

# Columbia River Treaty Update

Columbia River Policy Advisory Group

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# Topics for Discussion

- Current status of Treaty Review efforts
- Comments from Listening Sessions
- Iteration 3 modeling
- Timelines
  
- Time permitting: current issues

## What is the Columbia River Treaty Review?

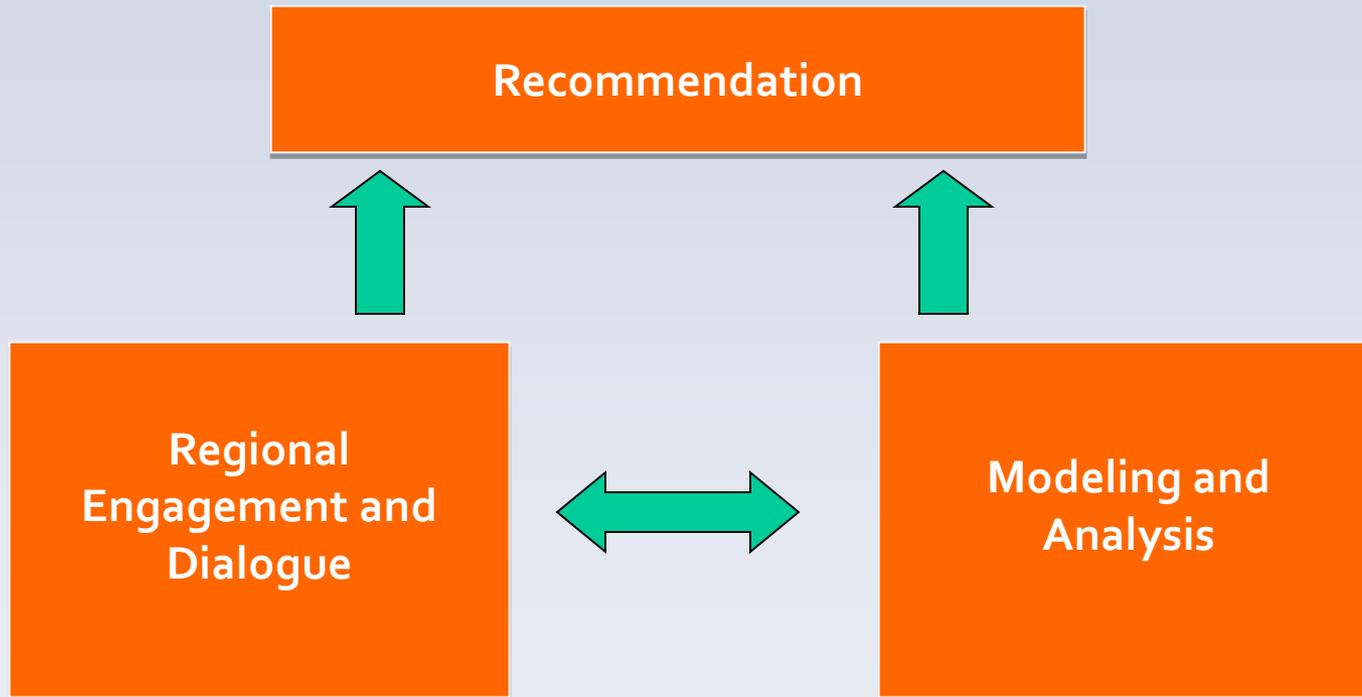
### ■ **Description**

- Collaboration with regional sovereigns and stakeholders
- Studies and modeling to inform the Review process
- Evaluation of benefits and costs of alternative Treaty futures

### ■ **Purpose**

- Enable the U.S. Entity to make an informed and regionally-supported recommendation on the future of the Treaty to the U.S. to Department of State by December 2013.

## Treaty Review Approach to the Recommendation



Engage the region's sovereigns and stakeholders to understand the region's needs and priorities and to provide the opportunity for input to the process

Perform studies and analysis on possible Treaty futures to inform the Treaty recommendation

## Themes from Stakeholder Input (1)

- General
  - Careful to balance benefits/costs across interests
  - Climate Change most important, need flexibility to adjust to CC in modernized Treaty
  - Modernize the Treaty
- Water Supply
  - Irrigation is a top priority
  - Keep Lake Roosevelt high enough for CBP
  - If Lake Roosevelt is lowered for FRM, FRM should pay cost, not CBP landowners
  - High priority is to keep more water in-river
  - Rethink agricultural patterns
  - Acquire additional storage
  - Don't raise costs or limit access to water
  - New Treaty should enable states to make water supply agreements

## Themes from Stakeholder Input (2)

- Hydropower
  - Canadian Entitlement (CE) should be lower,
    - CE savings should not be used for EbF
    - CE savings should be used for EbF
  - [Do not] or [minimize] reducing hydropower for enhancing Ecosystem
  - Hydropower is non-carbon, careful to reduce Hydropower for EbF
  - Keep hydropower costs low (protect small family farmers)
- Flood Risk Management (FRM)
  - Should be highest priority
  - Taxpayers should fund FRM
  - Higher flows are a flood risk and should not be considered
  - Improve levees and other flood-risk-mitigation infrastructure, reconnect flood plains, recharge aquifers
  - Any changes to flood risk should be made through public process

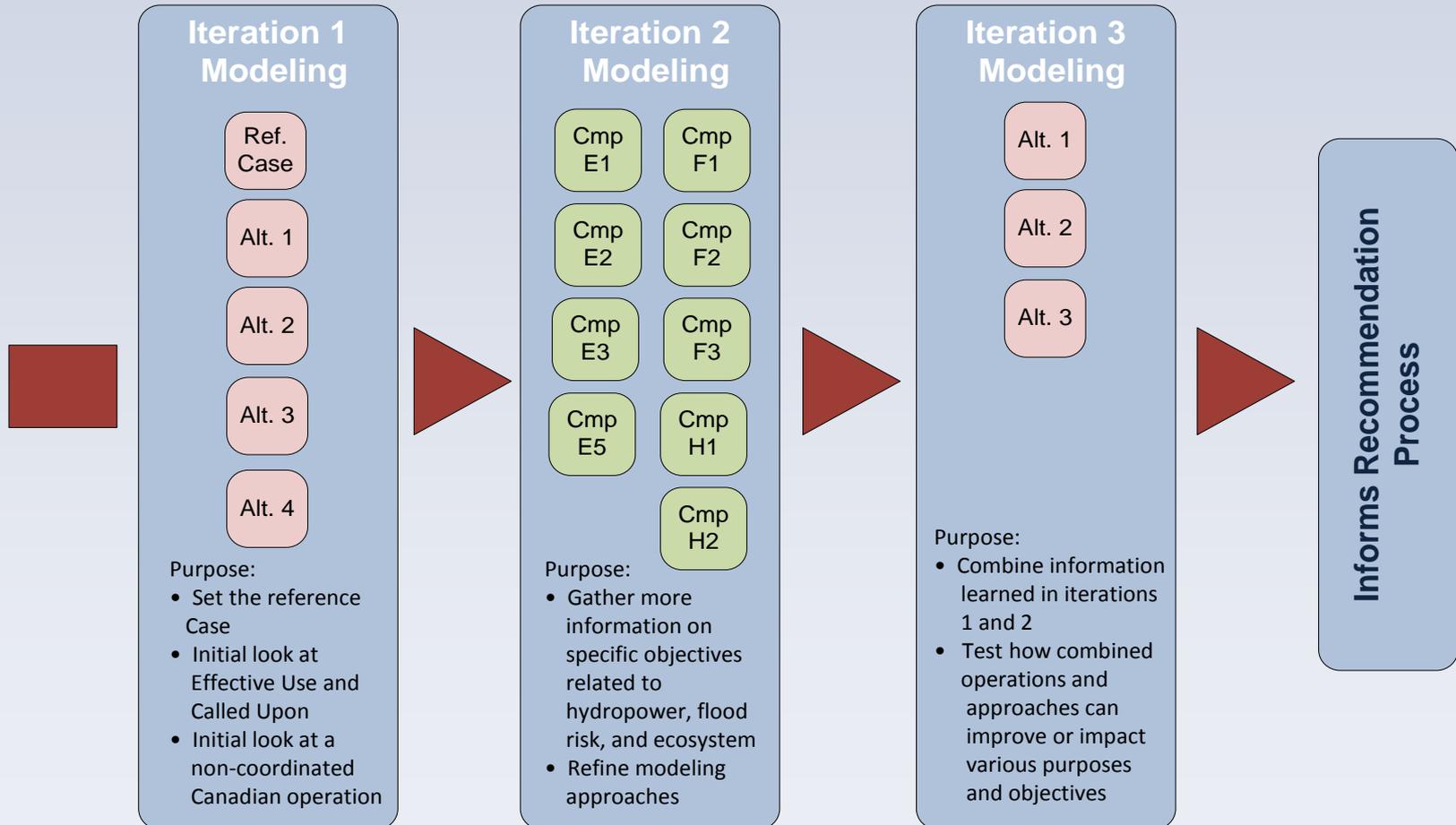
## Themes from Stakeholder Input (3)

- Ecosystem-based Function (EbF)
  - Make EbF equal with hydropower and FRM
  - Desire a natural hydrograph (natural spring freshet)
  - Need flows for ESA listed species
  - Other venues/initiatives are helping EbF—don't need to do so in the Treaty
  - Canada should be a partner
  - Fish passage above Grand Coulee [should not be] / [should be] in the Treaty Review (both opinions voiced)
  - Protect cultural resources
  - Don't spend more money on fish
- Other
  - Navigation channel must be maintained, avoid high, low flows
  - Recreation is important., keep reservoirs stable, enhance resident fish survival

# How are comments incorporated?

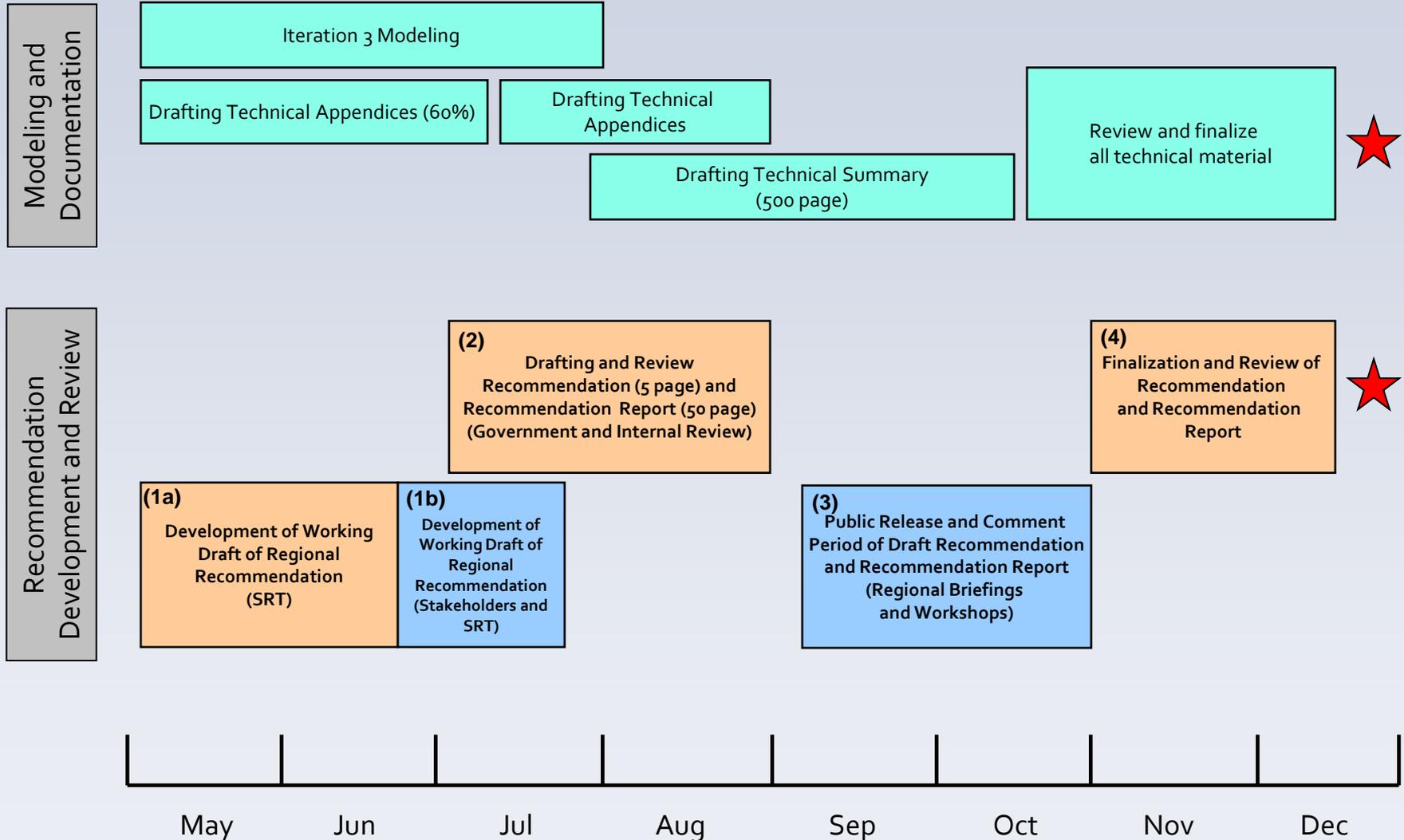
- Some comments incorporated in working draft recommendation
- Some issues are not deemed relevant to Treaty –suggest follow-on domestic process (e.g. how to allocate in-stream and out-of-stream water)
- Some being tested in iteration 3
  - One alternative with strong EbF emphasis
  - Two alternatives with low and high additional spring/summer water to test ability to store and release the water
    - Flow augmentation for fish
    - Water supply component
    - Dry-year flow component
- Some not resolved –regional input needed for working draft recommendation

## Modeling and Analysis



# Columbia River Treaty 2014/2024 Review

## Recommendation and Supporting Documentation



## ***Important Note:***

The ultimate decision to pursue negotiations to modify the Treaty or to terminate certain provisions does not rest with BPA or the Corps; that decision would be made by the U.S. Department of State and the White House with any necessary coordination with Congress.

Any further questions?

Probably won't show because  
we'll run out of time.

## Challenges and Issues: Water Supply

- Strong voice in workshops and the SRT to look at various in-stream and out-of-stream uses of additional water from Canada in the spring and summer
- Concern from tribes and ecosystem stakeholders that any additional water for spring and summer be used for ecosystem only
- May be a post-2014 domestic issue to be determined after any negotiations or resulting changes in flow if successful in efforts

# Challenges and Issues: Flood Risk

- How will the change to “Called Upon” flood control after 2024 affect flood risk in the U.S.?
- How will Called Upon flood control be implemented after 2024?
- How will the value of Canadian economic losses and operating costs under Called Upon flood control be calculated?
- How will the U.S. pay Canada for Called Upon flood storage?
- What changes to U.S. reservoir operations may be necessary to compensate for the loss of assured storage in Canada?
- How does flood risk change when comparing options for continuing versus terminating the Treaty?

## Challenges and Issues: Value of Canadian Entitlement

- Estimated value of Canadian Entitlement in 2024 (and going forward) is 450 aMW, with about 1,300 MW capacity
- Worth roughly \$250-350 million per year (including capacity) of carbon free power
- The post-2024 Canadian Entitlement payment should reflect  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the actual U.S. benefit received from Treaty coordination.
- US Entity studies show that the actual value of coordination post 2024 is about 10% of the current payment, or \$25-35m/yr
- PNW power interests have expressed significant concern over the high level of Canadian Entitlement under the existing Treaty formula.

## Challenges and Issues: Ecosystem

- There is a desire to include more robust ecosystem objectives and management in the Columbia River Treaty Review
- The focus of ecosystem discussions so far is on timing and shape of water releases from Canada (closer to a natural hydrograph for fish migration through river system)
- There are concerns about deeper reservoir levels and fluctuations at U.S. projects due to flood control (impacts to resident fish and downstream species)
- There is a strong desire to see the U.S. be less conservative in its level of flood risk to allow more spring flows and higher reservoir levels
- The review process ahead will assess impacts to resident fish, anadromous fish, water quality, estuary conditions, wildlife, and cultural resources using alternative operating scenarios

## U.S. Entity Activities

- Continuing to work with Sovereign Review Team and regional stakeholders
- Maintaining communications and coordination with Department of State
- Maintaining communications with regional governments
- Developing regional perspectives regarding the Columbia River Treaty post-2024
- Some of these perspectives may lead to recommendations to:
  - ✓ Revisit the amount of downstream power benefits shared with Canada
  - ✓ Define post-2024 CRT flood risk management that provides a similar level of downstream risk as pre-2024
  - ✓ Examine approaches to reasonably expand Treaty operations to include US and Canadian ecosystem benefits