EPA Columbia River Basin Restoration Program

Overview of Upcoming Toxic Reduction Lead Request for Applications

Pre-RFA Release Webinar

November 28, 2022

How to Participate

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM

- We are recording the webinar to help document questions and answers
  - The recording will be available by request to Nicole Taylor (taylor.nicole@epa.gov)
- Please keep yourself on mute, unless you are speaking
- We will have time for questions and answers after the presentation
- To ask a question:
  - Use the chat, raise your hand, or unmute your line and ask the group directly

Turn your camera on/off

Mute/unmute your microphone

Raise/lower your hand

Open/close the chat panel

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

Introductions

What is your name?

Who are you representing today?

Presentation Overview

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

- Overview of Columbia River Basin and toxics reduction work efforts
- Columbia River Basin Restoration Program – Clean Water Act Section 123
- Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Funding Assistance Program and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding
- Toxic Reduction Lead Request for Applications

Presenters:

Mary Lou Soscia, Michelle Wilcox and Nic Taylor, EPA Region 10

Background on the Columbia River Basin

- One of North America's largest watersheds
  - approximately 260,000 square miles
- Includes parts of seven states including significant portions of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington
- Provides vital environmental, economic, cultural, and social benefits to millions

Major Players in the Columbia River Basin

- 16 Tribal Governments
- 7 states: WA, ID, OR, MT, NV, WY, and UT
- Federal Columbia River Power System – US Army Corps of Engineers, US Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration (DOE)
- Other Federal agencies
- British Columbia/Canada
- Municipalities
- Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (EPA NEP)
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council
- Public Utility Districts
- Industry and Agriculture
- NGOs
- Ports and Barging Industry
- Irrigation Districts
- Railroad Industry
- Wind Energy Industry and Advocates
- Watershed Councils
- Congress

TOXIC CONTAMINANTS IN THE BASIN

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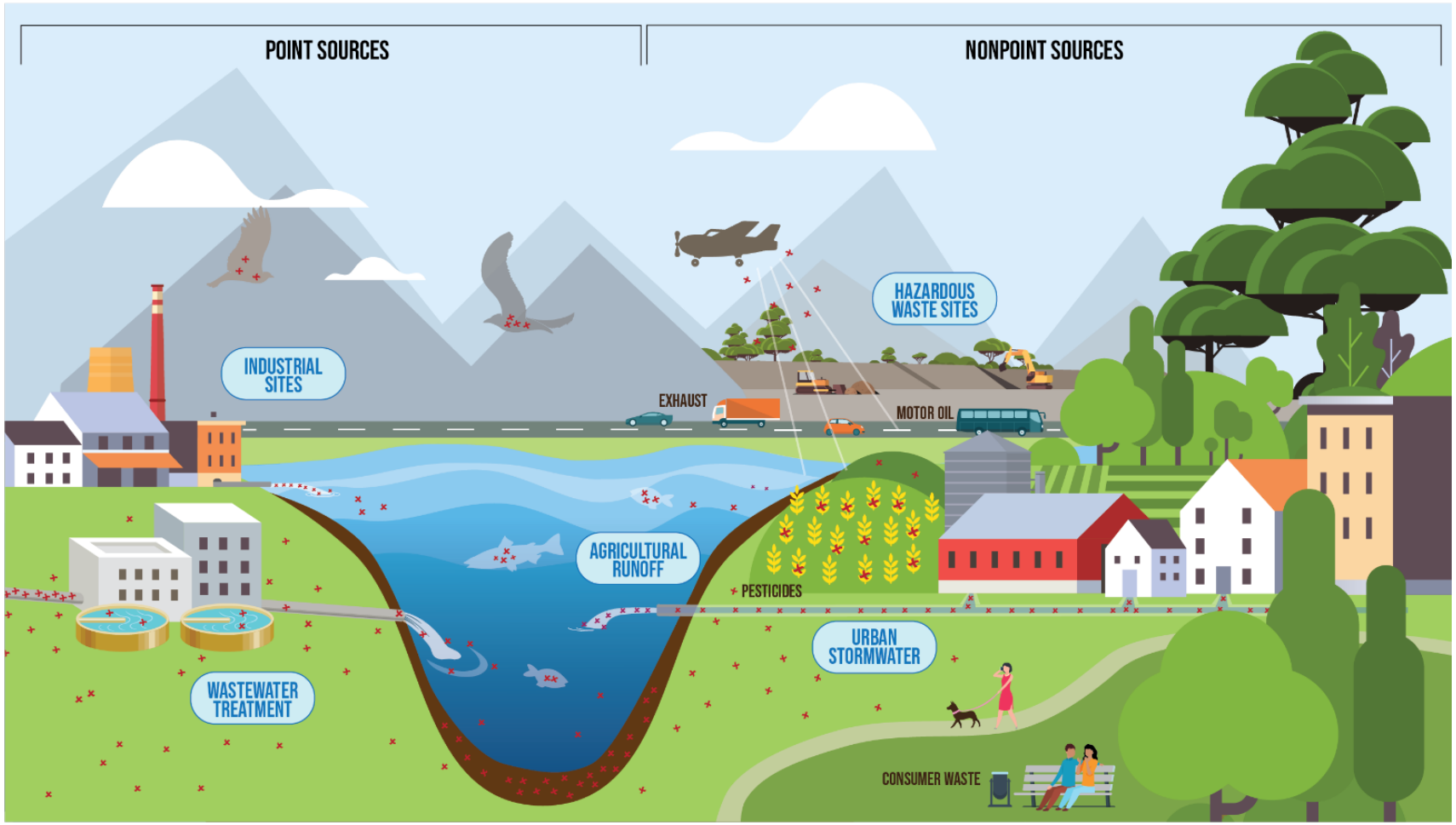
- Toxics are widely distributed in the Basin
- Past research and monitoring show toxics are present across the Basin
- Toxics harm fish, wildlife, and human health



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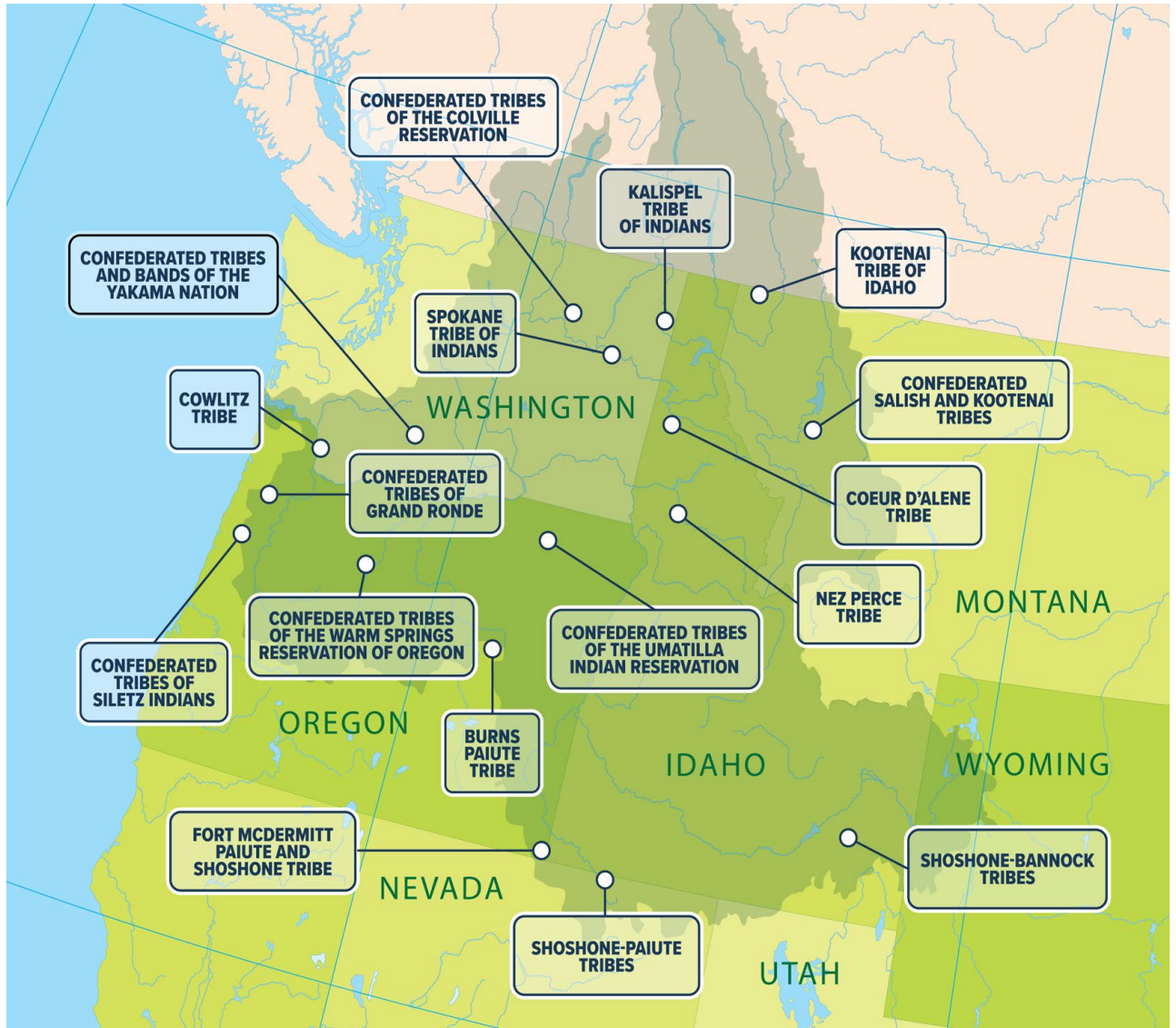
Columbia River Basin Tribes



Reducing toxics in fish is an EPA responsibility to protect Tribal Human Health

TOXICS REDUCTION IS CRITICAL TO A HEALTHY COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN ECOSYSTEM

- Columbia River Basin Tribal people have lived here for more than 10,000 years
- Tribal people eat far more fish than most other residents
- Toxics in fish pose unacceptable health risks to Tribal people and other high fish consuming populations
- The Columbia River Basin Restoration Program grew from our work with Tribes to reduce their exposure to toxics from high fish consumption

EPA'S FOUNDATIONAL WORK TO REDUCE TOXICS IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN

- Collaborative Watershed Effort to Reduce Toxics – many diverse partners throughout the Basin
- **2009 State of River Report** – "tell toxics story"
- **2010 Columbia River Basin Action Plan** – 61 actions
- Columbia River Basin legislation introduced in Congress in 2010, 2014 – toxics focus
- Other related work efforts included OR/WA/ID Human Health Criteria

2016 Columbia River Basin Restoration Act

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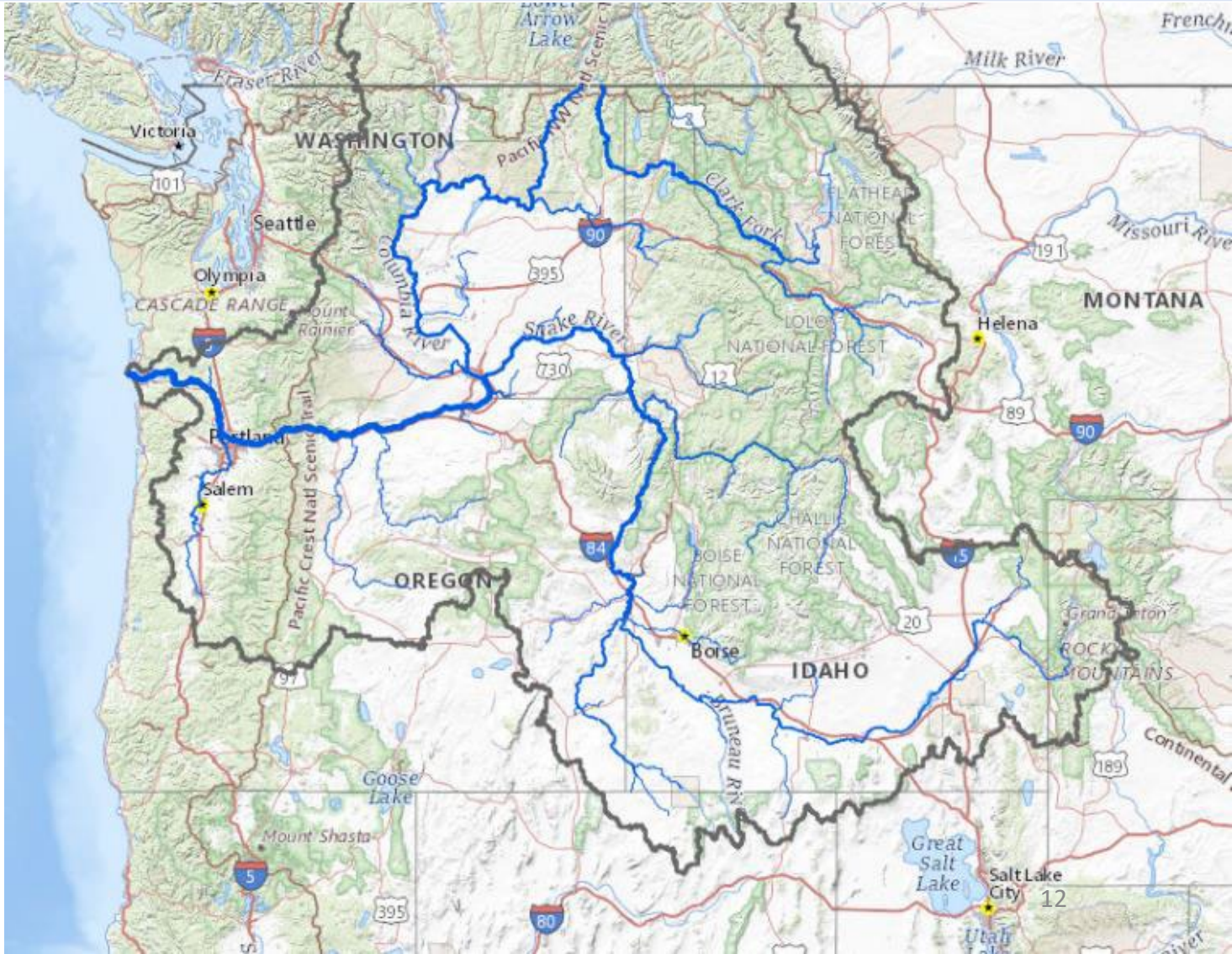
Congress passed the **Columbia River Basin Restoration Act** in 2016, which amended the Clean Water Act by creating **Section 123** and directed EPA to:

1. establish a **Columbia River Basin Restoration Grant Program** to support voluntary actions to reduce and assess toxics throughout the Basin; and
2. establish a **Working Group** representative of states, tribal governments, and other entities in the Basin.



COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM VISION STATEMENT

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

"The EPA Columbia River Basin Restoration Program – through the implementation of CWA Section 123 – will be a catalyst for basin wide toxics reduction work efforts; enabling communities to access unimpaired watersheds with healthy fish and wildlife and quantifiable toxics reductions in fish, wildlife and water."

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP

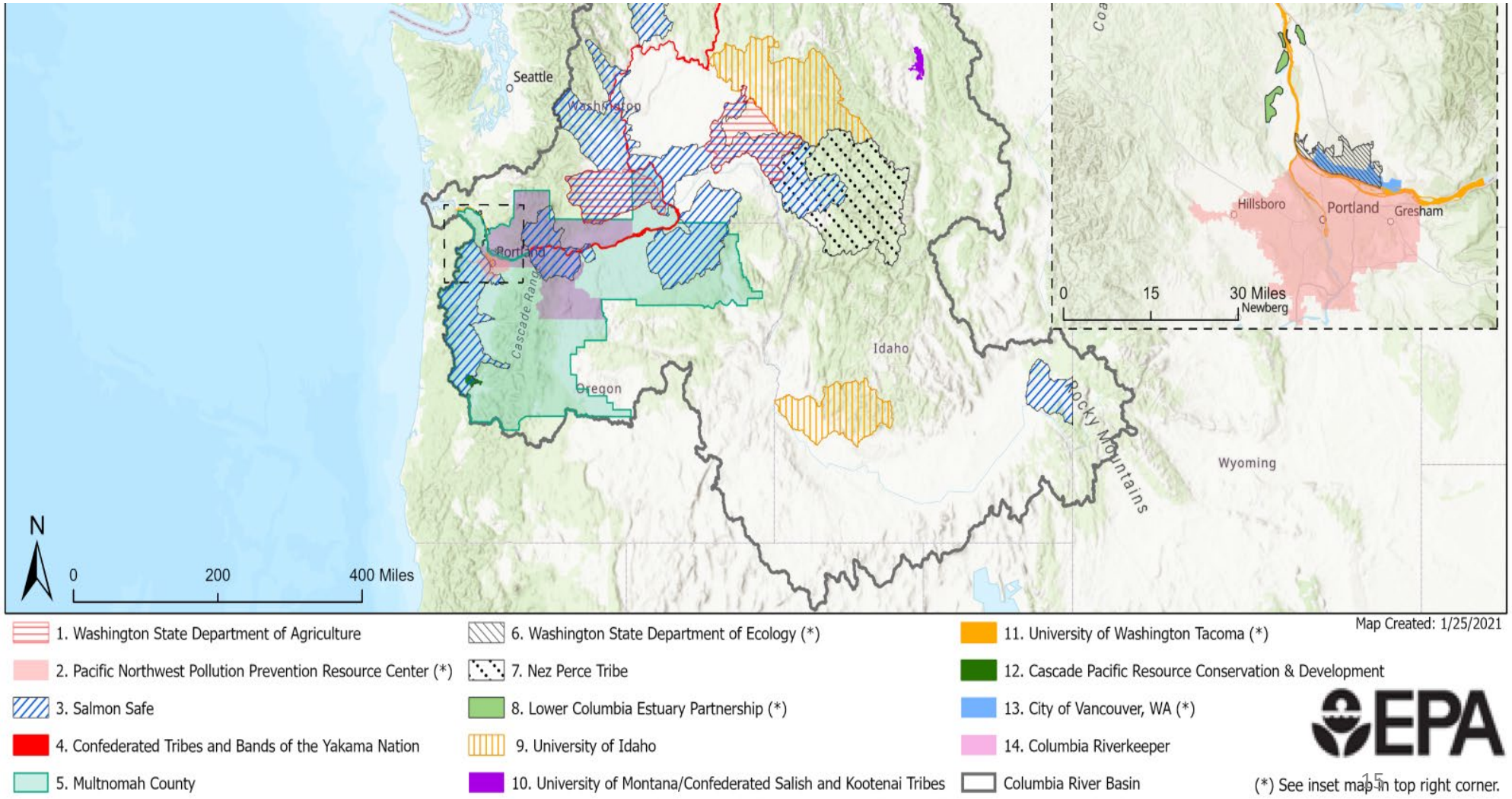
COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

- Collaboration between tribal governments, states, industry, non-governmental organizations, and others
- Goal is to share information, coordinate activities, and develop strategies to identify and reduce toxics in the Columbia River Basin
- Meets every six months
- More than 300 individuals invited to participate

2020 INAUGURAL GRANTS

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

- Grants span the entire Basin
- 7 focus on monitoring
- 7 focus on reducing toxics which include:
  - ✓ Agricultural Best Practices
  - ✓ Stormwater Green Infrastructure
  - ✓ Pollution prevention
  - ✓ Community education and engagement



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COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW FUNDING

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM

- $79 million will provide support for next 4 – 6 years
- Prioritize support to Tribes and other communities with increased risk for toxics exposure
- Support long-term Tribal program and project development to reduce toxics in Columbia River Basin waters, fish and wildlife
- Build on previous successes:
  - Agricultural best practices, green infrastructure, pollution prevention, small-scale clean-up actions, and education and outreach

MOVING FORWARD……

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

- Ongoing management and close out of 14 FY 2020 grants
- 25 grants awarded in October 2022–$6.9 million with $3.8 million in BIL funding
- 3 new RFAs in 2022 – 2023
  1. Tribal Governments – RFA released Oct 31, 2022
  2. **Toxic Reduction Lead**
  3. General Toxic Reduction to all CWA 123 eligible entities

  Priorities for all 3 to reduce toxics:
  - Agricultural best practices
  - Stormwater green infrastructure
  - Clean-up of non-CERCLA sites
  - Pollution prevention
  - Outreach, education and community engagement
- Continue engagement and communication with Working Group – regular emails, next in-person meeting in May 2023

2022 Grants: Agricultural Best Practices; Stormwater Green Infrastructure; Pollution Prevention; Clean Up of Small Contaminated Sites

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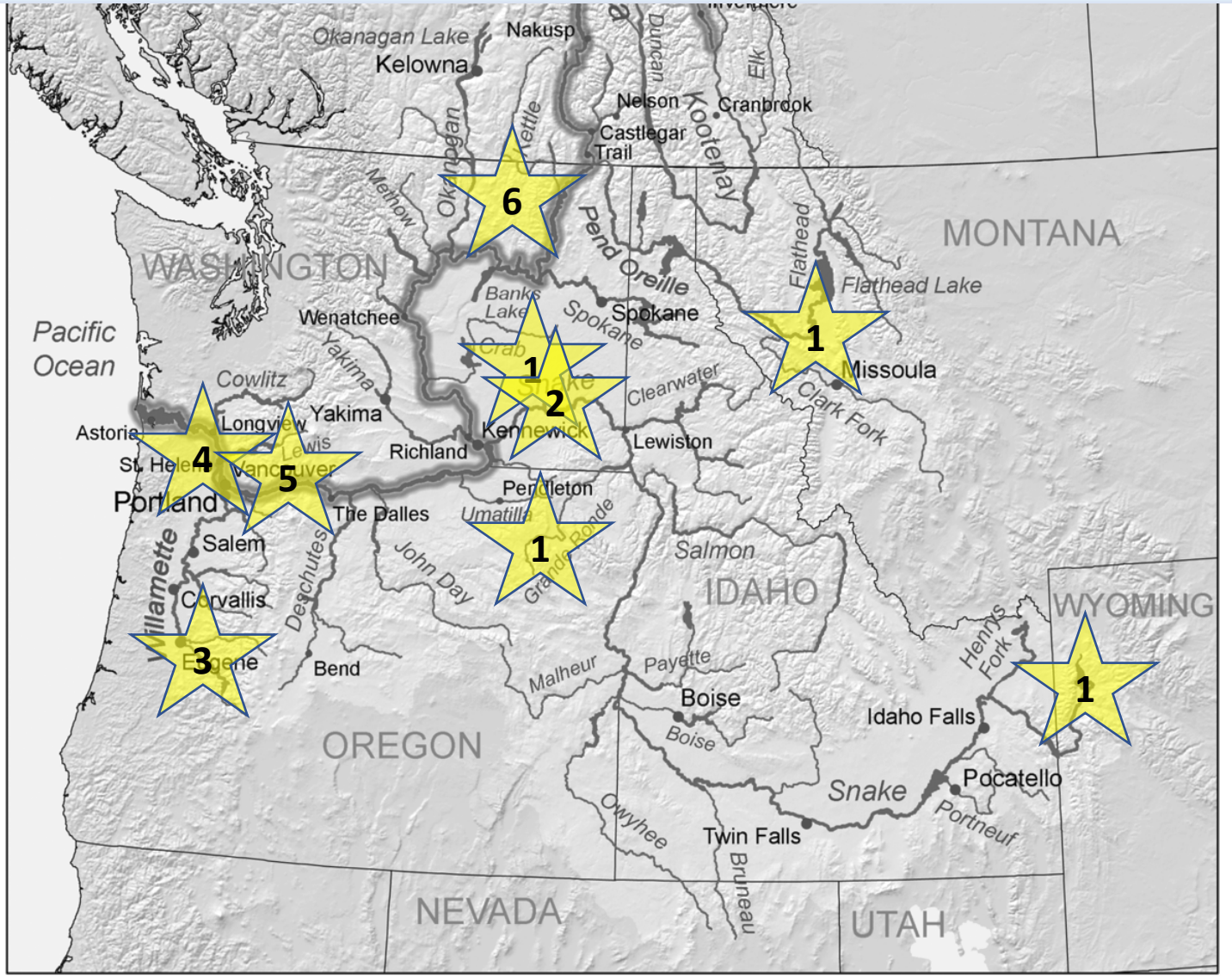
1. Salmon-Safe Columbia Basin Pledge: Accelerating Water Quality Protection in the Interior Columbia Basin
2. Next Steps in Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships at the Washington State Department of Agriculture
3. Urban Waters and Wildlife Partnership & Program Implementation (Phase II)—Cascade Pacific RC&D
4. EcoBiz Program Enhancements: Bilingual Training and Pollution Prevention Resources, Public Awareness, and Data Tracking Improvements—PNW PPRC
5. City of Vancouver Waste Incentive Network—City of Vancouver
6. Eliminating Erosion of Legacy Mine Tailings from the Bodie Mine into Toroda Creek, Kettle Creek Watershed, WA—Trout Unlimited



2022 Grants: Monitoring and Assessment

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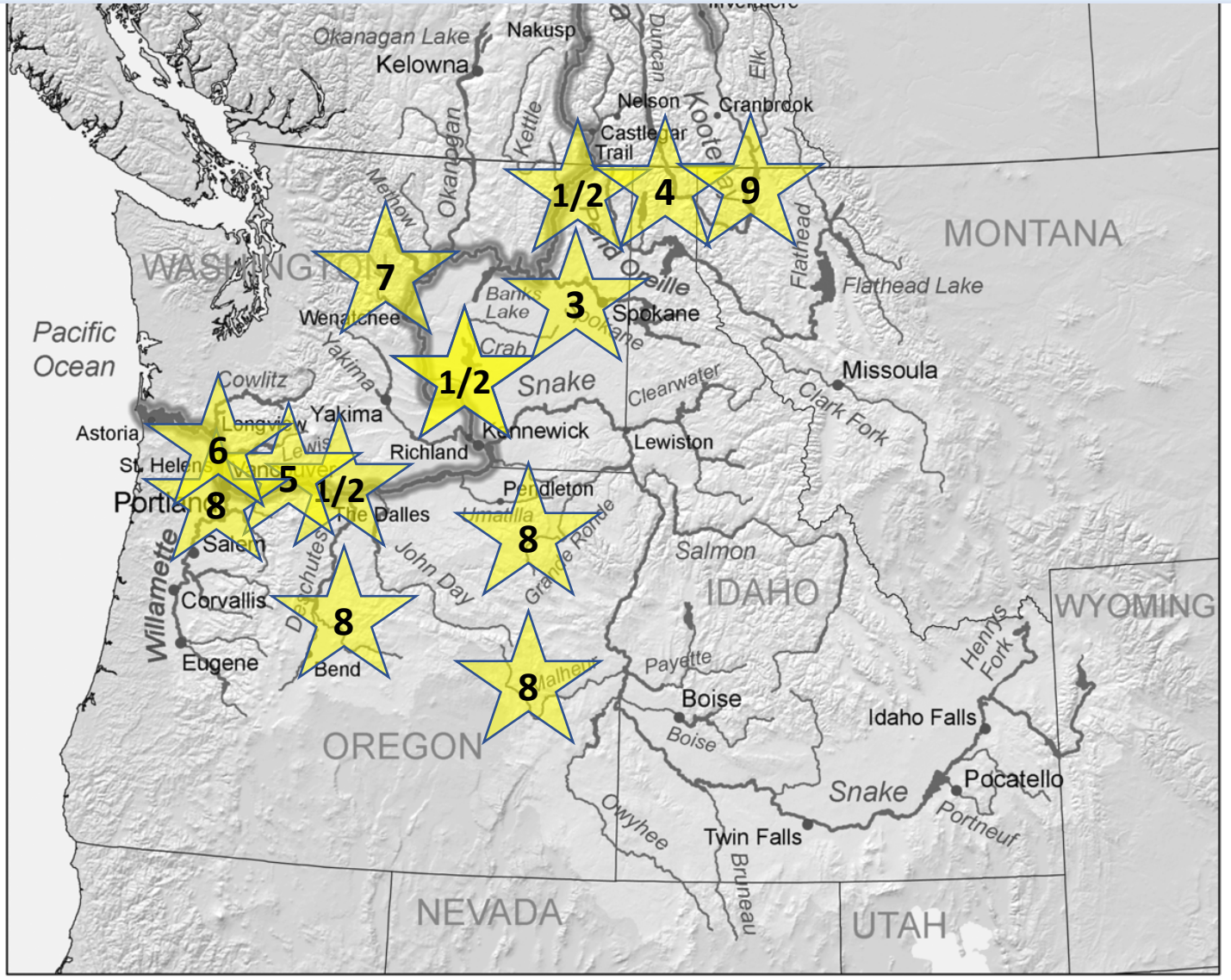
1. Phase 2 Pilot Implementation of the Columbia River Mainstem Fish Tissue and Water Quality Monitoring Program – Grant A: Planning, Outreach and QAPP development—Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
2. Phase 2 Pilot Implementation of the Columbia River Mainstem Fish Tissue and Water Quality Monitoring Program: Grant B – Field Data Collection, Analytical, and Reporting—Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
3. Upper Columbia Basin Contaminant Status, Movement, and Remedial Pilot Study—Spokane Tribe of the Spokane Reservation
4. Monitor Contaminants Trends, Transport, Uptake, and Transfer through the Kootenai River Ecosystem to Evaluate Fish Bioaccumulation and Inform Fish Consumption Advisories—Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
5. City of Vancouver Columbia Slope Water Quality Monitoring Phase 2—City of Vancouver
6. Tracking Toxics in the Lower Columbia (Phase 1)—Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP)
7. Lower Wenatchee River PCB Source Investigation—Chelan County Natural Resource Department
8. Reducing PFAS and Phthalates in Local Clean Water Systems within the Columbia Basin, OR—Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
9. Reconstructing 40 Years of Selenium Exposure from Fish Otoliths: Archival Tissue Applications for Contaminant Biomonitoring in Lake Koocanusa—University of Connecticut



2022 Grants: Monitoring and Assessment and Public Education and Involvement; Community Education and Involvement

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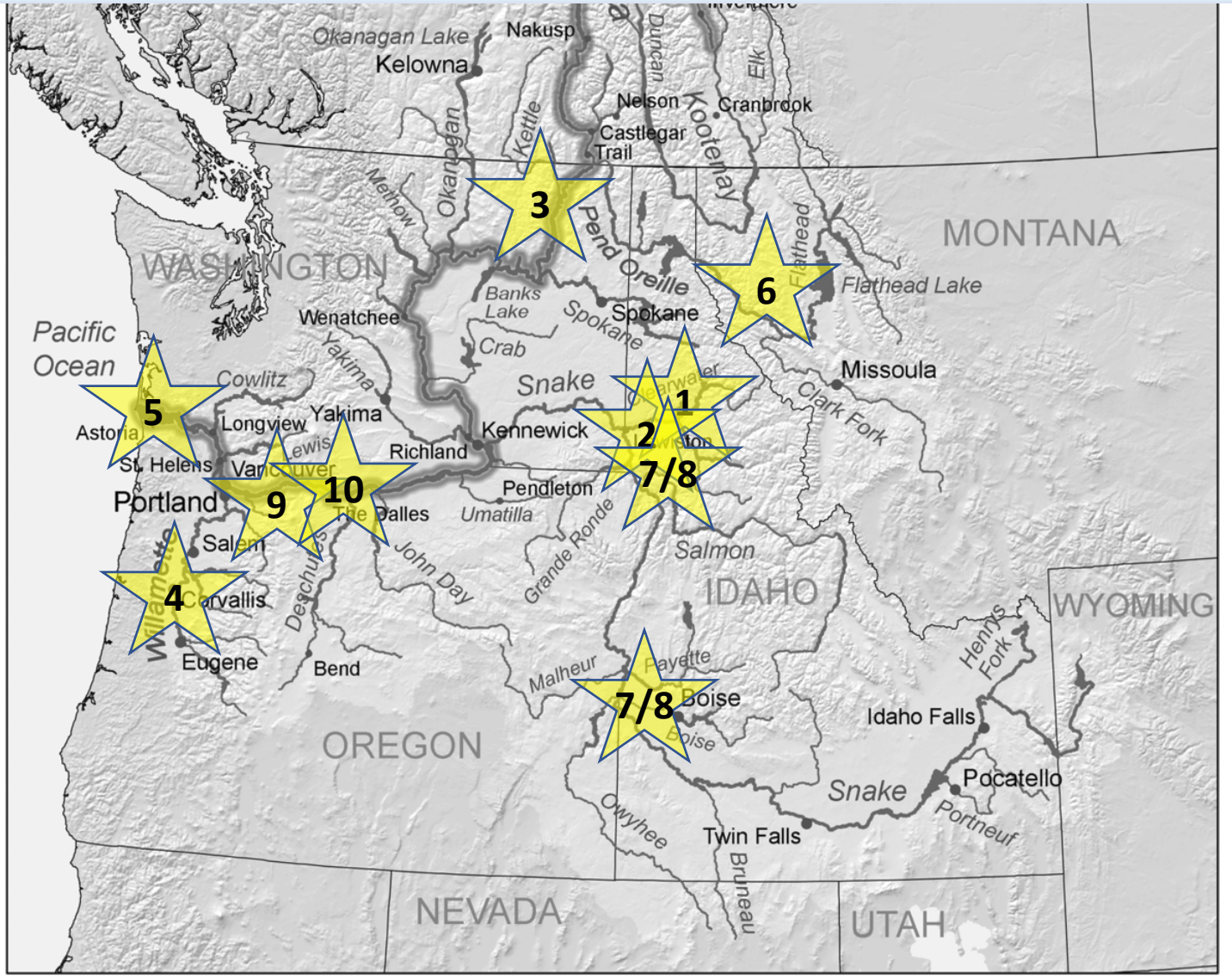
1. Clearwater River Toxics Assessment and Monitoring Project—Nez Perce Tribe
2. Nez Perce Tribe Methylmercury Monitoring and Abatement: Salmon and Lower Snake Rivers—Nez Perce Tribe
3. Upper Columbia River Toxics Monitoring: Caring for Sn̓x̌ʷn̓ tkʷitkʷ—Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
4. Engaging Communities to Monitor Mercury Risk in the Columbia River Basin: Intensive Application of a National Biosentinel Network at a Regional Scale—OSU
5. Toxics Assessment of the Lower Columbia—North Coast Watershed Association
6. Quantifying Toxins to Inform Fish Consumption and Identifying Sources of Pollutants in the Upper Columbia River Basin of Montana—Montana Trout Unlimited
7. The Crayfish Mercury Project—University of Idaho
8. Crayfish as Indicators of 6PPD-quinone—University of Idaho
9. Pesticide Behavior Change Project of Oregon & Southwest Washington—City of Gresham
10. Columbia River Pollution Education and Outreach Project—Columbia Riverkeeper



Toxic Reduction Lead Request for Applications

EPA anticipates awarding up to $40 million, with $3-7 million per entity, for the development of multi-year cooperative agreements which will support toxic reduction programs, activities, and projects. EPA is soliciting applications from eligible entities that are interested in acting as a Toxic Reduction Lead (TRL).

The primary role of a TRL is to:

1. Develop, implement, and manage a multi-phase or large-scale program or programs which leverage partnerships and include a comprehensive toxics reduction plan;
2. Lead program and policy development and provide technical assistance;
3. Award and manage subawards;
4. Participate in the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Working Group and provide periodic program updates at the bi-annual meetings.

EPA will not be funding status and trend monitoring; project effectiveness monitoring is encouraged to provide to provide accountability and results.

The RFA is anticipated to open on **December 13, 2022**. Grant applications are due by **March 13, 2023**.

Toxic Reduction Lead Request for Applications

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM

These programs will reduce toxics in fish, wildlife and water through the following priorities:

- Agricultural best practices
- Stormwater green infrastructure
- Small scale clean-up actions to remove toxics which do not duplicate similar work efforts of other EPA funded programs including but not limited to CERCLA, RCRA and Brownfields
- Pollution prevention
- Outreach, education and community engagement

EPA will host two of the same informational webinar on January 19 and February 23, 2023.

EPA will also maintain a Frequently Asked Questions document available on our website.

- Applicants may email written questions to ColumbiaRiverBasinGrant@epa.gov. All questions submitted via email by 4:00 p.m. PT each Friday during the RFA open period will be answered and posted in the questions and answers document the following week.

Competition Schedule and Milestones

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM

- December 13, 2022 -- RFA opens
  - Posted on grants.gov
  - Application packet materials
  - Informational webinars
  - Q and A posted weekly on web page
  - Ask questions by emailing ColumbiaRiverBasinGrant@epa.gov
- March 13, 2023 -- RFA closes
- Applications reviewed for eligibility and merit
- April 2023 -- notification of selection (anticipated)
- August 2023 -- awards issued (anticipated)

Toxic Reduction Lead Grant Program Overview

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- Competitive, voluntary grant program – as described in CWA Section 123
- **25% match provides leverage and partnership opportunities, match funding requirement waived for Tribal governments** (match not required all at once)
- Cooperative agreements, substantial involvement, technical assistance
- Award terms and conditions
- Multi-year project and budget period, full or incremental funding allotments depending on project scale
- Project location must be within the US portion of the Basin
- Building on and implementing management plans or previous work efforts to address toxics, such as: action plans, TMDLs, watershed plans
- Sub-awards, partners
- Reporting progress, every 6 months using a form, and quarterly check-ins with your EPA Project Officer
- Presenting project highlights at a Working Group meeting

Toxic Reduction Lead Grant Program Overview

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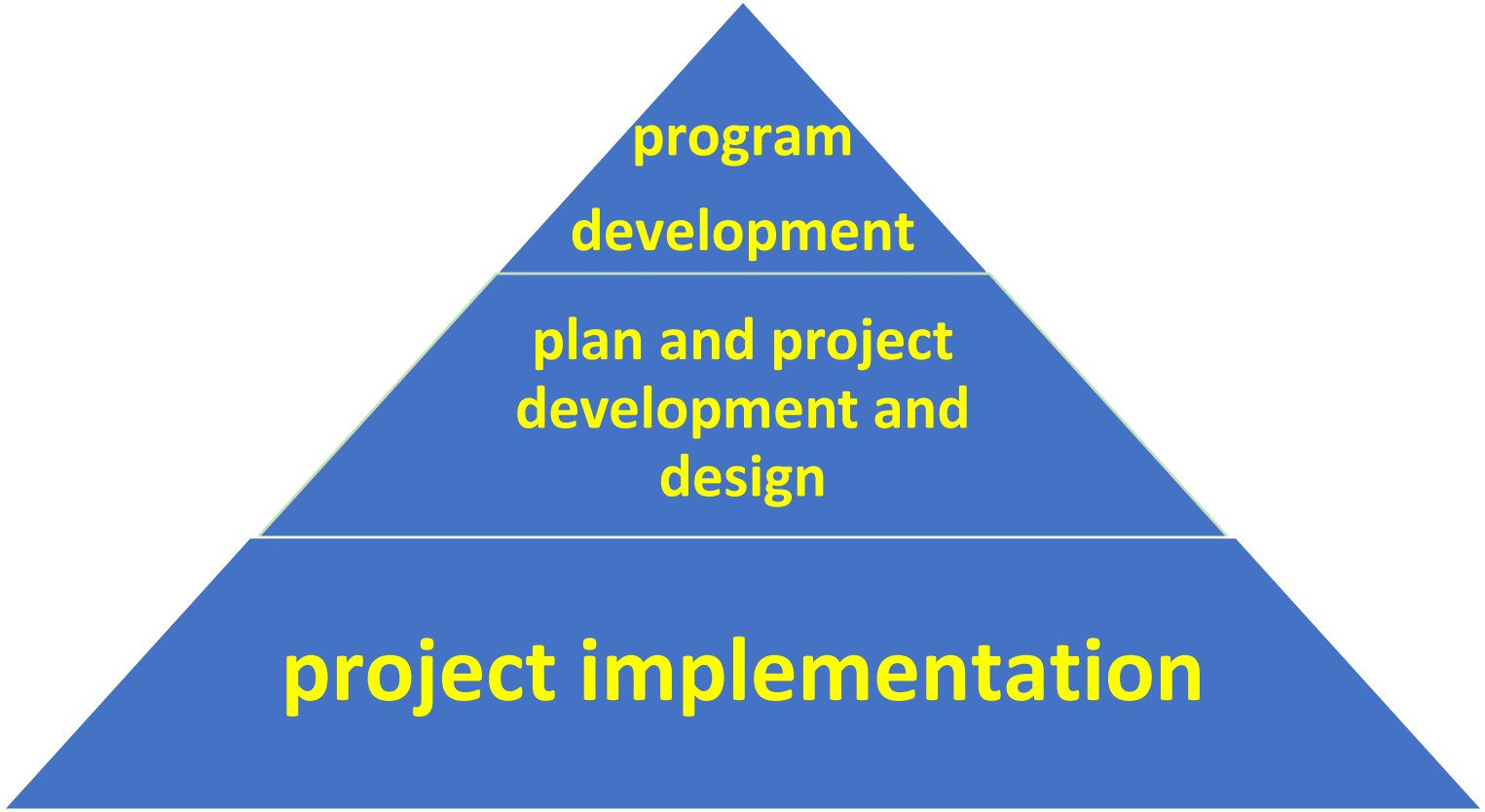
Multi-year, multi-phase program implementation



Toxic Reduction Lead Grant Activity Examples

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- Staffing a coordinator to produce a collaboratively developed toxics reduction plan focused on a geographic area or specific type of project (for example pollution prevention)
- Establishing a sub-award program to support toxics reduction actions
- Implementing agricultural best management practices, Pesticide Stewardship Projects, collections events and providing technical assistance
- Installing green infrastructure or stormwater raingardens to reduce toxics in runoff
- Creating or partnering with voluntary certification programs that use industry best practices; such as Salmon-Safe or EcoBiz
- Developing pollution prevention programs to reduce, for example, herbicide and insecticide use
- Providing incentives for safer chemical alternatives and associated training programs
- Implementing small-scale cleanups at non-CERCLA sites
- Developing outreach materials and educating communities, including bilingual, on toxic reduction practices and methods

More information about any of these examples can be found at:

https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-funding-assistance-program

EPA Resources Available

- Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Funding Assistance:

https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-funding-assistance-program

- EPA Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Story Map:

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/24979f1fd3124cc7bb4c85147d38eedc

- Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Working Group:

https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-working-group

  - ✓Toxics Monitoring Sub-Group

EPA Resources Available

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- Columbia River Basin Contaminants of Concern Framework
- Toxic-Impaired Waterbodies on 303d Lists in the Columbia River Basin
- Columbia River Basin Toxic Contaminants Reference List
- 2019 Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Status Update
- Story Map: Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons - Locations in the Columbia River Basin Where the Toxics Could Be Affecting Fish and Wildlife - exit EPA WEBSITE
- Chemicals of Emerging Concern in the Columbia River
- Columbia River Toxics Reduction Action Plan
- State of the River Report for Toxics

Last words……

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

- Toxic Reduction Lead RFA is anticipated to open on December 13, 2022, **posted on GRANTS.GOV**, grant applications are due March 13, 2023.

- EPA will hold additional webinars during the RFA open period. These webinars will contain more detailed information about how to apply.

- **EPA can only provide technical assistance before the RFA opens**. For more information, contact Nic Taylor – taylor.nicole@epa.gov; 206-553-8322

- For the recording of today's webinar, contact Nic Taylor – taylor.nicole@epa.gov; 206-553-8322