

MAFAC CBP Task Force
Draft Path Forward Recommendations
May 6, 2020

A. Value Proposition

Members of the CBP Task Force recognize the unique opportunity this collaboration provides to break years of regional gridlock and advance salmon rebuilding and sustainability. The CBP Task Force promotes a comprehensive approach by addressing the geography of the salmon life-cycle from their upland spawning habitats to the ocean, and back again. This allows consideration of the full range of biological factors affecting salmon survival.

In addition, the Task Force provides a unique venue for stakeholders to work collectively with federal, state, and tribal managers. The diverse membership also brings together expertise, knowledge, and wisdom from across social, cultural, economic, and ecological interests and from across the Basin. The collaboration helps to form a critical bond among broader constituencies and communities in the Basin. Finally, the commitment to work together creates a powerful foundation for future collaboration.

The Task Force members see great value in continuing this comprehensive collaboration into the future. The Task Force succeeded in its primary mission to establish long-term Quantitative and Qualitative Goals for salmon and steelhead. However, much more work needs to be done on how best to achieve the CBP Goals over the short, medium, and long term. In order to keep this effort moving forward efficiently and effectively, there will need to be agreement on a common set of strategies and actions. However, a detailed implementation plan is beyond the current scope of the CBP Task Force.

Continued collaboration will provide a meaningful venue to seek comprehensive, stable solutions. Sustainable solutions require integrating energy, agriculture, transportation, recreation, and other community considerations into decisions about salmon management. Moving forward also must address historical inequities, recognizing a collective goal to meet stakeholder interests across the basin. Solving all of these complex challenges for future success will require commitment and leadership. Therefore, the CBP Task Force recommends a continuation of a collaborative entity, in some form, as described below.

B. Make-up of Future Collaboration

We recommend retaining current representation across geography and interests, and to include tribes, agencies and stakeholders.

- Federal agencies – In addition to NOAA Fisheries, other federal agencies with management authorities should be involved. There are various ways to accomplish this, such as a formal seat at the table, as a resource, by participating in specific workgroups or issue discussions, or through a federal caucus. Potential federal agencies include Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Land Management, and others.

- States – Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho
- Federally-recognized Columbia Basin Tribes
- Stakeholders – agriculture (ranching, irrigation), commercial fishing, recreational fishing, conservation groups, hydropower utilities (BPA customers & others), and river users/ports. Some members of the CBP Task Force suggest consideration of adding local government representatives to the collaboration.

Criteria for representation could be useful to identify potential new members and to consider roles and responsibilities moving forward. Consideration should also be given to the overall size of the group.

C. Roles and Functions of Future Collaboration

1. Implementation: Build on the Task Force’s Phase 2 work on scenarios and social, cultural, economic, and ecological considerations and seek agreement on a common set of initial strategies and actions to advance towards the CBP Goals. Provide a meaningful, substantive, and forthright venue for exploring feasibility of alternative approaches and develop recommendations to management entities.

- Develop a long-term workplan to support implementation efforts across the Basin that are consistent with achieving CBP Goals.
- Explore opportunities, including innovative approaches; the feasibility of specific actions; and challenges to achieving success. The collaboration should have access to scientific, technical, and other experts throughout the basin to inform the deliberations. Examples include in-depth discussions about opportunities and challenges in the energy and transportation sectors, dam breaching, and food production, among others.
- Surface and seek to resolve critical disagreements with transparency and credibility.
- Develop recommendations for federal, state, tribal, and local governments to promote policies that advance achieving CBP Goals. Examples include model “codes” for various jurisdictions to protect salmon and steelhead habitat.
- Promote social equity and advance a better future for both people and fish in the Columbia Basin.
- Develop partnerships among various entities for achieving CBP Goals.
- Identify and advocate for new funding sources in other venues. Note that federal employees are not permitted to lobby Congress. A subgroup of non-federal members may be appropriate for advancing ideas about funding from Congress, if desired.
- Work with other management forums and processes to achieve CBP Goals.

2. Accountability and Adaptive Management: Provide accountability and continuity for progress towards goals.

- Develop benchmarks for achieving CBP Goals over time.
- Track and report salmon and steelhead abundance at regular intervals – e.g. develop a salmon report card.
- Report and reflect on implementation progress – what is working, what is not working, and why.

- Consider future scenarios and trends in climate, energy, transportation, food production, and other relevant topics.
- Recognize when shifts in response are required and make recommendations to federal, state, tribal, and local governments for adaptive management.

3. Salmon Culture and Social Capital: Advance integration across sectors and interests.

- Actualize commitments to maximize cooperation and minimize conflict.
- Mobilize and motivate people across the basin to support salmon rebuilding and achieve the CBP Goals. This could be accomplished through outreach and education efforts.
- Promote information exchange regarding success stories and lessons learned at the sub-basin and basin-wide levels. This could be accomplished through a social media platform.
- Maintain communication with communities and constituencies to promote vertical and horizontal integration across the landscape. This can be accomplished in different ways.

D. Options for Future Collaboration Authority

Among many options and permutations, five options stand out:

- A federal agency could convene the collaboration and form a new FACA committee.
- Federal legislation could be passed for a federal agency to convene a new committee, and to articulate the its structure and function would be FACA exempt.
- A new or existing non-profit organization with a board of directors could be utilized. This option could also be combined with a quasi-governmental agency, below.
- A quasi-governmental agency could be established in order to also allow the entity to accept and distribute funds.
- A state or several states could convene the collaboration. A memorandum of agreement could be signed by various parties to participate in the collaboration.

Consider two types of funding needs: (1) funding to continue the operating costs for collaboration (such as meeting logistics, technical support and facilitation, among others); and (2) funding to support implementation of projects on the ground.

Note: federal employees are not permitted to lobby Congress. A subgroup of non-federal members may be appropriate for advancing discussions with Congress, if desired.

E. Example of What Collaboration Could Look Like

There are many options for structuring a basinwide multi-party collaborative. Options include:

- A plenary group of basinwide representatives (see section B above) along with topic-specific workgroups that report to the plenary. Workgroups could include:
 - Workgroups which explore opportunities and challenges in the energy and transportation sectors, dam breaching, new funding sources, and food production, among others.

- Geographic-based workgroups focused on implementation. Topics could include: stock-specific actions; pilot programs; community outreach; and social, cultural, economic, and ecological interests.
- Workgroup(s) to organize tracking and reporting information for effective adaptive management.
- The collaboration could meet at least quarterly in order to be responsive and relevant to other activities in the basin.
- Successful collaboration of this magnitude also requires ongoing communication, coordination, and opportunities to maintain trust, good will, and credibility. Dedicated resources will help to ensure these activities and qualities are maintained and endure into the future.

F. Timeframe

The CBP Task Force as it currently exists is scheduled to complete its work by the end of July 2020. It is critical to establish a new collaboration and to ensure continued momentum toward strategies and action across the Basin. Should the new collaboration take some time to establish, there should be an interim convener and source of funding for continuity of collaboration work.

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