



COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY

Columbia Basin

Community Interests

Creston June 13, 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 3rd 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



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- Reduce flooding and water level fluctuations
- Erosion of dikes due to fluctuation – risk to agriculture; compensation
- Early Koocanusa refill benefits – beach and boat recreation later in the season
- Early Koocanusa refill impacts – reduced flood control, more debris, more water spilled without generating power



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- Spawning kokanee numbers have decreased significantly in some Kootenay Lake tributaries - increase nutrient loading
- High water levels at southern end of Kootenay Lake means more mosquito infestations and, therefore, increased risk of West Nile virus
- Development of a proposed an Economic Development Plan and an Agricultural Sustainability Plan for the region
- Better monitoring of the snowpack, better coordination of water level management between the U.S. and Canada.



Ministry of
Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources



Thank you

