

## **Four State Vision of a Columbia Basin Collaborative STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

*The States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana recognize the uniqueness and complexity of the Columbia River Basin. We are committed to developing a collaborative framework that strives for abundant and harvestable salmon and steelhead in a manner that appreciates and addresses the needs of the regional economy, including but not limited to agriculture, transportation, fishing, recreation, port operations, and state and tribal fisheries. We recognize the importance of a future regional power system that is reliable, affordable, and that furthers decarbonization. In addition, efforts to improve salmon and steelhead runs must acknowledge, respect, and protect tribal cultural values, be consistent with treaty rights, and promote the trust responsibilities of the federal government to tribes.*

*The framework will be developed cooperatively and collaboratively. The sovereigns (federal entities, states, and tribes) will engage and involve regional stakeholders in meaningful ways throughout this collaborative effort and strive for consensus agreement on proposals that collectively advance the quantitative and qualitative goals for salmon and steelhead developed by the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force. The objective is to seek consensus agreement on action-oriented proposals, and promote them to the appropriate federal, state, tribal, and other decision-makers for authorization, funding and implementation.*

*The following will serve as a guide for development of that framework.*

### **Framework Guide**

1. Advance Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force Goals by Identifying, Analyzing, and Promoting Actions That Will Increase Salmon and Steelhead Abundance toward achieving those goals.

*The CBPTF identified quantitative and qualitative goals for 27 stocks of salmon and steelhead in the Basin, including blocked areas. The CBPTF explored different strategies and scenarios as alternative approaches to achieving the goals, but did not analyze these strategies and scenarios in*

*detail. The collaborative is an opportunity to conduct a more in-depth study of actions or suites of action to advance CBPTF goals.*

- Identify short-term and long-term actions, suites of actions, or scenarios that will lead to increases in salmon and steelhead abundance and advance short term and long-range CBPTF goals, including stock-specific strategies
  - Analyze those actions in terms of social, cultural, economic and ecological (SCEE) considerations as identified by the CBPTF
  - Seek consensus recommendations for action to forward to the appropriate entities and/or decision-maker(s) for implementation
  - Promote scientifically-based decisions
  - Serve as a repository for information and outreach
  - Add value to existing regional processes and fill collaborative gaps
  - Provide accountability for CBPTF goals
2. Provide Education and Outreach on Regional Issues Relating to Salmon and Steelhead Recovery, Mitigation Efforts, Existing Forums, Overall Abundance trends, and Interrelated Sectors

*There is a need to promote a more comprehensive understanding of regional issues, e.g. the current status of efforts, why and how decisions are made, the range of options for change, etc. Too often, advocates offer unilateral positions that contribute to regional fragmentation rather than regional collaboration. To move beyond this and to build regional trust, we need a forum for effective communication and information exchange. This collaborative effort affords an opportunity to continue the regional dialogue of the CBPTF, allows different interests to interact and learn from each other as well as regional experts, and to explore ideas for change in a constructive manner.*

- Gain a holistic understanding of existing work, funding, and decision-making structures to allow for better coordination of efforts and to identify gaps in existing work, funding, management, or decision-making.

- Provide a forum for the interrelated sectors (e.g., power, irrigated and dryland agriculture, recreation, ports and transportation networks) to present technical information and education about their respective organizations, facilities, and operations.
- Provide an opportunity for participants, the public, and key decision-makers to better understand opportunities and challenges relating to salmon and steelhead recovery and achieving CBPTF goals. In other words, salmon health means more than just recovery of listed species – it means protection of salmon and mitigation for past and current impacts with a goal of healthy and harvestable populations spread as widely as possible, and consistency with legal rights, including treaty and trust responsibilities and state and tribal co-management.
- Continue to educate the region on CBPTF goals and how this collaborative effort is seeking to make progress toward those goals
- Create a salmon ethic, regional collaboration, and strong leadership to meet the goals established by this effort