

Columbia Basin Collaborative Organizational Workshop

Wednesday, February 24th, 2021

Question-and-Answer Box

Question	Answer
<p>What is the geography of the CBC? Is there room for coastal tribes in the plenary?</p>	<p>The Columbia Basin Collaborative is focused on taking actions in the Columbia Basin geography. Although Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead impacts tribes and stakeholder communities up and down the west coast, Canada, and Alaska, the plenary group will include representatives from the Columbia Basin. However, the CBC will include topic-specific workgroups that could include membership across a broader geography, and the CBC encourages participation from out-of-basin representatives. Input from representatives of external communities in the Work Groups as well as in coordination with Regional Forums will be important to Plenary discussions.</p>
<p>Which Federal agencies will be represented in the Plenary group? USFWS, NOAA, USFS, FERC?</p>	<p>The federal agencies in the Columbia Basin are discussing representation options through the Columbia Basin Federal Caucus.</p>
<p>Membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could I suggest the CBP add transportation to the "Suggested Representation"? • Please consider increasing the representation to include at least these three areas -- energy, orcas/ocean, salmon/rivers. • "Acknowledge and Respect" and protect Tribal and cultural does not seem to take tribes too seriously versus, the 44 seats from big stakeholders and wealthy groups of the respective caucus. I would like to see how tribal collaboration can be increased. 	<p>We expect widespread representation and opportunity for participation in the process through the Plenary Group, Working Teams, Regional forums, and the Caucuses. We appreciate this input as we consider options for establishing a small, effective and representative Plenary Group.</p>
<p>What is the process for identifying and selecting members for the different groups?</p>	<p>TBD</p>

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<p>What are the criteria and process that the states will use to decide membership on the RLG?</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>Does "consensus" mean that there needs to be unanimous approval within the plenary group for a proposal to go forward?</p>	<p>The notion of achieving consensus around recommendations to advance salmon and steelhead goals is fundamental to the CBC. We believe that our guiding principles, such as ensuring the best science and diversity of perspectives are considered in recommendations and will contribute to consensus. Consensus will enhance the likelihood of implementation and action on the ground. However, should consensus not be possible on a given issue, the recommendations will reflect all viewpoints. All parties maintain their opportunity to promote their views and positions to decision-makers.</p>
<p>Were tribes consulted in the construction of the collaborative's format? Or did the state's present the structure to the tribes to simply ask for their approval? As structured, do tribal governments have the same "voting power" as stakeholders or state governments? Tribal governments have a much different relationship than stakeholders and state governments given their formal relationships with the Federal Government. They should have great power/say in decisions impacting the system (especially given they were excluded from the decision-making process that created this system decades ago)</p>	<p>Tribal representatives were consulted in initial discussions around the CBC. To further develop the proposed CBC, the state representatives remain engaged in numerous discussions with tribal representatives. The four state representatives recognize their sovereign relationship with regional tribal governments. The CBC vision acknowledges, respects, and protects tribal cultural values, consistent with treaty rights, and promotes the trust responsibilities of the federal government to tribes.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>How does CBC relate to NPCC Fish & Wildlife Program, BPA F&W Program, UC BAAF Working Group?</p>	<p>This collaborative would not duplicate existing salmon management processes or forums in the Columbia Basin. Rather, it would build on existing efforts and enhance support for actions across a broader sovereign and stakeholder community. The CBC may ask existing groups, depending on the topic, to brief the CBC and share information about their activities, progress, opportunities, implementation process, and legal requirements.</p> <p>The NPCC Fish and Wildlife Program is focused on mitigation projects for the Federal Columbia River Power System, funded by BPA ratepayers. The CBC is broader in scope and would include all aspects of salmon and steelhead management and recovery.</p> <p>The proposed CBC would explore topics to advance the CBPTF goals and develop recommendations on actions for decision-makers and policy makers to consider. The recommendations from the proposed CBC would be forwarded to the appropriate decision-makers for their consideration and further action. Decisions, depending on the topic, may be made within existing forums and processes.</p>
<p>How has work on the Collaborative been funded to date?</p>	<p>Via their NW Power and Conservation Council offices, each of the four states has contributed to funding the facilitation service of Deb Nudelman, Kearns and West, to support the development of the CBC. The State of Oregon has also directly contributed funding to the effort.</p>
<p>How is this group going to fact check and get to the truth? How are they going to evaluate information sources for bias?</p>	<p>One of the CBC’s Guiding Principles is to advance Knowledge: Individual and collective wealth of experience and understanding of key issues; and a willingness to seek additional expertise and input to ensure the best science and diversity of perspectives are considered in recommendations.</p>
<p>What’s the timeline for action? There are biological/ecological deadlines that are beyond our control (e.g., looming extinction of salmon and steelhead) and necessitate swift action.</p>	<p>One of the CBC’s Guiding Principles is timelines: a commitment to move as quickly as practical toward outcome-based recommendations; and build on available information, supplemented as necessary with new information.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>How do you plan to address urgency? Federal agencies have confirmed that removing the lower Snake River dams will have the greatest benefit for salmon recovery, and some of our ID runs are at risk of extinction in the next 10 years. How will the plenary decide how to queue up action on the biggest bang for our buck proposals that we already know will have significant benefits for salmon runs?</p>	<p>One of our Guiding Principles is a Focus on Outcomes: Individual and collective commitment to develop recommendations likely to advance CBPTF goals for fish abundance; and Maintain/enhance regional prosperity. Another Guiding Principles is timelines: a commitment to move as quickly as practical toward outcome-based recommendations; and build on available information, supplemented as necessary with new information. We also want to build a process that is durable for the long-term.</p>
<p>How will the individual states ensure they are using all the tools within their jurisdiction to address limiting factors for salmon recovery, including under the Clean Water Act, harvest regulations, Federal Power Act, etc. and not just make recommendations through this body that require federal action? In other words, the states have accountability and responsibilities as well, and can take meaningful action and don't need consensus from other states to take action within their own state.</p>	<p>All sovereigns have many authorities to contribute to advancing salmon and steelhead goals. The broad set of jurisdictions that can advance recommendations of the CBC include the states and local governments through existing implementation pathways. Consensus and broad community support will enhance the likelihood of implementation and action on the ground.</p>
<p>There have been decades of salmon recovery planning processes aimed at identifying goals and actionable ways we can improve runs and returns. How do we ensure the CBC does not become more process and results in meaningful progress for the 50% of runs throughout the Basin facing looming extinction?</p>	<p>One of our Guiding Principles is a Focus on Outcomes: Focus on utilizing existing information and Individual and collective commitment to develop recommendations likely to advance CBPTF goals for fish abundance; and Maintain/enhance regional prosperity.</p>
<p>Decommissioning the lower Snake Dams to a non-operation status via breaching the earthen portions does not require legislation or federal appropriations. Why are we trying to make this hard by saying we need congress when in fact this is an action solely within the responsibilities of the Executive Branch. Why aren't the 4 governors focused on pressing the Corps and BPA to non-op these 4 dams?</p>	<p>The CBC is not advancing any pre-determined outcomes. The issues around breaching the four Lower Snake River dams are complex and far-reaching. We envision building on existing information to fully vet these issues in a transparent, scientifically based, inclusive manner.</p>

Question	Answer
Will the Columbia Basin Collaborative effort dovetail with or incorporate elements and goals of the Rep Simpson proposal?	One of our Guiding principles is Nimble and Opportunistic: Focused on a deterministic process and framework to achieve CBC vision, but also nimble enough to recognize and act on short- and long-term opportunities that help expedite and achieve the vision.