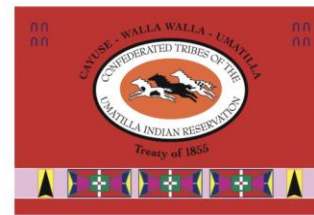


COLUMBIA BASIN RESTORATION INITIATIVE AND THE RESILIENT COLUMBIA BASIN AGREEMENT

A PROPOSAL FROM THE YAKAMA, UMATILLA, WARM SPRINGS, AND NEZ PERCE TRIBES AND THE STATES OF WASHINGTON AND OREGON (THE “SIX SOVEREIGNS”) TO THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION AND THE ASSOCIATED AGREEMENT WITH THE US GOVERNMENT

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission, June 21, 2024



BACKGROUND

The Formation of the Six Sovereigns Coalition

- For years, the Six Sovereigns have each advocated for a comprehensive approach to addressing Columbia Basin salmon restoration and related energy, water, and development-related issues.
- Building on their shared perspectives, the Six Sovereigns developed and advanced recommendations to the USG on what a comprehensive strategy should include.



The Six Sovereign's Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative

The Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative (“CBRI”) represents the collaborative effort of the Six Sovereigns to develop a comprehensive solution for shared and complex challenges. It is informed by the Six Sovereigns’ significant technical expertise as fisheries co-managers, and by their sovereign obligations to their constituents.

The CBRI is intended as a roadmap to help the USG work in partnership with the region to restore Columbia Basin fisheries to healthy and abundant levels, honor commitments to Tribal Nations, and deliver affordable and reliable clean power while meeting the many resilience needs of stakeholders in the Columbia River basin and the Pacific Northwest.



COLUMBIA BASIN RESTORATION INITIATIVE

An overview of the CBRI's objectives and recommended approach

PURPOSE

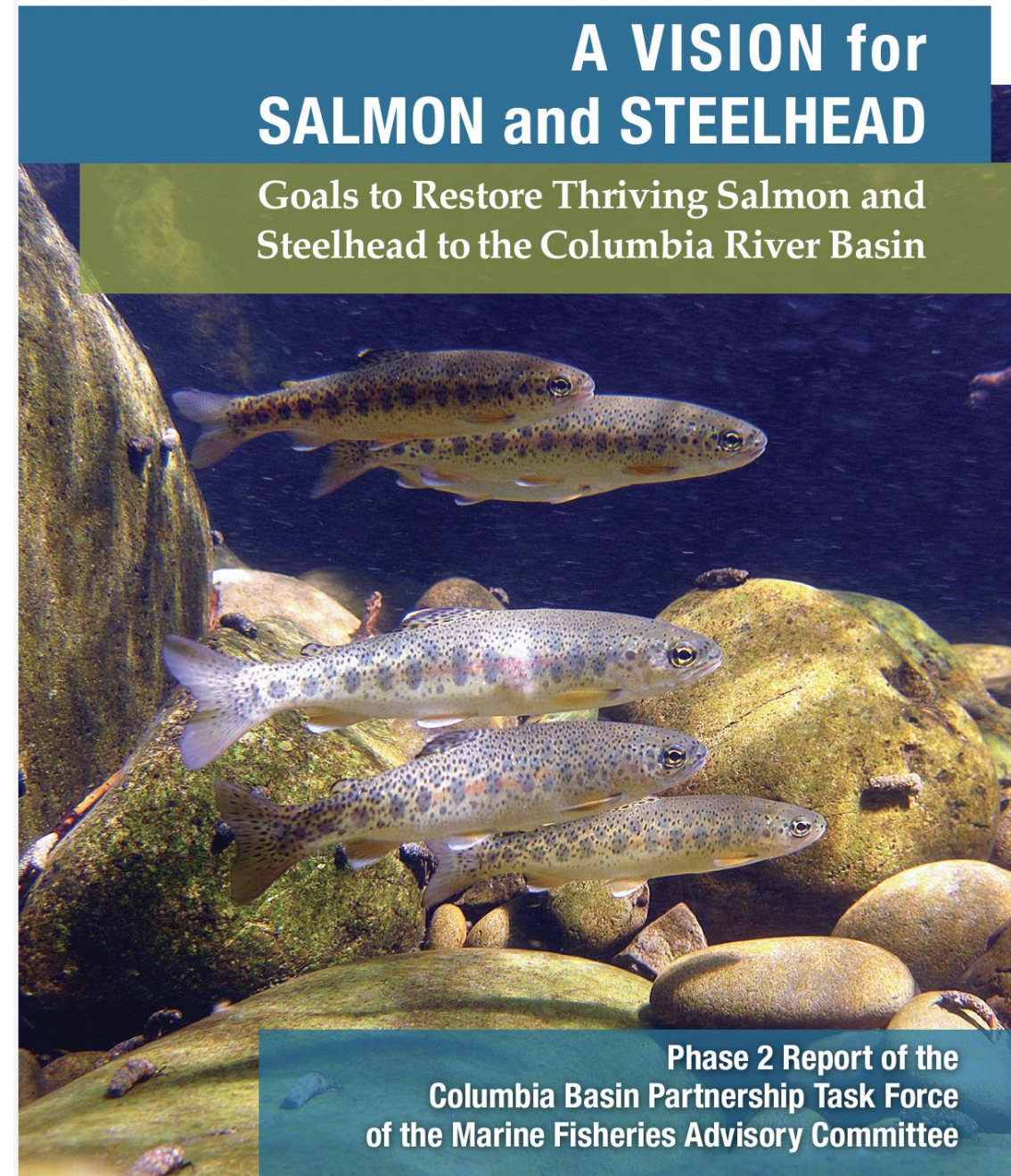
Why did the Six Sovereigns develop the CBRI?

Making a Collective Commitment to a Just and Prosperous Future

- Rapidly changing economic, energy and climate conditions in the Pacific Northwest – not to mention the dire status of the fishery resources in the Columbia Basin – requires leadership and urgent action to respond to inevitable changes and meet regional needs during the coming decades.
- We must act now and implement necessary federal investments and commitments across the whole of government to be successful.
- The CBRI helps advance the fulfillment of federal Treaty and trust obligations to the Tribal communities and fisheries left behind in the Columbia Basin's previous rush of development by restoring salmon, steelhead, and other native species and their habitats, and investing in critical fish infrastructure.
- The CBRI also protects and enhances the security of our communities and key service sectors by modernizing and investing in clean energy, agriculture, and transportation infrastructure, and by helping to restore vital ecosystem functions and services essential for local and regional resilience and adaptation to climate change.

Responding to Recent Columbia River Basin Efforts

- Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force Goals
- Columbia Basin Initiative – Rep. Mike Simpson
- Sen. Murray / Gov. Inslee LSRD Benefit Replacement Report and Recommendations
- Biden Administration government-to-government consultations with Columbia Basin Tribes
- FMCS Mediation and Biden Administration efforts to resolve ongoing hydrosystem litigation issues
- NOAA Fisheries 2022 Report on Rebuilding Interior Columbia Salmon and Steelhead



Securing USG Commitments to Position the Columbia Basin for Success

Advance “... a durable long-term strategy to restore salmon and other native fish populations to healthy and abundant levels, honoring Federal commitments to Tribal Nations, delivering affordable and reliable clean power, and meeting the many resilience needs of stakeholders across the region.”



OBJECTIVES

What does success look like?

Objective 1

Develop and advance an urgent, comprehensive strategy to:

- (a) restore salmon and steelhead to “healthy and abundant levels” consistent with NOAA’s Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (CBP) and Rebuilding reports; and
- (b) complete the actions and investments necessary to secure continuity of services* associated with Lower Snake River (LSR) restoration prior to LSR dam breaching.

**Continuity of services refers to the end service provided, not necessarily the existing means of providing that service. Examples of services associated with Lower Snake River dams include commodity transport, energy (production and transmission), water supply (agriculture, municipal, domestic) and recreation.*



Objective 2

Ensure that all native species, regardless of ESA-listing status, are considered in the comprehensive strategy in a way that improves ecosystem function in the Columbia River and its tributaries.



Objective 3

Ensure interim fish measures minimize additional generational decline of fish populations.



Objective 4

Invest in and support communities and economic sectors in a manner that is

- (a) consistent with meeting decarbonization goals and mandates and integration of renewables;
- (b) delivers affordable and clean power;
- (c) improves resiliency and adaptability to climate change and supports the many resilience needs of stakeholders across the region; and
- (d) honors commitments to Tribal Nations.



Objective 5

Secure necessary regulatory compliance, authorizations, and appropriations for implementation of the strategy with an urgency reflecting the needs of the fish.



Objective 6

Ensure that the comprehensive strategy and associated federal actions “honor Federal commitments to Tribal Nations” and address past and ongoing inequities related to Columbia Basin development to reflect and uphold federal Treaty and trust responsibilities to Columbia Basin tribes.



RECOMMENDED APPROACH

What is the roadmap to achieve success?

Empower Tribal & State Fisheries Co-Managers

Ensure that federal hydropower mitigation efforts in the Columbia Basin are directed by joint recommendations of tribal and state fish management entities in coordination with federal fisheries services.



Significantly Increase Funding

Significantly increase funding for restoration to levels sufficient to address identified mitigation needs and obligations and support “healthy and abundant” fisheries recovery goals.



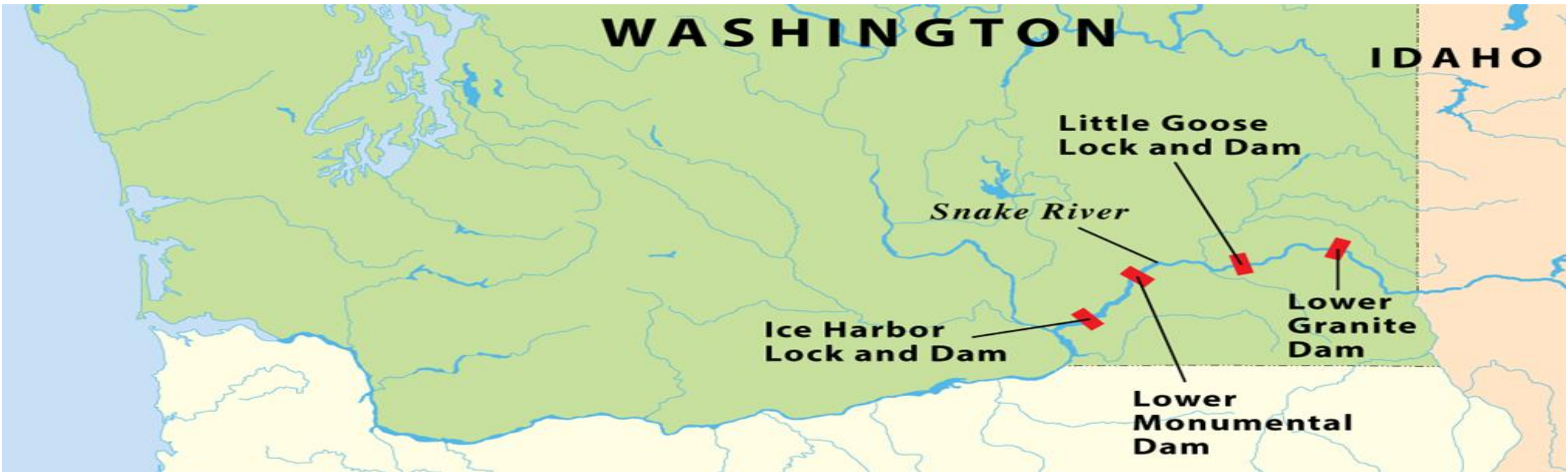
Fully Fund Fisheries Infrastructure Needs

Address the significant backlog of authorized and recommended, but historically underfunded, actions necessary for the safe and effective operation of critical fisheries infrastructure, assets, and programs.



Lower Snake Restoration & Continuity of Services

Replace the benefits of the LSR dams with due urgency to enable breaching to move forward, and ensure interim fish measures are adequate to minimize additional generational decline of fish populations.



Identify a Feasible Approach to UC Reintroduction

Implement the Upper Columbia United Tribes' Phase Two Implementation Plan to reintroduce and provide passage of priority anadromous species above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams.



Ensure Accountability to Fisheries Recovery Goals

Establish a long-term biological performance monitoring and reporting program to measure progress and support accountability towards the qualitative and quantitative recovery and abundance goals identified in the CBP Phase II Report.



Transparent 'Whole-of-Government' Approach

- Federal agencies coordinate to use their funds and authorities with maximum effect to prevent salmon extinction and restore healthy and abundant Columbia Basin fisheries.
- Use all available funding tools to implement the elements of a comprehensive approach.
 - BPA should be accountable for increased contributions within its affordable power mandate, but Congressional appropriations will also be necessary for success.
 - Funds that are collected by BPA from ratepayers to meet fish and wildlife obligations should be fully spent on fish and wildlife actions.



Advance Key Elements Concurrently & Immediately

- Some parts of the Initiative can and should be advanced by the President and federal agencies under existing authorities and appropriations.
- Others will require Congressional support through additional appropriations or legislation, or both.
- Time is of the essence in both cases to meet the urgent needs of Columbia Basin fisheries and communities, and the inevitable changes facing the Region.



IMPLEMENTATION

All Six Sovereigns support the CBRI as the basis for discussions with the USG and others.

Federal Commitments in Support of the CBRI, aka Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement

- In December 2023, the USG signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with the Six Sovereigns and the NGO plaintiffs in the *NWF v NMFS* litigation (together, the “MOU Parties”).
- The 10-year MOU provides for a package of initial federal actions (the “USG Commitments”) in support of the CBRI and in partnership with the Six Sovereigns.
- While the USG implements these USG Commitments and the MOU remains effective, the MOU Parties agree to support a continued stay* of the *NWF v NMFS* litigation and refrain from similar litigation. Together, these documents are referred to as the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement.
- The Six Sovereigns will also engage with the USG regarding the implementation of President Biden’s Sept. 27, 2023 Presidential Memorandum on restoring healthy and abundant salmon, steelhead, and other native fish populations in the Columbia River Basin.

Advancing the CBRI with the USG and Others

- Additional federal, state, tribal, and regional action will be necessary to fully realize the goal and objectives of the CBRI.
- The Six Sovereigns will continue to work in partnership with each another, and with other sovereigns and stakeholders, to implement the CBRI's recommendations.



QUESTIONS ?
