



# Columbia River Basin Restoration Program

## November 18, 2020

The background image shows a wide, calm body of water, likely the Columbia River, curving through a dry, hilly landscape. The land is covered in sparse, dry vegetation and rocky terrain. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is arid and natural.

# Columbia River Basin Restoration Program



- 1,243 miles long, 259,000 sq miles
- Largest flow to Pacific in N&S America
- 2 countries, 7 states, 22 Tribes
- 8 million people
- 13 endangered fish species

In 2016, Congress passed

- CWA Section 123
- Columbia River Basin Restoration Act

In 2019 and 2020, EPA received first appropriations and began a new grant program

# Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Collaboration

- In OR HHC work effort, EPA acknowledged our role to reduce toxics and committed to a collaboration
- In 2005, EPA convened the **Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group**, with Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership as Estuary convener; EPA focus above Bonneville Dam.
- Began with a focus on **Science**: what do we know about toxics in basin?
  - Convened scientists to identify contaminants of concern
  - Collaboration collected science in Basin and to tell “toxics story” through a 2009 State of the River Report
  - Followed by 2010 “Action Plan” w/61 toxic reduction actions

# 2016 Columbia River Basin Restoration Act (CRBRA)

- Clean Water Act Section 123, passed in 2016
- Directs EPA to develop a Columbia River Basin Restoration (voluntary/non-regulatory) Sec 123(b)
  - Create a working group Sec 123(b)(3)(c)
  - Create a grant program – Sec 123(d)
    - Cost share, geographic allocations, reporting requirement
    - Eliminating or reducing pollution
    - Cleaning up contaminated sites
    - Improving water quality
    - Monitoring to evaluate trends
    - Reducing runoff
    - Protecting Habitat
    - Promoting citizen engagement
- Annual Budget Plan is required
- FY19-20 – 2.2 million total appropriation



# 2020 Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Grantees

- Regents of the University of Idaho
- University of Washington Tacoma
- University of Montana/Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- City of Vancouver
- Multnomah County
- WA Department of Agriculture
- WA Department of Ecology
- Salmon-Safe
- Cascade Pacific RC&D
- Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center
- Columbia Riverkeeper

# 2020 CRBRA Grants

## **Increase Agricultural Best Practices to Reduce Toxics with Monitoring**

- Increase Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships in OR, WA and ID

## **Increase Stormwater Green Infrastructure to Reduce Toxics**

- Develop stormwater raingardens (Grattix boxes) to reduce toxics in the Lower Columbia estuary
- Increase stormwater green infrastructure in Upper Willamette and increase citizen awareness

## **Increase Pollution Prevention Actions and Community Education and Engagement**

- Expand OR EcoBiz and Safer Chemicals Alternatives Training programs
- Develop pollution prevention program for the City of Vancouver and Clark County
- Develop bi-lingual outreach materials to reduce residential herbicide and insecticide use in OR
- Educate public on pollution prevention with focus on Latinx community in the Columbia River Gorge

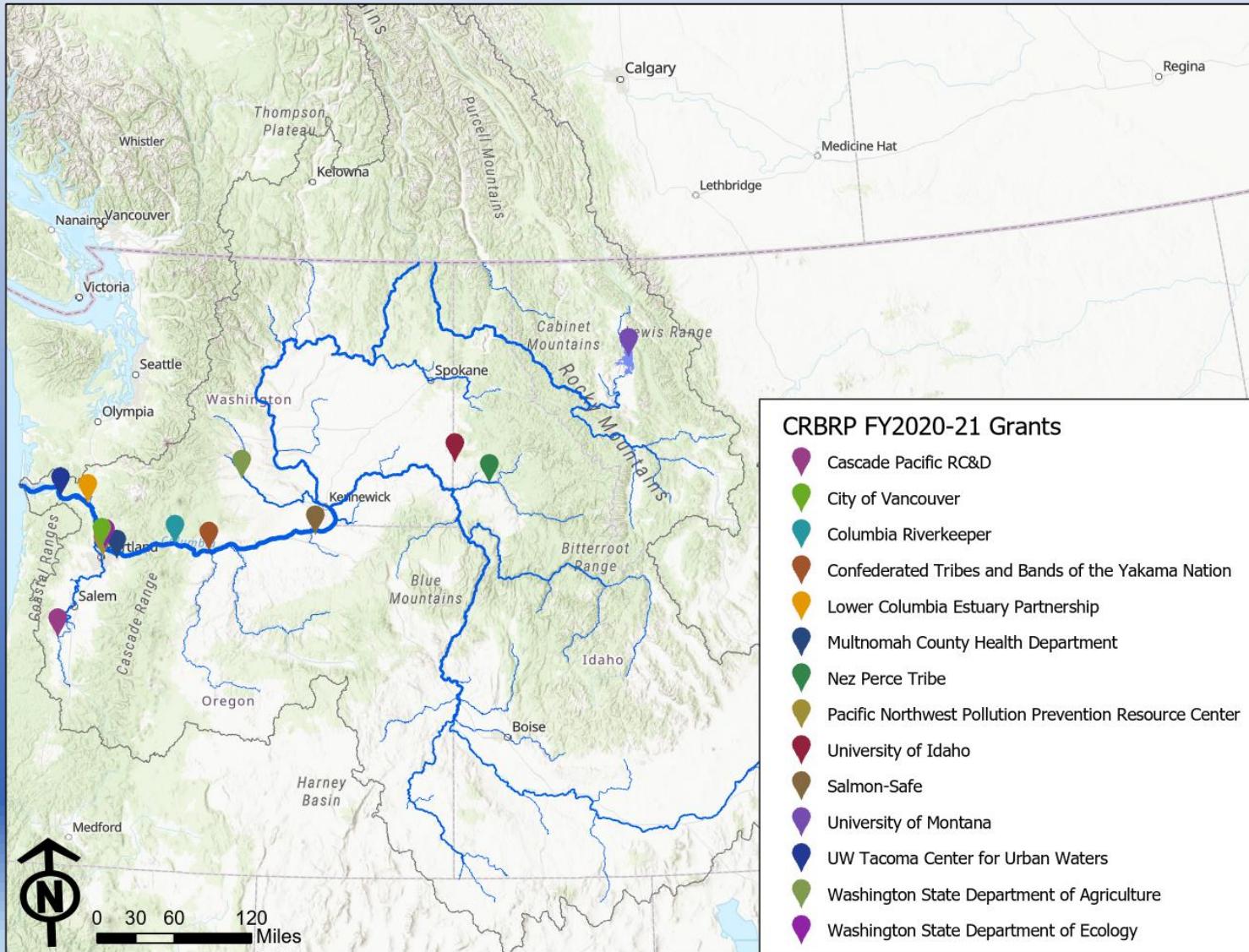
# 2020 CRBRA Grants (continued)

## Monitoring

- Monitor contaminants in the Clearwater River in ID
- Monitor mercury in crayfish in Spokane and Boise River in ID and WA
- Monitor methylmercury in Flathead Lake fish and understand impact on fish consumers
- Monitor for toxics in Columbia slope sub-watershed in WA
- Monitor contaminants of emerging concern in Lower Columbia
- Develop comprehensive monitoring plan on mainstem from Pacific to Canadian border

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

# Location of Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Grants



# For More Information

Check out EPA's website : <https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver>

For further information:

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