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Montana

August 12, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Jennifer Anders, Montana member, Liaison to the Columbia Basin Trust
John Harrison, Information Officer

SUBJECT: 1) Presentation by Rick Jensen, Vice Chair, Columbia Basin Trust and liaison to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council
2) Report by American and Canadian interns on transboundary initiatives and recommendations for improving cross-border communication and collaboration

Presenter: Vice Chair Rick Jensen will provide an update of Columbia Basin Trust activities and current initiatives. Mr. Jensen was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2014. He served as mayor of Cranbrook for three terms, 1983-1990. He served as a director of the Regional District of East Kootenay for seven years and was involved with numerous community groups, including being on the Board of the Cranbrook and District Hospital. He served as a board member, president, and chief executive officer of Panorama Mountain Village Inc. from 2010 to 2014. With his son, Chad, Mr. Jensen operates New Dawn Developments, which specializes in residential and commercial construction.

Presenters: Ingrid Timboe, Council intern, Oregon State University
Meghan Carter, Columbia Basin Trust intern, University of British Columbia

Background:

The Columbia Basin Trust is the closest counterpart agency in British Columbia to the Council. The Council and Trust signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in 2000, renewed in 2011 (included with this memo), that commits the two agencies to designate liaisons and work together to enhance transboundary cooperation in the international Columbia River Basin. Among commitments in the MOU, the Council and Trust agree to:

- Foster and promote an understanding and appreciation of the connection the Columbia River provides among residents on the two sides of the border
- Conduct joint activities such as public workshops, conferences, and meetings that address international Columbia River fish, wildlife, energy, and water issues.
- Share scientific information and pursue mutually beneficial scientific research, consistent with the unique program goals and project-funding requirements of each agency (the Trust and Council are co-funding a burbot research project in Lake Koocanusa and jointly funded a climate-change impacts study for the upper Columbia River in 2012).

Consistent with the MOU, in October 2014 the Council and Trust co-sponsored a three-day, international conference on the Columbia River in Spokane. At that conference, participants challenged the Trust and Council to work together to better connect people across the international boundary who have shared interests and to do this in a way that does not create a new bureaucracy.

In April 2015, these ideas were further refined at a conference convened by the Lake Roosevelt Forum, also in Spokane. In response to the challenge at the October 2014 conference and discussions at the April 2015 conference, the Council and Trust hired two interns to produce a report to inform future discussions between the Council and Trust to identify means of enhancing cross-border communication and coordination among government agencies, Tribes and First Nations, and basin residents.

Under the direction of the Universities Consortium on Columbia River Governance, specifically Dr. Matthew McKinney of the University of Montana and Dr. Richard Paisley of the University of British Columbia, the scope of work for the interns included:

- Complete an inventory and assessment of existing transboundary cooperative initiatives in the Columbia River Basin
- Create a short profile of each initiative in terms of its purpose and function, such as, for example, who is involved, how information is shared or not shared, the organizational structure, contact information, and date of creation.
- Interview 1-2 people associated with each initiative
- Prepare a report that synthesizes the findings and conclusions

The interns will present their report at this meeting.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

January 2011

In 2000, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) and Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) agreed to formalize the relationship that had developed between our two agencies through the designation of liaisons and an exchange of letters that came to be characterized as a "Memorandum of Understanding." In 2011 the Council and CBT hereby reaffirm that relationship by formalizing this Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation.

The Council and CBT recognize this relationship as a means of enhancing transboundary cooperation on key issues related to ecosystem and river management in the Columbia River Basin, as detailed below. We also recognize that the relationship is a means to advance CBT's mandate to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being in the Basin and its goal of playing a creative role in positive change and to advance the Council's mandate of promoting public education, outreach and involvement on regional energy and fish and wildlife matters.

Specifically, the Council and CBT agree to work collaboratively to:

1. Foster and promote an understanding and appreciation of the connection the Columbia River provides between residents on the two sides of the international border.
2. Encourage public awareness and support for the concept of Basin-wide and sub-Basin planning consistent with Basin-wide goals and objectives.
3. Pursue the development, funding and implementation of projects to protect, mitigate and enhance transboundary species of fish and wildlife, consistent with each organization's project-funding requirements and processes.
4. Share scientific information and pursue mutually beneficial scientific research, consistent with the unique program goals and project-funding requirements of each agency.
5. Conduct joint activities such as public workshops, conferences and meetings that address Columbia River Basin fish, wildlife, energy and water issues.
6. Exchange visits by liaisons designated by each agency at least annually to report on current and future planned activities and provide notice of initiatives of mutual interest.

7. Continue an informal dialogue on Columbia River Basin policy issues including, but not limited to, water management, water quality and the impact of hydropower on transboundary fish and wildlife, with the understanding that this dialogue could lead to common policy positions that may be communicated to state, provincial and national elected officials and action agencies, when appropriate.

Staff will jointly develop an annual workplan that identifies specific projects linked to these objectives and tracks actions taken by both the Council and CBT.

On behalf of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and the Columbia Basin Trust, we look forward to the continuation of our long and fruitful relationship that will benefit the people and the environment of the Columbia River Basin.



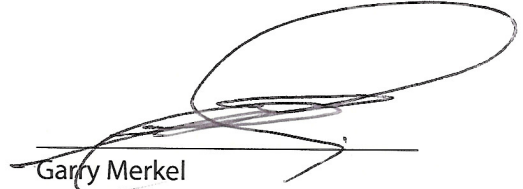
Bruce Measure

Chair

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Date:

March 18, 2011



Garry Merkel

Chair, Board of Directors

Columbia Basin Trust

Date:

March 18, 2011

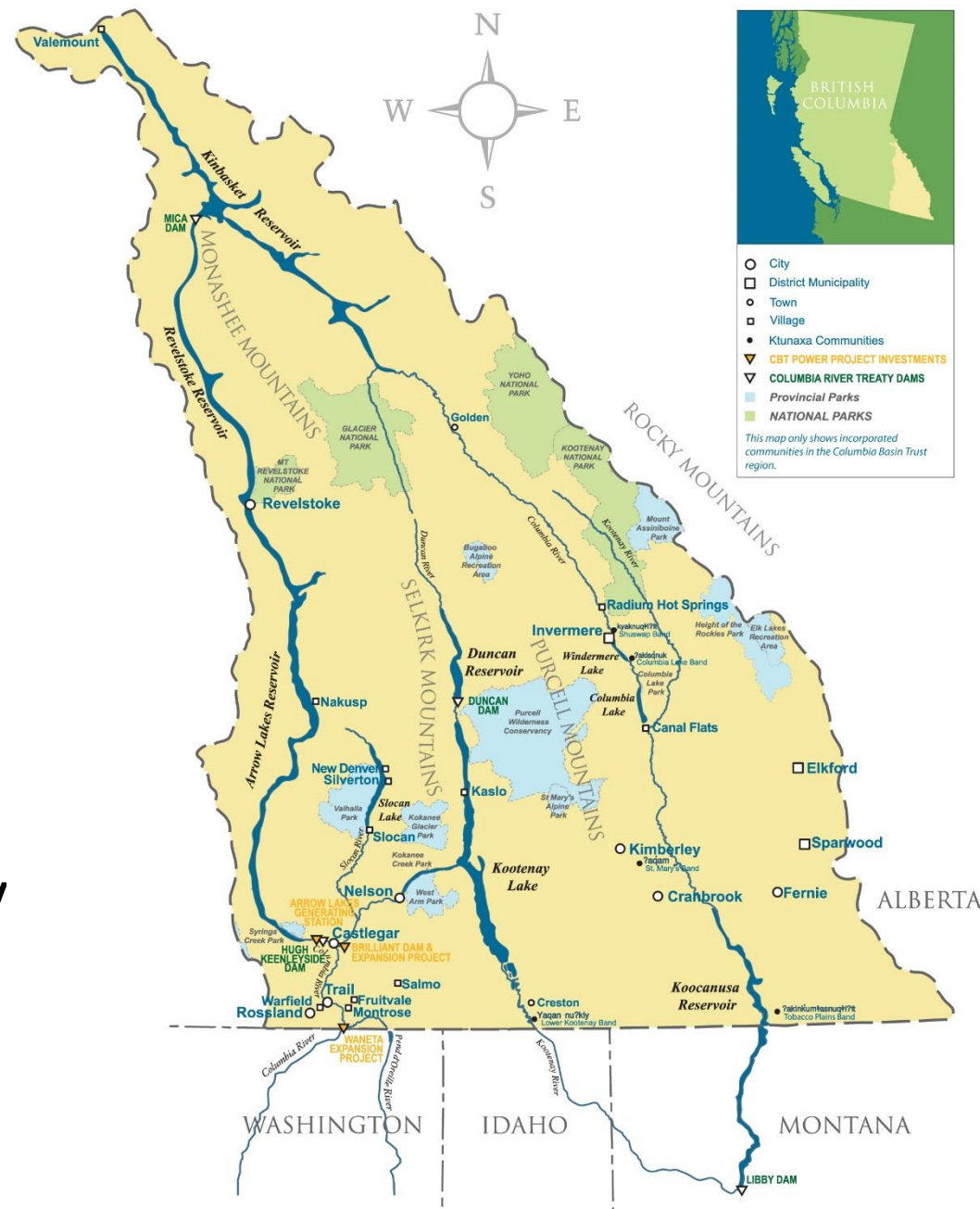


Transboundary Cooperation

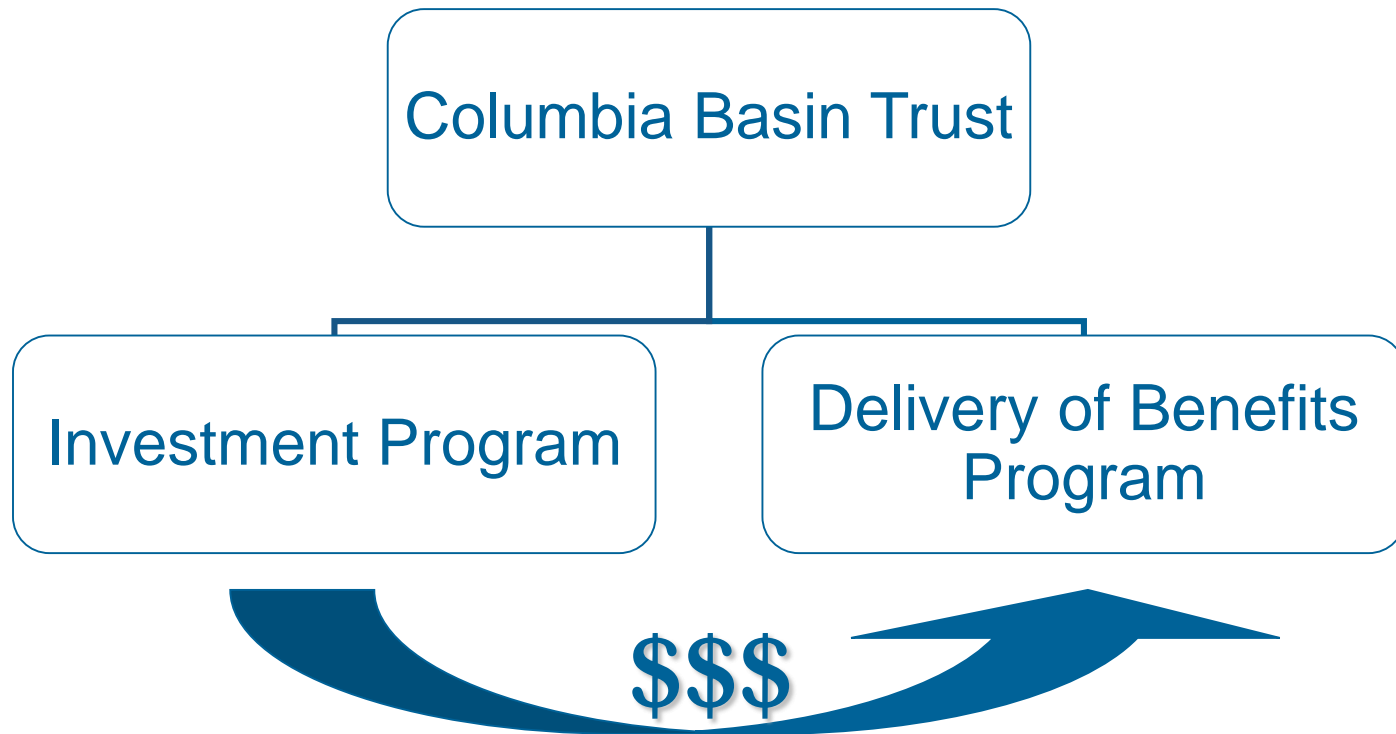
Presented by:
Rick Jensen, Vice-Chair,
Board of Directors
August 12, 2015

Our Mission

To support the efforts of the people of the Columbia Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

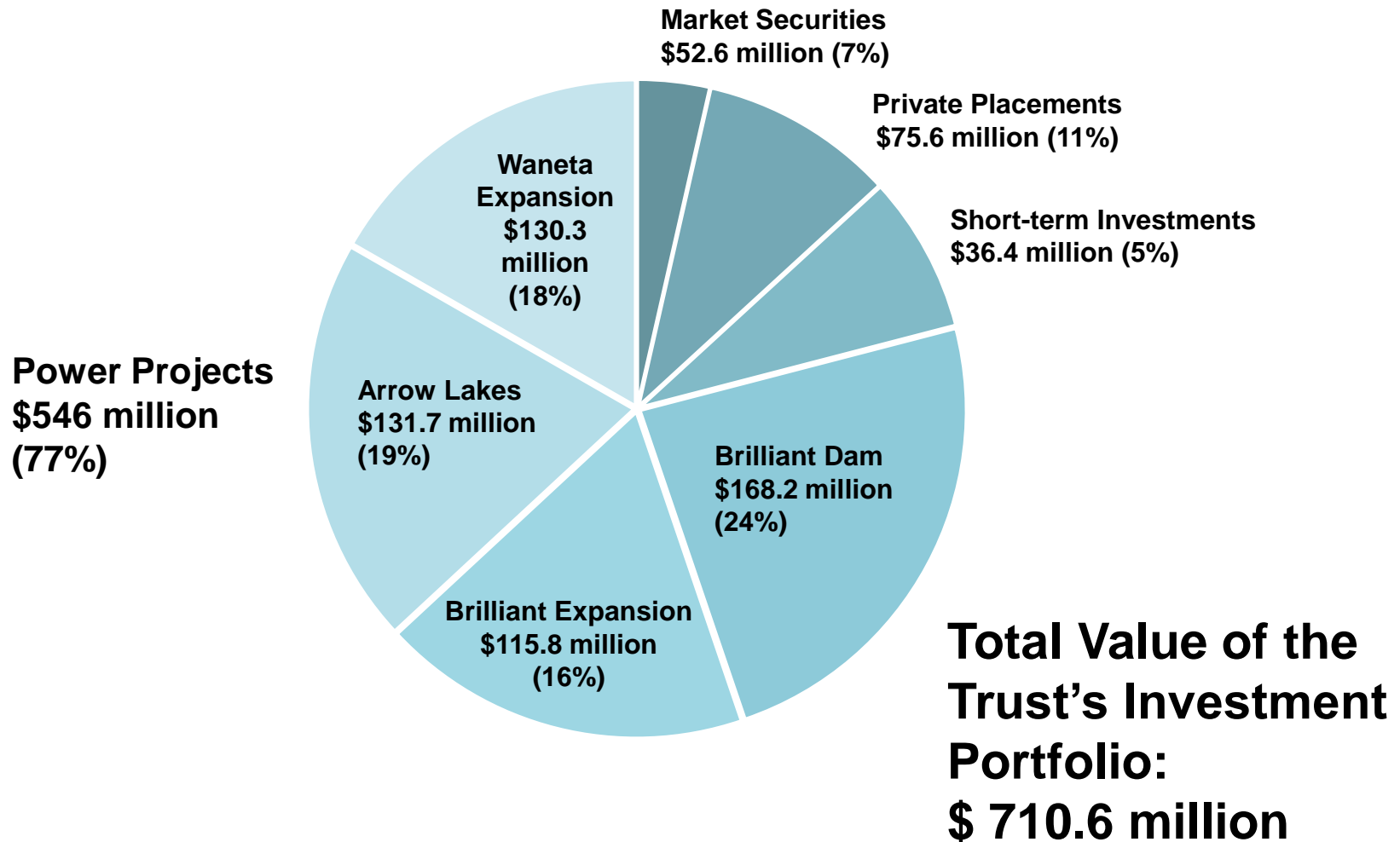


Core Functions

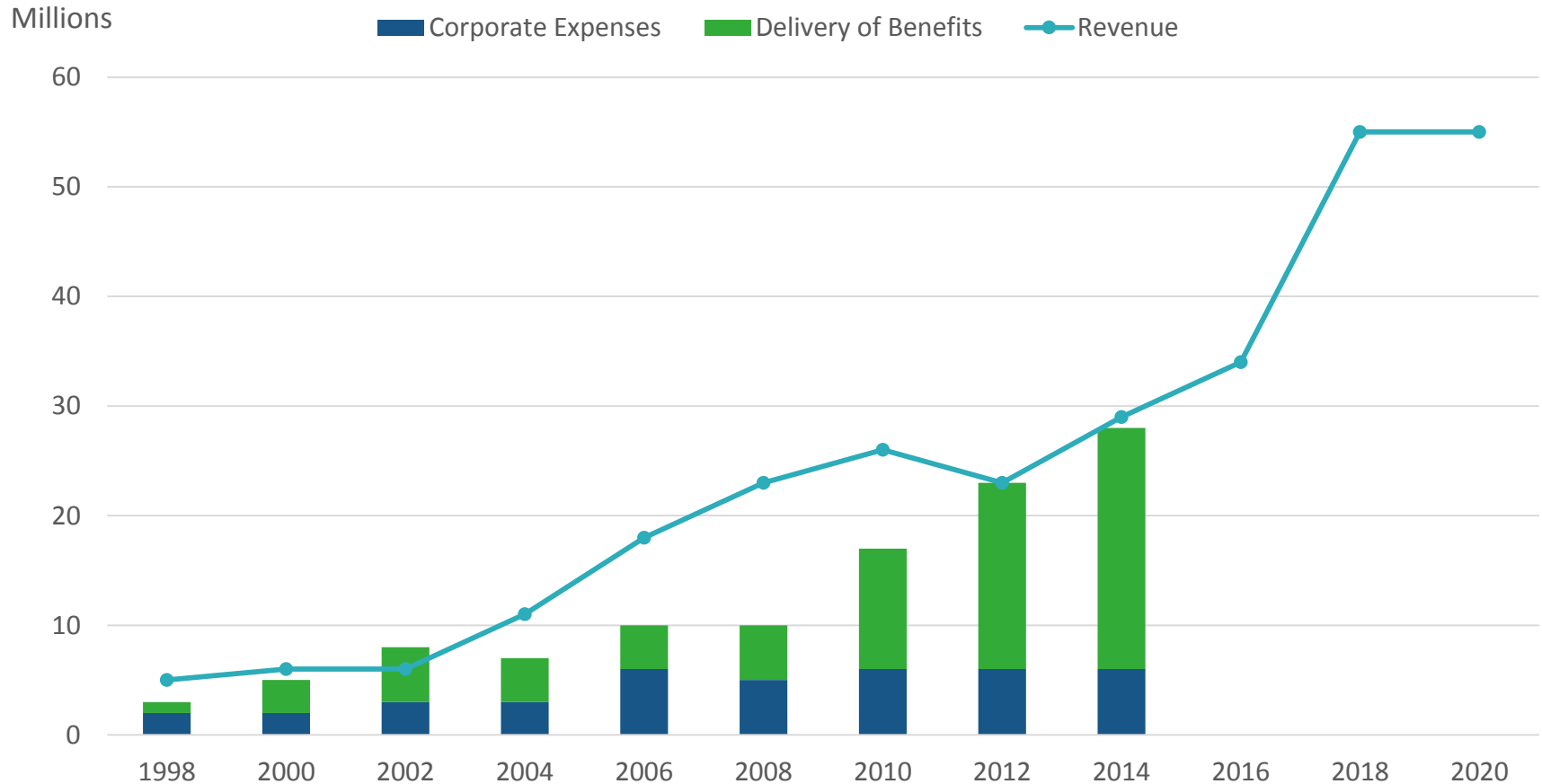


Our Investments

(as of March 31, 2015)



Revenue and Disbursements



Delivery of Benefit Activities

SOCIAL

- Social Grants
- Affordable Rental Housing Initiative
- Literacy
- Non-profit Supports

COMMUNITY

- Community Grants and Sponsorships
- Community Directed Funds
- Endowments to Community Foundations
- Arts, Culture and Heritage

ENVIRONMENT

- Environment Grants
- Environmental Education
- Land Conservation
- Grassland and Rangeland Enhancement Fund
- WildSafe BC
- Upper Kootenay Ecosystem Enhancement Program

ECONOMIC

- Basin Business Advisors
- Training Fee Support
- Student Wage Subsidy
- Junior Achievement of BC

OTHER

- Broadband
- Rural Development Institute
- Sport and Physical Activity

YOUTH

- Community Directed Youth Funds
- Youth Grants
- Scholarships and Bursaries
- *SCRATCH* magazine

Transboundary Cooperation

Partnership With Northwest Power and Conservation Council

2000/2011: Memorandum of Understanding and Co-operation.

1. Foster understanding and information sharing between residents on both sides of the border.
2. Support Basin-wide and sub-Basin planning.
3. Pursue transboundary fish and wildlife projects.
4. Share scientific information and conduct joint research.
5. Host joint meetings and conferences on fish, wildlife, energy, and water.
6. Designate Liaisons to report on activities.



Upper Kootenay Ecosystem Enhancement Plan

- Partnership: Trust and Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program.
- Conserve productivity and diversity of ecosystems.
- Restore and enhance habitats and species of interest.
- 2015/16: 11 fish and wildlife projects approved: over \$500,000.
- Meeting with NWPCC staff and Montana State staff to identify joint projects in the Transboundary Kootenay



Invasive Species

- Partnership between Trust and four invasive species committees.
 - Reduce the spread and prevent the introduction of invasive species.
- Invasive Mussel Defence Program.
 - Partnership with BC government, Columbia Power, Fortis BC and four committees.
 - Adds three new mobile inspection and contamination crews in the Basin.

Partners are initiating dialogue with US organizations to increase transboundary cooperation on this issue.



Following up on the 2014 Transboundary Conference

- Co-hosted by the Council and the Trust in Spokane, Washington last October.
- The Trust and Council were asked to:
 - Support the formation of a Student/young professional coalition to engage youth on both sides of the border on important transboundary issues.
 - Form a basin wide transboundary group composed of representatives of diverse basin interests to help facilitate transboundary dialogue on an on-going basis.

Columbia Basin Transboundary Youth Network

- The Network is made up of young citizens, Tribes, and First Nations seeking to empower youth throughout the Columbia Basin on matters related to our river, our environment, and our well being.
- Formed at the 2014 Columbia River Basin Conference in Spokane to increase youth voices in transboundary dialogue on the Columbia





Thank You

Any questions?

Columbia
Basin **trust**

Columbia River Basin

Transboundary Cooperation in the International Columbia River Basin

A Preliminary Assessment of Existing
Arrangements and Future Prospects

Prepared for the NWPCC & CBT by:
Meghan Carter & Ingrid Timboe

0 50 100
Miles
Lambert Conformal Conic Projection
Darker, greener tints represent
lower elevations.
Map created: 2005
Time period represented on land:
prior to 1933
Freshwater ocean plume data:
ca. 1960

generalized limit of freshwater mixing
(adapted from Bainer, Duxbury, and Morse)

Rationale for this Project

- Stems from participant request at the 2014 International Columbia River conference in Spokane
- Conference participants challenged the Council & Trust to take active role in facilitating transboundary cooperation in the International Columbia River basin
- Before taking on that role, need a better understanding of:
 - Who is doing what?
 - Where?
 - With whom are they partnering?
 - How are they doing it ?

Methodology

- Identify and compile a list of existing transboundary entities
- Classify the list into broad management categories:
 - Fish Passage & Restoration
 - Ecosystem Function
 - Climate Change
 - Energy
 - Invasive Species & Toxics
 - Transboundary River Governance
- Conduct brief phone interviews with entity members
 - Current state of transboundary cooperation in the CRB

Participating Entities

EPA - EC Puget Sound / Georgia Basin MOU on Environmental Cooperation

BC – WA Environmental Cooperation MOU

BC – MT MOU on Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy

CANUWEST

Great Northern LCC

North Pacific LCC

Crown Managers Partnership

Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent

Lake Roosevelt Forum

Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT)

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC)

Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CCRIFC)

Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA)

Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (UCWSRI)

Upper Kootenay Ecosystem Enhancement Program (UKEEP)

International Kootenai/y Ecosystem Restoration Team (IKERT)

Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society

Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society

Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP)

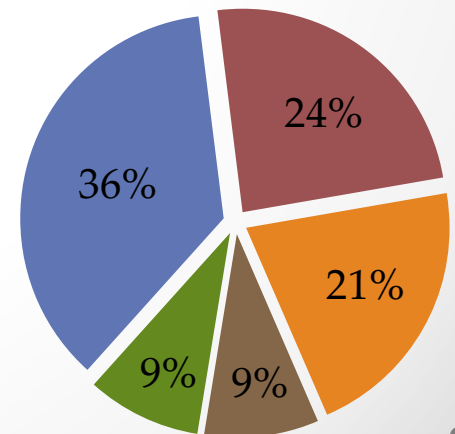
Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER)

- Pacific Coast Collaborative

Composition

- Identified **44** transboundary initiatives
- **33** total interviews (July 6-31, 2015)
 - **20** were part of initiatives in our list (45% of listed initiatives)
 - **6** were part of ongoing cross-border cooperation outside of a formal initiative (mostly Fish & Wildlife folks)
 - **7** not working cross-border at this time, for variety of reasons
- Of those interviewed
 - **12** work primarily on ecosystem function
 - **8** on fish passage & salmon restoration
 - **7** on invasive species and/or toxics
 - **3** on climate change
 - **3** on energy

Interview by Issue Area



Key Findings

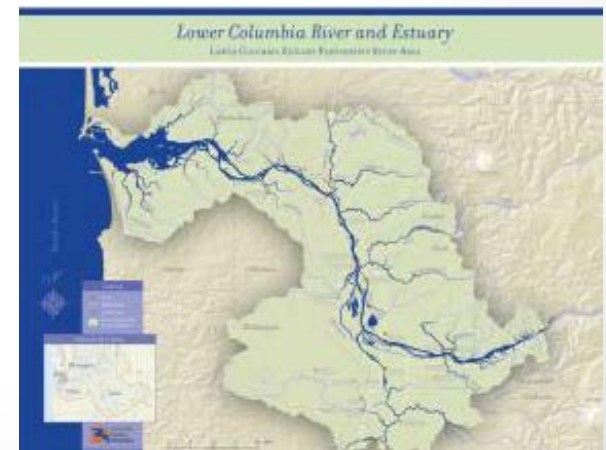
1. There is significant, ongoing cross-border collaboration between Canada & the U.S. in the basin, especially related to ecosystem function, fish passage & salmon restoration in the blocked areas
2. However, most of this work is sub-basin, limited to specific watersheds or landscapes (i.e., Crown of the Continent, Lake Roosevelt, Columbia River Estuary)



Source: <http://greatnorthernlcc.org/>



Source: www.rockies.ca



Source: www.estuarypartnership.org

Key Findings

3. Areas with strong existing collaboration that could be leveraged basin-wide:

- **Transboundary data integration, harmonization, and public accessibility**
 - Innovators in this area include: Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, IJC, Crown Management Partnership
- **Non-partisan annual forums around specific areas of interest to regional managers**
 - Innovators in this area include: Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Lake Roosevelt Forum, Cascadia Partnership, Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent
- **Integrated Monitoring Projects**
 - Innovators in this area include: Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership, Kootenai River Recovery Team (collaboration of Idaho Fish & Game, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and Kootenai Tribe of Idaho)

Key Findings

4. Areas that could use additional assistance with basin-wide coordination:

- Climate Change
- Invasive Species (terrestrial & aquatic)
- Development / implementation of basin-wide environmental indicators for aquatic species of concern
- Water quality monitoring (esp. in the upper Columbia River basin)

Key Findings

5. With regard to the development of a “basin culture” and cohesive community:

- Divide isn't primarily between U.S. and Canada, it's between the upper and lower basin.
 - Above and below the “Blocked Areas”
 - Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dam
 - Upper basin includes Canada and northern portions of WA, ID, & MT
- More dialogue is needed between these two sub-basins
 - There is a feeling that they are facing very different sets of problems
 - This creates further divisions, perpetuates mistrust and frustration

Options Going Forward

- Convene cross-border cooperation steering team including members from each activity area
 - Contact info will be in Annex B of report
- Explore the possibility of facilitating transboundary working groups around each issue area
 - Could be annual meetings or an online forum, or combination of both
- Meet with LCCs and others working on data integration, explore collaboration on these projects
- Facilitate conversations around upstream / downstream divide



We would especially like to thank:

Matt McKinney, University of Montana

Richard Paisley, University of British Columbia

Jennifer Anders, NWPCC

Kindy Gosal, CBT

John Harrison, NWPCC

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and all of those who spared time from their busy
schedules to be interviewed for this project!

THANK YOU!!

Questions?

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