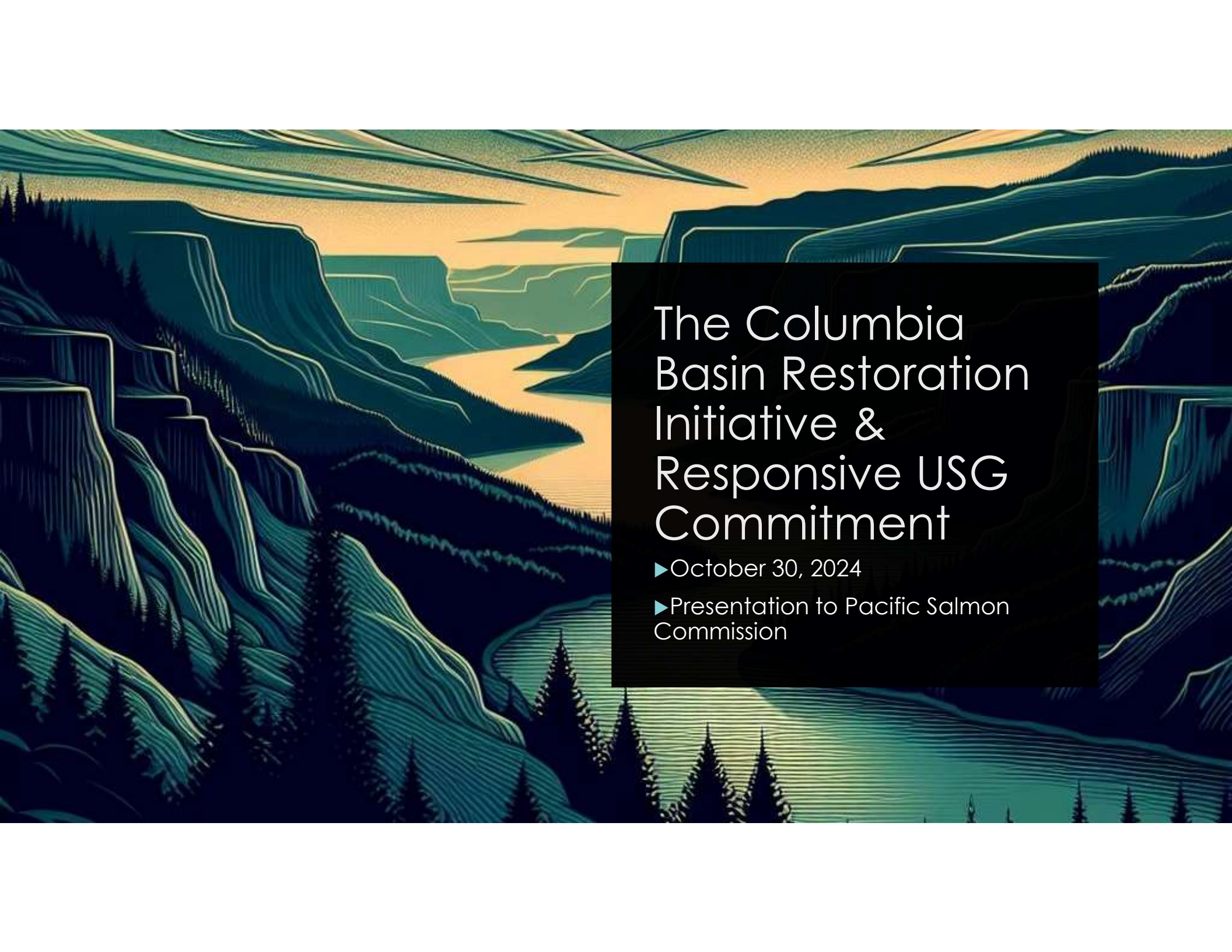




# The Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative & Responsive USG Commitment

► October 30, 2024

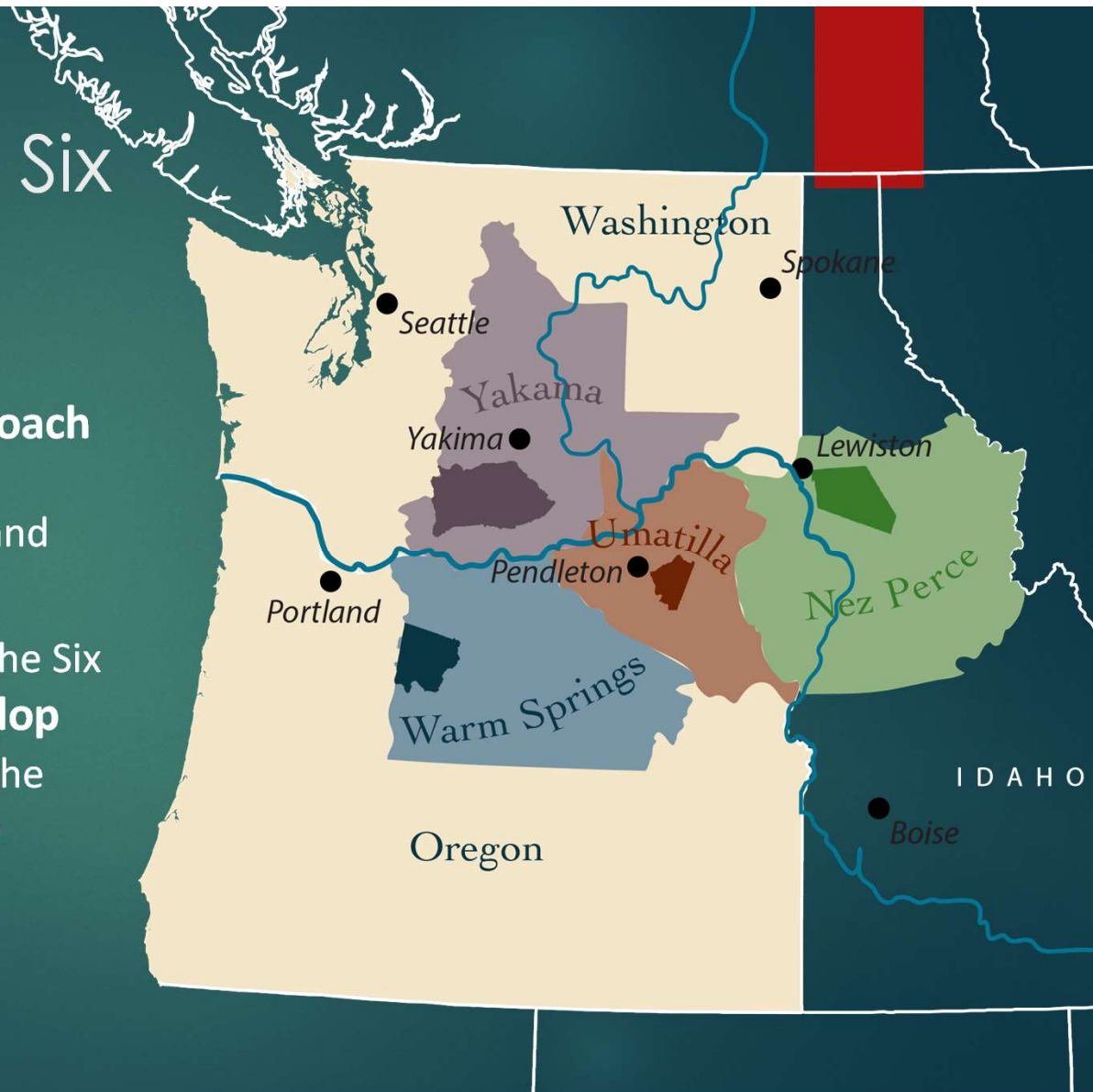
► Presentation to Pacific Salmon  
Commission



Background

# The Formation of the Six Sovereigns Coalition

- ▶ For years, the Six Sovereigns have each advocated for a **comprehensive approach** to addressing Columbia Basin salmon restoration and related energy, water, and development-related issues.
- ▶ Building on their shared perspectives, the Six Sovereigns **worked together to develop and advance recommendations** to the USG on what a comprehensive strategy should include.

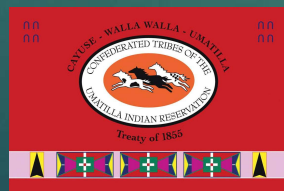




# The Six Sovereign's Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative

The Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative (“CBRI”) represents the collaborative effort of the Six Sovereigns to develop a comprehensive solution for shared and complex challenges. It is informed by the Six Sovereigns’ significant technical expertise as fisheries co-managers, and by their sovereign obligations to their constituents.

The CBRI is intended as a roadmap to help the Six Sovereigns and the USG work in partnership together and with others in the region to restore Columbia Basin fisheries to healthy and abundant levels, honor commitments to Tribal Nations, and deliver affordable and reliable clean power while meeting the many resilience needs of stakeholders in the Columbia River basin and the Pacific Northwest.





# Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CBRI'S PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES, AND  
RECOMMENDED APPROACH

WHY DID THE SIX  
SOVEREIGNS  
DEVELOP THE CBRI?

# Purpose

# Making a Collective Commitment to a Just and Prosperous Future

1

## **Urgent Action**

Rapidly changing economic, energy and climate conditions in the Pacific Northwest – not to mention the dire status of the fishery resources in the Columbia Basin – requires leadership and urgent action to respond to inevitable changes and meet regional needs during the coming decades.

2

## **Unified Approach**

We must act now and implement necessary federal investments and commitments across the whole of government to be successful.

3

## **Treaty & Trust Obligations**

The CBRI helps advance the fulfillment of federal Treaty and trust obligations to the Tribal communities and fisheries left behind in the Columbia Basin's previous rush of development by restoring salmon, steelhead, and other native species and their habitats, and investing in critical fish infrastructure.

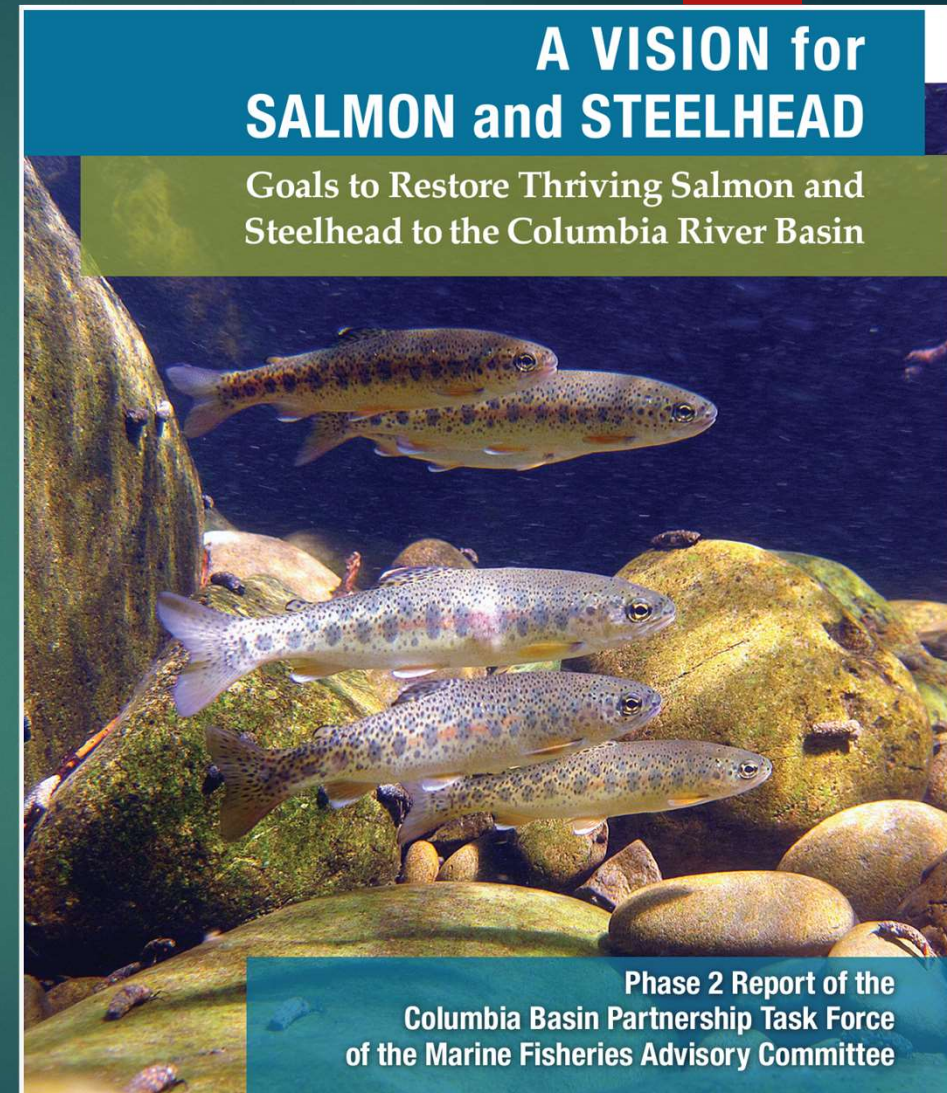
4

## **Resilient Communities**

The CBRI protects and enhances the security of our communities and key service sectors by modernizing and investing in clean energy, agriculture, & transportation infrastructure, and by helping to restore vital ecosystem functions and services essential for local & regional resilience and adaptation to climate change.

# Responding to Recent Columbia River Basin Efforts

- ▶ Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force Goals
- ▶ Columbia Basin Initiative – Rep. Mike Simpson
- ▶ Sen. Murray / Gov. Inslee LSRD Benefit Replacement Report and Recommendations
- ▶ Biden Administration government-to-government consultations with Columbia Basin Tribes
- ▶ FMCS Mediation and Biden Administration efforts to resolve ongoing hydrosystem litigation issues
- ▶ NOAA Fisheries 2022 Report on Rebuilding Interior Columbia Salmon and Steelhead





WHAT DOES SUCCESS  
LOOK LIKE?

# Objectives

# CBRI Objectives # 1-3



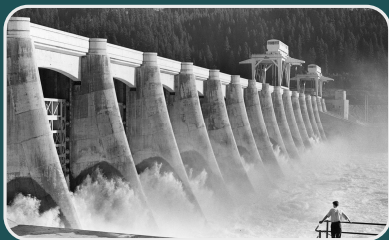
## 1. Restore salmon and steelhead to healthy and abundant levels

Develop and advance an urgent, comprehensive strategy to: restore salmon and steelhead to “healthy and abundant levels” consistent with NOAA’s Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (CBP) and Rebuilding reports; and complete the actions and investments necessary to secure continuity of services associated with Lower Snake River (LSR) restoration prior to LSR dam breaching.



## 2. Ecosystem health

Ensure that all species, regardless of ESA-listing status, are considered in the comprehensive strategy in a way that improves ecosystem function in the Columbia River and its tributaries.



## 3. Halt the decline

Ensure interim fish measures [including, but not limited to hydro operations] minimize additional generational decline of fish populations.

# CBRI Objectives # 4-6



## 4. Quick and just energy transition

Invest in and support communities and economic sectors in a manner that is consistent with meeting decarbonization goals and mandates and integration of renewables; delivers affordable and clean power; improves resiliency and adaptability to climate change and supports the many resilience needs of stakeholders across the region; and honors commitments to Tribal Nations.



## 5. Quick and thorough implementation

Secure necessary regulatory compliance, authorizations, and appropriations for implementation of the strategy with an urgency reflecting the needs of the fish.



## 6. Honor treaty and trust obligations

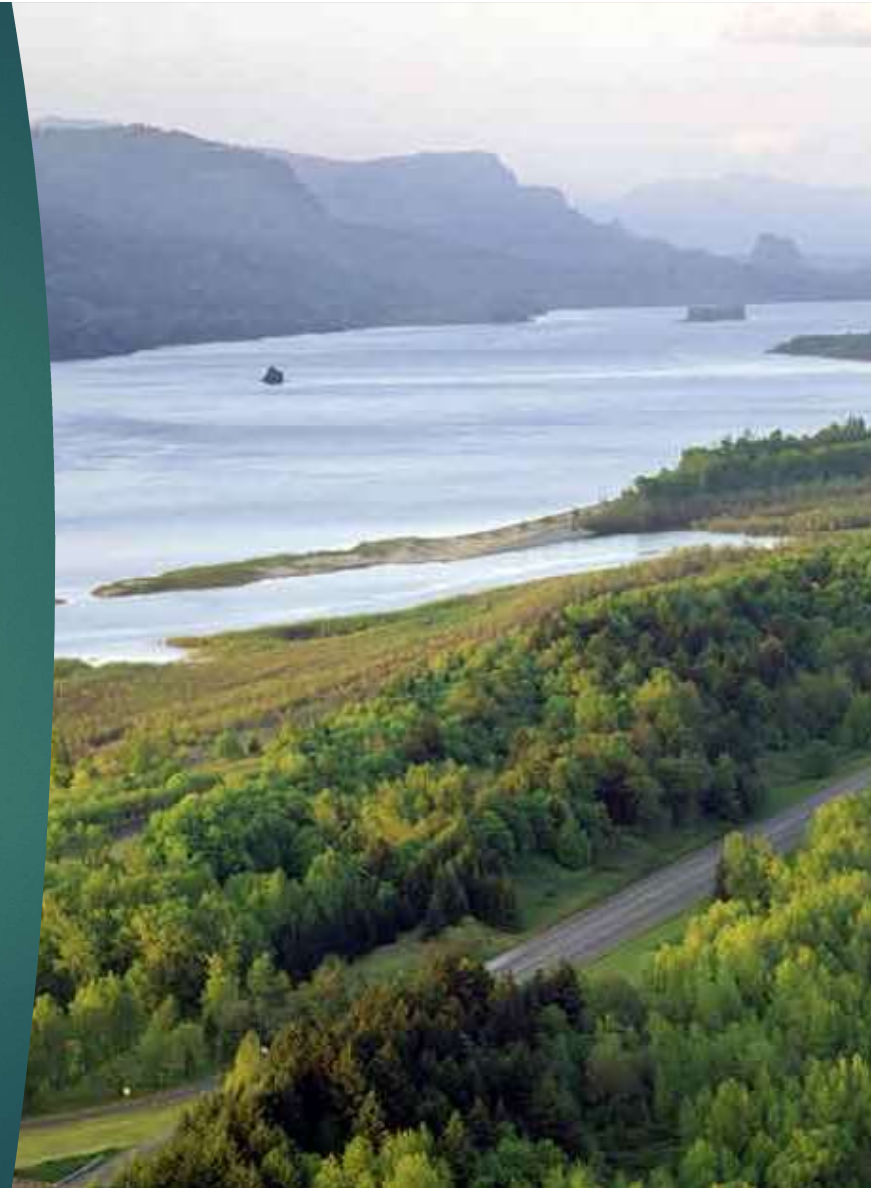
Ensure that the comprehensive strategy and associated federal actions “honor Federal commitments to Tribal Nations” and address past and ongoing inequities related to Columbia Basin development to reflect and uphold federal Treaty and trust responsibilities to Columbia Basin tribes.

WHAT IS THE  
ROADMAP TO  
ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

# Recommended approach



- ▶ **Empower Tribal & State Fisheries Co-Managers** to direct federal hydropower mitigation efforts in the Columbia Basin.
- ▶ **Significantly Increase Funding** to levels sufficient to address identified mitigation needs and obligations.
- ▶ **Fully Fund Fisheries Infrastructure Needs** to address the significant backlog of authorized and recommended, but historically underfunded, actions.
- ▶ **Replace the benefits of the LSR dams** with due urgency to enable breaching to move forward.
- ▶ **Implement the Upper Columbia United Tribes' Phase Two Implementation Plan** to reintroduce and provide passage of priority anadromous species above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams.
- ▶ **Establish a long-term biological performance monitoring and reporting program** to measure progress and support accountability towards goals identified in the CBP Phase II Report.



# Transparent 'Whole-of-Government' Approach



Federal agencies coordinate to use their funds and authorities to prevent salmon extinction and restore healthy and abundant Columbia Basin fisheries.



BPA should be accountable for meeting its obligations within its affordable power mandate, but Congressional appropriations will also be necessary for success.

Funds that are collected by BPA from ratepayers to meet fish and wildlife obligations should be fully spent on fish and wildlife actions.



## Advance Key Elements Concurrently & Immediately

- ▶ Some parts of the CBRI can and should be advanced by the President and federal agencies under existing authorities and appropriations.
- ▶ Others will require Congressional support through additional appropriations or legislation, or both.
- ▶ Time is of the essence in both cases to meet the urgent needs of Columbia Basin fisheries and communities, and the inevitable changes facing the Region.

ALL SIX SOVEREIGNS ARE  
COMMITTED TO  
PROVIDING LEADERSHIP  
TO IMPLEMENT THE  
SHARED VISION OF THE  
CBRI.

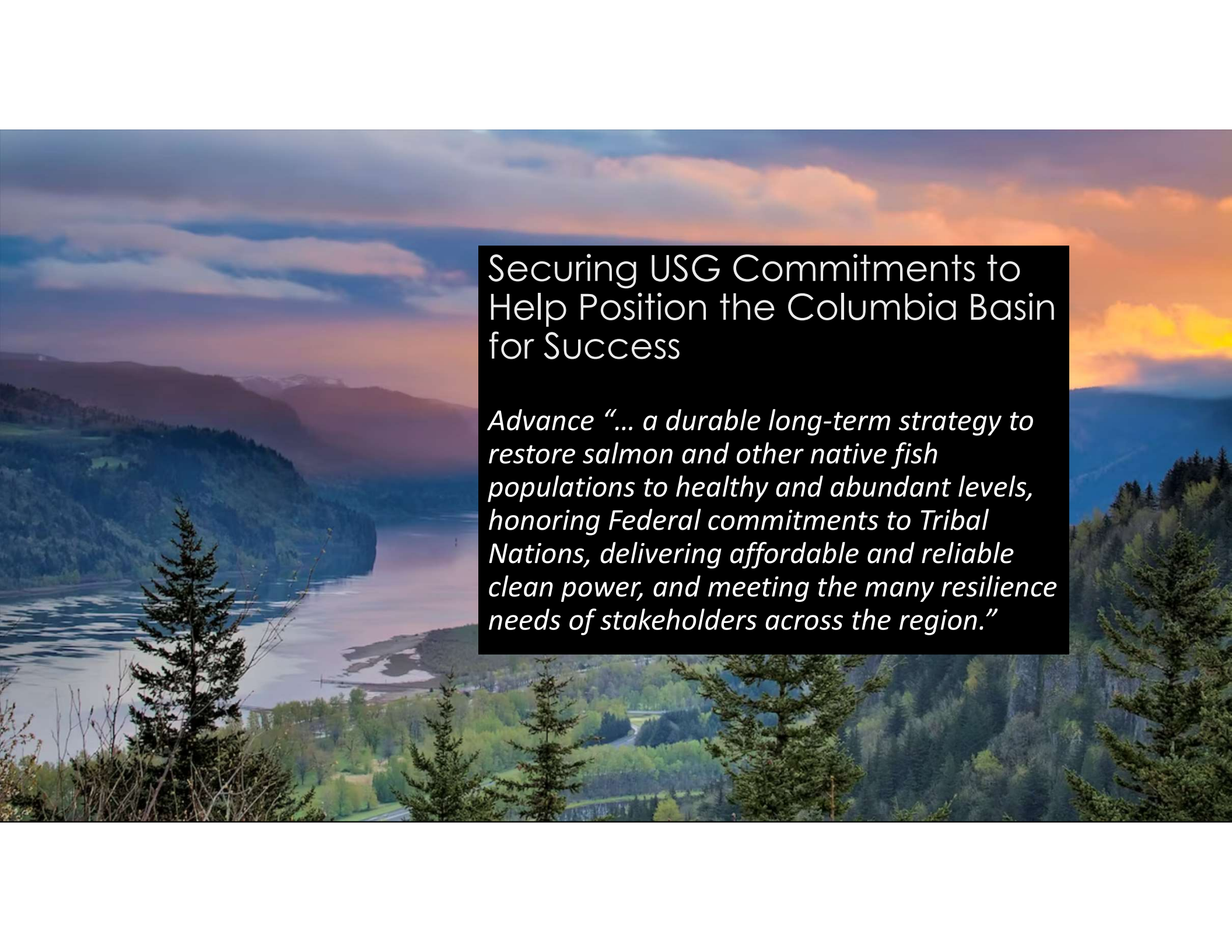
# Implementation



# The Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement & USG Commitments

DECEMBER 14, 2023 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE  
USG, THE SIX SOVEREIGNS, AND THE NWF PLAINTIFFS





## Securing USG Commitments to Help Position the Columbia Basin for Success

*Advance "... a durable long-term strategy to restore salmon and other native fish populations to healthy and abundant levels, honoring Federal commitments to Tribal Nations, delivering affordable and reliable clean power, and meeting the many resilience needs of stakeholders across the region."*

# Initial Federal Commitments in Support of the CBRI



In December 2023, the USG signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with the Six Sovereigns and the NGO plaintiffs in the *NWF v NMFS* litigation (together, the “MOU Parties”).



The 10-year MOU provides for a package of initial federal actions (the “USG Commitments”) in support of the CBRI and in partnership with the Six Sovereigns.



While the USG implements these USG Commitments and the MOU remains effective, the MOU Parties agree to support a continued stay\* of the *NWF v NMFS* litigation and refrain from similar litigation. Together, these documents are referred to as the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement.



# RCBA: Key USG Commitments

## ► Increased Fish Restoration Funding

- Approximately \$530 million in new fish restoration and mitigation funds for FY23-33
- A commitment to maintain current levels of BPA Fish & Wildlife Program funding and Fish Accord funding
- Agreement to seek additional non-rate-payer funds from Congress to at least double available resources for native fish restoration projects in the Columbia Basin

## ► Tools for Advancing Salmon Recovery

- 10-Year Fish Needs Plans (Mid-Columbia and Basin-Wide)
- A Columbia Basin Salmon Crosscut Budget
- Recommendations for Fish & Wildlife Mitigation Management Reforms



# RCBA: Key USG Commitments Continued

## ► Evaluation of Replacement of Services Provided by Lower Snake River Dams

- USG is responsible for partnering with WA on studies for how to replace LSRD energy, transportation, recreation, and water supply services, which will then be presented to Congress
- Six Sovereigns are partnering on the studies with opportunities for input from other stakeholders
- A 10-year plan for interim hydro operations (to be renegotiated if Congress does not authorize LSRD breach)

## ► Support for Tribal Clean Energy Projects & Regional Energy Needs Planning

- 1,000-3,000+ MW in new tribal clean energy projects
- DOE and the Six Sovereigns will co-convene a regional energy needs planning process to assess how we can replace the energy services of the LSRD's and protect Columbia Basin fisheries while meeting regional decarbonization goals and maintaining reliability in the face of growing energy demands
- Identification of federal funding to help build tribal capacity



Questions ?



