



## Draft Regional Recommendation

### Washington Columbia River Policy Advisory Group

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September 25, 2013



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



## Objectives



Provide brief Columbia River Treaty overview

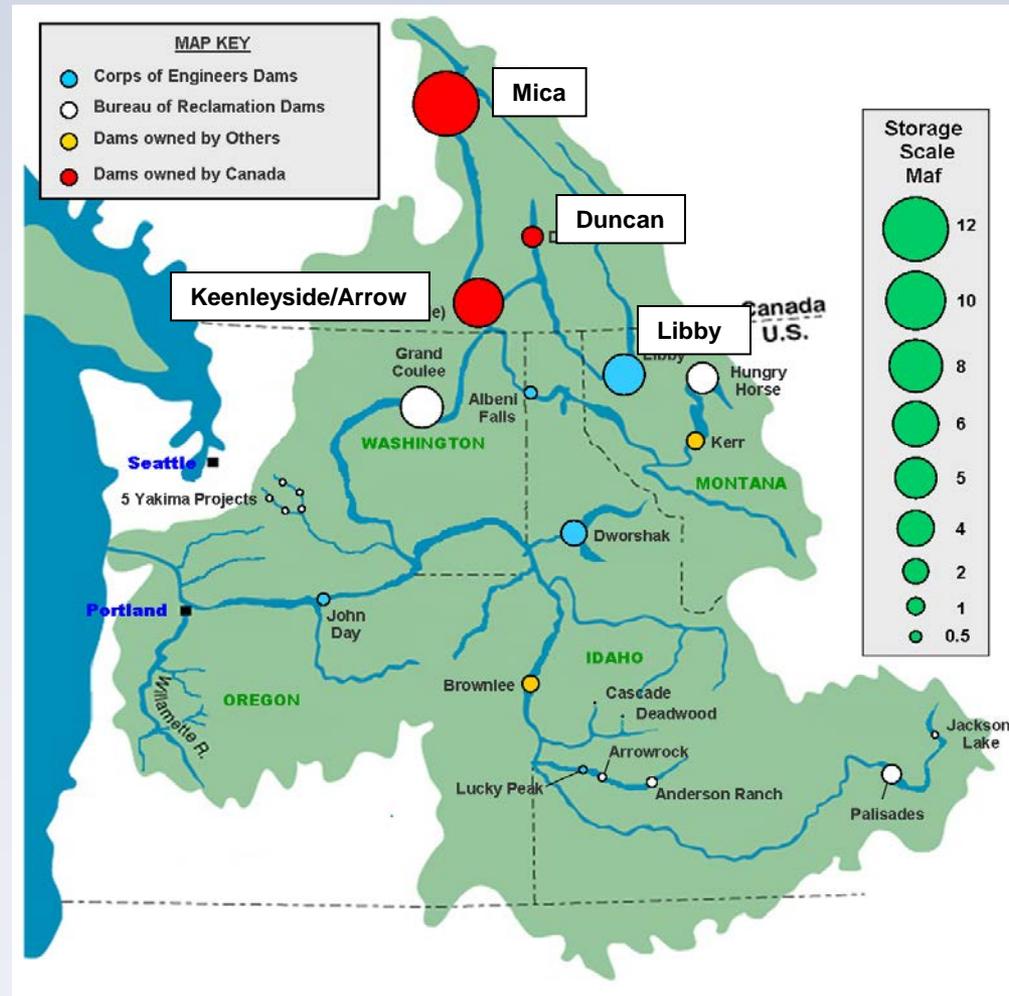


Explain current & next steps of Treaty Review process



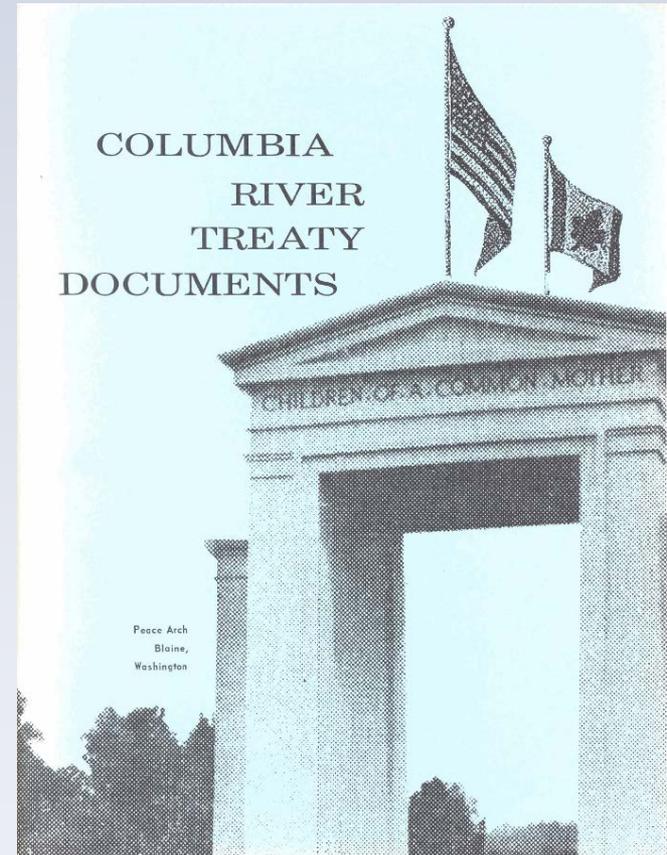
Walk through Draft Regional Recommendation

## Treaty Overview



## Why conduct a 2014/2024 Treaty Review?

1. The Treaty has no specified end date; however, it does have a provision allowing either nation to end most of the power provisions of the Treaty in or after 2024, with a minimum 10 years' written advance notice, hence the name "2014/2024 Review".
2. Current flood control operating procedures will end in 2024, independent of Treaty decision.



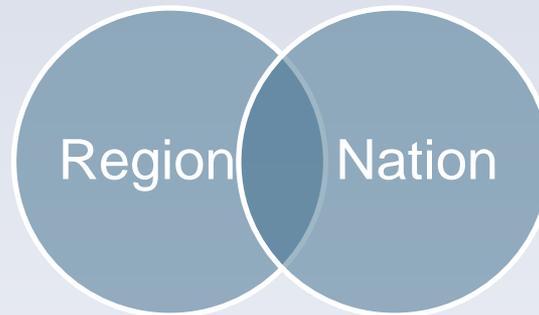
## Multi-step process

### 1: Regional Recommendation



U.S. Entity

### 2: National Interest Determination



Circular 175 Process

Dept. of State  
w/ Interagency  
Policy Committee

### 3: Decision to Negotiate

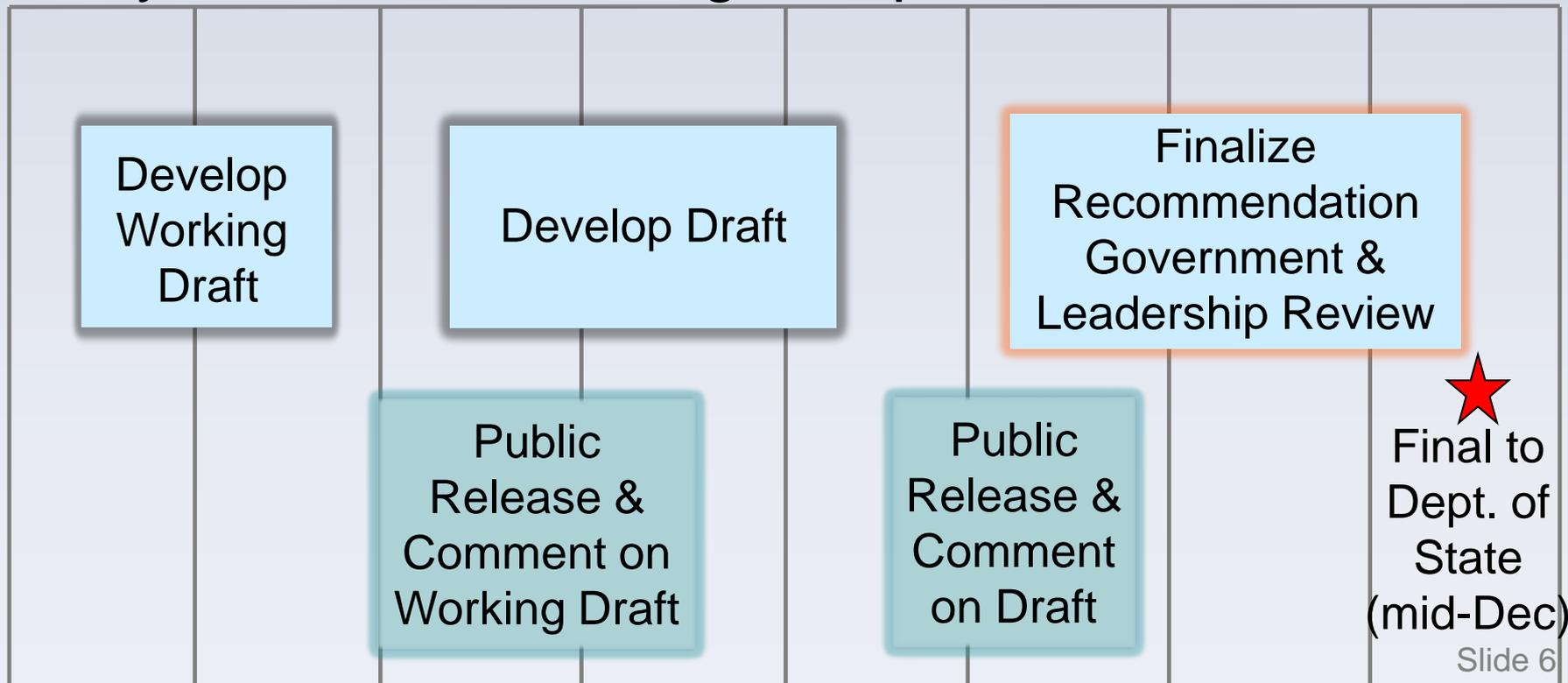


Dept. of State

## Recommendation development and review

2013

May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



## Highlights of Working Draft Comments

### Power

- Rebalance Canadian Entitlement to reflect modern realities
- Maintain an efficient, reliable & economical hydropower system
- Account for & promote conservation and renewable resources

### Ecosystem-based function

- Add to Treaty as third primary function
- Addressed through domestic efforts & not appropriate for Treaty discussion
- Assessment of fish passage feasibility at Grand Coulee remains a contentious issue

## Highlights of Working Draft comments, continued

### Flood Risk Management

- Assign costs of flood risk management to appropriate parties
- Support US interpretation of Called Upon & Effective Use
- Concern about augmented flows impacting flood protection and other infrastructure
- Reassess flood risk levels in region

### Water Supply

- Pursue for in-stream and out-of-stream uses

### Process

- Address lack of transparency and stakeholder input in Recommendation development

# Other FAQs on Working Draft

- Where are the details?
- Why is broad regional support important?
- Why is it important to meet the December 2013 date for a final recommendation?
- What will the Dept. of State and Interagency Policy Committee “national interest determination” process look like?

## Draft Regional Recommendation Structure



## Cover Letter

- The draft regional recommendation attempts to recognize and balance various viewpoints and interests
- A modernized Treaty should include:
  - A reliable and economically sustainable hydropower system
  - A similar level of flood risk management to protect public safety and the region's economy (or new levels, if revised)
  - Ecosystem-based function as a third primary purpose of the Treaty
  - Flexibility to respond to climate change, changing water supply needs and other future potential changes in system operations while continuing to meet authorized purposes such as navigation
- The U.S. Entity is seeking broad regional support before finalizing and presenting the Recommendation to the Dept. of State in Dec. 2013

## Regional Goals

“The region's goal is for the United States and Canada to develop a modernized framework for the Treaty that ensures a more resilient and healthy ecosystem-based function throughout the Columbia River Basin while maintaining an acceptable level of flood risk and assuring reliable and economic hydropower benefits. Therefore, it is important to achieve a modernized framework for the Treaty that balances power production, flood risk management, and ecosystem-based function as the primary purposes.”

## Regional Goals, continued

“Formalize, provide certainty, and build on the many ecosystem actions already undertaken through annual or seasonal mutual agreements between the countries, while also providing a net increase in United States power benefits based on the actual value of coordinated operations with Canada, and preserving an acceptable level of flood risk to the people of the Basin.”

## General Principles

- Enable **greatest possible shared benefits** in U.S. and Canada from coordinated operation of Treaty reservoirs
- Address the **health of the Columbia River ecosystem** as a shared **benefit** of the United States and Canada
- Determine a timeframe for a modernized Treaty long enough to allow each country to **rely on the Treaty's planned operations and benefits** for purposes of managing their long-range budgets, resource plans and investments while remaining **adaptable enough to consider new scientific and social knowledge**
- Continue to **meet authorized uses of U.S. reservoirs/projects** according to applicable legislation and other U.S. laws

## General Principles, continued

- Integrate Treaty and Canadian non-Treaty storage to increase flexibility and benefits
- Adapt CRT in a way that is resilient, adaptable, and flexible to future changes in climate
- Ensure that costs associated with any Treaty operations are aligned with the appropriate party
- Fund additional ecosystem-based function operations from a rebalancing of the power benefits between the two countries or from other sources (i.e., inclusion of ecosystem-based functions in the Treaty should not prevent the region from achieving its objectives of reducing U.S. power costs)

## Recommendation Details



*Click on image to go to recommendation details on that topic.*

## Post-2013 Domestic Matters

- U.S. Columbia River Basin flood risk policy review
- Water supply allocation
- Assessment of Canadian Entitlement
- Plan for post-2024 Treaty implementation
- U.S. flood plain reconnection
- U.S. domestic advisory mechanism
- Composition of U.S. Entity

# Comment on the Draft Regional Recommendation

- Link to Draft:

<http://www.crt2014-2024review.gov/RegionalDraft.aspx>

- Comments accepted through **October 25, 2013**
  - Online: [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment)
  - Email: [treatyreview@bpa.gov](mailto:treatyreview@bpa.gov)
  - Mail: Bonneville Power Administration, PO Box 3621, Portland, OR 97208-3621
  - Fax: [503-230-4563](tel:503-230-4563), Attn: Columbia River Treaty Review Team

## For More Information

- Visit [www.crt2014-2024review.gov](http://www.crt2014-2024review.gov)
- Email [treatyreview@bpa.gov](mailto:treatyreview@bpa.gov)
- Call :
  - Bonneville Power Administration, 800-622-4519
  - Corps of Engineers, 503-808-4512

Questions?

Thank you.

## **RECOMMENDATION DETAILS**

These slides are linked from the honeycomb slide during the presentation by clicking on a topic.

To return to the honeycomb slide, click on the blue titles.

## Ecosystem-based Function

- Further ensure a more comprehensive ecosystem-based function approach throughout the Columbia Basin
- Provide streamflows from Canada to promote productive populations of anadromous and resident fish & provide reservoir conditions to promote productive populations of native fish & wildlife
- Recognize and minimize adverse effects to Tribal, First Nation & other cultural resources

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# Ecosystem-based Function

- Seek to expand on present Treaty agreements to
  - Further augment flows for spring & summer
  - Incorporate a dry-year strategy
  - Gain long-term assurance of ecosystem-based functions rather than negotiating for these functions on an annual basis
- Design the Treaty to be adaptable to meet ecosystem-based function requirements as new information becomes available or conditions change based on the management priorities of both countries

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## Ecosystem-based Function

- Pursue a joint program with Canada, with shared costs, to investigate and, if warranted, implement restored fish passage & reintroduction of anadromous fish on the main stem Columbia to Canadian spawning grounds
- Continue to coordinate United States operation of Libby Dam with Canada, with the goal of achieving mutually desirable ecosystem benefits on both sides of the border

## Hydropower

- Pursue rebalancing of the coordinated power benefits between the two countries to reflect actual value of coordinated operations
- Renegotiate for the replacement of the present "Aspects of Delivery Agreement" to create the least cost transmission strategy for both countries to return the Canadian Entitlement to Canada
- Retain the ability for the U.S. and Canada to maintain an economical and reliable power supply post-2024
- Avoid substantial reductions in power generation during peak load periods that result in lower system reliability

# Flood Risk Management

- Maintain coordinated flood risk management and protect public safety and the region's economy
- Implement post-2024 flood risk management through a coordinated operation plan that provides for an acceptable level of risk (similar to level to prior to 2024 unless flood risk policy modified in future)
- Assess with Canada potential alternatives for post-2024 operations to meet flood risk management objectives, including the possibility of using planned or assured Canadian Storage

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## Flood Risk Management

- Establish a common understanding between the U.S. and Canadian Entities for post-2024 “called upon,” including
  - Consider called upon only if coordinated Canadian power, flood control, & other operations do not provide sufficient storage in conjunction with the use of U.S. system flood storage or when needed during refill season to modify planned Canadian releases
  - Draft U.S. projects according to their current storage reservation diagram (SRDs)
  - Define “effective use” as applying to the eight U.S. reservoirs authorized for system flood control

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## Flood Risk Management

- Identify reasonable compensation to Canada for economic losses & operating costs associated with called upon
- Enable the necessary flexibility to adapt to changing flood risk management objectives in the U.S. and Canada and to climate change to avoid additional risks to authorized purposes

## Water Supply

- Allow the storage and release of water from Canada in the spring and summer for additional in-stream and out-of-stream uses
- Such allocations should not adversely affect the operation of upstream reservoirs
- Use a future domestic process that is consistent with water rights, including tribal reserved water rights and ecosystem-based function, to make allocation decisions

## Navigation

- Provide for minimum and maximum flows/water levels to support navigation system operations on the Columbia River and its tributaries, and where appropriate, United States reservoirs

## Recreation

- Recognize and support recreational and cultural opportunities
- Strive towards protection of these resources

## Climate Change

- Consider impacts from climate change
- Create new terms to allow for adaptive management of coordinated post-2024 Treaty operations to mitigate any climate change impacts
- Continue collaboration and information sharing via Hydro-meteorological team

## Recommendation timeframe

- Recommend that the United States government make a decision to proceed with renegotiation of Treaty by mid-2014
- Seek to complete effort to modernize Treaty no later than 2015

## Recommendation Development and Review

2013

