

NORTHWEST POWER AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL



Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

- What is the Northwest Power and Conservation Council?
- Northwest Power Act of 1980
- Interstate Compact among 4 NW states (ID, MT, OR, WA)
 - Eight members appointed by Governors of NW states
- Council to prepare a 20-year Power Plan
 - Demand forecast; low-cost resources; energy efficiency
 - Address hydropower impacts on fish and wildlife
 - Public involvement
 - Residential exchange
- BPA has a consistency requirement



**S E V E N T H
NORTHWEST
POWER PLAN**

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- Develop a Fish and Wildlife Program for Columbia River Basin
 - First Program developed in 1982; 18 more since
 - Protect, mitigate & enhance F&WL affected by hydropower
 - Initial focus on improving dam passage; today mostly habitat
- Prepare a Power Plan for Pacific Northwest
 - First Plan developed in 1983; working on Seventh Plan now
 - Assure an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply
- Revise F&WL Program every five years, then the Plan
- Provide for public involvement
 - Inform and involve Northwest citizens



KEY ELEMENTS OF THE 2014 CRB FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM



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- Improve fish survival at dams (flow, spill, passage)
- Improve ecosystem function by:
 - Improving habitat for fish and wildlife
 - Protecting & restoring ecosystems and biological diversity
- Use hatcheries to rebuild runs and support harvest
 - Ensure abundant harvest while maintaining strong wild stocks
 - Encourage genetic management plans for hatcheries
 - Program guided by best available science
- Protected areas from future hydropower development

Columbia
River Basin
Fish and Wildlife
Program 2014

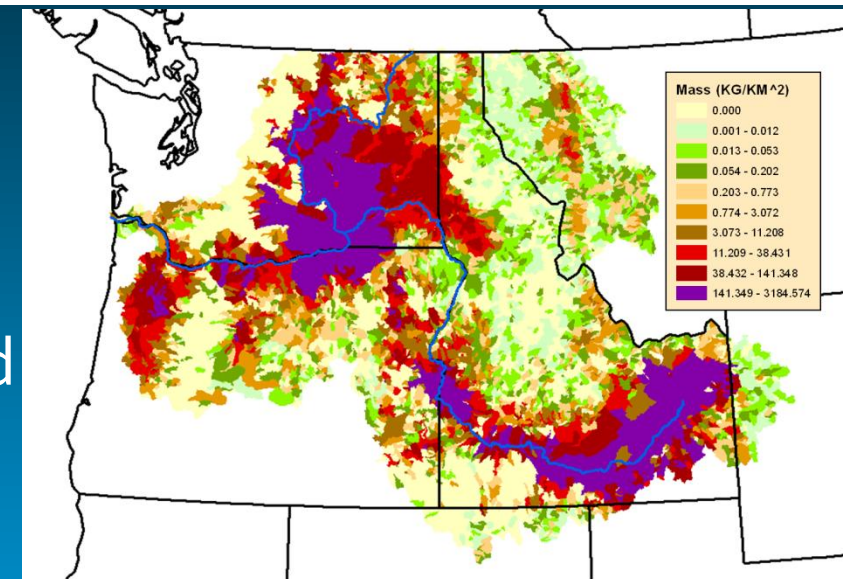


2014 CRB FISH & WILDLIFE PROGRAM



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- What's new in 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program?
- Reducing threats from invasive species, predators, **toxic substances** and climate change
- Protecting 'strongholds' – areas of good habitat and native fish residing within them
- Enhancing conservation of wild fish
- Investigate feasibility of reintroducing salmon & steelhead into blocked areas, notably above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams
- Repairing aging infrastructure & equipment related to projects implementing the Program

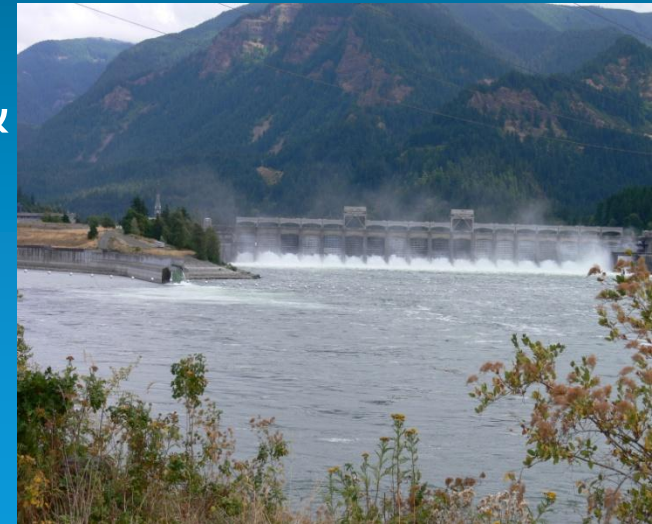


WATER QUALITY STRATEGY



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- Two main goals of Program's WQ Strategy are:
 - To provide flows and habitat of adequate quality and quantity to improve the survival of salmon & native resident fish in the mainstem Columbia and Snake rivers
 - To improve water quality in tributaries to promote healthy & productive populations of anadromous & native resident fish
- Program includes WQ measures to address TDG, water temperature and toxic contaminants



MEASURES TO ADDRESS TOXIC CONTAMINANTS



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- Council calls on the federal Action Agencies, together with EPA and other regional agencies, to:
 - Support implementation of 2010 CRB Toxics Reduction Action Plan
 - Monitor water quality & implement WQ improvement actions to reduce toxic contaminants to meet state, tribal & federal WQ stds.
- The federal AAs should partner with and support ongoing federal, tribal, state and regional agencies' efforts to:
 - Monitor, assess and map high priority toxic hot spots in CRB; evaluate any connection to the hydrosystem
 - Identify & assess the effects of toxic contaminants on native fish and wildlife and food webs in toxic hot spots in CRB



MEASURES TO ADDRESS TOXIC CONTAMINANTS-II



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- The federal AAs should partner with and support federal, tribal, state and regional agencies' efforts to conduct monitoring of vulnerable native F&WL species for high priority contaminants, including CECs; and evaluate if toxics limit their reproductive success
- All Federal and non-federal project operators in Basin should:
 - Monitor and report oil spills and leakages at their hydro projects;
 - Replace all lubricating oils & fluids containing PCBs with non-PCB oils; and
 - Develop and implement best practices to reduce oil spills and leakages



MEASURES TO ADDRESS TOXIC CONTAMINANTS-III



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- BPA & the federal AAs should identify areas where habitat restoration projects may be affected by toxic contaminants; if needed, incorporate pollution prevention and mitigation techniques into restoration projects
- Council urges Congress to provide funding for efforts to better understand effects of toxic contaminants in CRB:
 - Develop sensitive diagnostic indicators of chemical exposure & salmon health, e.g. biomarkers, for use in field studies;
 - Determine extent to which toxics may limit prey quality & abundance in degraded habitats, e.g. food web effects; and
 - Improve our understanding of CECs and their effects on salmon, sturgeon and lamprey

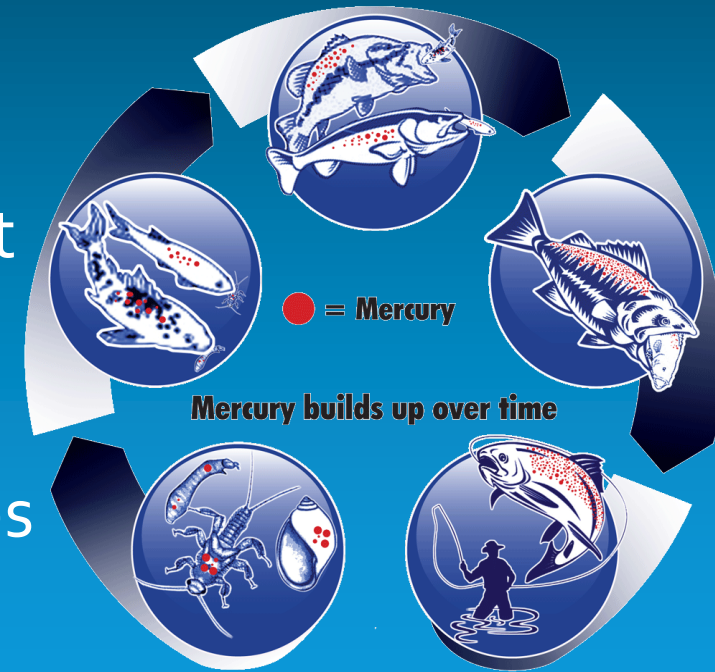


MEASURES TO ADDRESS TOXIC CONTAMINANTS-IV



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- Council will support ongoing efforts to identify, assess and reduce toxic contaminants in the Basin
- Council will participate in, support, and help coordinate periodic science/policy workshops on toxic contaminant issues in CRB
- Council will also assist regional entities to advance public education and information efforts on toxics issues



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- For more information about the Council, see:
www.nwccouncil.org
- For more information about the F&WL Program, see:
www.nwccouncil.org/fw/program/2014-12/Program
- Questions?

Columbia
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