



COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY

Columbia Basin

Community Interests

Castlegar June 14, 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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- Support constant elevation of Arrow Lakes Reservoir
- Optimize ecosystem health of the whole Basin
- Reintroduce salmon; focus on other viable fish species
- Avoid pitting one reservoir against another
- Agricultural impacts need to be evaluated



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- No further development on flood plains
- Include Libby dam operations in negotiations
- Target benefits to address environmental restoration, impacted communities
- Engage Basin citizens, including youth throughout negotiating process
- Seek improvements to the Treaty in the spirit of cooperation that has succeeded in the past



Thank you

