List of Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Actions Relevant for Toxics Monitoring from the EPA 2010 Columbia River Toxics Reduction Action Plan, Table 1

Initiative #3:

Conduct monitoring to identify sources and then reduce toxics

Current Resources

- Identify the contaminants of concern to focus on in the Basin
- Use the prioritization tool in one area of the River to assist in developing a monitoring plan and modify the tool based on the results of the pilot project.
- Assist other partners throughout Basin on using the prioritization tool to develop monitoring plans
- Continue to seek and leverage resources to supplement existing monitoring by agencies, organizations, and Tribes in the Basin

Additional Resources Needed

- Expand monitoring to the highest priority areas in the Basin as identified by the prioritization tool
- Support watershed-based targeted monitoring efforts that link directly to reduction efforts, such as TMDLs, source assessments and Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships
- 44. Support localized monitoring efforts that will provide baseline data where habitat restoration is planned and/or ongoing; and targeted monitoring on species of concern, either ESA listed or for commercial or subsistence use
- Assess sources of contamination and loadings for priority tracking and control
- Establish toxic reduction efforts which include status and trends effectiveness monitoring
- Identify opportunities to integrate water, land, air, sediment and biota monitoring
- Develop public friendly reports to share monitoring information with the public

Initiative #4:

Develop a regional, multi-agency research and monitoring program

Current Resources

- Identify and inventory in a database existing toxics research being conducted in the Basin
- Using this research, convene scientists to assist in developing a Regional research plan for the Basin
- Establish connections with researchers from other large aquatic ecosystems to better understand their research and its application to the Basin

Additional Resources Needed

- Conduct research based on priorities identified in research plan
- 53. Develop indicators of ecosystem health
- Develop new standards and criteria to protect fish, wildlife, and humans from toxics
- Visit other regional centers to learn more about research programs
- Conduct "Control Studies" to evaluate effectiveness of Best Management Practices, toxics reduction efforts, and emerging reduction strategies.

Initiative #5:

Develop a data management system that will allow us to share information on toxics in the Basin

Current Resources

- Convene a group to discuss different options for managing toxics data in the Region
- Evaluate how other large aquatic ecosystems manage data

Additional Resources Needed

- Create a data stewardship program, hosted and managed by a single entity
- Survey all relevant existing data management systems in the Region
- Verify that all data has a spatial component (latitude, longitude). Include a spatial component to the data available in order to view and create maps, and conduct spatial analysis