

COLUMBIA BASIN COLLABORATIVE
I/RG and Topic-Specific Work Group Participation
As of 7/13/21

This document provides an overview of ways the states, tribes, federal agencies, and stakeholders can participate in the Columbia Basin Collaborative's Integration/Recommendations Group (I/RG) and Topic-specific Work Groups. It also details the membership criteria and selection process for each group.

Integration/Recommendations Group (I/RG)

Overview

Approximately 20-30 members representing states, tribes, federal agencies, and stakeholders. The role of this group is to assess the feasibility of proposed actions and develop recommendations for implementation. This group will strive for consensus.

Seats

- States (4 seats): Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana
- Columbia Basin Tribes: To be determined by tribes
- Federal government (up to 4 seats)
- Stakeholders
 - Utilities (2 seats) – Individuals that can represent the energy resources that are connected to the Columbia Basin.
 - River economies (2 seats) – Individuals who represent the broad interest and needs of communities whose economy depends on the Columbia River Basin.
 - Non-tribal fisheries (2 seats) – Individuals that represent the broad commercial and recreational fishery opportunities that are associated with Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead.
 - Conservation (2 seats) – Individuals that can represent the broad environmental and energy conservation NGOs with interests in the Columbia Basin.

Membership criteria

Criteria for all I/RG members

- Ability to provide input that is strategic and science-based and will reflect a basin-wide perspective and long-term view.
- Will respect the importance of cultural, social, economic, and ecological considerations as a shared value of the members.
- Are committed to work with other I/RG members to identify and promote actions recommended by the work groups that will increase salmon and steelhead abundance in the Columbia River Basin.
- Have demonstrated willingness and ability to work with, hear, and respect other sovereigns and stakeholders to find collaborative solutions and reach consensus.

Criteria specific to stakeholder participation

- Have demonstrated leadership in their sector and can coordinate and communicate with others in their sector.
- Priority consideration will be given to individuals endorsed by a sector association or group, or other individuals in their sector, if no associations exist who also meet the criteria above.

Selection process

- States: Each state will choose their representative.
- Columbia Basin Tribes: These seats are to be determined by the tribes.
- Federal government: The federal caucus will meet to determine their representatives.
- Stakeholders: Our preference is for each sector described above to nominate two representatives who meet the membership criteria. If the sector does not provide nominees or there are more than two nominated, the ad hoc convening committee will select two representatives (based on the membership criteria) who have been nominated by individuals in the sector or themselves.

The final charter for the CBC will include additional details regarding the length of term for each member and alternate representatives.

Please send nominations to Samantha Meysohn: smeysohn@kearnswest.com by July 31.

Topic-specific Work Groups

Overview

Topic-specific Working Groups will include regional experts, sector leaders, and advisors who can provide scientific, technical, and other analysis per assignment from Integration/Recommendations Group. The working groups will develop recommendations for actions to help achieve goals in consideration of social, cultural, economic, and ecological issues and strive for consensus on recommendations to the I/RG.

Preliminary Working Group Topics

The topics listed below have been proposed by the convening committee and will be discussed and finalized by the I/RG once it is established. These are shown to provide an example of potential topics the working groups could address. Sub-groups may also be formed to address specific topics within these categories. Its the intent of the CBC not to duplicate existing efforts but instead build upon the good work being done by these efforts and coordinate.

- Predation
- Hydropower
- Hatcheries
- Harvest
- Habitat
- Blocked areas
- Marine influences
- Environmental Constraints

Membership criteria

- Are committed to consider biological criteria and analyze actions that will increase salmon and steelhead abundance in the Columbia River Basin while also balancing cultural, social, economic, and ecological considerations.
- Have demonstrated willingness and ability to work with, hear, and respect other stakeholders to find collaborative solutions and reach consensus.
- Knowledge and recognized expertise in the topic of the working group.
- Together represent the geographic diversity of the Columbia Basin.

Selection process

Once convened, the I/RG will discuss and determine which working groups are needed, put out a call for membership and finalize the membership of the working groups. The I/RG will work to ensure the groups are balanced and have the right number of members to be effective. Individuals who are not selected for a working group will be invited to attend the meetings as observers and provide feedback via their caucus. If you would like to register your interest in future working groups, please contact Samantha Meysohn: smeysohn@kearnswest.com.