CRT Ecosystem-based Function Objectives

CBRAC

June 20th, 2017

Columbia River Treaty Review -- BC Decision

- "Ecosystem values are currently, and will continue to be, an important consideration in the planning and implementation of the Treaty"
- "The Province will explore *ecosystem based improvements* recognizing that there are a number of available mechanisms inside and outside the Treaty"

US Entity Regional Recommendation

- "All operations of the Treaty should be based on the best available science, and, to the extent practicable, *measurable outcomes*."
- "In order to achieve the goal of modernizing the Treaty to further ensure a more comprehensive *ecosystem-based function* approach throughout the Columbia River Basin watershed, the region recommends the following…"

Wiki: Ecosystem-based Management

- "Ecosystem-based management is an environmental management approach that recognizes the full array of interactions within an ecosystem, including humans, rather than considering single issues, species, or ecosystem services in isolation"
- "Defining **clear and concise goals** for ecosystem-based management is one of the most important steps in effective ecosystem-based management implementation. Goals must move beyond science-based or science-defined objectives to include social and cultural importance."

Why Ecosystem-based Function (EbF) Objectives?

- What "ecosystem-based improvements" (BC decision) do we want?
- How will we measure achievement of the "ecosystem-based improvements"?
- Or, what "measurable outcomes" (US) are desired?
- Ecosystem-based management requires "Clear and concise goals…"

What else is going on regarding ecosystems and CRT?

- 2012 – 2013 CRT review process – technical studies and addendum re: (i) an ecosystem scenario; and (ii) more stable Arrow scenario;
- 2015 technical workshop on possible CRT ecosystem-based function scenarios;
- Arrow Lakes Reservoir scenarios ("mid-Arrow") scoping and evaluation process;

EbF Objectives: Process

- Project steering committee: federal and provincial agencies, First Nations, BC Hydro, ENGO
- CRT Ecosystem-based Function Objectives workshop June 22 – 23 Nelson
- Invitees as above plus Local Governments' Committee and specialized consultants
- Product will be a draft set of proposed CRT EbF goals, objectives and performance measures
- CBRAC, LGC and other review processes

EbF goals and objectives: example

Goal: Expand wildlife habitats by increasing the amount, productivity and functioning of riparian, floodplain and wetland ecosystems adjacent to CRT reservoirs and affected river reaches.

Objective: Reduce the frequency and duration of inundation of floodplain, riparian and wetland ecosystems.

Location: Upstream ends of Arrow, Kinbasket, Duncan and Koocanusa reservoirs.
Duncan/Lardeau floodplain downstream of the Duncan dam.