

APRIL 23 CRBRP WORKING GROUP MEETING IN PORTLAND



Image: Oregon FEB



IF YOU EXPERIENCE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES...

Send a message in the chat or email to:

Jade Alvey at Alvey.Jade@epa.gov



MS TEAMS TIPS

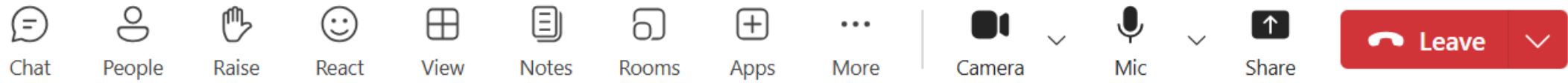
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INTRODUCTIONS



Click chat icon and
introduce yourself –
name and affiliation

WORKING GROUP MEETING OBJECTIVES

Meeting Objectives:

- Review progress and effectiveness of projects across the Basin working toward toxics reduction.
- Obtain feedback to prioritize future Working Group projects and actions in consideration of EPA funding uncertainty.
- Improve in-person connections and collaboration among Working Group members.
- Establish “right-sized” subgroups with volunteer leads and member commitments.

WORKING GROUP AGENDA OVERVIEW

- 9:00-9:35** Welcome and Introductions
- 9:35-10:05** Keynote Speakers
- 10:05-10:30** Break / Poster Session
- 10:30-11:40** Breakout Discussions – Prioritizing Projects and Actions
- 11:40-12:15** Breakout Report Out
- 12:15-1:45** Lunch Break / Poster Session
- 1:45-2:45** Reviewing Project Progress
- 2:45-3:15** Break and Dot Voting – Prioritizing Projects and Actions
- 3:15-3:45** Toxics Monitoring Subgroup Report Out
- 3:45-4:30** Prioritizing Projects and Actions
- 4:30-5:00** Summary, Next Steps, and Recognitions



WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



BREAK

PRIORITIZING PROJECTS AND ACTIONS: BREAKOUTS

- ☐ Group 1: Agriculture & Pollution Prevention
- ☐ Group 2: Stormwater & Green Infrastructure
- ☐ Group 3: Mining & Cleanups
- ☐ Group 4: Monitoring & Data Collaboration
- ☐ Group 5: Outreach, Communications & Behavior Change
- ☐ Group 6: All Virtual Participants

Session Objective: What are your top priorities for Working Group actions in the coming years? And Why?



Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Grant Program Progress

April 23, 2026



VALUE OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN

The **Columbia River Basin** spans 260,000 square miles, seven states, and British Columbia, and:

- Is an economic engine for agriculture, hydropower, recreation, and shipping
- Serves tens of millions of meals annually from salmon, trout, and other aquatic species harvested by commercial, recreational, and tribal fishers
- Provides over 40% of total hydroelectric power generation in the U.S.
- Delivers water resources for 8 million people and irrigation for over 7 million acres of farmland



PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

Clean Water Act Section 123 directed EPA to establish a Columbia River Basin Restoration Program to:

- **assess trends in water quality**, collect and assess water quality data to identify possible causes of environmental problems;
- **provide grants** to reduce pollution, improve water quality, monitor to evaluate trends, provide public education and outreach; and
- **establish a working group** to recommend and prioritize projects and review progress.

Additionally, the EPA's Columbia River Basin Restoration Program supports two of the EPA's pillars:

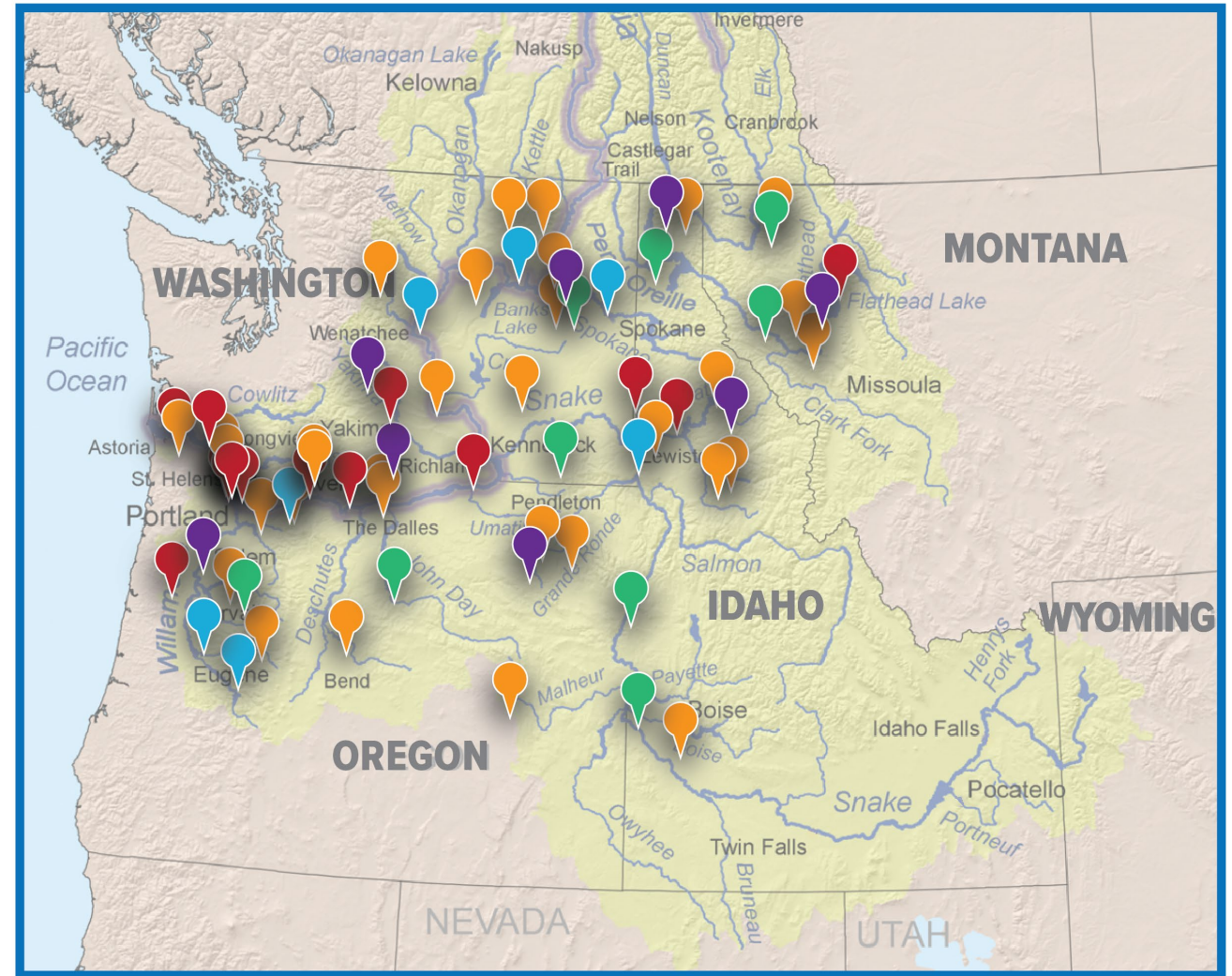
- **Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American**
- **Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, Cross-Agency Partnership**

The program is grounded in statutory direction, sound science, efficient use of resources.



SPECIFICS OF THE GRANT PROGRAM

- Since 2020, the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program has awarded **64 grants totaling almost \$91 million** (including incremental funding yet to be awarded), to state, Tribal, and local governments, universities, and nonprofits. This does not include over \$119 million in leveraged funds from partners within the Basin.
- Eighteen **Toxics Reduction Lead and Tribal Lead cooperative agreements** are underway, with \$10 million in new **Science and Monitoring** awards underway.
- **Focus:** on-the-ground toxics reduction work.



ROUND 1 GRANTS | ROUND 2 GRANTS | TOXIC REDUCTION LEAD GRANTS | TRIBAL LEAD GRANTS | SCIENCE AND MONITORING LEAD GRANTS

RESULTS FROM INITIAL CRBRP INVESTMENTS

- 162,000+ acres transitioned to certified sustainable agricultural practices, reducing pesticide use.
- 1.3M+ gallons of stormwater treated annually using 26 Grattix filtration boxes.
- 1,000+ water, sediment, and fish tissue samples analyzed for multiple contaminants.
- 350+ businesses supported with spill kits and containment tools.
- 4M+ people reached through Basin-wide educational outreach.
- 600-mile Columbia River mainstem monitoring plan developed.
- \$5.6M EPA funds leveraged into \$100M Idaho Power irrigation modernization investment.
- 18,000 lbs of unusable pesticides removed across WA, OR, and MT.
- Green infrastructure installed at 15+ Oregon schools/parks; 59 Idaho mercury monitoring sites.

HIGH-IMPACT ACHIEVEMENTS (2023–2025)

- 3 irrigation upgrades delivering ~8,000 lbs total phosphorus reduction in 2025; 116 projects screened for eligibility for 2026 (The Freshwater Trust).
- Pesticide Stewardship Program: 6 subawards, 53 partners, 643 samples collected (University of Montana).
- 96 acres enrolled in vegetative filter strip program (Nez Perce Tribe).
- Statewide PFAS Strategic Plan completed (Oregon DEQ).
- Long-term fish tissue and toxicity monitoring program developed (Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation).
- Major green infrastructure retrofit at Rigler Elementary; 4 projects to start construction in 2026; 6 in design; 3 in development (Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership).
- \$2.8M obligated to 18 projects addressing septic and stormwater toxics in western Montana (Western MT Conservation Commission).
- Advancing large-scale septic system analysis (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes).

Toxics Monitoring Subgroup Workshop Update



Image: Oregon FEB



COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM



TMS WORKSHOP AGENDA

9:00-9:30 Welcome, Pin Your Project on the Basin, & Framing

9:30-10:00 Monitoring Strategy Update & Key Considerations

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-11:30 Breakout Discussions on Outstanding Issues

Technical Breakout Group (two consecutive discussion sessions)

- Indicators: Priority Pollutant & Species Lists
- Long-Term Monitoring Network Design & Spatial Coverage

Program Delivery Breakout Group (two consecutive discussion sessions)

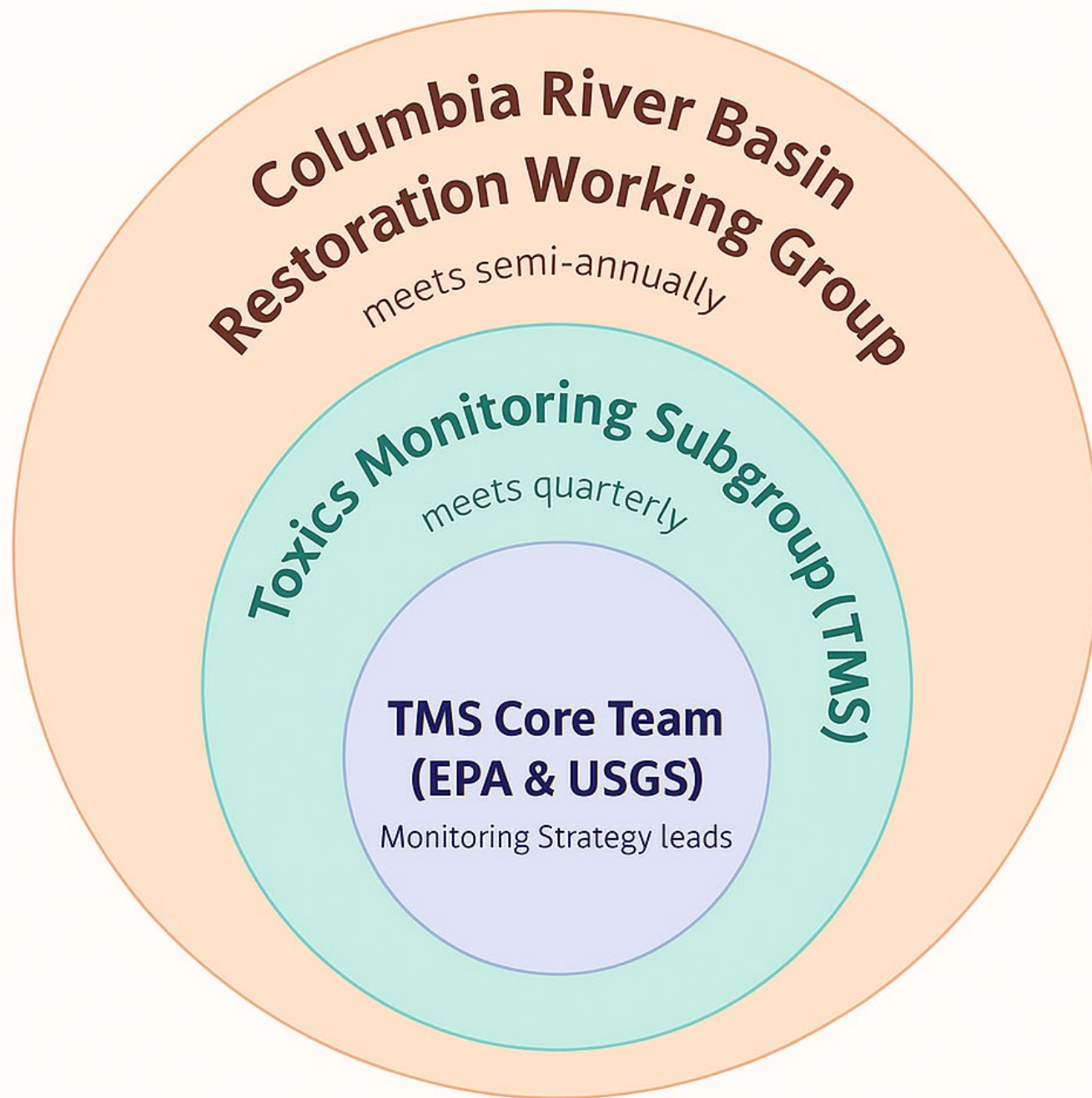
- Measuring Success
- Building Collaboration for Program Longevity

11:30-12:00 Report Out & Synthesis

12:00-1:00 Plenary: Adaptive Management, Early Implementation, & Future Focus

1:00-2:00 Lunch Break

2:00-5:00 Site Visits



Toxics Monitoring Subgroup

- Subgroup of Working Group
- Shares information on monitoring, and leverages activities within and outside of EPA funded grants

Core Team Members

- Patrick Moran, USGS
- Mark Jankowski, EPA
- Lisa Kusnierz, EPA
- Meghan Dunn, EPA
- Ashley Zanolli, EPA
- Sarah Dunn, USGS

Contact us anytime!

gs-crbtoxmon@usgs.gov

The Toxics Monitoring Strategy Vision



A comprehensive, collaborative approach for monitoring toxic pollutants to assess trends and inform water quality protection and restoration activities across jurisdictions and sub-basins in the Columbia River Basin.

2026-2046 Monitoring Strategy Goals

1. Sustain and grow the **partnership to monitor** toxic pollution across the Basin.
2. **Identify and prioritize pollutants** in Columbia Basin waters by evaluating risk to humans and aquatic life.
3. Assess the **status and trends** and locations of priority pollutants in water, sediment, and/or fish.
4. Utilize **new tools and approaches** to evaluate legacy, emerging chemicals, and mixtures.

Scope of Monitoring Strategy

What's In Scope vs. Out of Scope

Monitoring Strategy Focus:

Consistent with Clean Water Act Section 123, the strategy addresses status and trends assessment in water quality, including what to monitor, where, and how.

The Monitoring Strategy DOES NOT:

- Identify implementation responsibilities
- Connect monitoring results to toxics reduction actions
- Monitor for BMP effectiveness
- Communicate to public audiences
- Address long-term funding needs

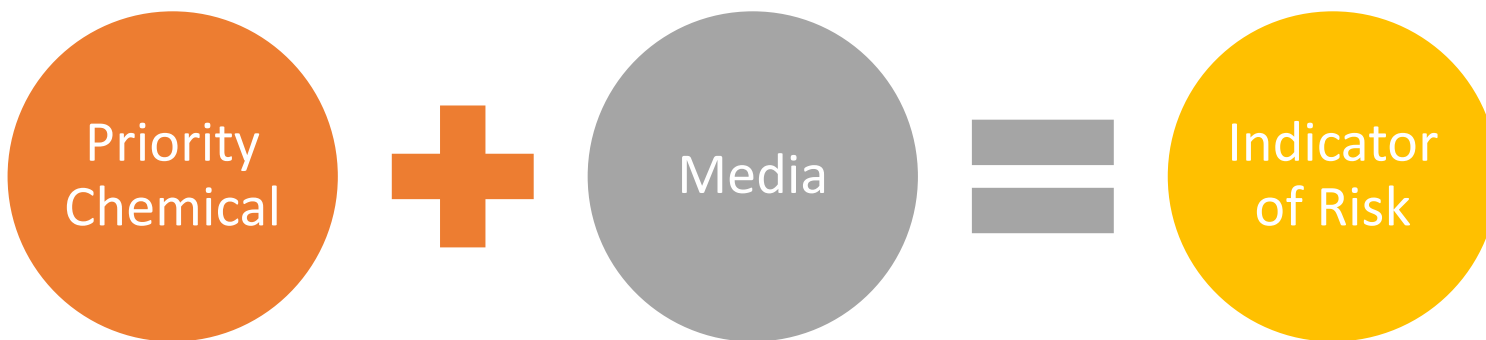


PROPOSED INDICATORS



Technical Breakout Group Discussion of Priority Indicators of Risk

Leads: Mark Jankowski & Patrick Moran



Priority Chemicals

Media (water, sediment, species)

Initial Near term (5-year) Indicators

Proposed Priority Chemicals for Monitoring

List subject to change as often as every five years as informed by five-year status and trend reports.

Category		Chemicals	Media	Temporal and Spatial Sampling Considerations	Pathways*	Indicates?
	Banned	PCBs, DDT	Fish tissue	Spatially distributed and slow to change	I, M, U/S	Human and aquatic life risk
	Current	MeHg		All		
Metals		<u>Zn, Cd, Cu, Pb, Se, As, Co</u>	Based on flow chart	Spatially distributed, moderate change rate	All	Aquatic life risk
Pesticides		2,4-D, glyphosate, neonicotinoids, pyrethroids, atrazine, carbamates, organophosphates	Based on flow chart	Near sources, <u>potential rapid rate of change</u>	Ag, U/S, F	Aquatic life risk
Tire-wear compounds		6PPD-Q, <u>TBD</u>	Water or sediment	<u>Ephemeral subject to dilution in water; present in some sediments</u>	Urban or rural roads	Aquatic life risk
Phthalates					I, U/S	Aquatic life risk

*Pathways: Urban/stormwater (U/S), Agricultural (Ag), Mining (M), Industrial (I), Atmospheric (Atm), Forestry (F)

Initial Priority Media Proposed for the Measurement of Prioritized Chemicals

<u>Media</u>	<u>1st Tier</u>	<u>2nd Tier</u>	<u>3rd Tier</u>
Biota	Commonly consumed fish species	Juvenile salmon, Sturgeon, Lamprey	Invertebrates including shellfish
Water	Aqueous	Passive sampler	NA
Sediment	Top 10 cm	Passive sampler	NA

TMS Workshop Breakout Sessions



TECHNICAL GROUP

Facilitators: : Mark Jankowski & Lisa Kusnierz,
Patrick Moran & Will Hobbs

Round 1A — Indicators

- Priority pollutant & indicator chemicals list
- Indicator species list & tissue selection

Round 1B — Monitoring Network

- Long-term monitoring network design
- Spatial coverage & gap analysis



PROGRAM DELIVERY GROUP

Facilitators: Ashley Zanolli & Robin Parker,
Laura Shira & Sherrie Duncan

Round 2A — SMART Success Metrics

- 5-year & 20-year milestones for each goal
- Metrics tied to funding level scenarios

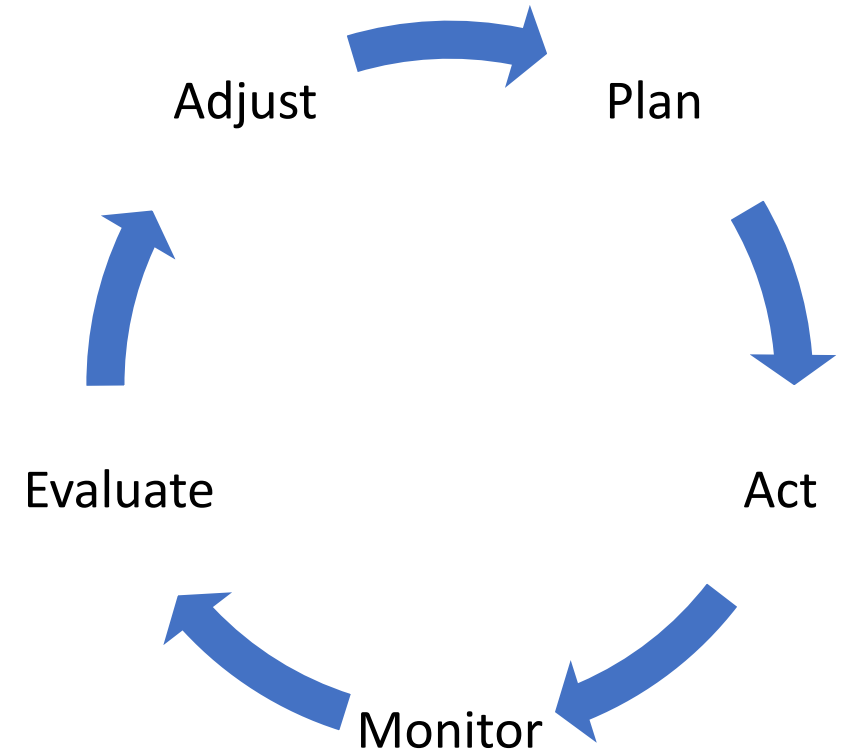
Round 2B — Collaboration for Program Longevity

- Partner contributions & mutual benefit framework
- Program delivery structure

Plenary Session Discussion

Adaptive Management – 5-7 year cycle

- Consider results from CRBRP grants
- Collaborate with TMS partners on monitoring efforts
- Seek partner input on adaptive management decision and continual improvement
- Consider how monitoring data and reported status and trends point to areas for further investigation



TMS Workshop April 22 and Working Group Meeting April 23, 2026 in Portland, OR

Core Team works with TMS volunteers to develop appendices and support participants in uploading data to WQX

TMS meetings and possible panels to finalize strategy appendices - Summer/Fall 2026

Finalize CRB Toxics Monitoring Strategy & Year 1 Monitoring Plan – targeting Winter 2026/2027

Next Steps

Questions



COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM



Wrap Up

