



Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee Updated Recommendations Summary

January, 2021

The following revisions have been made to the current Recommendations, compared to the original December 2013 Recommendations.

RESPECTING OUR HISTORY – A detailed table of dam and reservoir characteristics was added.

A. TREATY

Process

- 1. Local Government Status In Treaty Negotiations:** Support for Indigenous Nations roles and a description of the Committee’s engagement with the CRT Negotiating Team was added.
- 2. Engagement with Basin residents** - Added information on the [Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee \(CBRAC\)](#).
- 3. Assess Impacts and Benefits** - Paragraph regarding U.S. interests in additional spring and summer flows moved to section on Less Fluctuation in Reservoir Levels.

Content

- 4. Reduce Negative Impacts to the Basin** – No changes.
- 5. Equitable Benefit Sharing** - Several additions to: expand on the importance of equitable benefit sharing with Basin communities; highlight community need for easy access to clear information on benefits, including the Committee working with the province to update the [2012 Range of Benefits and Impacts Report](#); and recognize the difference between benefit sharing with Indigenous Nations and Basin communities/residents.
- 6. Expand the Focus of the Treaty to Include Ecosystems and Other Interests** - Several additions to: recognize commitments by Canada and the U.S. to integrate ecosystem function into the Treaty; support Indigenous-lead ecosystem function work, with provincial funding and support; share expectation of continuing engagement of Basin residents as ecosystem function work progresses; recognize the [Upper Columbia Basin Environmental Collaborative \(UCBEC\)](#) Discussion Paper noting nothing included that the Committee wouldn’t support; and strongly support for increased flexibility in the Treaty to integrate ecosystem function.
- 7. Flood Risk Management** - Several additions to: state the Committee’s view that Koocanusa reservoir should not be considered a US reservoir under Called Upon operations; expand on the definition of ‘economic losses and operating costs’ resulting from Called Upon operations including the need for fair processes to define these losses and costs; provide more details on what local governments can do to reduce flood risk; and urge for the Surveyor General to reconsider their process for approving accretions on Kootenay Lake and the Lower Columbia River.

- 8. Canadian Input to Libby Dam Operations** - Recreation and tourism interests added.
- 9. Power Generation** - If Treaty changes might negatively impact Columbia Basin Trust revenues, Basin residents must have opportunity for informed input has been added.
- 11. Integrate Climate Change** - Clarified long term perspective (at least 50 years).
- 12. Pursue Salmon Restoration** - Added congratulations for the [Letter of Agreement](#).
- 13. Less Fluctuations in Reservoir Levels** - New section. Includes and expands on reference to U.S. interests in increased spring/summer flows for fish and irrigation from 3. Assessing Benefits and Impacts.
- 14. Governance** – New section.

B. DOMESTIC ISSUES

- 1. Support Communities to Address Negative Impacts in the BC Basin** - Added paragraph to emphasize need for more support for smaller, impacted communities. Paragraph on ecosystem funding moved to 7. Columbia Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program.
- 2. Community Economic Development** - Several additions to: describe the productive forestry and agriculture lands that were flooded; note incomplete documentation of losses; highlight the importance of high speed broadband connectivity; and expand on the impacts of power outages.
- 3. Meaningful ongoing engagement** - Added information on the [Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee \(CBRAC\)](#).
- 4. Koocanusa Reservoir** - Updated information about jurisdictions and local concerns.
- 5. Water management process for the Kootenay River** – Updated information about Committee activities.
- 6. Columbia and Duncan Water Use Plans** – Several additions to: clarify that Consultative Committee members signed the final reports; describe the WUP outcomes; emphasize the need for more communication about Order Review processes and timelines; importance of engagement of local governments and Basin residents in the Order Review processes; and encourage the Water Comptroller and BC Hydro to establish a credible oversight process to address concerns about the validity of WUP research results.
- 7. Columbia Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program** - Expanded on the opportunities to strengthen relationships and communications and added agreement with the 2019 Evaluation and Audit finding of insufficient funding capacity to meet intended outcome, with commitment to advocate for adequate, secure, long-term funding for FWCP and other program to restore ecosystems.