



Columbia River Treaty

Ministry of Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources

June 2018



Outline

- Why the Columbia River Treaty?
- Columbia River Treaty Review
- Key Issues
- Preparing for Negotiations
- What Next?



Columbia River Treaty

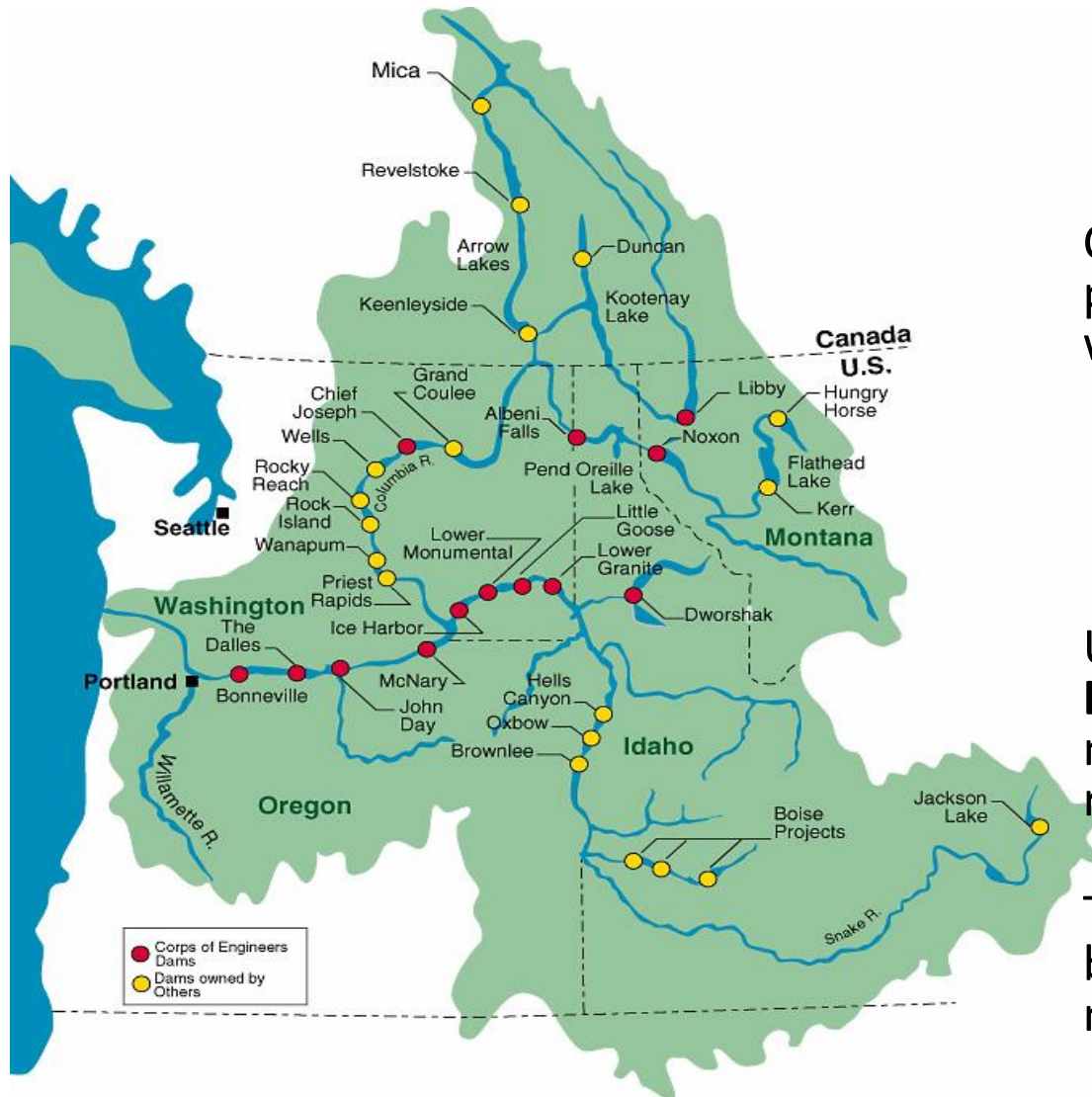
- Significant flooding around the Columbia in 1948 and growing US power demand after WWII led to the desire for a water management agreement between Canada and the U.S.
- Main objective: power and flood control in both countries
- Treaty was signed in 1961 and ratified in 1964



Diefenbaker and
Eisenhower signing the
Treaty in 1961



Treaty and Protocol
ratified and proclaimed by
Pearson and Johnson in
1964



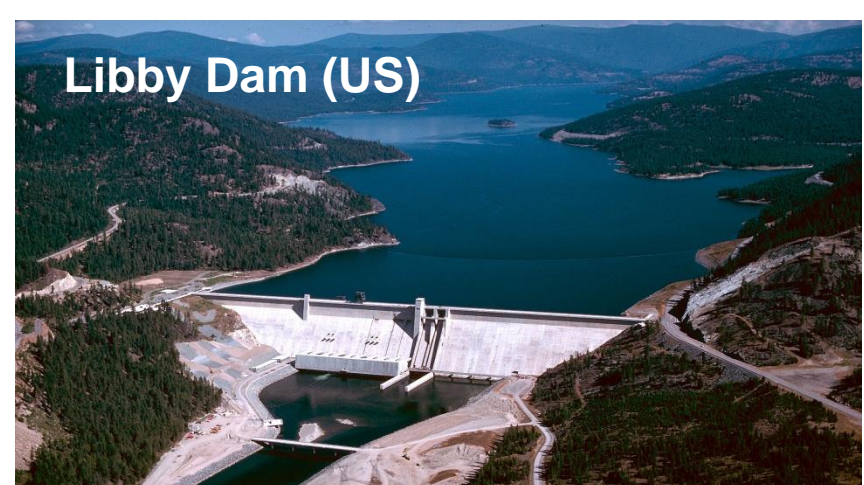
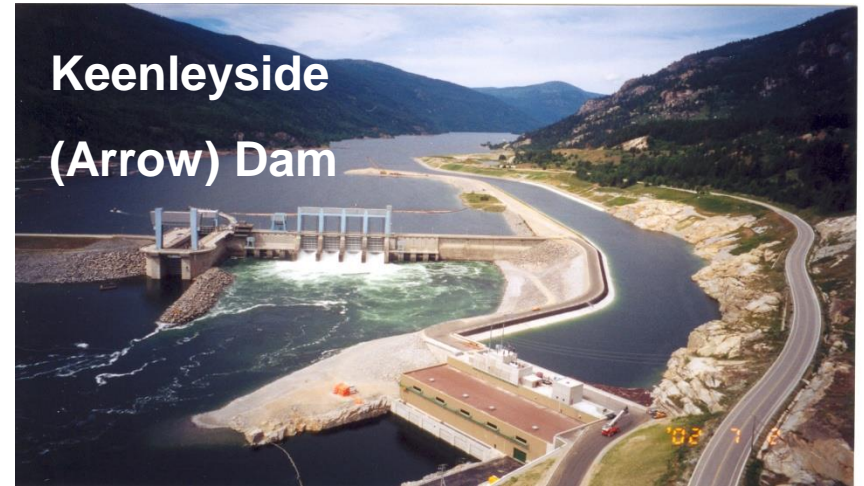
Key Provisions of the Columbia River Treaty

Canada to construct 3 dams to provide 15.5M acre-feet (Maf) of water storage

- **Duncan** 1967
- **Hugh Keenleyside** 1968
- **Mica** 1973

U.S. had the option to construct **Libby** dam in Montana – Canada made land available (67 km) for the reservoir

The Treaty continues indefinitely but can be terminated with 10 year notice at the earliest in Sept 2024





Impacts to B.C.



- 600 km² fertile land submerged
- 2,300 people relocated
- Communities displaced
- First Nations cultural sites lost
- Ecosystems, fish and wildlife impacts
- Air quality issues
- Forestry, agriculture, transportation, tourism impacts





2012-2013 Columbia River Treaty Review

- Technical, environmental, social, economic and legal and analyses
- Coordination of provincial ministries
- Collaboration with Canada
- Consultation with First Nations
- Collaboration with Local Governments
- Engagement of Basin residents



2012-2013 Columbia River Treaty Review

- **Public Consultation**
 - Approx. 1200 people attended 23 community sessions
 - Website, blog, Facebook, Twitter, e-Newsletter
- **First Nations Consultation**
 - Ktunaxa , Secwepemc and Syilx (Okanagan) First Nations
 - Separate gov't to gov't engagement

B.C. Decision: to continue the Treaty and seek improvements within its existing framework



Since Then: Preparing for Negotiations

- **Federal & Provincial partnership**
 - Global Affairs Canada and the Province work closely together
 - B.C. is at the negotiating table
- **First Nations Engagement**
 - B.C. consultation with Basin First Nations since 2012
 - Since 2016, B.C., Canada and First Nations meeting regularly
 - Bi-weekly meetings since February 2018



Preparing for Negotiations

- **System Modelling & Scientific Input**
 - Ecosystem objectives and performance measures
 - Modelling of alternative reservoir operations
 - Involvement of ENGOs
- **Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee**
 - Formed 2014 – meet 2x per year throughout the Basin
 - Provide advice on the Treaty and hydro operations
 - Basin citizens, Local Governments, First Nations, Provincial and Federal governments and hydro operators



Now What?

- Negotiations have begun – first meeting in Washington D.C. May 29-30
- Next meeting in August 15-16 in B.C., followed by October 17-18 in U.S.
- Canadian team refining negotiation options and positions
- Continue to need your input and feedback to ensure Basin interests are addressed



Thank you

