

U.S. Government Commitments in Support of the “Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative” and in Partnership with the Six Sovereigns

Preface

In 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration began a process to work with regional sovereigns¹ and stakeholders to develop and implement plans to comprehensively restore Columbia River Basin salmon and other native fish populations to healthy and abundant levels, honor Federal commitments to Tribal Nations, deliver affordable and reliable clean power, and meet the many resilience needs of stakeholders across the region. The work was made possible by a pause in long-standing litigation, which has been extended since.

This document is the product of intense engagement with several of those parties—the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the State of Oregon, and the State of Washington (the “Six Sovereigns”)—who are collectively advancing a Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative (CBRI). This document is intended to describe commitments developed in partnership with these sovereigns. The document also is consistent with the goals set forth in a recent Presidential Memorandum.

On September 27, 2023, President Biden issued a Presidential Memorandum declaring that “[i]t is time for a sustained national effort to restore healthy and abundant native fish populations in the [Columbia River] Basin,” and that “it is the policy of [the] Administration to work with the Congress and with Tribal Nations, States, local governments, and stakeholders to pursue effective, creative, and durable solutions, informed by Indigenous Knowledge, to restore healthy and abundant salmon, steelhead, and other native fish populations in the Basin; to secure a clean and resilient energy future for the region; to support local agriculture and its role in food security domestically and globally; and to invest in the communities that depend on the services provided by the Basin’s Federal dams to enhance resilience to changes to the operation of the CRS, including those necessary to address changing hydrological conditions due to climate change.”² Some actions are already underway to meet the goals in the Presidential Memorandum and other commitments made by the United States. This includes efforts such as testing the feasibility of reintroducing anadromous salmonids in blocked area habitats in the Upper Columbia River Basin above Chief Joseph Dam under a historic agreement between the United States government and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, and the Spokane Tribe of Indians to support and fund Tribally-led efforts to implement the Phase 2

¹ Regional sovereigns may include, as appropriate, the States of Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Idaho, as well as the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Shoshone-Bannock, Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes.

² Presidential Memorandum of Restoring Healthy and Abundant Salmon, Steelhead, and Other Native Fish Populations in the Columbia River Basin (Sept. 27, 2023), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/09/27/memorandum-on-restoring-healthy-and-abundant-salmon-steelhead-and-other-native-fish-populations-in-the-columbia-river-basin/>.

Implementation Plan.

Sustained national effort requires durable partnership over time with all regional sovereigns and stakeholders. Though this document responds to the work of several regional sovereigns, these are not the only sovereigns in the Basin, and these commitments do not represent the exhaustive suite of actions that will be developed and carried out under the Presidential Memorandum. The effort described in this document is not intended to create a new forum that addresses or replaces existing regional forums and processes. The commitments described here do not undermine commitments the United States Government (USG) has made to other sovereigns in the region under existing agreements. The effort is intended to foster partnership on matters of shared interest among the USG and the Six Sovereigns, with the expectation that these efforts will grow, expand, and include other sovereigns and stakeholders. Accordingly, the USG is committed to continue pursuing partnership on matters of shared interests with other sovereigns in the region, whether those matters are included below or not. Moreover, when implementing the commitments below, the USG and Six Sovereigns are committed to including others and working in partnership.

Introduction

The Columbia River and its tributaries are the lifeblood of the Pacific Northwest, providing the region with an abundance of natural resources, water, power, recreation, and opportunity which have sustained cultures, livelihoods, commerce, and economic growth. An estimated 7.5 to 16 million adult salmon and steelhead once returned to the Columbia River Basin each year. In 1855, the United States entered treaties with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe, in which these Tribes reserved, among other rights, the right to harvest fish at all usual and accustomed places. Salmon, steelhead, and other native fish are essential to the culture, economy, and ways of life of these Tribes, as they are for other Tribal Nations in the region and First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

Since the late 1800s, the Columbia River Basin ecosystem has changed at the expense of salmon, other native fish, and ecosystem function. Historically, sixteen different stocks of salmon and steelhead spawned above Bonneville Dam, as well as broadly distributed populations of bull trout, lamprey, sturgeon, and other aquatic species. Of the sixteen historic salmon and steelhead stocks, four are now extinct, and seven are listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act—including one reliant on a captive breeding program. Of the remaining five, only one approaches its historical numbers. Bull trout are also listed under the ESA and historic anadromous populations in the Columbia River are no longer present. The Kootenai River population of white sturgeon experienced significant decline with construction of Libby Dam and has been listed as endangered under the ESA since 1994. Pacific lamprey have also experienced a precipitous decline across the basin.

The Biden Administration recognizes the indisputable value and importance of salmon – and other native fish – to Columbia River Basin Tribes, as well as to the economy and overall ecological health of the region, throughout the Basin and from the Oregon coast to the Gulf of Alaska. In the face of climate change, urgent action is needed to restore their populations to healthy and abundant levels.

According to the 2022 report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), “Rebuilding Interior Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead,” the hydrosystem is a primary limiting factor in the recovery of ten of the sixteen salmon and steelhead stocks in the interior Columbia River Basin. For three others, the limiting factor is blocked historic habitat due to large dams that lack fish passage.

Tributary habitat is another important limiting factor for salmon and steelhead in much of the Basin, particularly for middle Columbia River stocks. NOAA found the risk of extinction for all NOAA ESA-listed stocks in the interior Basin to be moderate-to-high, and, considering the status of all limiting factors for the species, NOAA does not expect the current risk status of these listed stocks to improve in the short term without immediate attention.

To address the critical status of these fish – especially listed salmon and steelhead in the Snake River Basin – Senator Patty Murray and Governor Jay Inslee released [recommendations](#) on Columbia River salmon recovery in August 2022, after a year-long process compiling existing information and soliciting input from communities, Tribes, and stakeholders across the Northwest. With respect to the Lower Snake River (LSR) dams, they recommended that the dams’ services would need to be replaced or mitigated before any breach should occur. They further recommended that the Federal and state governments initiate a program to replace the services of the dams and develop additional information on the dams and the services they provide to enable Congress to consider dam breaching in the future. They also recommended immediate action to deploy the scale of clean energy infrastructure necessary to confront the climate crisis regardless of whether Congress authorizes the breaching of the Lower Snake River dams. They recognized, as does the Administration, that significant Federal investment is necessary to support this transition, which will require substantial Federal budget support.

We agree that business as usual – and the consequential disappearance of salmon and other native fish populations in the Columbia River Basin – is unacceptable. And while there is still time to save these fish, there is no time to waste. The NOAA report clarified the urgency of the situation, stating that, given the current status of salmon populations, “[t]he science robustly supports riverscape-scale process-based stream habitat restoration, dam removal (breaching), and ecosystem-based management, [and] overwhelmingly supports acting and acting now.”³

The science is clear, and now so too must be our path forward.

The USG also recognizes the urgency of recovering other native listed and non-listed aquatic species across the Columbia River Basin. While this Commitment document focuses on the needs of Pacific salmon and steelhead, the USG also plans to work with sovereigns and stakeholders under the direction of the Presidential Memorandum to increase restoration and recovery actions for other native species.

As stated in Exhibit 2 of the August 2022 litigation stay agreement, the Biden Administration is “committed to supporting development of 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.” In carrying out this commitment, the Administration understands that no single action is a “silver bullet,” and progress will necessitate a comprehensive suite of management actions to make progress towards our goal of healthy and abundant fish populations in the Basin.

The NOAA Rebuilding Report, for example, sets out a suite of centerpiece actions “needed to provide the highest likelihood of reversing near-term productivity declines and rebuilding towards healthy and harvestable runs [of Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead] in the face of climate change.”

Although the science is clear and the urgency real, there remain important social and economic factors to consider and address before the full suite of actions laid out by the NOAA report could move forward.

³ See NOAA, Rebuilding [Interior Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead Report](#), p. 24 (2022).

As highlighted throughout the Murray/Inslee recommendations, these social and economic considerations must be expedited and addressed on a timeline that meets this urgency, while also recognizing where congressional authorization is needed. In the meantime, interim actions can help minimize the potential for productivity declines and help achieve some population growth during periods of favorable environmental conditions.

It is apparent from the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative (CBRI) that the Six Sovereigns share the Administration's understanding that a comprehensive and urgent approach is necessary to achieving our shared objectives, and the Administration thanks them for their work in developing this framework, consistent with the science undergirding the NOAA Rebuilding Report, to drive coordinated action. While this USG response does not constitute a decision by the USG to support legislation to authorize dam breaching, the USG continues to be committed to exploring restoration of the Lower Snake River, including dam breach, and views Governor Inslee and Senator Murray's recommendations as providing important guidance. To that end, the USG is prepared to deliver the commitments below, in partnership with the Six Sovereigns and other stakeholders in the region, to make headway on the objectives in the CBRI. As noted at the outset, the commitments here are not to the exclusion of other efforts needed to meet the President's direction to work to restore salmon and other native fish populations, including bull trout, lamprey, and sturgeon species, to healthy and abundant levels, to secure an affordable and reliable clean energy future for the region; to support local agriculture and its role in food security domestically and globally; and to invest in the communities that depend on the services provided by the Basin's Federal dams to enhance resilience to changes to the operation of the CRS, including those necessary to address changing hydrological conditions due to climate change. The USG is committed to working with all regional sovereigns and with stakeholders to implement the Presidential Memorandum and achieve these important goals.

Lower Snake River Restoration

Responsive to CBRI Objectives 1(a), 1(b), 4, 5, & 6

- **Objective 1(a) and (b):** *“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.”*
- **Objective 4:** *Invest in and support communities and economic sectors (e.g., energy, transportation, agriculture, and recreation) in a manner that is consistent with meeting decarbonization goals and mandates and integration of renewables, delivers “affordable and clean power”, improves resiliency and adaptability to climate change and supports “the many resilience needs of stakeholders across the region”, and “[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 strategy proposed in Objective 1 and associated Federal actions “honor Federal Commitments to Tribal Nations” and address past and ongoing inequities related to the Federal hydrosystem to reflect and uphold Federal Treaty and trust responsibilities to Columbia Basin Tribes.*

USG Commitments

- **Tribal Energy Sovereignty – Pacific Northwest Tribal Energy Program.** The Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide targeted technical assistance, planning, and funding to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe (together, the “LRTT’s”), to develop and deploy clean, renewable, socially-just energy resources (to include distributed energy resources (including efficiency and demand response, other generation, storage, and transmission resources)) in the region. DOE will work with LRTTs individually and collectively to support quantified goals for energy project development, presumed to be at least 1,000- 3,000 MW of clean energy resources, and to determine the role LRTTs want to take with regard to various projects (e.g., individual or collective ownership, leasing, power procurement, etc.). DOE will work with LRTTs to develop a written agreement documenting and guiding this process. This new, clean Tribally-sponsored energy will be planned as “replacement” power for the lower Snake River dams if Congress authorizes the breach of those dams. This Pacific Northwest (PNW) Tribal Energy Program will run in parallel with ongoing DOE assistance and resources related to tribally supported projects that are under development outside of the PNW Tribal Energy Program and nothing in this USG commitment is intended to be exclusive to PNW Tribal Energy Program projects or limit the allocation of resources to tribally-supported projects that are not identified by a Tribe as part of the PNW Tribal Energy Program. See *Appendix A for more information on this proposal and respective DOE and USDA contributions.*

 - **Tribal Engagement & Implementation Support.** The USG is committed to supporting Columbia Basin Tribes in regional energy planning and energy project review processes in the Pacific Northwest, and to advance the development of a renewable, clean, and socially just energy portfolio in the region. By February 1, 2024, DOE, USDA, and the Department of the Interior (DOI) will identify additional Federal resources (e.g., from the DOE LEAP program)⁴ that could support the LRTT’s and other Columbia Basin Tribes’ capacity regarding clean energy resource development, energy project management, and ability to engage in regional energy planning and energy project review processes, including without limitation the capacity of the Tribes’ natural and cultural resource staff to engage in such planning.
- **Accounting for “replacement” power.** In coordination with the Six Sovereigns, the USG and DOE will develop a means of “accounting” for the region’s development of resources available to serve as “replacement” energy services for the lower Snake River dams, based on the particular services needed in the event Congress authorizes dam breach.⁵ This accounting mechanism will be developed no later than February 1, 2024. This accounting mechanism will track and count all regional resources that can contribute to replacement of the dams’ energy services developed or under development as of the date of these commitments and beyond.⁶

⁴ Noting that various programs, including C-LEAP, are subject to competitive funding procedures and nothing in this agreement over-rides those standards and procedures.

⁵ In the event that Bonneville considers acquisition of these or any other resources, such acquisition of resources will be governed by applicable statutory requirements. See *e.g.*, 16 U.S.C. § 839d *et seq.*

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The Regional Energy Needs Planning Process described in Appendix A, specifically its scenarios for regional clean energy development that include replacement power in the event Congress authorizes breach of the LSR dams, will identify portfolios of potential replacement resources (as well as new energy resource options, e.g., storage, efficiency, or transmission, that could enable greater grid management flexibility to manage the hydropower system for greater fish benefit, as well as reliability, affordability, decarbonization and other regional goals during the interim period before breach is authorized). The “accounting” approach would provide the public regular updates on the region’s development of clean energy resources, including the type of resources needed to replace the specific energy services of the LSR dams, as compared to the portfolios identified in the energy analysis.

- **Assistance to Support Tribally-Owned Clean Energy Projects through USDA’s energy programs, such as the Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Program and at Least 10 Tribal Projects through USDA’s Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).** Yakama has applied for USDA’s PACE partially forgivable loan program for utility scale clean energy generation, and the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will continue to work with them through the process. USDA will also work with tribes to access funding for clean energy development through the RUS core program. Additionally, USDA will work to provide technical assistance to tribes to apply to the REAP program and will work with Columbia River Basin tribes to identify, develop and fund at least 10 REAP clean energy projects. REAP offers grants and guaranteed loans to agricultural producers and small businesses, including Tribes and Tribal businesses, in rural areas. REAP funds can be used for Tribally-owned renewable energy systems or energy-efficient infrastructure upgrades and provide grants for up to 50 percent of the total project costs for Tribes. Grants for clean energy and energy efficiency projects can be anywhere from \$1,500 to \$1 million in size.
- **Energy Analysis.** DOE will provide the necessary funding to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and potentially other DOE Labs to complete the Regional Energy Needs Planning Process, as outlined in Appendix A. This analysis will identify the best ways to meet the region’s resource adequacy needs and decarbonization goals, and support meeting Washington and Oregon’s power sector statutory requirements as well as state and LRTT energy strategies, while also accounting for any long-term actions necessary to ensure abundant and healthy salmon populations throughout the Basin, including breach of the Lower Snake River dams.
- **Transportation Upgrades.** The Department of Transportation (DOT) will prioritize work with sovereigns in the region to address rail, road, and culvert upgrades necessary for improving transportation infrastructure while also protecting and rebuilding salmon and steelhead populations. DOT Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs, Arlando Teller and the White House will hold an initial summit with regional sovereigns (including the Six Sovereigns) in early 2024 to scope, plan, and design projects that would meet DOT program requirements. This will include DOT providing information about opportunities for Federal funding, including grant and loan requirements for transportation and culvert removal projects. DOT will provide ongoing guidance and specific technical assistance to help identify the right grant and loan programs to fund these projects. For example, the new DOT [Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program](#) will provide grants – up to \$360,000 each – for early project development-phase activities such as hiring staff, feasibility studies, or environmental review; the \$3.4 million funding opportunity began to accept [applications](#) on a first-come, first-served basis beginning on August 14, 2023.

- **Transportation Analysis.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps), using its authority through the Planning Assistance to States and Tribes Program, will provide up to \$750,000 to partner with a non-Federal cost-share sponsor (potentially the State of Washington) to analyze what other transportation infrastructure, including rail, could provide regional benefits and also replace services should Congress authorize dam breach. This funding will further existing work at the State of Washington and will include stakeholder engagement from DOT and other relevant agencies as well as the Six Sovereigns' input.
- **Recreation and Public Access Analysis.** The Corps will allocate through its Planning Assistance to States and Tribes authority up to \$2 million⁵ to develop a blueprint for investments in replacement and enhancement of recreation along the LSR that would offset the loss of recreation opportunities associated with the drawdown of reservoirs if Congress were to authorize LSR dam breach. The Corps will work with the State of Washington and other entities as appropriate as cost-share sponsors. The blueprint will be informed by the DOI Tribal Circumstances analysis, and by consultation with the LRTTs, to ensure protection of cultural resources.
- **Water Supply Analysis.** BOR working with USDA will provide \$4.2 million to fund a water supply replacement study, in coordination with ongoing analyses by the State of Washington. This study will address the irrigation, municipal, and industrial withdrawals associated with the potential breach of the four LSR dams, if authorized by Congress.
- **Tribal Circumstances Analysis.** DOI will, in consultation and cooperation with Columbia River Basin Tribes, review the 1999 Tribal Circumstances Report (as amended in 2019) and the Tribal Perspective Reports submitted in 2019, together with information acquired in consultation with the Columbia River Basin Tribes in March 2022, to compile and complete an analysis of the historic, cumulative, and ongoing impacts the Federal dams on the Columbia River, including the lower Snake River dams, have on Columbia River Basin Tribes. This analysis will also inform any environmental compliance documents discussed below.
- **Study Timelines and Results.** The U.S. Government (USG) will complete the aforementioned outreach and analyses by late-2024, in cooperation with the Six Sovereigns and non-Federal sponsors, except that the Tribal Circumstances Analysis will be completed by DOI by June 1, 2024 and both the Transportation Analysis and the Recreation and Public Access Analysis timeline will be coordinated with the cost-share sponsor, with the goal of completing as much of the analysis as possible within 12 months of execution of a cost-share agreement. The USG, in cooperation with the Six Sovereigns, will provide the information obtained from the analyses above, and any recommendations that may result from those analyses, to Congress to inform budget and non-reimbursable appropriations requests. The information obtained from the analyses above will also inform environmental compliance documents and the Corps will use this information where relevant as well as other pre-existing analyses to expedite any Feasibility Study.⁷

⁷ The USG commits to reviewing time and cost-efficient opportunities to use information and analysis from prior LSR reports, including but not limited to the 2002 (Corps) Final Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report / Environmental Impact Statement.

Reintroduction of Salmon in the Upper Columbia River Basin

Responsive to CBRI Objective 1(a)

- **Objective 1(a):** *“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.*

USG Commitments

- **Phase 2 Implementation Plan (P2IP).** On September 21, the USG entered into an agreement with the proponent sovereigns to support the implementation of the P2IP. This agreement included \$200 million from BPA over 20 years and a commitment from the rest of the USG to work with the Upper Basin Tribes as necessary and appropriate to ensure full funding – currently estimated at \$300 million – of the P2IP if additional investment is needed.
- **Enloe Dam Removal.** NOAA provided \$2.3 million in FY 2023 for Enloe Dam removal analysis. NOAA will continue to seek opportunities to align its competitive grant programs with Columbia Basin fish recovery needs providing fish passage into the Upper Columbia River Basin. This project continues to be a priority. The USG will work with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation as the lead for the removal and other regional sovereigns as appropriate to find resources to ensure the completion of the alternative analysis and the accompanying sediment management plan, both within ongoing non-Federal feasibility analysis.

Mid-Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Improvements

Responsive to CBRI Objective 1(a)

- **Objective 1(a):** *“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.*

USG Commitments

- **Mid-Columbia Restoration Plan.** The Six Sovereigns and the USG will work together (with other sovereigns as appropriate) to develop recommended actions to rebuild mid-Columbia salmon and steelhead stocks as described in the Rebuilding Interior Columbia Salmon and Steelhead report, including, but not limited to, appropriately managing predation and protecting and restoring instream flows, water quality, and fish passage and habitat improvements in Oregon and Washington in low- to mid-elevation tributary and mainstem habitats.⁸ NOAA will coordinate with the appropriate USG agencies/departments and the relevant regional sovereigns (including the Six Sovereigns) to develop, by June 30, 2024, an agreed upon 10-year suite of mid- Columbia actions in Oregon and Washington for implementation beginning FY 2026, understanding that these actions will likely require at least doubling current levels of

⁸ This reflects the habitat components of the NOAA Rebuilding Report’s Mid-C centerpiece action recommendations, but does encompass the universe of actions necessary for rebuilding.

mitigation and restoration funding.⁹ To support this agreed upon suite of actions, the USG will identify available funding across agencies and departments, as well as other sources; and consistent with the September 27, 2023 Presidential Memo will evaluate new appropriations needs, and, as appropriate, potential future Congressional legislation necessary for implementation. BPA's obligation to fund any Fish and Wildlife projects identified in this Mid-Columbia Restoration Plan will be subject to the limitations outlined in the "BPA Fish and Wildlife General Funding" and "Increased Funding in Support of Basin-Wide Restoration" commitment sections, below.

- **Mid-C Subset of Near-Term Priority Actions.** The Six Sovereigns have identified and provided to the USG a short-list of high-priority mid-Columbia habitat actions, implementable in the near term. The USG, using a whole-of-government approach, will identify opportunities to provide funding to implement these projects beginning in FY 2024-2025.
- **Cold Water Refuge Projects.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Corps will work with the Six Sovereigns to identify and seek funding, as appropriate, to study and complete 3 to 5 projects to enhance or protect existing cold water refuge or provide additional cold water refuge in the Columbia Basin in Oregon and Washington. At least two of the five projects will be accomplished in Oregon. Special emphasis will be made toward reducing both warm waters and predation in tributary mouths. At least 2 of 5 projects will be focused on Mid-Columbia (Zone 6 and its tributaries) salmon and steelhead populations. Projects will be identified by June 30, 2024 for implementation beginning in FY 2024-2025.

Other Native Fish

Responsive to CBRI Objective 1(a) and 2

- **Objective 2:** *Ensure that all native species, regardless of listing status, are considered in the comprehensive strategy in a way that improves ecosystem function in the Columbia River and its tributaries.*

USG Commitments

- **Pacific Lamprey Mitigation.** The Corps has expressed a capability of an additional \$5 million in non-reimbursable funding for FY 2025 to support Pacific lamprey, and will continue to work with state and tribal fish managers to identify and seek appropriations, as appropriate, for funding needs moving beyond FY 2025, including needs expressed by the fish managers for a regional supplementation/augmentation plan, and for modernizing and funding passage structures at artificial barriers and obstructions, as associated with Corps facilities. The Corps received \$20 million in FY 2020 to make Pacific lamprey passage improvements consistent with commitments described within the 2018 Columbia Basin Fish Accords extension. The Corps has been working closely with the Tribes to ensure funding is allocated to the highest priority Pacific lamprey projects and expect the available funds to be expended by the end of FY 2024.

⁹ The Six Sovereigns have provided the USG with documentation that indicates that a 10-year suite of mid-Columbia mitigation actions would likely cost upwards of \$200M/year in additional funding over the next ten years.

BPA will continue the current level of funding to support passage for Pacific lamprey FWS will provide \$785,000 in FY 2024 to support Pacific lamprey conservation. FWS funding will be used for projects including passage implementation in the Yakima Basin and Upper Columbia Basin, monitoring of translocation efforts, and assessment of Pacific lamprey distribution in the Snake River Basin.

- **White Sturgeon Mitigation.** BPA will continue the current level of funding to support white sturgeon recovery efforts through FY 25 to implement NPCC Regional White Sturgeon Framework recommendations and the White Sturgeon Hatchery Master Plan, and provide support for monitoring and evaluation needs.
- **Bull Trout.** The FWS commits to providing \$700,000 in FY 2024 in support of bull trout recovery in the Columbia River Basin. Funding will be used for projects including population monitoring and assessment, genetic analysis of native salmonids in Idaho and western Montana, and technical assistance to Tribes and other partners on bull trout recovery. The Corps will provide \$87 million in funding for a design build contract for the Albeni Falls fish passage project to benefit bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. The Corps will seek additional funding for implementation through the budget process.
- **Native Resident Fish & Shellfish.** The USG recognizes that the key elements of the CBRI, consistent with the Rebuilding Report, are important to restore native fish and the ecosystems supporting them. The FWS commits to working with USGS, regional sovereigns, and other partners to develop monitoring plans and restoration actions that would allow for better understanding of native resident fish (e.g., sculpin) and other native species' distribution and recovery needs, including the Western Ridged Mussel, which is currently petitioned for listing under the ESA. For example, in the Mid-Columbia, FWS is working with sovereigns to fund, design, and implement the Wallula Floodplain Restoration Project for the lower Walla Walla River benefitting both resident and anadromous species. The USG will work with the Six Sovereigns, Idaho and other regional sovereigns and stakeholders as appropriate to update plans, funding needs, and priorities necessary to restore native resident fish and shellfish in concert with the efforts to rebuild salmon runs. Funding will be identified for native resident fish and shellfish in the development of appropriations requests and budgets that support implementing the CBRI.

Improved Ecosystem Function

Responsive to CBRI Objective 1(a)

- **Objective 1(a):** *“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.*

USG Commitments

- **Improved Ecosystem Function Commitments.** The USG commits to rebuild salmon and steelhead runs to improve ecosystem function by restoring marine nutrient transport into interior habitats and providing prey for other native fish and for marine mammals, and by restoring watershed functions that provide essential ecosystem services enhancing resilience to climate change and associated heat, drought, fire, water scarcity and invasive species. River

restoration work in the Basin will help deliver this ecosystem function improvement. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- **Enloe Dam Removal.** See NOAA commitment above for “Enloe Dam Removal.”
- **Culvert Design or Replacement on Federal Lands in Oregon and Washington.** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provided \$1.2 million in FY 2022 and FY 2023 for the design or replacement of 17 culverts and other projects to restore and protect stream habitat in Washington and Oregon.
- **Culvert Removals in WA.** DOT has the ability to offer opportunities for competitive discretionary grants that recognize fish passage as an important component of the grant. These include FHWA’s Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Program, Bridge Investment Program, Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program, and Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program.
- **Fish passage improvements.** For FY 2024, FWS plans to adjust criteria in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to give additional weight to project proposals that leverage other BIL investments and significantly contribute to watershed-scale restoration efforts. In addition, FWS will add selection factors in the NOFO that will facilitate FWS directing funding towards projects in priority geographic areas identified by DOI (e.g., Columbia River Basin; Klamath; Appalachia; Yukon, Kuskokwim, and Norton Sound region).
- **Cold Water Refuge.** EPA’s 2021 Cold Water Refuge Plan identifies various actions to protect cool tributaries and reduce temperatures in specific tributaries to enhance their function as a cold-water refuge. For example, a priority action in many watersheds is to restore stream riparian areas and geomorphology to cool streams and improve salmon habitat, especially on agricultural lands. These stream restoration projects can be implemented through grant funding and Federal, state, Tribal, and local partnerships. Costs could run to as much as \$50 million over 10 years. FWS recognized the need for additional cold water refuge assessments within the Columbia and Snake River basins in the 2020 FWS Biological Opinion and will work with sovereigns and other Federal agencies to identify methods and funding mechanisms to develop the assessments and implementation plans. The USG will work with states and Tribes to agree on a timeline and further refine cost estimates for these projects. In addition to funding from the USG, EPA will partner with the states to assist them in understanding how to leverage EPA Clean Water Act (e.g., State Revolving Fund and Section 319) funding for these same projects. EPA will work to identify thermal pollution, both point source and non- point source, and larger sources of warm water will be investigated and remedied to protect cold water sources and cold water habitat in the mainstem and tributaries to the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington.
- **Ecosystem Restoration Projects.** The Corps has expressed a capability of over \$20 million in non-reimbursable funding over the next 2 years for several new ecosystem projects throughout the Basin.¹⁰ The Corps will engage and work with regional sovereigns (including

¹⁰ Some of these projects will be in partnership with Tribes, and others are still being scoped. Projects include, but are not limited to: Columbia River Zone 6 Delta Assessment; Owyhee River Restoration;

the Six Sovereigns) to identify and prioritize these projects.

- **Ocean and Estuary Actions.** Columbia River basin salmon and steelhead spend a significant portion of their life-cycle in the ocean, and as such the ocean is a critically important habitat influencing their abundance and productivity. The increasing role of deteriorating ocean or freshwater conditions from climate change on the health of salmon and steelhead stocks does not diminish the importance or necessity of taking meaningful actions in areas society has more direct influence over. In fact, the importance and necessity of meaningful actions is heightened, not diminished because of the impacts of climate change.

While ongoing ocean research and monitoring is critically important to address the underlying uncertainties and knowledge gaps that currently exist in salmon ocean and estuarine ecology and should continue or be expanded, immediate improvements to the freshwater environment are imperative to avoid further declines, improve climate resilience, and begin salmon and steelhead rebuilding immediately.

NOAA will continue to prioritize ongoing work to develop decision support tools to track ocean productivity in a stock specific manner and to develop indicators that provide valuation for nearshore, estuary, and tributary habitat that can be used for restoration planning and prioritization.

NOAA also commits to collaborate with existing sovereign fish managers and regional entities conducting fisheries research in marine environments and by September 30, 2024:

- Identify specific actions that can be taken in freshwater, estuarine, and marine habitats to improve fish condition and marine survival or otherwise mitigate marine habitat impacts; e.g., controlling predation and enhancing prey availability.
- Identify mechanisms and tools for life-cycle modeling, monitoring, and adaptive management efforts to better integrate new information on ocean conditions and marine fish survival as it becomes available through ongoing or expanded ocean research efforts to help inform adaptive management of ongoing implementation of these USG Commitments in response to the CBRI.

Ocean monitoring and research to address uncertainties in the marine phase of the salmon life cycle are important and should continue concurrently with urgently needed improvements in the freshwater environment to arrest further declines and commence salmon and steelhead rebuilding immediately.

Interim Fish Operations

Responsive to CBRI Objectives 1(a) & 3

- **Objective 1(a):** *“Develop and advance an urgent, comprehensive strategy to (a) restore salmon and steelhead to “healthy and abundant levels” consistent with NOAA’s Columbia Basin*

Hangman Creek Channel / Floodplain Restoration; Sweetwater Creek Restoration; Meadow Creek, Idaho Restoration Study; Barber Pool, Idaho Restoration Study; Nursery Reach, Washington Study; Hood River Confluence Ecosystem Restoration Study; Deer Gulch, Idaho Restoration Study.

Partnership Task Force (CBP) and Rebuilding reports.

- **Objective 3:** *Ensure interim fish measures are adequate to minimize additional generational decline of fish populations.*

USG Commitments

- **Commitment to Resolve Fish Operations.** The USG has engaged collaboratively with the Six Sovereigns regarding the Interim Fish Operations, using the Interim Fish Operations identified in the CBRI as the basis for discussions, to develop agreed-upon interim hydro system operations commitments.
 - The USG and the Six Sovereigns developed an action plan (see Appendix B for details) for implementing interim fish operations beginning in 2024 and beyond.¹¹
 - It is intended that these agreed-upon, durable operations will commence upon finalization of a long-term resolution of interim operations and would remain in place for a period of 10 years or until decisions are made and implemented regarding whether to breach the LSR dams in a timeline that meets the needs of the fish. If this decision is deferred beyond a reasonable timeline, then additional CRS operations for the fish will likely be needed.
- **Implementation of Durable Operations, as well as Monitoring and Adaptive Management.** The USG is committed to developing and using a Sovereign-driven process to focus on maintaining and adaptively implementing (managing) the durable set of operations agreed to that govern at the lower Snake River and lower Columbia River dams prior to potential breach of the lower Snake River dams. The USG is committed to refine the Regional Forum processes (e.g., Technical Management Team Regional Implementation Oversight Group, etc.) by September 30, 2024 to ensure that the implementation of the agreed-to operations and any adaptive management adjustments:
 - Minimize degraded fish operations resulting from scheduled and unscheduled maintenance/outages;
 - Equally consider fish operations relative to other authorized project purposes when making in-season adaptive management decisions; and
 - Follow a fish and wildlife manager developed framework for mainstem research, monitoring, and evaluation; addressing both reach-specific and life-cycle metrics for anadromous and resident aquatic species.
- **Backlog in Salmon Projects.** The Corps will provide at least \$50 million in funding to the Columbia River Fish O&M and construction funding in FY 2024 to begin addressing and prioritize the [backlog of projects identified](#) by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) at Columbia and Snake River facilities for fish passage and survival.¹² These funds will be used, in consultation with the Six Sovereigns and Idaho to address backlog projects both at

¹¹ Changes to operations were only made for the lower Columbia River and lower Snake River projects in this agreement; other CRS project operations are not modified by this agreement.

¹² <https://critfc.org/documents/critfc-overview-of-columbia-river-usace-fish-budget-needs>

LSR dams and in the mainstem Columbia River. The USG and the Six Sovereigns agree to work collaboratively on identifying high priority needs and potential funding sources for the Corps' O&M and CRFM budgets for FY 2025 and beyond to address the backlog of infrastructure needs that constrain fish operations. Examples of high priority projects that are currently and/or likely to soon be impacting fish passage operations include: McNary adult fish ladder repair and maintenance, McNary spillway crane and hoist replacement, and spillway repair and maintenance at Lower Monumental, John Day, The Dalles, and Bonneville dams.

Modernization of Energy & Other Economic Sectors for Resiliency

Responsive to CBRI Objective 4

- **Objective 4:** *Invest in and support communities and economic sectors (e.g., energy, transportation, agriculture, and recreation) in a manner that is consistent with meeting decarbonization goals and mandates and integration of renewables, delivers “affordable and clean power”, improves resiliency and adaptability to climate change and supports “the many resilience needs of stakeholders across the region”, and “[honors] commitments to Tribal Nations.”*

USG Commitments

- **Fish and Economic Sector investments.** The USG will ensure actions that benefit fish and watershed health are coupled with investments to secure affordable and reliable decarbonized energy, efficient commodity transport and adequate water supply. Please see items identified in “*Lower Snake River Restoration*” section for specifics.
- **Reduce Local and Regional Burdens.** The USG will include investments complementary to this shifting energy landscape, as well as modernization of other economic sectors, and help reduce associated local and regional economic burdens. Please see items identified in “*Lower Snake River Restoration*” section for specifics.
- **Siting Consultations with Tribal Nations.** The USG will address siting considerations to help address long-standing Tribal inequities and help minimize ecological harm.
 - **Siting for Clean Energy Resources.** DOE, DOI, and USDA are committed to meaningfully engaging with Tribes on clean energy planning and siting to support the sustainable build out of transmission and clean energy resources in the region, including the projects that stand to be developed through the PNW Tribal Energy Program Proposal (*see Appendix A*).
- **CWA Permit Implementation.** Federal agencies (e.g., Corps and BOR, as permittees), where possible, will collaborate with the relevant states, Tribes, and EPA to assess/develop required temperature-focused water quality attainment plans per the state and Tribe’s Clean Water Act Section 401 certifications reflected in EPA’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for Federal dams. This will facilitate more effective and efficient review of these water quality attainment plans. For example, a potential near-term action under evaluation to improve conditions for migrating salmon is installing systems to cool the fish ladders at the Federal dams. Other potential actions that the agencies can evaluate include CRS operational changes to reduce warm summer temperatures, especially during times of predicted excessively warm temperatures.

- **CWA Modeling for 401 Certifications.** The Corps will use its modeling, as needed, to simulate certain potential water quality impacts in order to provide that information to the relevant states and Tribes, and to EPA as it complies with its existing 401 water quality certifications.

Authorizations, Studies, & Timelines

Responsive to CBRI Objectives 5 & 6

- **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 strategy proposed in Objective 1 and associated Federal actions “honor Federal Commitments to Tribal Nations” and address past and ongoing inequities related to the Federal hydrosystem to reflect and uphold Federal treaty and trust responsibilities to Columbia Basin Tribes.*

USG Commitments

- **P2IP Regulatory Compliance.** The USG has begun required environmental compliance work and hired a contractor to support reintroduction of salmon in the Upper Columbia.
- **Authorizations and Appropriations.** Information produced through the USG analyses and the recently released Presidential Memorandum will inform budget and appropriations requests, as well as inform any required authorizations.
- **Feasibility Analysis.** See p.8, above.
- **Environmental Analysis Compliance.** The USG commits to working with the Six Sovereigns on potential changes in response to the CBRI such as interim project operations identified in Appendix B, more aggressive advancement of mid- Columbia River habitat restoration, and fish passage. The USG anticipates that supplemental or additional environmental compliance will be required to evaluate and implement some or all of these changes. If so, review and revisions to the current biological opinion and/or additional ESA consultations will likely be required. These supplemental environmental review processes will inform and be informed by the analyses identified above related to the consideration of LSR dam breach. The Federal Government will review existing environmental compliance documents and any additional information provided by the States, Tribes, and other stakeholders and initiate any additional environmental compliance its review determines to be necessary during the fall of 2024. The USG commits to use the 1999 Tribal Circumstances Report (as amended in 2019) and the other Tribal Perspective reports submitted in 2019 and the NOAA Rebuilding Report to inform the need for and content of any supplemental or additional environmental analysis. To the extent feasible, the Federal Government will complete any environmental compliance documents that it determines are necessary within 18 months of initiating them. Nothing in this paragraph alters the USG’s discretion or obligation to engage with other Tribal Nations and regional sovereigns as appropriate.

Additional Basin-Wide Funding Commitments

Responsive to CBRI Objective 1(a)

- **Objective 1(a):** *“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.*

USG Commitments:

- **Backlog in Salmon Hatchery Infrastructure Projects.** Treaty and non-treaty, commercial, subsistence and recreational fish harvest for most stocks in the Columbia Basin is fueled primarily by Federal hatcheries - as mitigation for actions in the basin affecting fish, including development of the dams on the Columbia River Hatchery function and maintenance are thus an essential component and responsibility of the USG in operation of the dams. Currently, the CRS has a billion dollar+ backlog in deferred hatchery maintenance (see FN 19 in CBRI). To partially address this backlog, NOAA, as [previously announced](#), will commit \$60 million for high priority Mitchell Act facility needs identified by Tribes and states in the Basin. NOAA is currently engaged in tribal consultations to determine how to also allocate an additional \$240M in IRA hatchery funding to tribes with Federally reserved or adjudicated fishing rights for Pacific Salmon and steelhead. NOAA will allocate this additional funding keeping in mind the fisheries those hatcheries serve.
- **Columbia River Basin Restoration Act Program.** EPA will provide, through 2026, approximately \$85 million toward grants for projects to assess and reduce toxics across the Basin. This includes the recent awards of eight multi-year grants with tribes for nearly \$17 million. These resources will support science and monitoring as well as longer term state, Tribal, and NGO program development. Though the focus of the project is to reduce toxics, EPA expects and regularly sees co-benefits to healthier and more climate resilient habitat.
- **BPA Fish and Wildlife General Funding.** BPA has already planned, through its Fish and Wildlife program, to add at least an additional \$20 million in combined Capital and Expense funding in FY 2024 and FY 2025 for fish and wildlife efforts throughout the Basin on top of commitments laid out above. In addition:
 - \$200M over 10 years in additional capital funding will be made available by Bonneville to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) hatchery modernization, upgrades, and maintenance, as guided by the priorities of other fishery managers including the Six Sovereigns.
 - An additional \$100M in funding under the Bonneville Administrator’s authority under 16 U.S.C. § 832a(f) over 10 years for projects that contribute to the restoration of salmon and other native fish populations. To implement this commitment, Bonneville will provide an annual \$10M payment to the Six Sovereigns in a manner to be agreed upon, to distribute to specific projects, as prioritized by the Six Sovereigns. The Six Sovereigns will coordinate with relevant regional sovereigns as appropriate on projects.
 - Nothing in these USG commitments or any implementing agreement is intended to affect BPA’s reimbursement obligations regarding the Columbia River Fish Mitigation and O&M

costs associated with the CRS project funds provided by the Corps or Reclamation. The USG and agencies, however, intend that all other funds committed by the agencies in support of the USG Commitments are non-reimbursable funds by BPA, whether or not expressly stated. The Federal agencies agree to coordinate before incurring any new reimbursable expenditure in support of the USG Commitments.

In the event that Congress appropriates funds that require reimbursement by Bonneville for one of the specific USG Commitments identified in this document, and that type of reimbursement does not arise from BPA's current reimbursement obligations, then that reimbursed amount will count toward Bonneville's total \$300M funding commitment.

- For the specific Bonneville funding commitments in this agreement, Bonneville will use the following approach to address inflation:
 - The \$100M for fish restoration actions will be indexed for inflation based on the GDP Deflator published by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and will be further described in the associated funding agreement with Six Sovereigns.
 - Inflationary pressures on the \$200M for LSRCF will be addressed on a project specific basis reflecting FWS' annual projected needs and will be further described in the associated funding agreement with FWS.
- **OMB Crosscut Budget.** OMB commits to developing a crosscut, all-of-government, budget that illustrates the Federal funding historically targeted toward Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead protection and restoration efforts. This crosscut budget will be completed and shared with the regional sovereigns and other Regional Stakeholders, including the Six Sovereigns, by January 2024. This crosscut budget analysis will then help inform prospective annual budgeting and appropriations.
- **Increased Funding in Support of Basin-Wide Restoration.** In addition to the specific additional USG funding commitments herein, which will support centerpiece actions necessary for this basin-wide effort, and continuing Reclamation, Corps, and BPA funding for fish and wildlife accords, BPA intends to continue current funding for its Fish and Wildlife Program, subject to changed circumstances and/or legal requirements. The USG commits to thoroughly evaluate the potential options for increasing non-rate-payer fish restoration funding¹³ in the Basin, taking into account the CBRI's recognition that at least a doubling of basin-wide funding is needed to make meaningful progress towards "healthy and abundant" salmon, steelhead, and other native fish rebuilding goals. This evaluation will include a thorough assessment of all available mechanisms without additional rate impacts, through a whole of government approach, including direct congressional requests; increased requests in future Presidential budgets; and other avenues as they may present themselves. This funding will support those actions that the USG and regional sovereigns (including the Six Sovereigns) agree are important, on top of the commitments already outlined in this document, for advancing the recovery of "healthy and abundant" Columbia Basin fisheries consistent with the Sept. 27, 2023 Presidential Memorandum, the NOAA Rebuilding Report, and the CBRI. The Six Sovereigns and

¹³ For clarity, "fish restoration funding" is understood broadly to include funding for any and all actions that would support the restoration of healthy and abundant native fish and shellfish consistent with the Sept. 27, 2023 Presidential Memorandum, the NOAA Rebuilding Report, and the CBRI.

the USG will work together (and with other sovereigns as appropriate) to develop by June 30, 2024 a 10-year basin-wide suite of actions to meet this goal. Project proponents will coordinate actions taken under this commitment with relevant regional sovereigns as appropriate.

- **Budget Workshop.** As part of this work together, OMB will provide Federal budget information to the regional sovereigns, including the Six Sovereigns, to ensure that the regional sovereigns and the USG have a common understanding of applicable Federal processes, and are aligned on how the Administration’s budgeting process works and on potential mechanisms available for potential future additional funding related to the goals of commitments already outlined in this document, for advancing the recovery of “healthy and abundant” Columbia Basin fisheries consistent with the Sept. 27, 2023 Presidential Memorandum, the NOAA Rebuilding Report, and the CBRI; delivering affordable and reliable clean power; and meeting the many resilience needs of stakeholders across the region.

Fisheries Management & Other Partnership Commitments

- **Fish & Wildlife Mitigation Management Reforms.** NOAA and FWS will work with the Six Sovereigns and all other relevant regional sovereigns, and seek collaboration with the NPCC, to consider management reforms to Columbia Basin fish and wildlife mitigation programs. The conversation will identify options for increased tribal and state co-management within the scope of existing legal authorities and coordination with Federal fisheries services, as well as any impediments and opportunities to maximize the beneficial impacts of available fish and wildlife funding. The conversation will be initiated no later than January 2024, and recommendations will be developed no later than September 2024.
- **Fish & Wildlife Contracting Reforms:**
 - The USG will work with the Six Sovereigns, and other regional fish and wildlife mitigation project implementers, and regional stakeholders as appropriate, to identify and implement fish and wildlife mitigation contract efficiencies and flexibilities in a manner that respects state and tribal fish and wildlife expertise regarding mitigation and restoration project implementation, subject to applicable Federal law. In support of this objective, Bonneville commits to near-term changes in support of the Six Sovereigns’ autonomy over fish and wildlife actions by:
 - Bonneville agrees that the Six Sovereigns shall collectively and autonomously determine their priorities for the \$100M over 10 years described above. Annual \$10M payments of these funds will be made directly as described above, vs. through the traditional Bonneville procurement process.
 - In addition, Bonneville will initiate a pilot with the Six Sovereigns to expand the use of grant and multi-year agreements within the Six Sovereigns’ portfolio of projects in Bonneville’s Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program as appropriate, based on the type of planned work. Implementation of the pilot will begin in FY25 and would replace eligible, current agreements as they expire. Bonneville estimates that roughly a third of the current Six Sovereign portfolio could be applicable for the pilot.
 - DOI (and other Federal agencies, as appropriate) will work with the tribal parties to explore opportunities for federal contracting reforms to support more appropriate Federal-Tribal

funding instruments and policies to better reflect the unique relationship that occurs when the Federal government provides funds to tribes working to mitigate historic impacts to their Treaty and trust resources.

- ***Continued Administration Engagement.*** The USG will continue to engage with the Six Sovereigns, and other regional sovereigns and stakeholders as appropriate, regarding the CBRI's recommendations, and will ensure that EOP staff and senior Administration officials are available to coordinate and lead these discussions on behalf of the USG. As the USG advances its commitments in response to the CBRI in partnership with the Six Sovereigns, EOP staff and senior Administration officials will act as the coordinating center for advancing the Administration's comprehensive strategy for the Columbia Basin.