



# **COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY**

## **Columbia Basin**

### **Community Interests**

Jaffray June 12, 2018



# Common Interests Across the Basin

## Ecosystems

- Wildlife and vegetation, fish and aquatic resources and sustainability - including food security
- Different concerns for each region/reservoir area
- Most felt it should be a 3<sup>rd</sup> component of the Treaty
- Active adaptive management is essential
- Include adaptation to climate change



# Common Interests Across the Basin

## Salmon Restoration

- Key issue raised in community discussions, in particular with First Nations
- Efforts to explore feasibility happening on both sides of the border
- First Nations and Tribes are leading the initiative
- Columbia Basin Trust facilitating workshops, potential funding for Canadian efforts is being explored



## Common Interests Across the Basin

### Flood Risk Management

- Incidence and severity of flooding has been greatly reduced as a result of the Treaty
- High priority due to costs associated with flooding property and public infrastructure
- However ecosystems in BC should not be compromised to protect floodplain infrastructure
- Generally want to maintain current level of flood risk management



## Common Interests Across the Basin

### Libby Dam Coordination

- Better communication and cooperation between residents, local governments and the B.C. and U.S. Entities
- Kootenay system water management plan
- The above could improve:
  - flood risk to infrastructure in floodplains
  - impacts from river level fluctuations on diking infrastructure
  - impacts/benefits of the U.S. fertilization program
  - management of the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area and surrounding wetlands



# Common Interests Across the Basin

## Power Generation and Canadian Entitlement

- Importance of GHG-free power generation
- Value of water management for power will decrease over time as the value of water for ecosystems, agriculture, water supply and other uses will increase
- Canadian Entitlement should include all the downstream benefits the U.S. receives, such as irrigation, recreation, navigation and endangered species
- Canadian Entitlement should address the impacted communities





# Common Interests Across the Basin

## Socio-Economic

- Community health - air quality impacts from dust storms
- Water levels for recreation and tourism
- Economic development - ferries, log transport and other commercial and industrial needs
- Water supply for agriculture, communities



# Common Interests Across the Basin

## Governance

- More inclusive and ongoing discussions on dams and reservoirs operations
- Local government engagement during negotiations with the U.S.
- Broader public involvement in the negotiation process
- Cross-border communication, including a Transboundary conference





## Jaffray

- Stable water levels to improve agriculture and fish and wildlife habitat
- More equitable ongoing funding to enhance fish and wildlife values
- Water management plan for Koocanusa Reservoir
- Improved economic development opportunities requiring involvement from local government
- Greater compensation and support to sustain the agricultural sector
- Better compensation for local impacted residents



Thank you

