



# Sounding Board Columbia River Treaty Review

Cranbrook, July 3, 2013



# Discussion Paper: Benefits of Treaty Coordination

## Objective:

- Highlight the existing and future benefits of the Treaty to US interests
- Identify risks and losses if Treaty is terminated
- Demonstrate how called Upon Flood Control is detrimental
- Lead US stakeholders to realize that the benefits to US exceed Canadian Entitlement

## Key elements:

### Flood Control

- Significant savings from avoided flood damage
- Ad hoc Called Upon FC is a step backwards – increases flood risk in US and missed refill targets
- Disagreement on Called Upon implementation
- Effective Use impacts of fisheries, power, water supply, navigation, recreation

## Key elements:

### Hydropower

- Enhanced production
- Firm reliable energy
- Value in peak load (cold/dry), not average conditions
- Uncertainty if Treaty terminates

## Key elements:

### Ecosystems

- Flexibility allows for changes for ecosystem values
- Spring augmentation flows - bump up hydrograph
- Late summer/dry – fish survival
- Risk to US ecosystem investments if Treaty is terminated



## Key elements:

### Water Supply

- Effective Use of US reservoirs will exacerbate competing demands

### Navigation

- Called Upon higher flows increase shipping times, docking, channel sedimentation
- Low flows reduce channel draft, cause grounding



# U.S. Draft Recommendations



## Key principles

- Share benefits - as compared to no Treaty
- Minimum duration post 2024 – certainty and adaptability
- Meet US domestic uses
- Integrate Treaty and non-Treaty storage
- Adaptation to climate change



## Ecosystem-based function

- Shape flows for fish, reservoirs for fish and wildlife
- Minimize impacts to aboriginal cultural resources
- More flow aug from BC in spring and summer (less fall/winter draft)
- Dry year strategy
- Long term flow aug (not annual suppl agreements)
- Adaptable to new information, change in conditions
- Determine interest in fish passage, joint feasibility study
- Shared obligation for ecosystem
- Continue to coordinate Libby Dam operations (?)

# Hydropower

- Rebalance (!) power benefits between US and BC
- Renegotiate transmission for return of entitlement
- 3. Consider all factors?
- Maintain generation during peak load

# Flood Risk Management

- Implement Called Upon through a coordinated operation plan
- Establish common view of called upon (based on theirs!)
- Interest in alternate Planned Assured Canadian Storage
- Identify compensation to BC for Called Upon
- Flexibility to adapt to climate change



## Water Supply

- More water from BC in spring and summer
- Avoid effect on Libby/VarQ

## Navigation

- Provide (maintain?) min/max flows and water levels

## Recreation

- Protect recreation resources

## Domestic Matters

- Flood risk policy review
- Water supply allocation (US WUP?)
- Canadian Entitlement – who pays?
- Post 2024 implementation plan
- Floodplain reconnection
- Composition of US Entity
- Domestic advisory mechanism