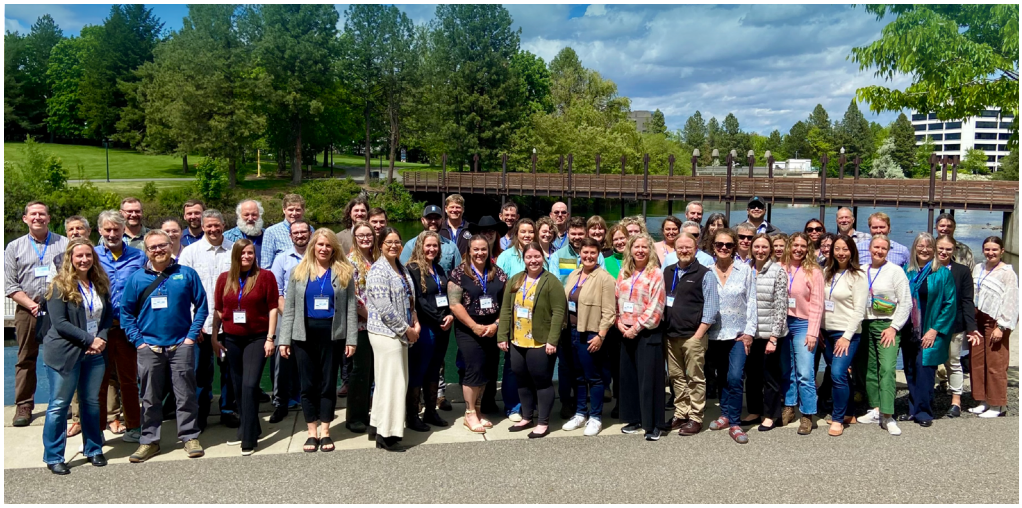
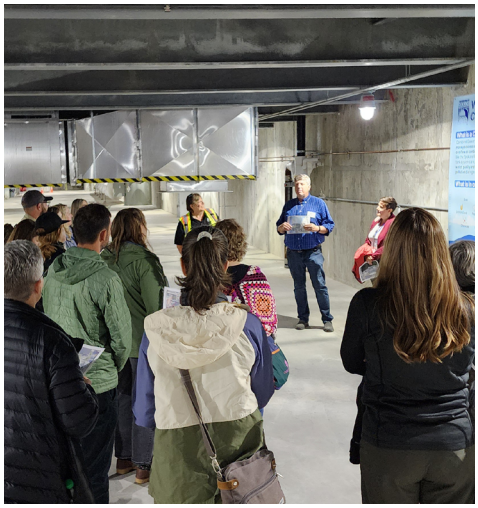


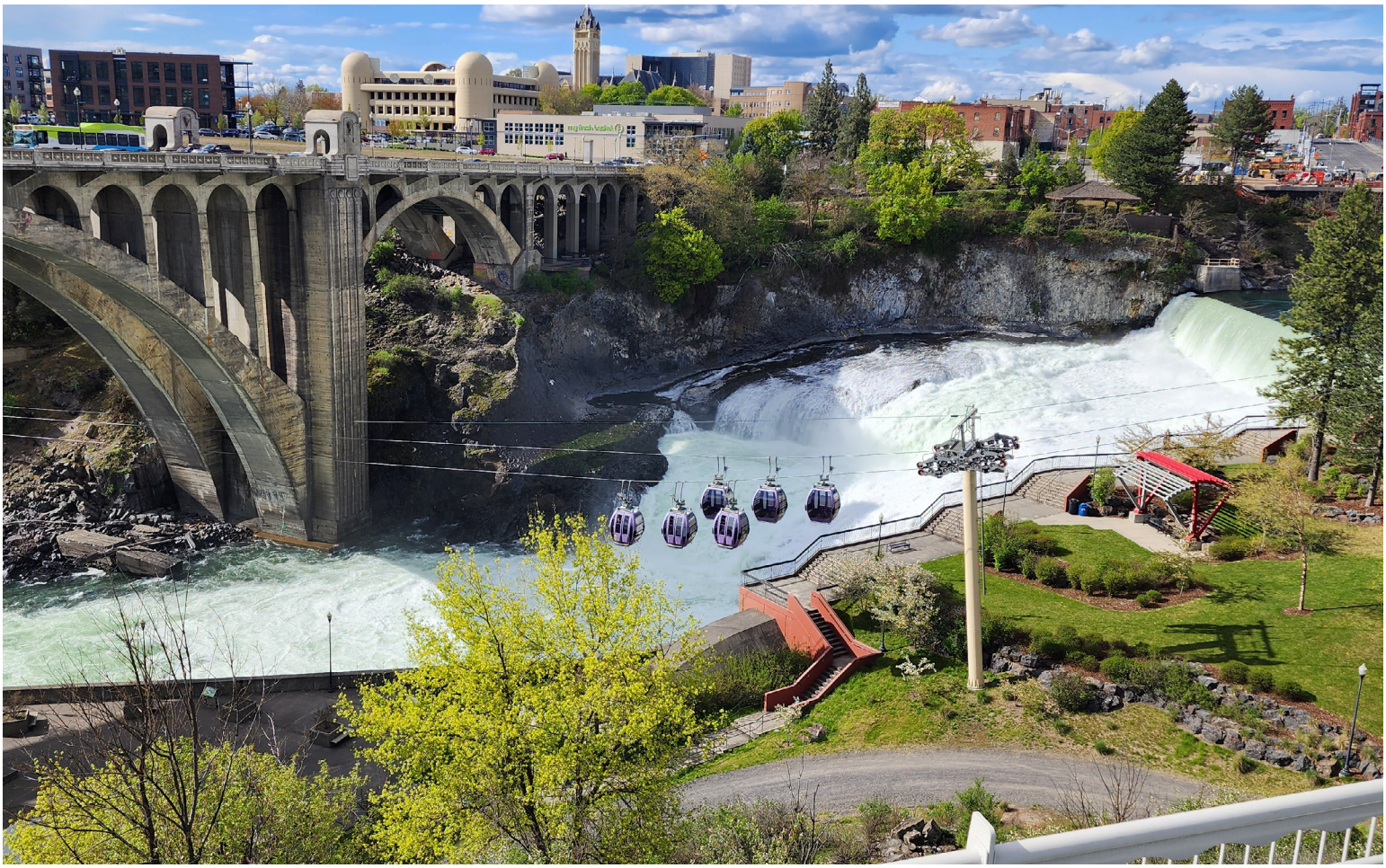


EPA

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group
Meeting Summary

MAY 22-23, 2024



COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION WORKING GROUP MAY 2024 MEETING SUMMARY

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May 22, 2024

WELCOME

Peter Murchie, EPA Region 10 Geographic Programs Manager, ***Robin Parker***, EPA Region 10 Working Group Lead, & ***Greg Frey***, Council Oak

Robin introduced herself as the new lead for the Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group (Working Group) and reviewed the agenda for the next two days. Greg provided instructions for online participation and details about the afternoon site visit to the City of Spokane's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) facility. Peter provided context for the Working Group, the grants, and the connections to EPA's regional and national priorities of protecting human health and the environment.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dan Opalski, EPA Region 10 Deputy Regional Administrator

Dan noted that people have been eating fish in the Columbia River Basin for thousands of years. Several years ago, EPA recognized that Tribal fish consumption and toxics in fish were vitally important in the Basin. Dan drew attention to a new Tribal water quality standards rule, signed in April 2024, that requires EPA and states to consider Tribal reserved rights when developing water quality standards. This rule was inspired in part by the work that people in this room have done in the Basin and across the Pacific Northwest. Dan also announced the Spokane River PCB TMDL and comment period, with the final TMDL expected this fall. It is important to note that this new TMDL is based on the Spokane Tribe's water quality standards work. Finally, Dan acknowledged the $79M in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that has significantly grown the CRB program and allowed EPA to waive match requirements for Tribes. All of EPA's Columbia River grant awards are an important downpayment on the work to reduce toxics in the Basin. Dan then announced the five 2023 Upper Basin grantees and their work efforts. The five grantees include: Upper Columbia United Tribes, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Caj Matheson, Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council Member and Natural Resources Director

Caj expressed his honor to be in the room with so many people doing such great work, which can sometimes feel like an impossible task. It is not easy to make the world and environment better. Caj noted that this meeting is taking place on the traditional homeland of Coeur d'Alene and Spokane Tribes. Hosting this meeting in the Upper Basin is a good thing because this part of the Basin can sometimes get left out of the conversation. But there is a lot of great work happening here.

Caj described his love for telling Coyote stories because we can find lessons in those old stories relevant to today. One such story is when Coyote put his personal needs aside and slayed a monster. This serving of the greater good led the way to the creation of humankind. Through stories like these, our values—

such as preserving resources, not taking more than you need, thinking about seven generations down the line—get passed down. Telling stories is also a good way to connect with family, friends, and other Tribes. We all want a good life for ourselves, our kids, their kids, all the way down to that seventh generation. This is relevant beyond the Coeur d'Alene people, but for all people. There is a lot of great work going on, so the important thing is to keep it up!

GRANTEE UPDATES

Yvette Joseph and Robin Atlin, Colville Tribe and ***Whitney Fraser***, Lodestone Consulting

The Coleville tribe consists of 12 indigenous nations along the Columbia River and into Canada. In 1800, all 12 tribes were forced to give up their territories and live on the same reservation. This Reservation is bordered by 150 miles of the Columbia River from just south of Kettle Falls, Washington, to the Chief Joseph Dam and the Columbia River is a key piece of our lives. Salmon is the most important food source for Colville Tribes who count on Salmon and plants for medicine. Without salmon, the Colville people have poor mental health. Fish consumption advisories also have a negative impact. A smelter on the river has had disastrous impact and is one of the highest metal dischargers in the US and Canada—discharging not hundreds of tons of slag, but millions. The Colville Tribe has tried multiple avenues to address issues related to the smelter's impact on the river.

The Colville Tribe is taking independent action through EPA's Columbia River Basin Restoration Program grant. The Tribes' vision includes:

- **Restoring** the ability of the people to understand, describe and appreciate the natural environment of the River using the Colville Salish language (ṅsəl̓xciṅ);
- **Revitalizing** traditional cultural practices associated with the natural environment of the River; and
- **Empowering** people to engage in positive, culturally appropriate, and sustainable stewardship of the natural environment of the River.

Jude Brown, Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC)

Jude described the mission of PPRC and the EcoBiz certification program. Through this program, PPRC develops training, conducts outreach, and advertises to raise awareness and promote pollution prevention. PPRC is reaching out to businesses, partners, and consumers with automotive and landscaping needs. In reaching out to Spanish-speaking audiences, PPRC has learned that using native Spanish speakers for translation services is a key lesson. PPRC will produce and publish 1-2 videos a week and continue to expand the EcoBiz network. This program involves putting boots on the ground in the communities and meeting small businesses. The team is currently redesigning the EcoBiz website, creating a training portal, and hoping to expand into other languages.

Dr. Rachel Malison, University of Montana

Dr. Malison presented on the Montana Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (PSPP), funded by EPA's Columbia River Basin Restoration grant. The Flathead Lake Bio Station has been running a monitoring program for years but has not had money to monitor all toxics. The goal of the PSPP is to build a network for pollution prevention in Montana. The first step is to design and plan a sampling and program at a broad scale. The next step will expand to a watershed scale, monitoring for pesticides. After

that, the next goal is to implement actions to reduce pesticides. Dr. Malison is excited to announce they have awarded seven subawards to develop a statewide program. Recipients include MT Department of Agriculture, MT Department of Environmental Quality, MT Watershed Coordination Council, MT State University Extension, Kootenai Tribe, and City of Missoula. More partners are involved who are not subaward recipients. Data will be available in an online portal. The PSPP is already thinking about ways to expand elsewhere in the state. Even though it looks like a small portion of the State, this impacts 12 counties, so there are lots of folks to interact with.

Marc Gauthier, Caroline Keever, and Jerry White, Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT)

Marc thanked EPA, Caj, and UCUT member Tribes. Capacity building is essential to this work, especially for Tribes. It has been great to be able to use EPA funding to do that and hire staff for this work. Member tribes include Colville Tribe, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and Spokane Tribe. This grant is focused on the "blocked area" above the Chief Joesph Dam, where there is no fish passage. River Connections, River Traditions, and River Heritage are all cornerstones of life for these Tribes. There are also lots of historic mine waste problems in the region. UCUT was awarded $5M through the Columbia River Basin Restoration Toxics Reduction Lead Entity grant. This is a multiphase, large-scale program, including five major project areas through the subaward program. UCUT will use the strategic plan to continue to address these priority issues. UCUT wants to coordinate and collaborate with other projects across the Basin, so please reach out.

May 23, 2024

OVERVIEW OF THE WASHINGTON LEAD ENTITY GRANT: TASKS AND MILESTONES

Adriane Borgias, ***Brendan Dowling***, ***Nic Acklam***, WA Dept. of Ecology, and ***Marc Gauthier***, Upper Columbia United Tribes

Adriane thanked Ecology staff for their support of this work and for building relationships with EPA and other grantees. Washington shares the border not only with Canada, but also with many Tribes and First Nations in the US and Canada.

Brendan described the Upper Columbia River Lake Roosevelt Site, providing historical context about the contamination from an upstream Canadian smelter. Based on a lawsuit from the Colville Tribe in the late 90's, the smelter's discharge stopped but the slag remains. Slag is the byproduct of the smelting process and there are many toxics associated with it. These toxics flow downstream, creating human health impacts, affecting air quality, impacting community health, and leading to fish advisories. The Department of Ecology led clean-up actions to remove slag deposits from the smelter including Black Sand Beach and the Northport waterfront.

Nic provided more detail about the Northport Waterfront clean-up site. This is within the footprint of the former Le Roi smelter which has been more contaminated than expected. The excavated material is

designated as hazardous waste, so the clean-up process is more expensive and takes more time. The Upper Columbia River is a vital economic and cultural resource for local communities and Tribes. This river is of national and statewide significance.

Marc represents two member Tribes who are transboundary Tribes. He provided historical context of the Kootenai River. Dams have made major changes to the river and floodplains with impacts on sturgeon and burbot fish. The Kootenai Tribe has hatcheries for white sturgeon and burbot. Their strategy for raising burbot is unique and they are leaders around the world in this area. The ecosystem of the middle Kootenai River remains impacted—the habitat is disconnected and fish cannot get to other areas to spawn. As a result of Elk River Mining operations there have been disturbing deformities in fish. A big issue is selenium, and UCUT has seen nitrogen and selenium increasing over time. The Kootenai Tribe is doing a lot of habitat restoration to help with these issues. For years, both Tribes and First Nations have advocated for an International Joint Commission Referral for the Elk River Issues. On March 8th, 2024, Canada and the US provided a proposal to address issue through International Joint Commission process.

RIVERS, WATERSHEDS & COMMUNITIES PROGRAM: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOWARDS RIVER AND WATERSHED RESTORATION

Jan Boll, Seth Flanders, and Hailey Smith, Washington State University

Jan described the Rivers, Watersheds, and Communities program, which focuses on community engagement to identify challenges and solutions. Community engagement begins with recognition that communities face diverse and complex issues. This program embeds students in multi-directional opportunities to connect with communities, tribes, and governments to identify good outcomes for communities, the world, and students.

Hailey presented research on temperature and climate change impacts on rivers and streams in the Yakima River Basin. Increases in stream temperatures have serious impacts on salmon spawning. Hailey is working on a model to predict this called Y-STeM.

Seth described Landholder Perspectives on Floodplain Connection. Floodplain disconnection happens when water bodies are diverted, drained, and channelized to make room for agriculture or other activities. This contributes to degrading the river system health and loss of fish and wildlife habitat. Lots of research has been done on the biological/ecologic impacts of floodplain disconnection, but there is not a lot of research on the social and cultural impacts on floodplain disconnection.

For more information, see the WSU Rivers, Watersheds, and Communities website: https://nrt-rwc.wsu.edu/

EPA UPDATES

Peter Murchie, Michelle Wilcox, Peter Brumm, EPA, ***Amy Puls***, USGS, ***Brian Muegge***, Salmon-Safe, and ***Neil Crescenti***, The Nature Conservancy

Peter Murchie reviewed the progress of the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program over the recent years, including 57 grants issued to date with more than $80 million in EPA funds. The Working Group continues to evolve and grow. More than half of EPA's grants (55.7%) have supported communities with Environmental Justice concerns. And the program has new staff to support this important work.

Michelle mentioned several items of general interest including:

- Tribal Reserved Rights Rule
    - Revising the Federal Water Quality Standards Regulation to Protect Tribal Reserved Rights | US EPA
- Spokane River PCB TMDL – draft plan open for comment
    - https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-pcbs-cleanup-plan-spokane-river
- Spokane River Forum's Expo 50 H20 happening May 30th in Spokane
    - Expo 50 H2O Symposium – Spokane River Forum

P2 News:

- Awards program – applications are due May 24, 2024: https://www.epa.gov/p2/epa-regional-pollution-prevention-recognition-program
- P2 Webinar Series: https://www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-action-webinar-series-epa-office-chemical-safety-and-pollution-prevention
- P2 News - sign up here: https://www.epa.gov/p2/p2-news-archive
- Participatory Science Tools and Resources Participatory Science for Environmental Protection | US EPA

Upcoming funding opportunities include:

- **Washington Clean Energy Grants Program -** Washington is allocating approximately $167 million for clean energy projects, with parts of those funds exclusively set aside for Tribes and for communities that are overburdened and face inequitable risk to energy burden, pollution, and other environmental factors. These two set aside portions of the funding are open now and more information can be found here.
- **Applications Due November 21, 2024** - EPA's **Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants** program is accepting applications NOW with approximately $2 billion dollars in Inflation Reduction Act funds for environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities. Deadline to apply is November 21, 2024.
    - Contact: Alessandro Molina, Environmental Justice Coordinator, EPA Region 10, 206-553-2724, molina.alessandro@epa.gov
- **11 Grantmakers to Fund Thousands of Environmental Justice Projects -** Grantmakers will work in collaboration with EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights to issue subgrants to community-based nonprofit organizations and other eligible organizations representing disadvantaged communities. **The subgrants are expected to become available by summer of 2024.** In Regions 8 and 10, EPA has selected the following organizations to serve as Regional Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers:
    - JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc., Colorado (EPA Region 8)
    - Philanthropy Northwest, Washington (EPA Region 10)

    - Climate Justice Alliance, California (National Grantmaker for EPA Regions 8-10)
- **The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTAC) Program:** The technical assistance centers provide technical assistance, training, and related support to communities with environmental justice concerns and their partners. Services include training and assistance on writing grant proposals, navigating federal systems such as Grants.gov and SAM.gov, effectively managing grant funds, community engagement, meeting facilitation, and translation and interpretation services for limited English-speaking participants.
    - Region 10 TCTACs: Willamette Partnership's Northwest EJ Center and University of Washington
    - Region 8 TCTAC: Montana State University

Peter Brumm provided some updates on **PFAS and 6PPD**.

- He described the status of the EPA RESES Pilot Study, with Phase 2 underway, and EPA's recent finalization for Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for six PFAS compounds in public water systems that will be phased in over the next five years.
- Peter also shared an update on **EPA's efforts to understand the impacts of 6PPD** (a tire additive found in stormwater that is toxic to fish).
    - EPA is exploring what research and policy tools are needed and working with other federal agencies and industry to discuss the importance of mitigation strategies and identifying alternatives to 6PPD. EPA continues to fund research into impacts on salmon and other fish species, including those with habitat beyond Puget Sound. In addition to research, EPA is funding 6PPD and stormwater mitigation work through the clean water state revolving fund.
    - In the near future, and in response to a petition from Northwest tribes, EPA intends to publish an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking under Section 6 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) by Fall 2024 in order to gather more information that could be used to inform a subsequent regulatory action regarding 6PPD.
    - And finally, in December EPA developed a draft laboratory method for detection of 6PPD-quinone in surface water and stormwater. You can find more on this draft Method 1634 here: https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/6ppd-quinone.

Amy provided some updates on the **Toxics Monitoring Subgroup (TMS)**, including the goals of the Subgroup and progress to date. She also mentioned the next meeting, scheduled for **June 18, 2024**, from 10am to 12pm (Pacific). Collaborative tasks include:

- Identifying data gaps and areas of synergy for sampling and data management;
- Developing recommendations for common collection and analytical methods to enable cross-project data comparisons; and
- Discussing and agreeing on screening values/thresholds for specific constituents to be monitored.

Contact the TMS team by emailing gs-crbtoxmon@usgs.gov.

Brian and Neil gave a summary of this week's **Regenerative Agriculture Workshop**. Thers is a desire to shift the paradigm on how to support farmers, preemptively, to encourage best management practices that protect habitat and reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides. There are also soil benefits, fire protection benefits, ecological benefits (e.g., more pollinators), and more to using regenerative practices. Farmers are working on this issue but without funding and at great risk to themselves. They are trying to stop the toxics at the source. This is a great connection point for the CRBRP Working Group.

ABOUT THE SALTESE WETLANDS

Nicki Feiten, Water Resources Project Manager, Spokane County Environmental Services, shared the history of Saltese Flats—originally a shallow lake filled in by Missoula floods. Thousands of years later, the Morrison family drained the lake for farming in what must have been an extensive project. Spokane County bought the Saltese Flats, and in 2018 they began construction for water control and began to restore the property. They built the water control structures to naturally bring in water from nearby creeks. The County is moving forward with an ecological restoration. Now they have the Doris Morrison Learning Center, great for community engagement and education. The team shared their work with more than 1,500 fifth graders in 2023, getting them out into the wetlands to explore.

CLOSING

Peter Murchie, EPA Region 10 Geographic Programs Manager and ***Robin Parker***, EPA Region 10 Working Group Lead

Peter and Robin thanked the attendees and speakers for their participation. They also thanked the Washington State Department of Ecology for co-hosting this working group meeting. Moving forward, the **Working Group will meet virtually in the fall and in person in the spring**. Robin asked attendees for suggestions on where to hold the May 2025 Working Group meeting and asked any tribes or other partners interested in co-hosting to reach out to her at Parker.Robin@epa.gov.

APPENDIX A. ATTENDEES

In-Person Attendees

Adriane Borgias, Washington State Department of Ecology
Alan Kolok, University of Idaho
Alexa Schmidt, Salmon Safe
Amy Puls, USGS/PNAMP
Annie Simpson, Washington State Department of Ecology
B.J. Kieffer, Spokane Tribe of Indians
Bethany Plewe, EPA Region 10 Idaho Operations Office
Brendan Dowling, WA Dept of Ecology
Brian Crego, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Brian Crossley, Spokane Tribe
Brian Muegge, Salmon-Safe
Brook Beeler, Department of Ecology
Cailin Sinclair, Oregon State University
Caroline Keever, Upper Columbia United Tribes
Casey Flanagan, Spokane Tribe of Indians
Casey Lewis, Western Montana Conservation Commission
Chloe Arthaud, University of Idaho
Chris Hathaway, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
Collin Eagles-Smith, US Geological Survey
Daniel Opalski, EPA
David Bowen, WA State Dept of Ecology
David Gruen, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Devan Noblit, CTUIR
Emilie Henry, Western Montana Conservation Commission, MT DNRC
Frederick Kirschner, Spokane Tribe
Genny Hoyle, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Greg Frey, Council Oak
Hailey Smith, Washington State University
Heidi Fleury, Western Montana Conservation Commission
Hilary Cosentino, The Freshwater Trust
James George III, City of Spokane
Jan Boll, Washington State University
Janelle Housman, Flathead Lake Biological Station
Jared Glass, Flathead Lake Biological Station
Jayme Coyle, NCASI
JE McHugh, Palisades Neighborhood
Jeremy Johnson, Alta Science and Engineering
Jerry White, Jr, Upper Columbia United Tribes
John Hancock, West Plains Water Coalition
Jude Brown, Pollution Prevention Resource Center
Justin Lini, The Council Oak

Karen Schumacher, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Karl Rains, WA Dept of Ecology
Katelyn Scott, Spokane Riverkeeper
Kelly Hendrix, Western Montana Conservation Commission
Ken Clark, Nez Perce Tribe
Kevin Masterson, Stony Creek Consulting
Kevin Scribner, Salmon-Safe
Kimberlee Obilana, The Freshwater Trust
Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific RCD
Krista Lammers, Montana DNRC / WMCC
Krista Mendelman, US EPA Region 10
Kristen Jordan, Western Montana Conservation Commission
Laura Laumatia, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Lauren Locklear, City of Nampa
Lauren McDaid, US EPA
Leigh Bitsilly, Shoshone Paiute Tribes
Lucy Edmondson, EPA Region 10
Marc Gauthier, UCUT
Mark Peterschmidt, Washington Department of Ecology
Mary Engels, University of Idaho
Mary Lou Soscia, Grand Ronde Tribe Contractor
Matt Graves, Port of Vancouver USA
Michelle Wilcox, US EPA
Molly Mecham, University of Puget Sound - Student
Monica Lowney, Spokane River Toxics Taskforce Advisory Committee
Neil Crescenti, The Nature Conservancy
Nick Acklam, WA Dept of Ecology
Nicole Feiten, Spokane County
Nicole Taylor, US EPA Region 10
Patrick Moran, US Geological Survey, Tacoma, WA
Paul Weidner, Rooted Solutions LLC
Peter Brumm, USEPA Region 8
Rachel Malison, University of Montana, Flathead Lake Bio Station
Raylene Gennett, City of Spokane
Rebecca Casey, City of Spokane - Stormwater
Rebecca Stevens, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County Public Works / Environmental Services
Robin Atlin, Colville Tribes Environmental Trust
Robin Nimmer, Alta Science and Engineering
Robin Parker, EPA CRBRP
Rodney Cawston, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Ryan Dunbeck, Nez Perce Tribe Water Resources Division
Seth Flanders, Washington State University
Sharon Bosley, Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

Stephanie Murphy, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Western Montana Conservation Commission
Sultan Aljohani, University of idaho
Susan Spalinger, Alta Science and Engineering, Inc
Tamara Knudson, Spokane Tribe of Indians
Tanya Williams, Washington State Department of Ecology
Tate Libunao, University of Idaho
Tiffany Garcia, Oregon State University
Whitney Fraser, Lodestone Environmental Consulting/Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
William Hobbs, Washington State Department of Ecology
Yvette Joseph, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation

Online Attendees
Allison Vincent, Idaho Department of Water Resources
Andrew Swanson, Oregon ACWA
Anthony Capetillo, Nez Perce Tribe
Anthony Pena, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
Austin Baldwin, US Geological Survey
Brandon Rogers, Yakama Nation
Brett Raunig, City of Vancouver
Bryan DeDoncker, Clark County Public Health
Carl Merkle, Confederated Umatilla Tribes
Catherine Corbett, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
Catherine Gockel, EPA R10
Chris McCullough, Washington State Department of Agriculture
Clark Watry, Nez Perce Tribe
Damon Roberts, Washington State Department of Ecology
Dan Kent, Salmon-Safe
Dena Horton, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA)
Dena Horton, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA)
Diane Hennessey, EPA
Dianne Barton, Columbia Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Dorie Sutton, City of Vancouver WA
Elaine Placido, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
Elaine Snouwaert, Washington Department of Ecology
Elena Ramirez Groszowski, Yakama Nation Fisheries
Erik Peterson, U.S. EPA
Evan Smith, The Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Gary Bahr, Washington State Dept of Agriculture
Ian Waite, USGS
James Coleman, Benton-Franklin Health District
James E Tuck, Saint George's School
Jen Bayer, USGS

Jesse Naymik, Idaho Power Company
Jim Tuck, Trout Unlimited
Joe Kurle, Palouse Resilience Foundation
John Spencer, City of Nampa
Julie Carter, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Karma Anderson, NRCS
Kris Olinger, City of Vancouver WA
Kristen Svicarovich, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
Lara Christensen, Oak Lodge Water Services
Linda Nemeth, Nez Perce Tribe
Lucy Walsh, Long Tom Watershed Council
Mark Jankowski, USEPA Region 10
Matt Szelag, EPA Region 10
Meg Belais, The Freshwater Trust
Mike Kaputa, Chelan County Natural Resources Department
Mike Kaputa, Chelan County Natural Resources Department
Nathan Woods, Washington State Department of Ecology
Nick Peak, EPA, Region 10
Nikki Guillot, WA State DOH
Paula Calvert, Bonneville Power Administration
Perry Beale, WSDA
Rochelle Labiosa, EPA R10
Sarah Bahrman, EPA - R8
Sarah Whitney, Long Tom Watershed Council
Sean Payne, USGS-ORWSC
Serhan Mermer, Oregon State University
Serhan Mermer, Oregon State University
Shawn Young, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Sherrie Duncan, Yakama Nation Fisheries
Stephanie Bailey, EPA R10
Susan Fricke, EWEB
Tara Galuska, Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office
Will Tiedemann, Idaho Conservation League
Caj Matheson, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Cavan Gerrish, Bureau of Reclamation
Kelli Daffron, North Coast Watershed Association
Perry Beale, Washington State Department of Agriculture
Peter Murchie, US EPA Region 10
Stephanie Blair, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

APPENDIX B. MAY 2024 WORKING GROUP BRAINSTORMING EXERCISE FLIP CHART CONTENT

Strategic Toxics Reduction Planning

What are the top 1-3 things people in this room need to hear?

- It needs to focus on water, air, and soil because it's interconnected.
- Strategic planning is a great start. Follow up with prioritization and timelines!
- Do not allow polluters to self-test and self-remediate cleanups. Need Ecology and EPA oversight.
- Phase out forever chemicals that bio-accumulate on a permanent basis.
- If you can't get the job done – push for a pilot.

What are the top 1-3 things EPA can do to support you? (Besides funding)

- Same sticky
    - QAPP Assistance.
    - Connection to similar groups.
- Simplify grant proposal process.
- Sub-award webinar /info sharing. Lean on EPA expertise to prepare for sub-award management.
- Examples of these plans.
    - How to write/structure/develop these plans. Templates?
    - Facilitate connections among groups/entities that should work together developing plans.
- Help with training for sampling and QAPP development.
- Connect tech and field experts that can support project efforts.
- Hold a training/example meeting.
- Create templates so certain info is standardized in plans.

What are the top 1-3 things working group partners can do to support you?

- Make connections between similar groups going through strategic plan development. E.g., Tribal. – Stephanie Blair, Confederated Tribes Umatilla.
- Share data.
- Peer reviews or communication/collaboration.

Non-CERCLA Cleanups

What are the top 1-3 things people in this room need to hear?

- No notes.

What are the top 1-3 things EPA can do to support you? (Besides funding)

- Same sticky
    - Share data.
    - Explain centralized databases.

What are the top 1-3 things working group partners can do to support you?

- Share data.

- Same sticky
    - Share data.
    - Digestible/understandable.

Monitoring and Assessment

What are the top 1-3 things people in this room need to hear?

- Toxics are higher closest to where they are released.
- More oversight and enforcement pertaining to polluters. The fines need to be much higher for corporations to pay attention.
- Create a self-funded enforcement group in each state. Funds come from fines from generators or pollution.
    - DTSC – Department of toxics substance control has operated this way in CA for decades.
- Please test for PFAS and many other chemicals found in sewage sludge before it is spread on farmland. These chemicals end up in our food supply and contaminate our ground water. Municipalities should be required to look into alternative methods.
- Tribal health assessments include things not directly related to physical health. I.e. cultural access, mental health, access to first foods.
- There is help. You are not on your own.

What are the top 1-3 things EPA can do to support you? (Besides funding)

- Resources for bulk data consolidation and analysis.
- Assure access to high resolution analysis.
- Creating revolving funds for testing/monitoring water quality that is responsive to local needs and can be relied on repeatedly.
- Design a tool that asks plain language questions and spits out a QAPP outline.
- Help with writing a QAPP.
- Same sticky
    - Reduce barriers to grant applications/reporting to w/ technical assistance built in (not require a special request).
    - Develop watershed based data analysis + collection of studies.
- Better access to affordable labs that are testing for emerging pollutants.
- Promote centralized testing laboratories to increase success, decrease costs, and increase development.

What are the top 1-3 things working group partners can do to support you?

- Same sticky
    - Publish your study.
    - Make data available.
- Coordinated development of indigenous health indicators that combine toxics impact to both human and environmental health.
- Share info about affordable labs that can be used to test for emerging pollutants.

Stormwater and Green Infrastructure

What are the top 1-3 things people in this room need to hear?

- OR DEJ can fund green infrastructure through clean water state revolving fund.
- WA has limited has approved native plant nurseys, so finding ways to get more plants for green infrastructure that utilizes native plants.
- Is there an established alignment with MS4 permit requirements?
- Stormwater parks are a great drought tolerant "greenspace".
- Sediment drops that are permeable or allow water to enter soil column provide best treatment and attenuation.
- Important for people designing facilities to keep sediment out of treatment areas.

What are the top 1-3 things EPA can do to support you? (Besides funding)

- Letters of support on other grants and or projects.
- Share project ideas or research.
    - Letters of support.
    - Help with community efforts if in the area.
- Require green infrastructure in stormwater permitting.
    - Incentivize use of green infrastructure for state projects.
- Coordinate with state government to ensure municipalities are aware of opportunity.
- Share examples of partnerships/concepts that have been successful.

What are the top 1-3 things working group partners can do to support you?

- Share successes and strategies to mitigate stormwater pollution (no public).
    - Has there been legal research on filtering 6PPD with native plant swales?
- Are other partners that use biochar having a problem with soil providers conflating ash and biochar? How have others overcome this? (biochar specifications, etc.)
- Communications across state boundaries about GSI strategies and successes – some states in the CRB are way ahead of MT and we could learn so much from other states.
- Scope the type of applicable projects and achievable goals.
- How can be better collaborate and influence transportation projects and planning for stormwater management?

Pollution Prevention

What are the top 1-3 things people in this room need to hear?

- This is the #1 way to stop future problems.
- Find alternatives to discharging sewage effectively into our waterways.
- Very few well-vetted P2 options for many emerging contaminants within business and industry chemical user community.

What are the top 1-3 things EPA can do to support you? (Besides funding)

- Align the Toxic Substances Control Act with the Clean Water Act. If it's not made it doesn't get into the water.
- Integrate incentives for "upstream" P2 actions into permits and regulations as an alternative to treatment and controls.

- Assistance in identifying safer alternatives to priority toxics in products that also perform well and are economical.
- Enforce downstream water quality standards in more conservative states like Idaho.
    - Provide expert guidance for rural discharges, particularly WWTP + POTW.
- Harmonize legal standards to protect downstream water quality on sovereign nations.
- Engage more stakeholders in considering and developing TMDL's and regulatory levels to help participation and speed up development.

What are the top 1-3 things working group partners can do to support you?

- Help promote forms of P2.
- Consider data consolidation and centralization for public consumption and use.
- Disseminate P2 outreach technical assistance resources to larger Columbia basin working group and other partners.
- Effective public education/engagement methods.
- Share expertise with smaller/not present dischargers that may not be able to afford it.

Agriculture

What are the top 1-3 things people in this room need to hear?

- Regenerative and sustainable agricultural practices are critical to the overall ecosystem.
    - Habitat.
    - Carbon trapping.
    - Temperature reduction.
    - Weather influence.
- Provide incentives for farmers to use no till farming methods.
    - After a few years, create new regulations to restrict pesticide and herbicide use in exchange for incentives.
- Work with Agricultural Insurance Laws. Protect farmers from losing their insurance if they try no-till farming methods.
- WDOE has developed agricultural BMP guidance for buffers.
    - They should be consulted.
- Voluntary programs (NRCS) don't do enough to protect surface waters. They have lots of money available, but the minimum isn't enough.
- The Freshwater Trust is working collaboratively with producers, local groups, and funders to increase the pace and scale of irrigation efficiency upgrades to reduce phosphorus runoff that contributes to methyl-mercury production in the mid-Snake.
- OR DEQ implements Willamette Basin mercury TMDL on agricultural lands.
- Irrigation efficiency reduces pollution migration.
- Talk about the issue from the farmer's perspective – economic benefits, resiliency.

What are the top 1-3 things EPA can do to support you? (Besides funding)

- Science!
- Help to identify areas of overlap with USDA, NRCS, and other federal grant programs.
- Identification of legacy pollution sources.
- Match-make different entities with similar projects or objectives to facilitate collaboration.
- Provide consistent guidance for transboundary waters.
    - Connect existing outreach efforts to each other.

    - Encourage state nutrient standards (water quality) and provide guidance on implementation.
- Consider enhancing formulation reporting requirements for pesticides.
- Collaborate with states on watershed-based pesticide and agricultural water quality improvement initiatives.
    - E.g. Provide regulatory certainty.
- Work within federal family to improve standards and ensure minimums (buffers) are protective. [NRCS]

What are the top 1-3 things working group partners can do to support you?

- Amplify efforts to keep soil in place in Willamette Valley to accelerate Mercury TMDL implementation.
- (Voluntary) Amplify efforts to keep pesticides on target and out of the aquatic environment in Oregon Watersheds.
- Create harmonious and collaborative efforts to work within basins to ensure consistent information is shared and programs are not undercutting each other.
- Coordinate across agencies. Think more creatively beyond pay-for-practice.
- Share ideas, spread the word of our projects, and collaborate.
- Share information on buffers.

APPENDIX C. AGENDA

Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group Meeting

Proposed Agenda
May 22-23, 2024

May 22, 2024 – Spokane Convention Center, Rooms 201ABC 334 West Spokane Falls Blvd. Spokane, WA 99201	
Time	Session
1:30-2:00	Celebration of Upper Basin Grants
2:00-2:45	Welcome & Keynote Speaker • Dan Opalski, EPA Region 10 Deputy Regional Administrator • Caj Matheson, Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council Member and Natural Resources Director
2:45-3:45	Grantee Updates – Grantees will share updates and accomplishments from their projects. • Yvette Joseph, Colville Tribes • Jude Brown, Pollution Prevention Resource Center • Dr. Rachel Malison, University of Montana • Marc Gauthier, Upper Columbia United Tribes
3:45-4:00	Adjourn and travel to site visit (15 min walk or 5 min rideshare/ car ride – parking is limited!)
4:00-5:15	Visit to Spokane City stormwater and sewer overflow prevention site • 808 West Spokane Falls Blvd. • Kirstin Davis and Meghan Havko, City of Spokane
5:30-7:00	Informal Happy Hour at Brick West Brewing, a supporter of Salmon-Safe certified hops and grains • 1318 West 1st Ave.
May 23, 2024 – Spokane Convention Center, Rooms 201ABC 334 West Spokane Falls Blvd. Spokane, WA 99201	

9:00-10:00	Overview of the Washington Lead Entity Grant: Tasks and Milestones
	• Introduction: Columbia River Transboundary Toxics-Past, Present, and Future
	  ○ Adriane Borgias, WA Dept. of Ecology Water Quality Program
	• North Columbia River Clean Up: History and Next Steps
	  ○ Nic Acklam, WA Dept. of Ecology Toxics Clean Up Program
	• Introduction to Tribal Presentation
	  ○ Marc Gauthier, Upper Columbia United Tribes
	• Selenium and Elk Valley Coal Mines (present)
	  ○ Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
	• Copper Mountain expansion (future)
	  ○ Colville Tribes

10:00-10:30	Rivers, Watersheds & Communities Program: Community Engagement Towards River and Watershed Restoration. • Jan Boll, Seth Flanders, and Hailey Smith, Washington State University
10:30-10:45	*Break*
10:45-11:45	EPA Updates General CRBRP Update • Peter Murchie, EPA R10 Grant updates and Other Funding Opportunities • Michelle Wilcox, EPA R10 Emerging research • Peter Brumm, EPA R8 Toxics Monitoring Subgroup Update • Amy Puls, USGS Report Out from Regenerative Agriculture Workshop • Lucy Edmondson, EPA
11:45-12:00	About the Saltese Wetlands • Nicki Feiten, Water Resources Project Manager, Spokane County Environmental Services
12:00-1:15	Lunch
1:15-2:30	Deeper thinking breakout sessions on • Agriculture and Pollution Prevention • Stormwater & Green Infrastructure • Monitoring, Assessment, and Cleanups • Education, Community Engagement, and Planning
2:30-3:00	Open mic – attendees share news, upcoming events, celebrations, or requests for assistance
3:00-3:15	Closing and adjourn

NOTE:	***Sessions highlighted in blue will be available for both in-person and virtual attendance.***