



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

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# Update on Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force

**MAFAC**

**November 28, 2017**

# Major Columbia Basin Dams & ESA-Listed Fish



# Columbia Basin salmon landscape:

- NOAA Fisheries has multiple responsibilities such as ESA, Magnuson-Stevens Act, treaty/trust to tribes, and mitigation for federal hydrosystem.
- 24 salmon stocks - 13 listed under ESA.
- Plans and processes related to habitat, hydrosystem, harvest, and hatchery address varying aspects of salmon management.
- 4 states, 13 tribes, and stakeholders covering commercial and recreational fishing, agriculture, irrigation, navigation/ports, public utilities, environmental groups and recreation.
- Ongoing litigation since mid- 1990's.

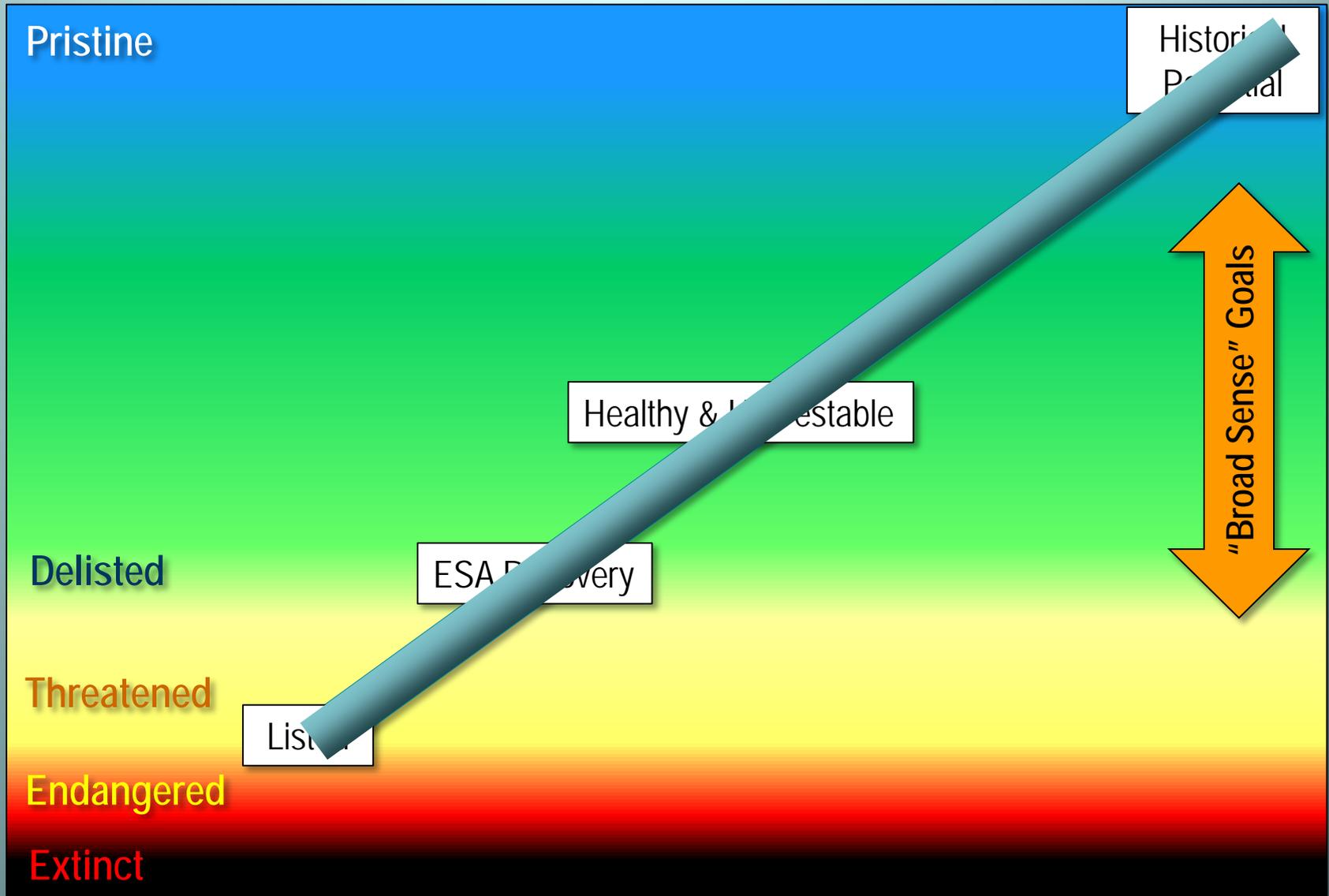
# CBP Task Force Purpose

- NOAA Fisheries, states and tribes have multiple management responsibilities and plans. Without common, shared goals it is difficult to achieve any of them.
- 2012 Situational Assessment by Ruckleshaus Center and Oregon Consensus found the need for:
  - ✓ More coherent, integrated, and efficient means of addressing the complexities of salmon recovery.
  - ✓ NOAA Fisheries to convene regional sovereigns and stakeholders to develop common, long-term goals for salmon and steelhead.
- CBP Task Force established in fall 2016 and began in January, 2017.
- 28 members from states, tribes and stakeholders.

# Questions About Salmon Goals and Plans

- Are we using our resources effectively and efficiently?
- Are we optimizing harvest opportunities consistent with recovery?
- Do we have ways to measure progress and success?
- Are we using non-listed stocks effectively and efficiently to help relieve pressure on listed stocks?
- Are goals attainable given current habitat conditions and likely effects of climate change? How should we consider future habitat conditions?
- Are we optimizing our hatcheries for recovery and harvest?

Salmon Status



Time

# Stakeholder Viewpoint: Kristin Meira

# Columbia & Snake Rivers – Commercial Navigation



You  
Are  
Here!

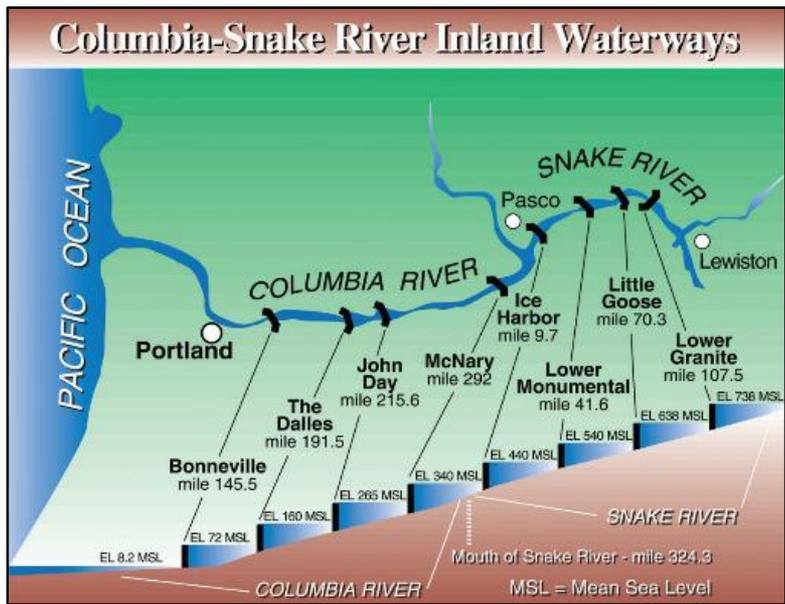


# Lower Columbia River

- 43' channel extends 105 miles inland
- Over 50 million tons of cargo in 2016
- \$24 billion in cargo value
- 40,000 jobs depend on the channel

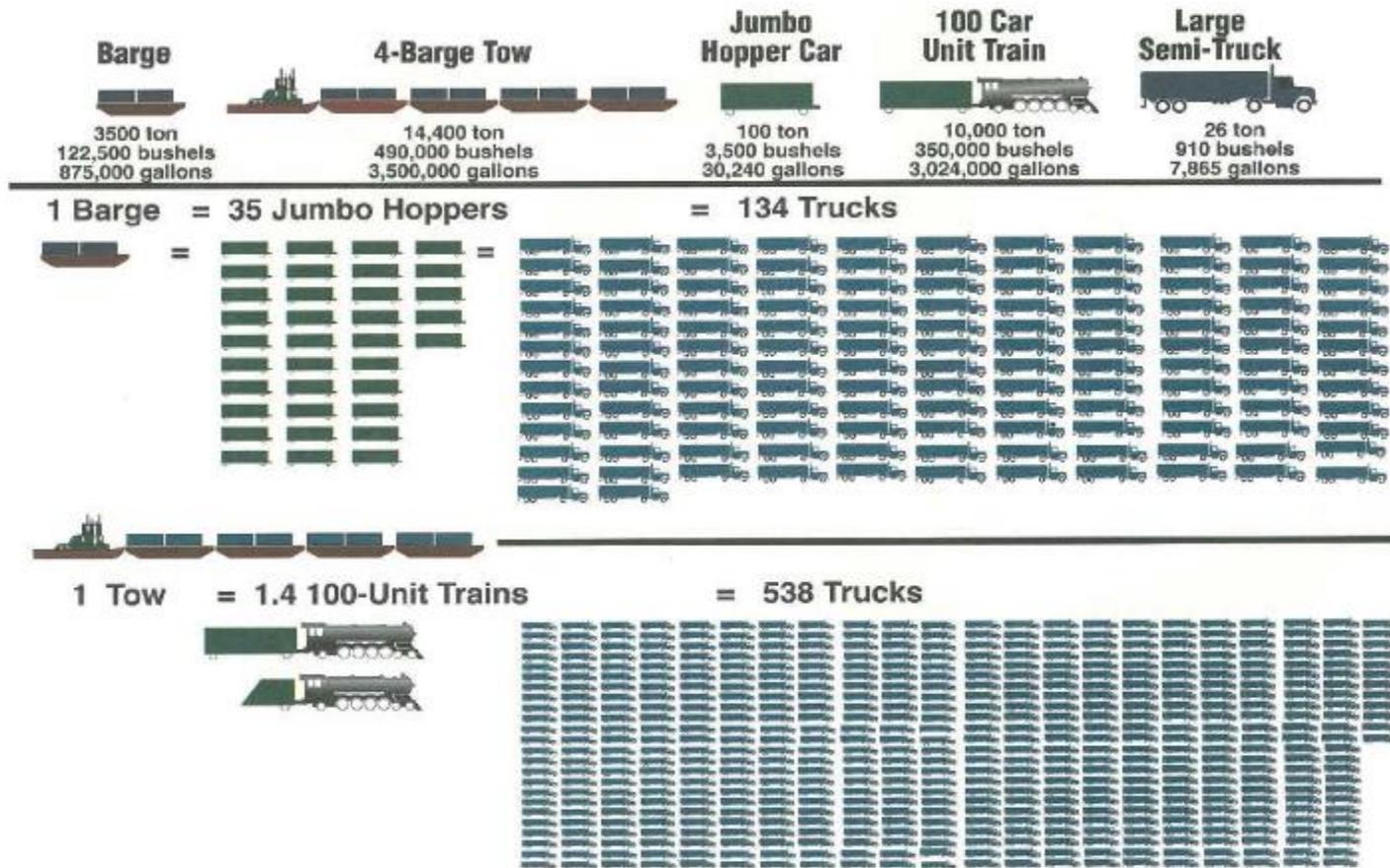


# Inland Columbia/Snake River



- 14' channel depth
- Extends 365 miles inland
- Eight locks – highest lift in U.S.



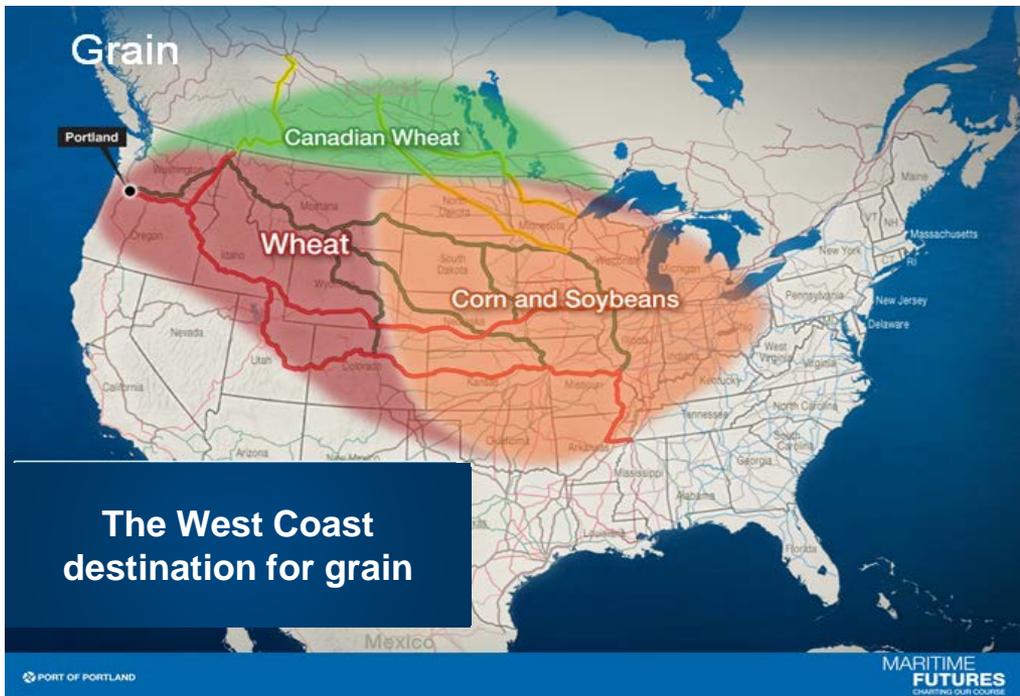


9,646,000 tons of cargo moved by barge in 2015

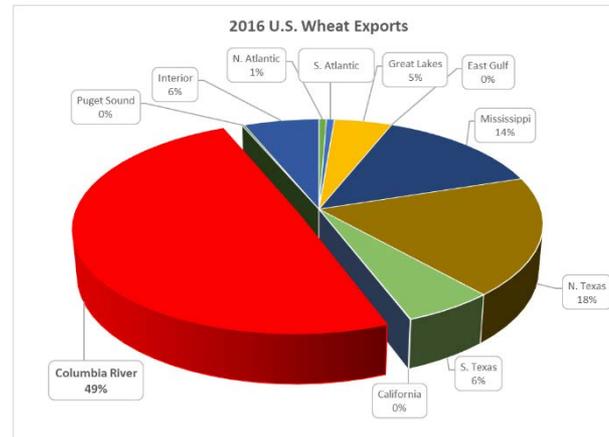


670 4-barge tows  
- or -  
96,460 rail cars  
- or -  
385,840 semi-trucks

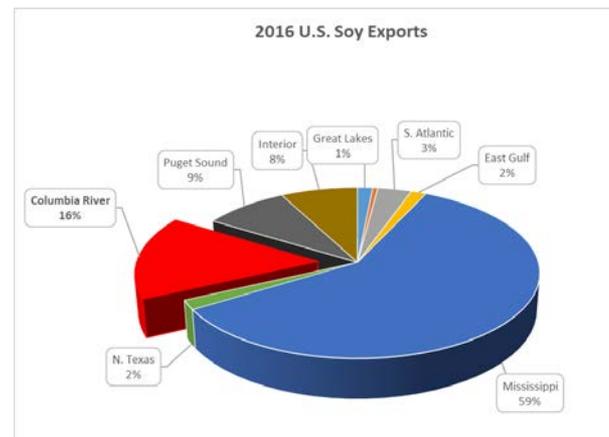
# Third largest grain export gateway in the world



## WHEAT #1 in U.S. exports



## SOYBEANS #2 in U.S. exports





## MINERAL BULKS #1 on West Coast



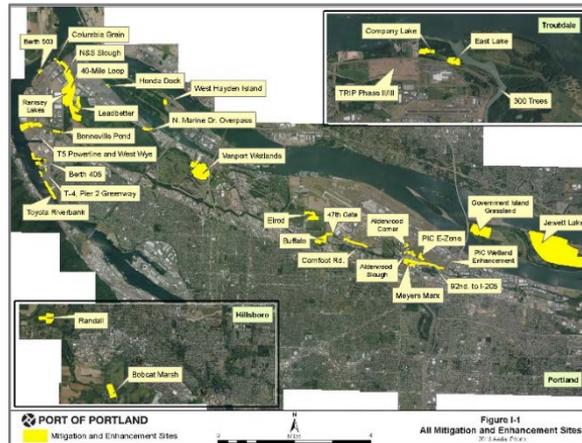
## AUTO IMPORTS & EXPORTS Major West Coast gateway



## WOOD EXPORTS #1 on West Coast

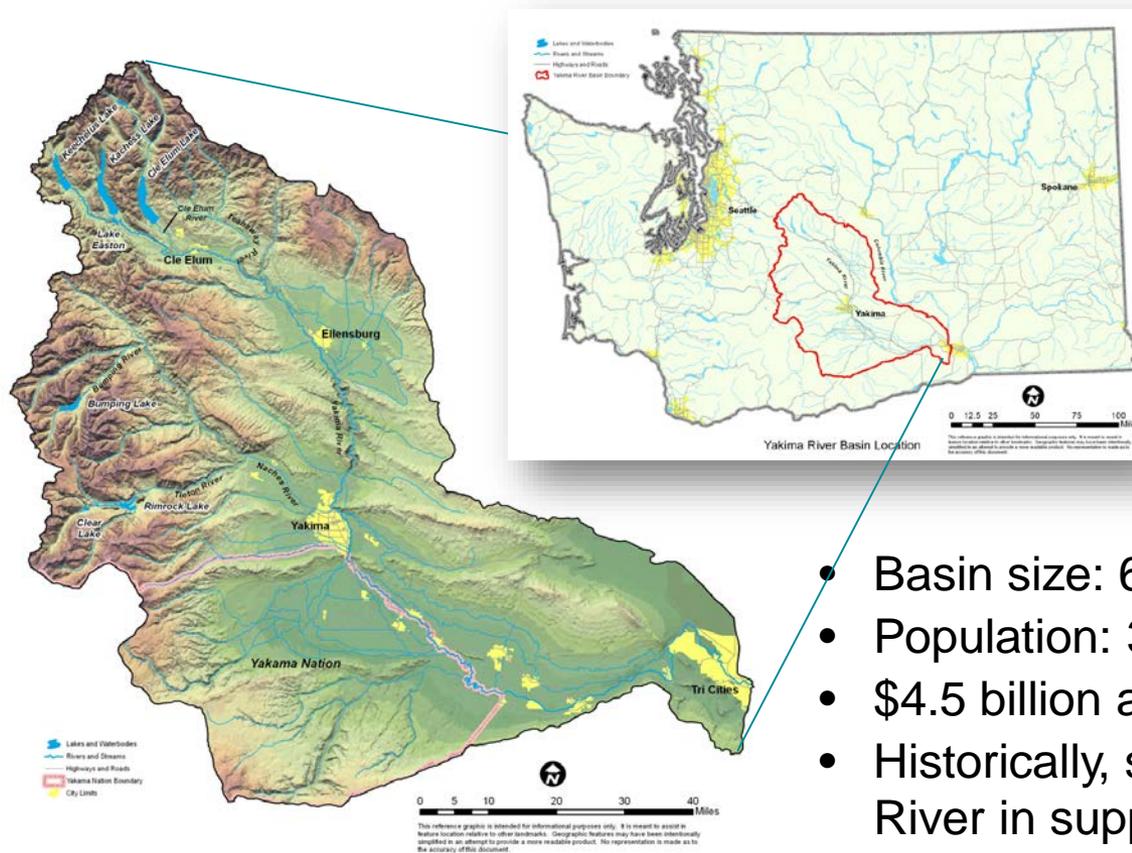
# Challenges and Opportunities on our Rivers

- Ports are stewards of their waterfront
- Important partners for federal and state agencies, tribes, private landowners
- History of litigation ... uncertainty ... shifting goal posts ... costs ...
- Wanted: regional consensus on long-term recovery goals
- Example of partnership: Columbia River Basin Restoration Act



# Stakeholder Viewpoint: Urban Eberhart

# Yakima Basin Overview



- Basin size: 6,155 sq. miles
- Population: 360,000
- \$4.5 billion agriculture economy
- Historically, second only to Snake River in supporting Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead runs

# Resource Challenges

- Surface Water is over-appropriated
- Not drought-resilient
- Prorateable (junior) irrigation districts and fisheries struggling



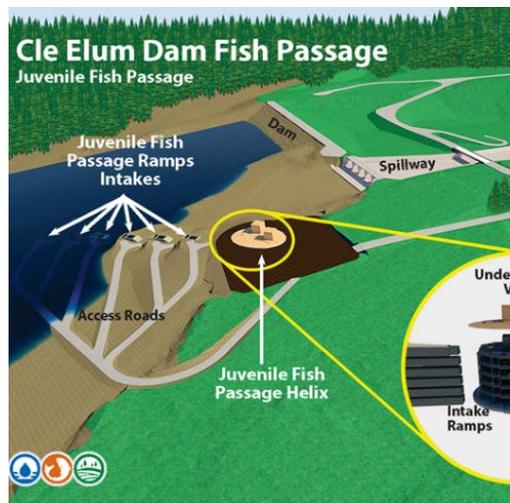
# Emerging Solutions

- Ecosystem Restoration
- Drought Resiliency
- Climate Adaptation Strategies
- Reliable Water Supply for Proratable Users



# The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan is:

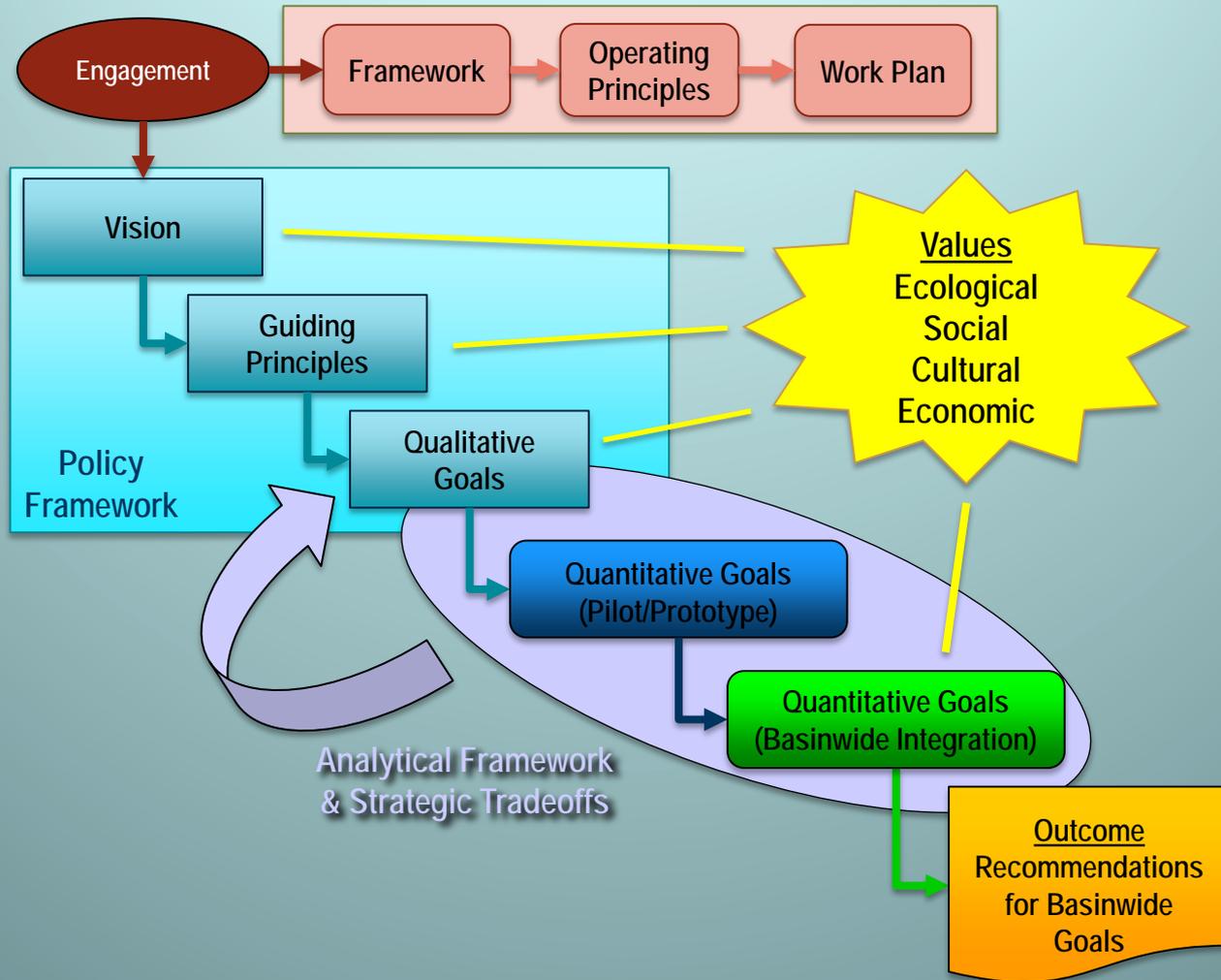
- A 30-year strategy
- Three 10-year phases
  - First, "Initial Development Phase" ongoing
- ~\$3-5 billion projects
  - Meet all stakeholder needs
  - Address all interests equally



# CBP Task Force: Progress and Products

# Desired CBP Task Force Outcomes

- Goals that address both conservation and harvest/fishing aspirations.
- Goals that are understandable and consider various users of Columbia Basin resources.
- Quantitative adult abundance goals for both listed and non-listed stocks.
- Better coordination, more effective use of resources, and alignment of strategic priorities.
- Enhanced relationships, trust, and knowledge.



# Work Products and Progress

- Subgroups for Vision, Guiding Principles, Qualitative Goals and Basinwide Integration.
- Collecting relevant data, existing goals, and options for quantitative goals for 5 prototypes by Task Force members (Dec).
- Completing information for rest of 19 species by NOAA Fisheries (Feb).
- Begin to filter options for goals through social, economic, and cultural lens (Feb).
- Begin basinwide integration of all 24 stocks (Feb).

# Recommendations to MAFAC

- Recommendations would include qualitative goals (what are we trying to achieve?) and quantitative goals (measurable).
- Quantitative goals at the individual species level and integrated across the Columbia Basin.
- Additional supportive information – vision, guiding principles, assumptions, supporting data, etc.
- CBP Task Force are discussing specific format for recommendations.