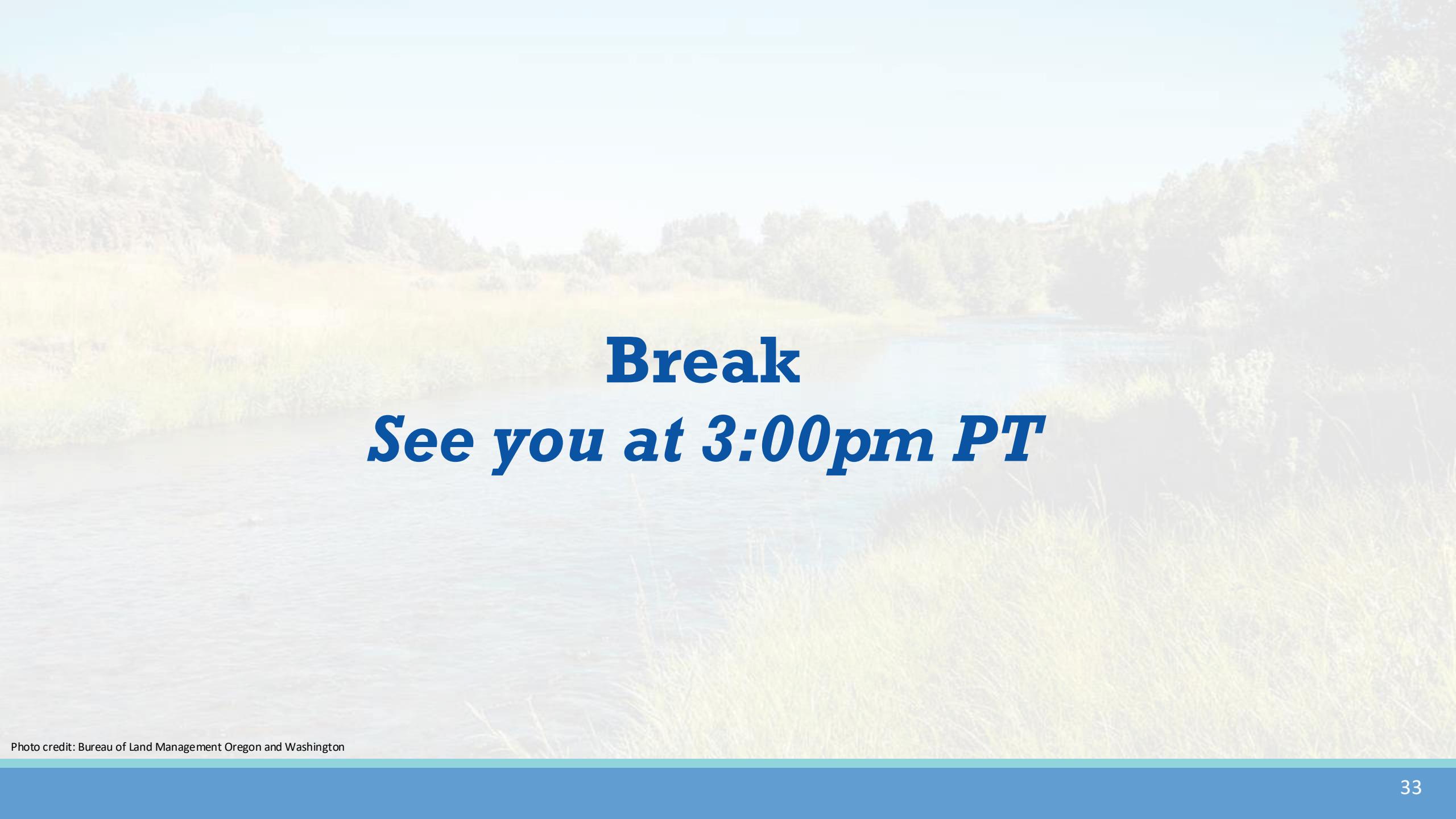


Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Partners



YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD



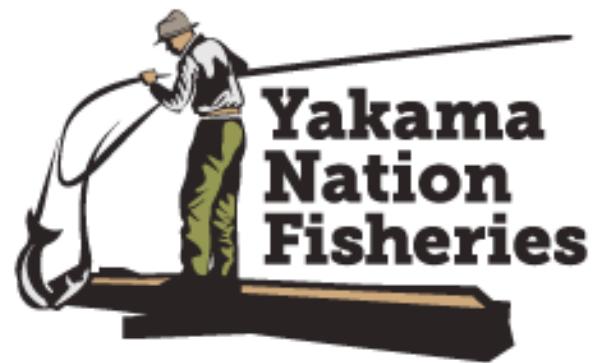


Break
See you at 3:00pm PT

Bateman Island Causeway Removal

An aerial photograph of Bateman Island, a large, green, irregularly shaped island in the Sacramento River. The island is surrounded by dark blue water. A narrow, light-colored causeway extends from the southern shore of the island towards the mainland on the right. The island is covered in dense green vegetation, including various shrubs and small trees. In the background, the river continues towards the horizon, and some buildings and infrastructure are visible along the banks.

Key Partners



Washington Department of
FISH & WILDLIFE



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



Resources
Legacy Fund®





Columbia River

Yakima River





NON
ETHANOL FUEL
783-3082













CONGRESS PASSES COLUMBIA RIVER RESTORATION ACT - December 9, 2016

Congress has passed a bill authorizing the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a competitive, voluntary grant program for environmental cleanup work in the Columbia River.

The Columbia River Restoration Act was included as part of the federal Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

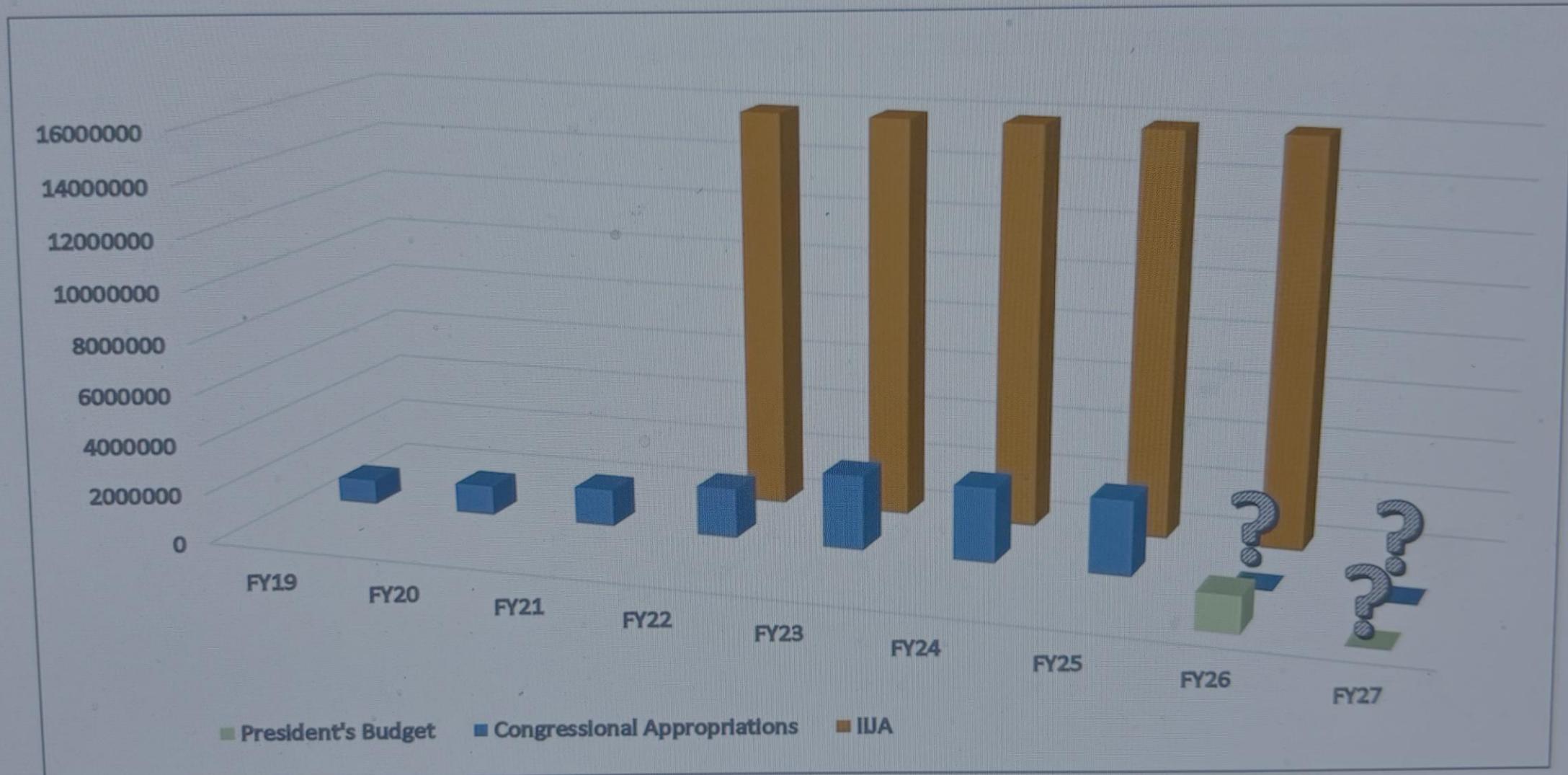
CWA Section 123

- **Assess trends in water quality**, including trends that affect uses of the water of the Columbia River Basin
- **Collect, characterize, and assess data on water quality** to identify possible causes of environmental problems
- **Establish a voluntary, competitive grant program** supporting actions [through pollution reduction projects]
- **Establish a Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group** that shall
 - recommend and prioritize projects and actions; and
 - review the progress and effectiveness of projects and actions implemented.



Columbia River Basin Restoration Program

Funding Amounts Over Time



A Bill:

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Columbia River Basin Restoration program, and for other purposes.

This Act may be cited as the “Columbia River Clean-Up Act”.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC)

Fish and Wildlife Program Updates



Draft 2026 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

DATE
LOCATION



Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

Who we are

- The Northwest Power and Conservation Council was 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*.
- Federal agencies that operate or regulate Columbia hydroelectric facilities also have legal responsibilities under the Act



What we do: Columbia River Basin Fish & Wildlife Program

- Develop – 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, not only ESA-listed species; salmon and steelhead have special significance under the Act
- Updated every 5 years, based primarily on recommendations from state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, tribes, and others
- 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.



What we do: Power planning

- Develop, via an extensive public process, a 20-year 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 energy efficiency
- The Council's plan guides Bonneville'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 every five years. Draft of 9th Northwest Power Plan expected mid-2026. Please stay tuned!



The 9th Northwest Power Plan

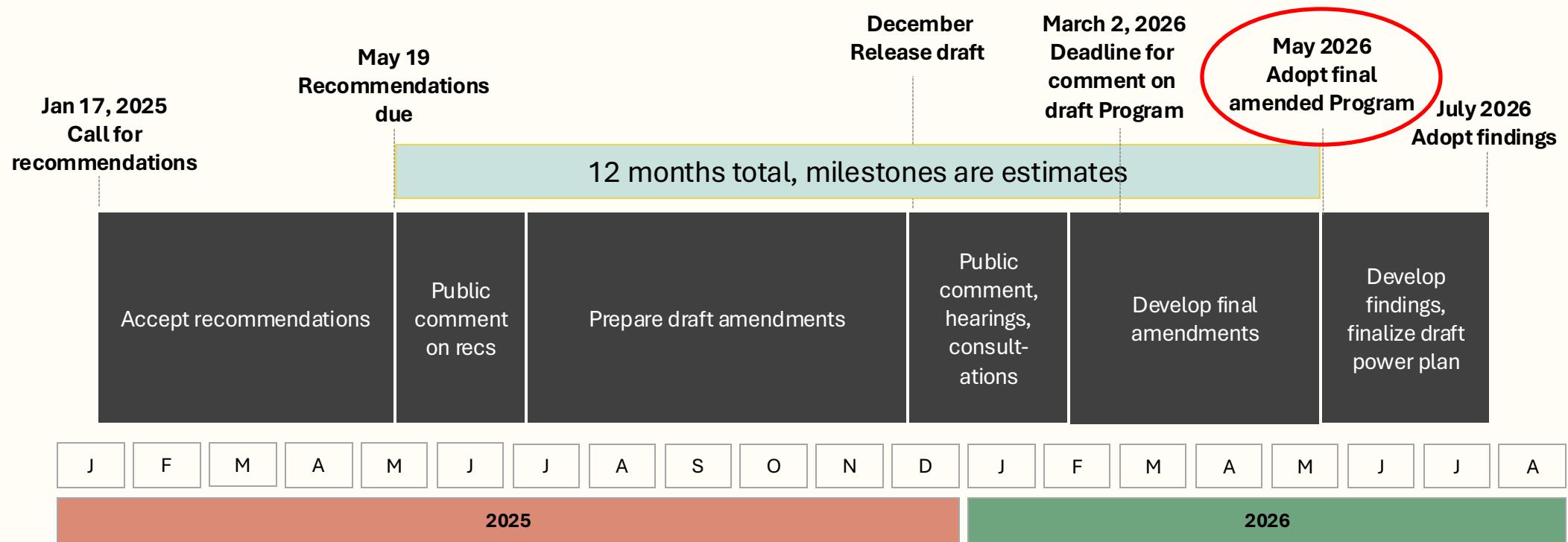


Fish & Wildlife Program Amendment Process

Overview of Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment steps

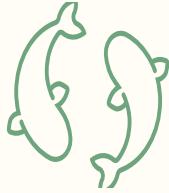


Estimated timeline for Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Process



Draft Fish and Wildlife Program

About the Council's Fish & Wildlife Program



Growth and evolution

1. The Council's Fish & Wildlife Program has grown and evolved over the past 40 years.

The Program has grown incrementally and gradually since 1980 to reach a significant scale. This has helped minimize impacts to the electricity grid & ratepayers in the Northwest while protecting, mitigating, and enhancing fish and wildlife impacted by the hydropower system.



Steady and dependable

2. The program's durability, decades-long history, and long-term scope for future planning are well-suited for Columbia Basin fish and wildlife, whose complex life histories span years and decades and cover vast swaths of freshwater and saltwater territories.

The program addresses all stages of Basin fish species' life cycles.



Progress is evident

3. The Council completed an extensive scientific and staff-led review between 2021-24 that covered the program's entire history.

This review found that the Fish & Wildlife Program has made crucial strides in protecting and increasing the numbers of salmon, steelhead, sturgeon & Pacific lamprey, (among other species) in the Columbia Basin, including ESA-listed stocks.



More work to do

4. Significant work remains. The Council also recognizes that some stocks are currently struggling and understands the urgency of continuing to take action to prevent further declines, like in the Snake Basin.

This presentation will cover background on the Fish and Wildlife Program, what's being proposed in the draft, and ways that you can participate in the process.

Organizing the Fish and Wildlife Program

On-site actions:

Hydrosystem

- Mainstem flow and passage operations to improve fish passage and survival through the hydrosystem.
- Balance operations to benefit fish while ensuring an adequate, economic, and reliable power supply.

Off-site actions:

Habitat

- Restoration and Protection of habitat
- Manage predators in habitat
- Manage non-native & invasive species in habitat
- Wildlife mitigation

Actions in specific habitat areas:

- Blocked Areas
- Plume and Nearshore Ocean
- Protected areas
- Subbasin Plans

Artificial Production

- Use artificial production tool to help meet mitigation requirement
- Support fisheries and conservation

Adaptive Management

- Planning
- Research, Monitoring, Evaluation

Major accomplishments



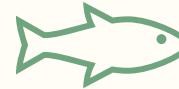
Hydrosystem Operations

- Flow and passage measures have aided adult & juvenile survival
- Mainstem flow operations have benefited the spawning and rearing of adult salmon
- 44,000 miles of Northwest rivers and streams have been protected from additional hydropower development and remained undammed



Habitat

- Protected more than 300,000 acres of habitat through purchase or easement and restored over 760,000 acres
- Between 2012-2021, restored an average of 59,000 acres of habitat annually, or approx. 92 square miles. That's a little larger than Seattle or Boise!
- Helped secure 700+ water transactions totaling over 3.1 million acre-feet of water through collaborations with landowners and irrigation districts.



Artificial Production and Fish Screens

- Council's Artificial Production programs support both conservation and harvest
- Anadromous salmon and steelhead: ~19 million annual juvenile release target (out of ~140 million total basinwide)
 - Also resident fish, sturgeon, Pacific lamprey, freshwater mussels
- Funded over 1,800 fish screens across the basin to keep fish out of irrigation systems



Wildlife

- Purchase and protection of 500 parcels of wildlife mitigation lands
- Mitigation for construction and inundation losses almost complete; some operational loss mitigation remains

Draft 2026 Fish & Wildlife Program near-term priorities



Protecting investments

The Fish & Wildlife Program has invested in a robust network of physical assets & infrastructure in the Columbia Basin, including fish screens, hatcheries, fish passage & land acquisitions.

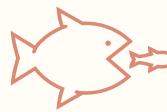
These investments need maintenance and upgrades to ensure they keep functioning and continue to benefit fish.



Hydro operations

The main goal is to keep water moving downstream through the system toward the ocean. This often correlates with faster migration for juvenile fish and cooler water temperatures in summer.

Consistency of operations is crucial to study and understand potential biological benefits. Operations have varied in recent years.



Predator management

Improved hydrosystem operations may not result in the desired benefits for fish if the impacts of predation outweigh the gains.

The draft Program proposes assessing and managing predation in the areas most likely to increase salmon and steelhead survival.



Habitat

Fish & Wildlife Program habitat projects extend from tributary headwaters to the Columbia River estuary.

Habitat investments are helping to provide cold water, protect water quality, and secure more in-stream flow through water transactions.



Seeking comments on the Draft 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program

Attend a public hearing

JAN 13 4-6pm	Portland, OR Council office	FEB 4 4:30- 6:30pm	Yakima, WA Convention Center
JAN 29 4-6pm	Kalispell, MT Red Lion	FEB 12 4-6pm	Boise, ID IDFG Headquarters
JAN 29 4-6pm	Lewiston, ID Nez Perce Courthouse	FEB 12 4-6pm	Bend, OR OSU Cascades
FEB 3 4:30- 6:30pm	Spokane, WA City Hall Council Chambers	FEB 17 4:30- 6:30pm	Seattle, WA Seattle University
Or submit comments online			FEB 24 3:30- 5:30pm
			Online (webinar)

**Comment deadline:
March 2, 2026**

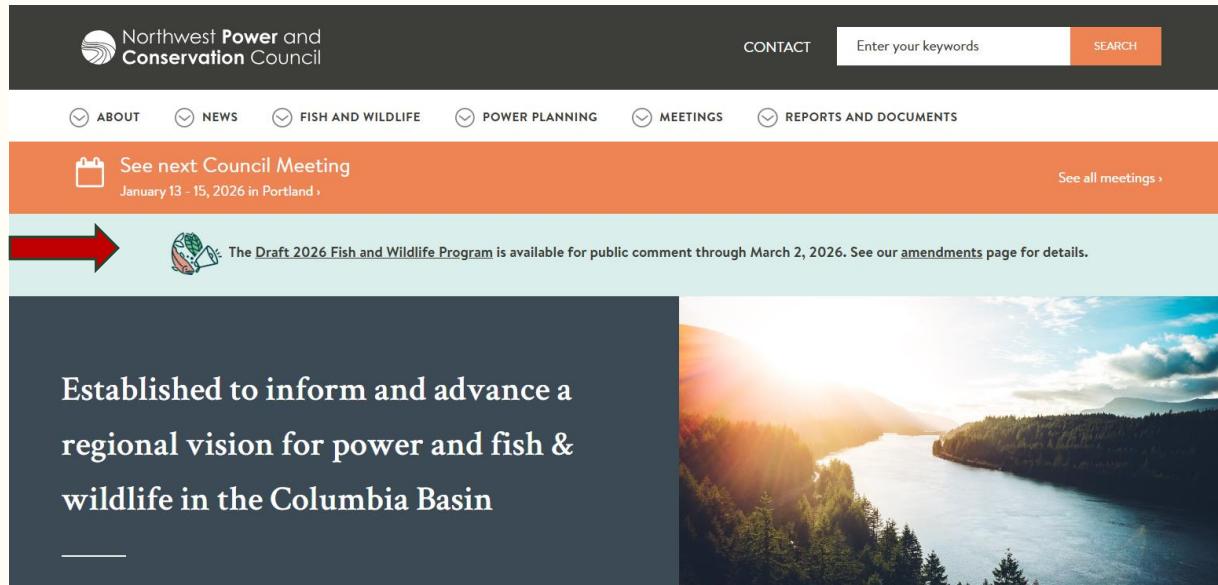


Details at
nw council.org/amend

 Northwest Power and
Conservation Council

Go to:
nwcouncil.org

QR
Code



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. At the top, there is a dark header with the council's logo, a search bar, and navigation links for CONTACT, Enter your keywords, and SEARCH. Below the header, a navigation bar includes links for ABOUT, NEWS, FISH AND WILDLIFE, POWER PLANNING, MEETINGS, and REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS. A prominent orange banner at the top features a calendar icon and the text "See next Council Meeting January 13 - 15, 2026 in Portland". To the right of this banner is a link to "See all meetings". A red arrow points to a green icon of a person holding a fish, which is next to the text: "The Draft 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program is available for public comment through March 2, 2026. See our [amendments](#) page for details." On the left side of the page, there is a dark box containing the text: "Established to inform and advance a regional vision for power and fish & wildlife in the Columbia Basin". To the right of this text is a large, scenic photograph of a river flowing through a forested mountain landscape.



We want to hear from you!

Yakama Nation Fisheries

DRAFT 2026 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

Tom Iverson, Regional Coordinator, YN Fisheries

Columbia Basin Collaborative - IRG

January 28, 2026



What is at stake?

- The region needs to double energy generation in the next 20 years, perfect opportunity to build out generation in a fish friendly way
- Energy crisis is putting undo pressure on salmon recovery due to an increasing reliance on hydropower
- Fish runs are in crisis – no stocks have been de-listed after 35 years, wild stocks are getting worse
- Fish need more flow and spill to achieve CBP rebuilding goals
- The Council needs to send signals to the energy community to build fish friendly generation
- Program can be used as comprehensive salmon strategy and will have support from WA, OR, ID, and MT and conservative members of Congress



DRAFT 2026 F&W Program

- Overall structure is streamlined, one document, easy to follow, lots of explanatory text
- Draft does not include detail for accountability - measures are general and not explicitly linked to specific actions, objectives, and strategy performance indicators
- New shared responsibility in several sections to point out “whole-of-government” approach for this program; Council commits to working with region to request funding through appropriations (and at Bonneville)
- Maintained 5 million fish goal (rolling 10-year average) with “show meaningful progress” towards achieving this goal by 2035; kept CBP goals as objectives
- Strategies and measures have remained more general as in the 2014 Program but comprehensive to salmon life cycle
- Adaptive Management elements could use more detail; what happens if we don’t achieve the Program’s goals



Alignment with CBC Recommendations

- Monitor Progress on the CBPTF Goals
 - Page 27, S1, ...the Council will track progress towards these distributed abundance targets as part of program performance."
- Fully Fund the Phase 2 Implementation Plan (P2IP)
 - Page 111, Blocked Area Mitigation above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams
- Pursue Increasing Salmon Production to Support and Sustain a Stable and Dedicated Source of Fish in the Upper Snake
 - Page 113, Mitigation in the Blocked Area above the Hells Canyon Complex
- Assess Run Timing and Entry Timing of Natural Origin Juvenile Salmon and Steelhead
 - Page 63, Monitoring Passage and Survival
- Maintain and Improve Mainstem Reach Survival Estimates and Smolt to Adult Return (SAR) Data
 - Page 159, Hydrosystem indicators; Maintaining monitoring not explicitly referenced



Alignment with CBC Recommendations

- Manage Double-Crested Cormorants (DCCO) in the Columbia River Estuary
 - Page 88, Predator Management and Page 91, PM12
- Enhance and Modify the Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 120 Pinniped Removal Program
 - Page 92, PM23 Fully implement Section 120(f) permit
- Develop and Initiate Testing of a Comprehensive Piscine Predator Monitoring and Evaluation (PPMEP) for the Columbia River
 - Page 88, PM2 Council will convene a work group
- Develop and Fund a Robust Columbia River Northern Pike and Invasive Nonnative Fishes Monitoring Project
 - Page 90, PM9 Bonneville should fund and implement...



CBC Implications

- All the CBC recommendations are covered in the Program, but some could use more specific detail
- The NPCC's Fish and Wildlife Program is an action plan that supports the Columbia Basin Partnership goals
- The NPCC's Fish and Wildlife Program can serve as a "comprehensive" salmon strategy to support Federal and State appropriations for habitat, hatchery, predator management and other actions necessary for salmon recovery
- Incorporating aggressive hydro operations will guide Ninth Power Plan to create opportunities for salmon actions in the future
- Whole of government approach can help take pressure off of BPA and their ratepayers for salmon recovery

CBC Action



- Recommend CBC members supporting the NPCC's 2026 Columbia River Basin F&W Program as a comprehensive strategy for achieving the Columbia Basin Partnership goals.

Draft 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program available for review

**Public comment invited through
March 2, 2026**

- Attend a public hearing
- Submit a comment online:
https://projects.nwcouncil.org/program/comment_form



Columbia River
Basin Fish and
Wildlife Program

Draft 2026 Program

Document 2025-5 / December 17, 2025



Next Steps and Summary

Action Items – Day 1

- Revisit discussion on advocacy for the CBRPA and engaging with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment process during Day 2 agenda topics

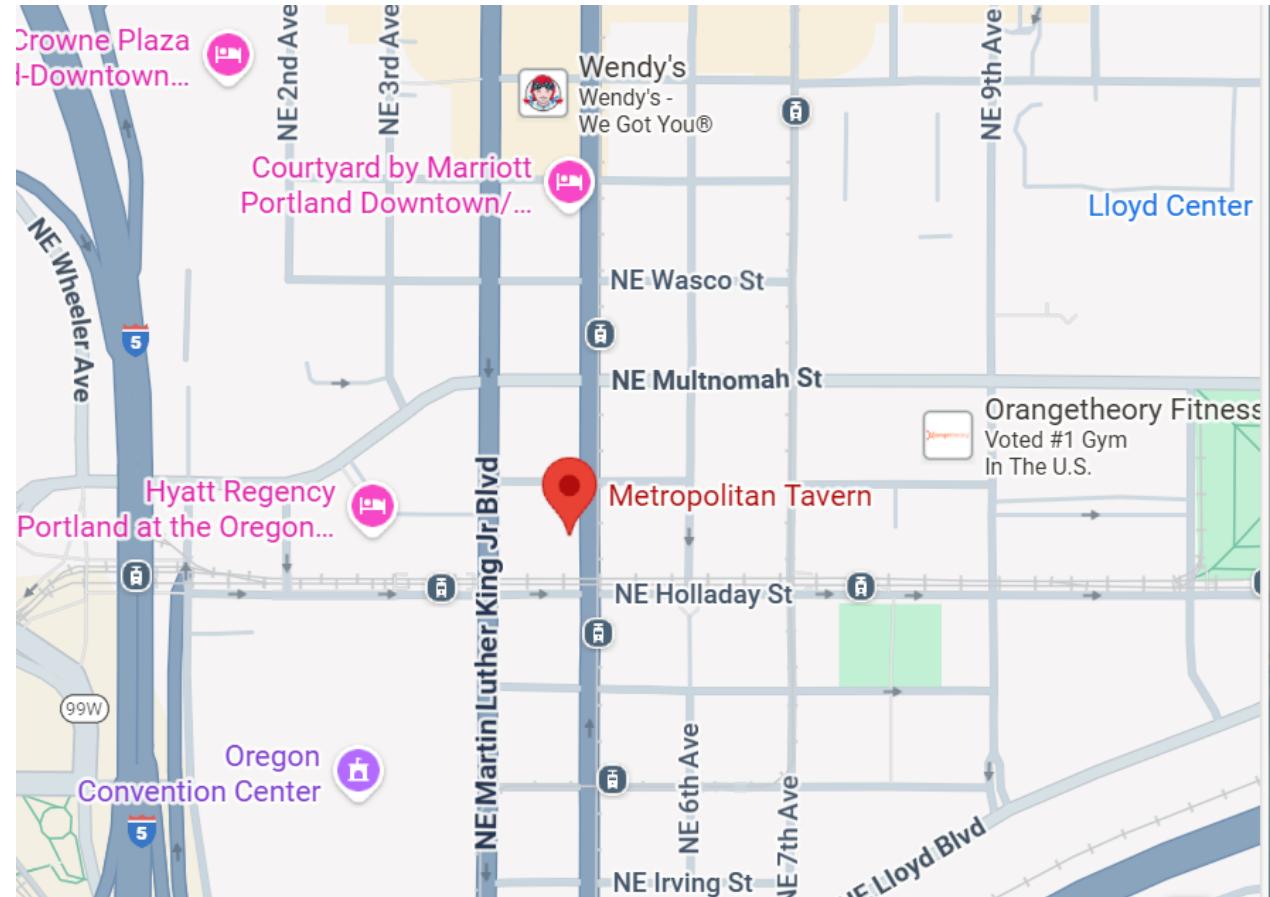
Tomorrow's Agenda

Time (PT)	Topic
8:15-8:30am	<i>Arrival</i>
8:30-8:40am	Welcome and Context
8:40-9:00am	Next Steps for NPCC Fish and Wildlife Program
9:00-10:15am	Federal Funding Requests
10:15-10:30am	<i>Break</i>
10:30-11:50am	Next Steps
11:50am-12:00pm	Confirm Upcoming Topics, Next Steps, and Summary
12:00pm	<i>Adjourn</i>

*Virtual attendees: be sure to use the January 29 link for tomorrow's webinar

Dinner

- Time: 6:00 pm PT
- No-host dinner at Metropolitan Tavern
- Located on the rooftop of Hotel Eastlund (1021 NE Grand Ave #600, Portland, OR 97232)



Thank you



Photo credit: Bonnie Moreland

Columbia Basin Collaborative Integration/Recommendations Group

**January 29, 2026
8:30am-12:00pm PT / 9:30am – 1:00pm MT**

Welcome and Context

Agenda Review

Time (PT)	Topic
8:15-8:30am	<i>Arrival</i>
8:30-8:40am	Welcome and context
8:40-9:00am	Next Steps for NPCC Fish and Wildlife Program
9:00-10:15am	Federal Funding Requests
10:15-10:30am	<i>Break</i>
10:30-11:50am	CBC Next Steps
11:50am-12:00pm	Confirm Upcoming Topics, Next Steps, and Summary
11:00am	<i>Adjourn</i>

Next Steps for Northwest Power and Conservation Council Fish and Wildlife Program

What action(s) does the CBC take at this time?

Potential paths forward:

- The CBC submits a collective comment.
- CBC members share their comments and interests for other members to incorporate in their individual comments.
- Others?

Federal Funding Requests

Federal Funding Requests

- Revisit the CBC appropriations letter FY26
 - Current status of requests
- Review CBC recommendations
- Process for developing the American Rivers' River Budget
- Budget and policy alignment, future federal asks for 2026 (FY27)



FY2026 Federal Appropriations Letter

The Columbia Basin Collaborative

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FY26 Appropriations for Columbia Basin Salmon Fisheries

Dear Chair Collins and Vice Chair Murray, and Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The Columbia Basin Collaborative is a collaboration of 78 entities consisting of states, Tribes, federal agencies, and stakeholders that are developing recommendations for achieving abundant and harvestable salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin. The CBC aims to achieve the consensus supported quantitative and qualitative goals for salmon and steelhead documented in the [Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force \(CBPTF\) Phase 2 Report](#), as adopted by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC). The states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, Tribes, and stakeholders of the Columbia Basin Collaborative¹ write to request that Congress include the highest possible level of funding in the Fiscal Year 2026 ("FY26") appropriations bills for federal programs that advance the restoration of healthy and abundant salmon populations in the Columbia River Basin.

- Sent June 2025
- Emphasis on
 - Mitchell Act
 - Pinniped removal
 - Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund
 - Pacific Salmon Treaty
 - Columbia River Fish Mitigation Program
 - Willamette Valley Fish Production
 - Staffing concerns

Status of Federal Appropriations for FY26



FFY26 Appropriations Results

Meagan West
Federal Policy Coordinator, WDFW
meagan.west@dfw.wa.gov

NMFS

Salmon Management Activities (SMA)	
<i>Specific program targets:</i>	\$70M
<i>Mitchell Act O&M</i>	\$27.5M
	\$41.5M
<i>Pacific Salmon Treaty</i>	\$12.1M
	\$5.9M
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	\$65M
Enforcement (JEA)	\$81M
Protected Resources Science and Management¹	\$268M
<i>Specific Program Targets:</i>	
<i>Marine Mammal Sea Turtle and Other Species</i>	\$178M
<i>Species Recovery Grants</i>	\$6.25M
<i>Pacific Salmon²</i>	\$75.75M
Habitat Conservation and Restoration Program	\$58M
Coastal AIS Mitigation Grant Program & Fund	\$0
Northwest Straits Initiative	\$1M

USFWS

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants	\$74M
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	\$22M + \$40M (LWCF)
Planning and Consultation	\$116M
Habitat Conservation	
<i>Specific Program Targets:</i>	\$70M
<i>Partners for Fish and Wildlife</i>	\$57M
<i>Coastal Program</i>	\$13M
Fish and Aquatic Conservation- Nat. Fish Hatchery System	\$79M
North American Wetlands Conservation Act	\$49M

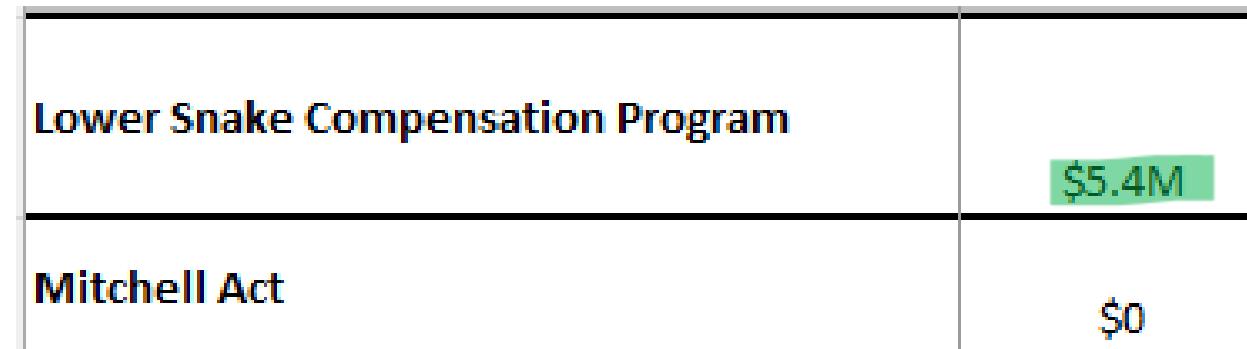
EPA



USACE

USACE Construction - Columbia River Fish Mitigation	\$56,780,000
USACE O&M Willamette Valley Fish Production	\$31,899,000

Hatchery Infrastructure



Invasive Mussels

USACE WID

\$15M/\$3M



Questions?

CBC 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
-  Monitor progress on the CBPTF goals – *reached consensus in March 2025*



▼ Predation Recommendations

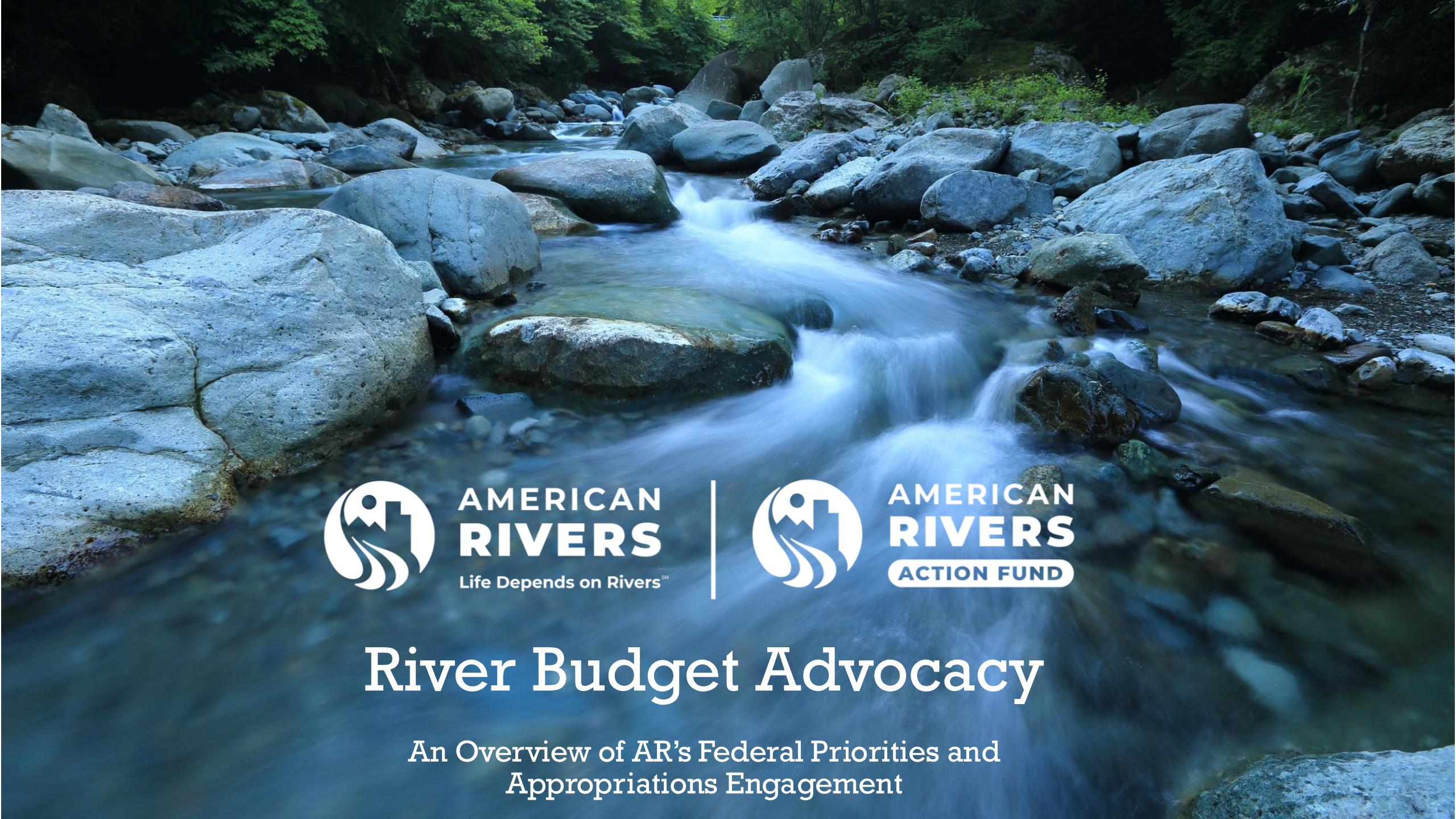
[🔗 Enhance and Modify the Marine Mammal Protection Act Section 120 Pinniped Removal Program](#)

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.



American Rivers' River Budget



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River Budget Advocacy

An Overview of AR's Federal Priorities and
Appropriations Engagement

Agenda

September 23, 2025

- The Appropriations Process and River Budget Overview
- FY27 Recommendations (drafted)
- Congressional Engagement
- Q&A



The Approps Process & River Budget Overview



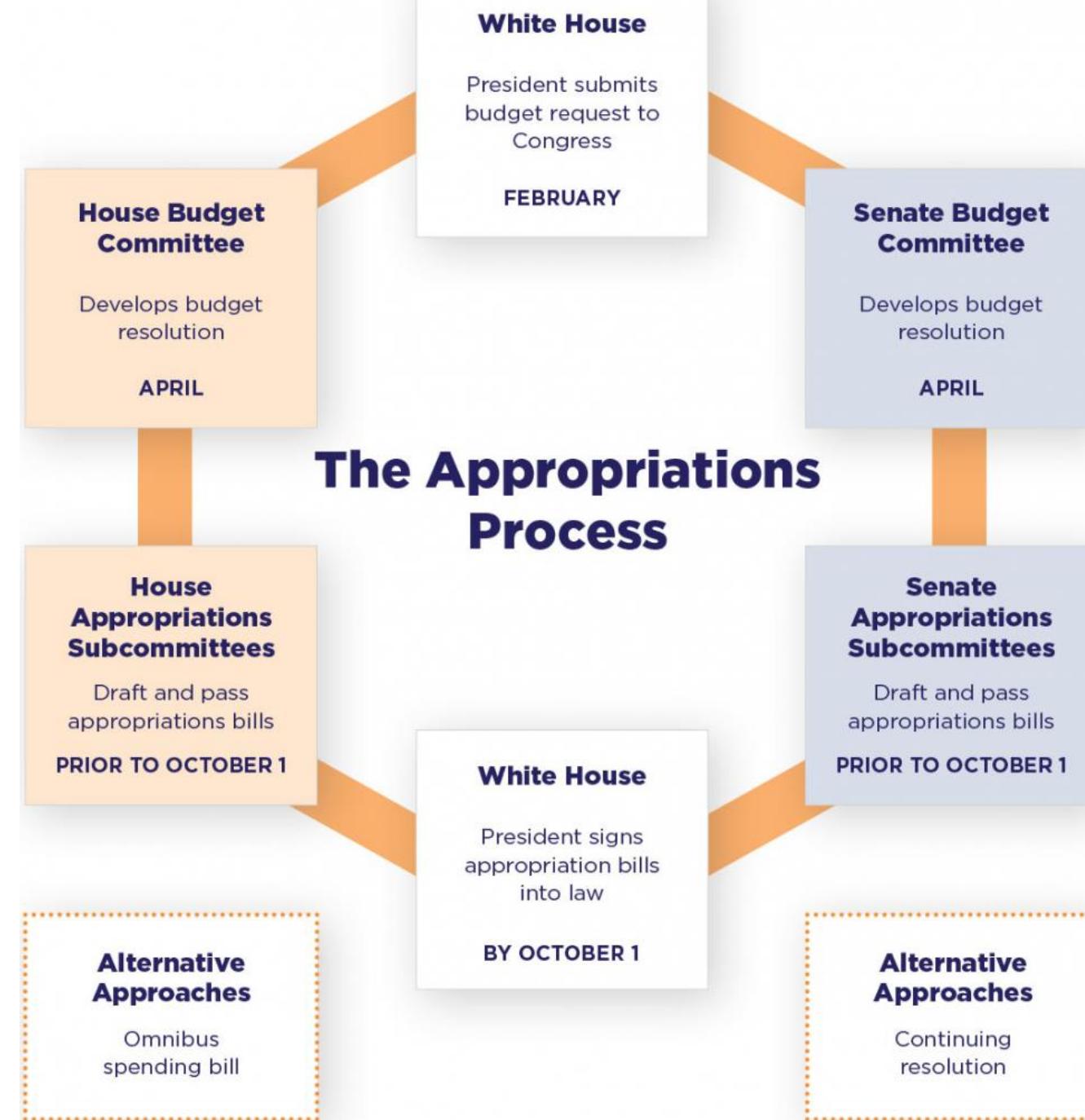
Budget & Approps 101

The federal budget process covers mandatory and discretionary spending

Creating the U.S. federal budget:

- Federal agencies submit budget requests to OMB
- OMB develops the budget proposal to the president
- President submits budget proposal to congress
- Proposed funding divided among 12 committees – holding hearings/markups
- House and Senate create their own budget resolutions, and negotiate funding bills
- Congress sends the approved funding bills to the president to sign or veto

The Appropriations Process





DeLauro, Meng, Kaptur and Pingree Applaud Passage of Appropriations Package

January 8, 2026 [Press Release](#)

WASHINGTON – Today, House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Appropriations Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee Ranking Member Grace Meng, House Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee Ranking Member Marcy Kaptur, and House Appropriations Interior and Environment Subcommittee Ranking Member Chellie Pingree applauded House passage of the Commerce-Justice-Science, Energy-Water, and Interior-Environment funding package.



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PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNS CHAIRMAN SIMPSON'S FY26 INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES BILL

Washington, January 23, 2026



WASHINGTON—Today, President Donald Trump signed the Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026 into law. Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson—Chairman of the House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee—attended the signing and released the following statement.

"It was an honor to be invited to the White House this afternoon to witness President Trump sign my legislation, along with two other fiscally responsible appropriations bills, into law," [said Rep. Simpson](#). "I'm deeply proud of the effort that went into this critical legislation,

◀ BRIEFINGS & STATEMENTS

Congressional Bill H.R. 4323 and H.R. 6938 Signed into Law

The White House

January 23, 2026



River Budget Overview



Sets Forward Federal River Funding Priorities

Grown from 43 partners in 2022 to **217** in 2025

- An annual community-driven budget and appropriations tool geared toward educating and activating Congress
- Outlines key programs and opportunities for federal spending across BLM, EPA, USGS, USFWS, NPS, Forest Service, Reclamation, Army Corps, NOAA, USDA, FEMA
- Consistently endorsed by **utilities, state agency associations, fishing groups, small businesses, rural communities, public health orgs, environmental nonprofits, etc.**

Five Key Categories

From water infrastructure to fish passage

1. Prioritize water infrastructure upgrades
2. Enhance flood management strategies
3. Create and restore healthy watersheds
4. Rehabilitate, retrofit, or remove dangerous dams
5. Support river-friendly agriculture practices

RIVER BUDGET

National priorities for healthy rivers
and clean water in fiscal year 2026 (Oct. 2025 to Sept. 2026)



Prioritize water infrastructure

Fiscal year 2026 budget recommendations

Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

FY26 RECOMMENDATION:

\$4.89 billion for the Clean Water SRF and \$4.38 billion for the Drinking Water SRF

Groundwater and Streamflow Information

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey

FY26 RECOMMENDATION:

\$114 million

National Non-point Source Management

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

FY26 RECOMMENDATION:

\$275.1 million

Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant Program

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

FY26 RECOMMENDATION:

\$280 million

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

FY26 RECOMMENDATION:

\$73 million

The United States is grappling with significant challenges across every facet of its water infrastructure, including drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. The American Society of Civil Engineers has assigned a grade of C- to the nation's drinking water infrastructure and a D to its stormwater systems, reflecting the widespread deficiencies and vulnerabilities within these essential networks. Many communities are burdened by aging infrastructure, environmental contamination, and inconsistent or unaffordable access to safe drinking water.

To address community needs and safeguard public health, Congress must build upon the previous investments, ensuring that the nation's water infrastructure becomes not only more resilient but also universally accessible and sustainable. A commitment to modernizing and these systems is essential to creating a more inclusive and sustainable future for all Americans.



Addressing water contamination

In the Appalachian region, particularly Kentucky and West Virginia, EPA grants have been instrumental in addressing the long-standing environmental and economic challenges associated with mining and other extractive industries. Funds have been directed towards remediating acid mine drainage, which is caused when sulfide minerals are exposed to air and water, creating acidic waters that pollute local rivers and streams. The region has historically been reliant on mining for its economic livelihood, and has faced significant environmental degradation, including widespread land contamination, water pollution, and health hazards linked to mining operations.

Snapshot of Funding Priorities FY26 Asks vs. Actuals

Let's review the recent three-bill minibus

Congress defended key river programs – successfully

- Core geographic EPA programs fared relatively well – **increases** to Chesapeake Bay Program and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- Habitat and conservation accounts under NOAA saw a **small bump** for restoration activities, and funding for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund
- Several Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers programs including Engineering With Nature were **preserved**

River Budget: National Priorities for Healthy Rivers and Clean Water

Agency	Program	FY23	FY24	FY25 (Senate)	FY26 Recommendation	Conference Three: Bill Minibus 01.05.2026
Fish and Wildlife Service						
	Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$17,000	\$11,750
	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	\$7,032	\$5,500	\$6,100	\$15,000	\$5,500
	National Fish Habitat Action Plan	\$7,164	\$7,164	Not specified	\$7,200	\$7,164
	National Fish Passage Program	\$18,598	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$18,598	\$15,000
	National Wetlands Inventory	\$3,471	\$3,471	\$3,545	\$7,471	-
	National Wildlife Refuge System	\$541,555	\$527,035	\$543,505	\$602,331	\$522,035
	North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$50,000	\$49,000	\$49,000	\$60,000	\$49,000
	Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program	\$60,267	\$59,000	\$63,836	\$75,000	\$56,760

Budget Details

Selected programs (\$, millions)

% change over prior year enacted

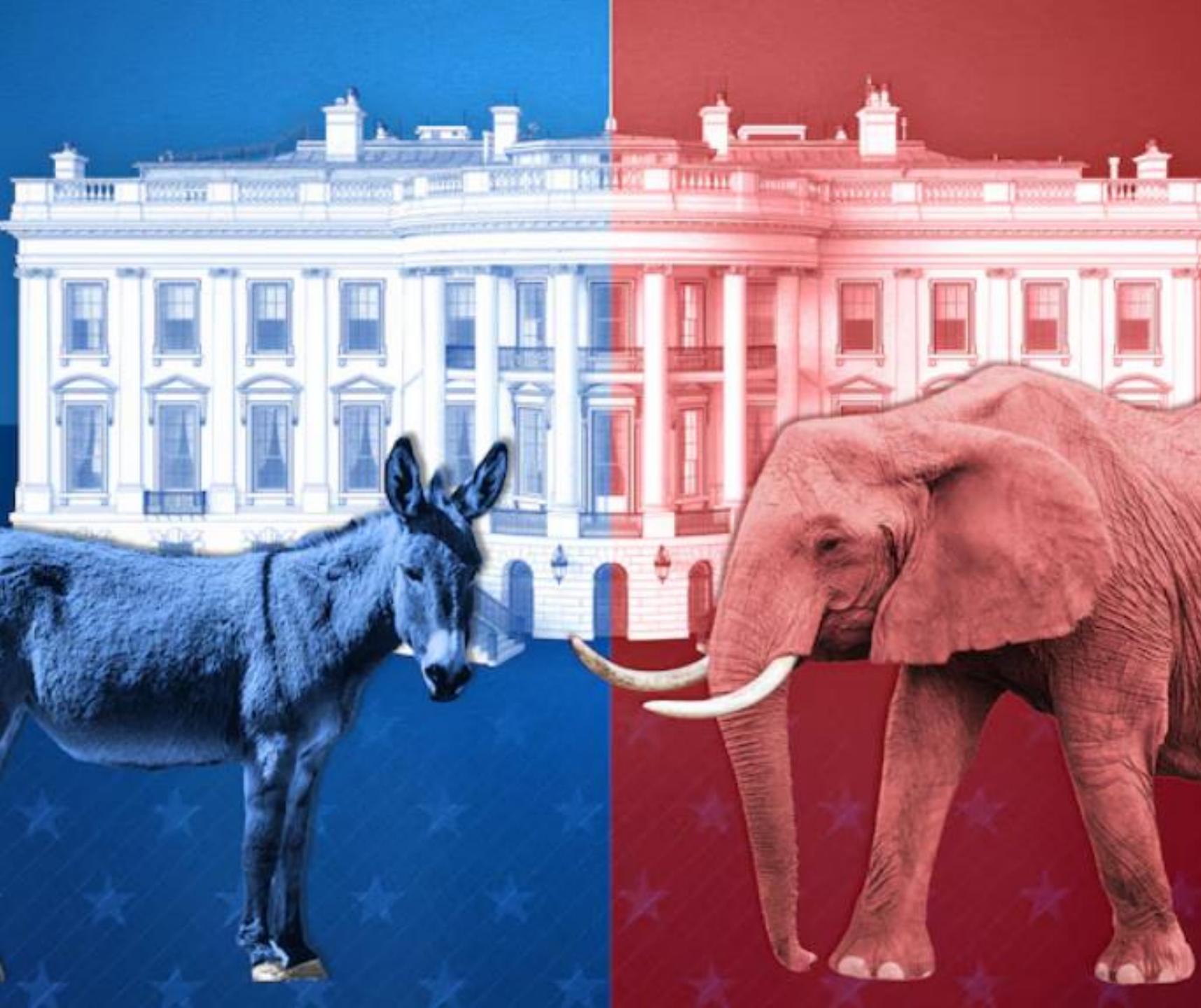
- Show summary view
- Show all subprograms

click rows for subprogram details

PROGRAM	ENACTED	REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	FINAL
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	\$6,183	\$4,515	\$5,795	\$6,141	\$6,171
National Environmental Satellite, Data, & Infor..		\$1,531	\$1,605	\$1,683	\$1,666
National Weather Service		\$1,448	\$1,530	\$1,358	\$1,455
National Ocean Service		\$434	\$699	\$686	\$690
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research		\$0	\$727	\$707	\$634
Office of Marine & Aviation Operations		\$435	\$461	\$473	\$461
Mission Support		\$327	\$417	\$438	\$425

CHANGE

-100%  100%



FY27 Funding
Priorities (in
Progress)



FY27 Recommendations

Your feedback is welcome

Considerations

- Authorized funding levels in existing legislation
- Justification for program focus areas, +/- increases or decreases
- State and federal coordination – ability to support local objectives, build capacity, protect institutional knowledge, and existing staffing support
- # of partners and potential champions on Capitol Hill

Working it Out

Pacific Northwest Programs of Interest

Stay the course

- Puget Sound - \$57M
- Columbia and Snake River Salmon Recovery Project - \$19M
- Yakima River Basin Water Enhance Project - \$49M
- Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund - \$70M
- Community Based Restoration Program - \$58M
- Others (?)



Engaging Congress



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Assets!**



Winning over Congress





Questions?

Contact information:

Jaime D. Sigaran

Legislative Director

jsigaran@americanrivers.org

(240) 593-3433



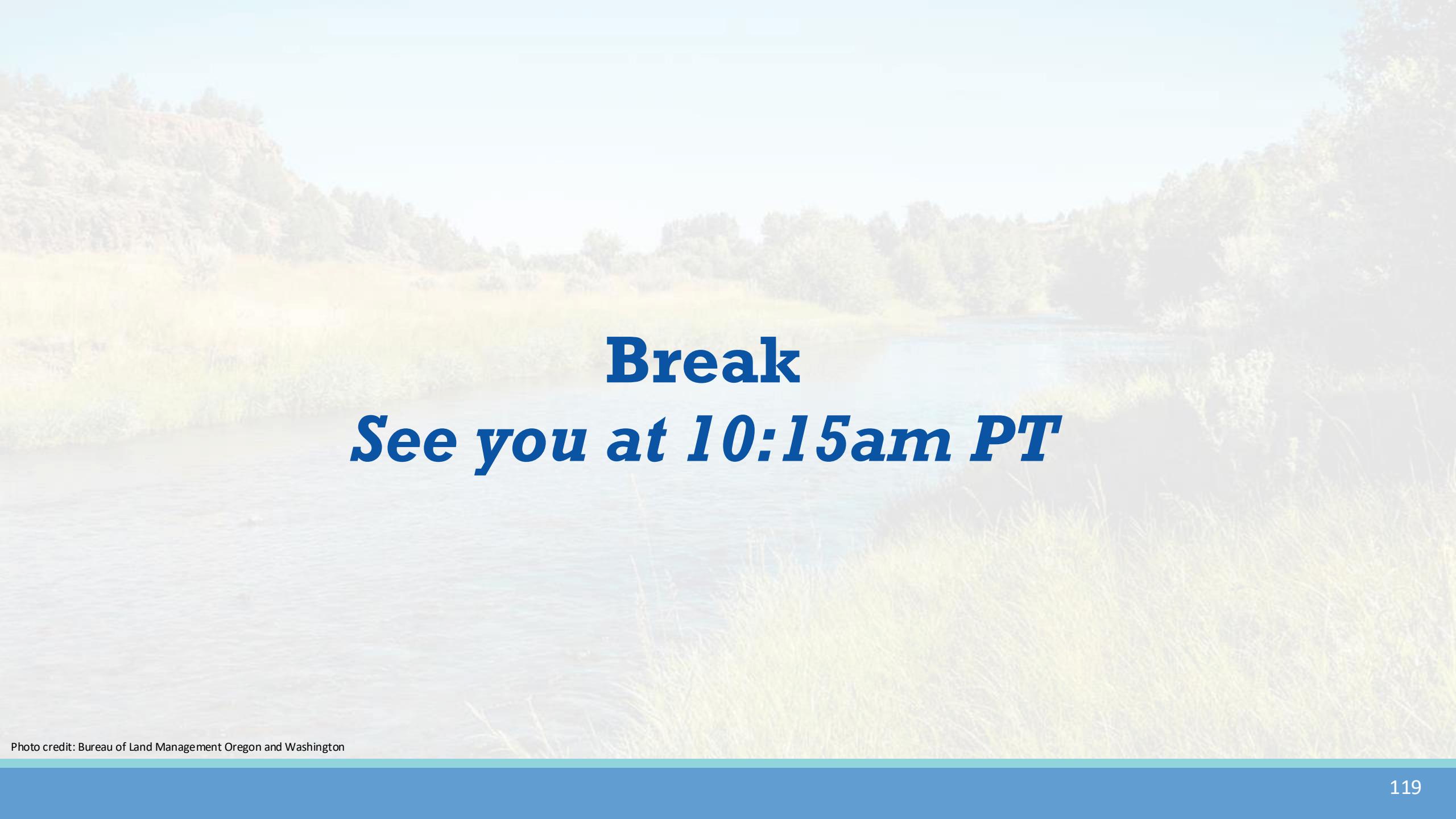
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A scenic view of a river flowing through a forested area. The foreground shows the calm water of the river. In the background, there are rolling hills covered in dense green trees under a clear blue sky.

Break
See you at 10:15am PT

How does the CBC want to move forward?

- What policies and investments does the CBC want to advocate for?
- How does the CBC want to go about this advocacy?

Next Steps

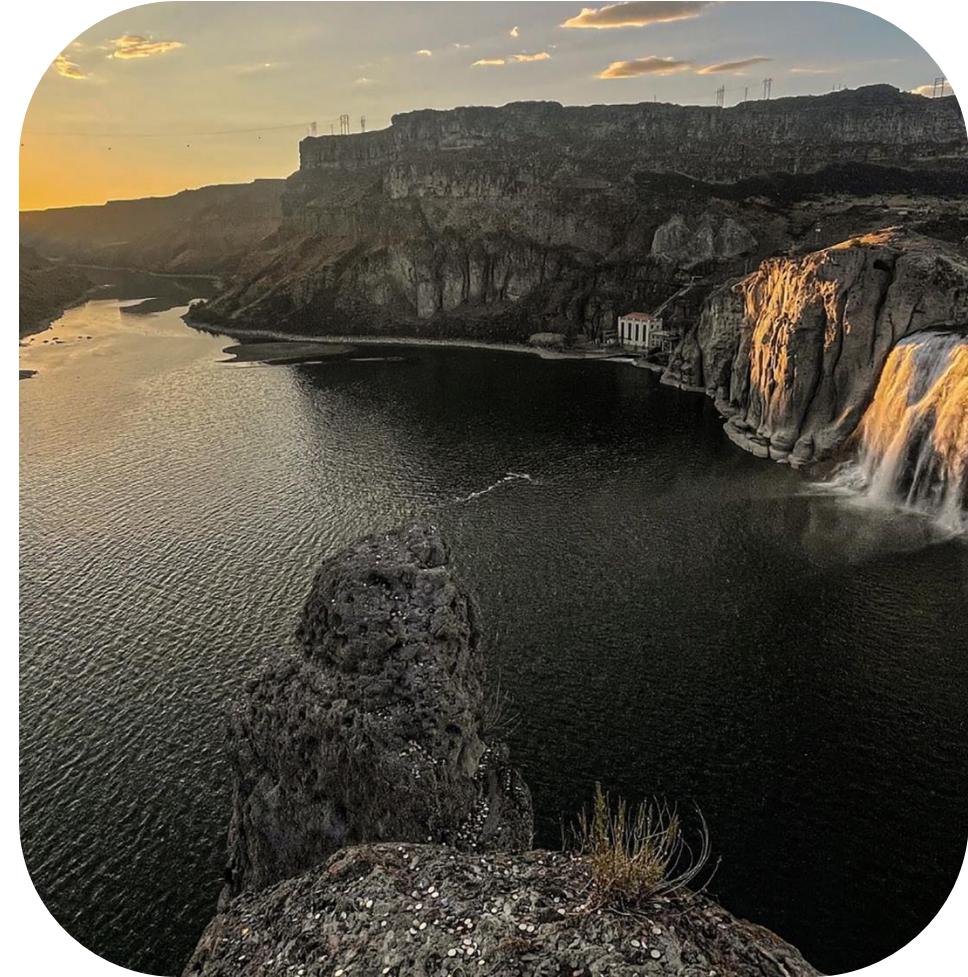
- **Short term (action agreed upon):**
 - **CBC comment on Fish & Wildlife program (by March deadline)**
 - **CBC Letter for FY27 appropriations (by end of February)**
 - **Seek support for CBC operations (TBD if included in FY27 letter or elsewhere)**
 - **Coordinated strategy for advocacy to promote letter (Advocacy Strategy Subgroup)**
 - **I/RG virtual meeting to move advocacy strategy forward**
 - **Pause on the mid-Columbia Steelhead Pilot Project for short term**
 - **Inward outreach to less active CBC members (by Project Team and others as needed)**
 - **Scheduling next hybrid I/RG meeting – mid May/early June**
- Longer term (more discussion needed):
 - Develop cross-cut budget (or projects & policies) and process
 - Outreach and work products
 - Collaboration/tracking on progress on the Fish & Wildlife Program
 - Strategy for advancing Partnership goals/ gap analysis
 - High-level habitat recommendation, consider suitable/blocked habitat

Next Steps

Next Steps

What can the CBC focus on for the rest of 2026?

- How can the CBC add value to current efforts?
- What should the CBC focus on in the next 3-6 months?
- Given the current context, what should be the scope of the CBC?
- Future directions for the work groups?
 - Past had topic-specific work groups
 - More recently, sub-groups of the I/RG: SDM steelhead pilot project, funding, assessment and trends.



Confirm Upcoming Topics, Next Steps, and Summary

Action Items – Days 1 and 2

- **KW:** Draft and circulate meeting summary.
- **KW:** Draft a workplan to document next steps for the spring and remainder of 2026
- **I/RG:** If you'd like to share comments on the NPCC Fish and Wildlife Program with the I/RG reps, please send to the KW Facilitation Team.
- **Jim/Mike/Michael G:** Draft a CBC letter for submission to the NPCC on the Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment process.
- **Michael G:** Draft a FY27 Federal Funding Letter addressed to appropriators for consideration by the CBC.
- **KW:** Reach out to I/RG to see who would like to be a part of the Strategy Sub-group (including: Kevin S/Eric/Neil/Urban/Leslie/Paul).
- **Strategy Sub-group:** Outline a strategy for advocacy to bring forward to the I/RG.
- **I/RG:** Plan to meet virtually to review advocacy strategy and determine next steps in March.
- **I/RG:** Plan to revisit the Mid-C Steelhead Pilot Project next steps at a future I/RG meeting.
- **Project Team:** reach out to I/RG representatives who have been less active to re-engage.
- **All:** Plan to hold a hybrid I/RG meeting in mid/late-May to follow-up on advocacy and continue to work on a path forward.

Thank you



Photo credit: Bureau of Land Management