

MAFAC CBP Task Force
Examples of Potential CBP Key Messages and Recommendations for Phase 2 Report
Draft from Project Team

Introduction

Achieving the CBP Task Force goals and vision requires a coordinated effort across the Basin. Below are a collection of potential key messages and recommendations. This proposal needs CBP Task Force discussion, refinement, and agreement on what the specific key messages and recommendations could be. The purpose of these key messages and recommendations is to help mobilize and motivate people to work together basin wide to achieve the goals.

Topic #1 of Potential Key Messages and Recommendations - Implement Biological Strategies.

- Continuing existing levels of effort is highly unlikely to achieve the low-range natural-production goals in a 25-year time frame and may not be sufficient to achieve the high-range goals in any time frame. Substantially increased investments and levels of effort will be needed to achieve the high-range goals.
- No one solution will achieve the goals. Success can only come from capitalizing on the compounding benefits of improvements in limiting factors across the life cycle.
- A strong foundation has already been established in the Columbia Basin for salmon recovery, and we should build on that.
- Small incremental actions are critical to the short term to sustain and build support.
- It is essential to make large improvements in tributary habitat productivity throughout the Basin and to improve the estuary habitats that multiple species depend on. Achieving such improvements will depend on support from private and public landowners, and we must develop strategies to achieve that support.
- We must think coherently and rationally about the future of dams in the Basin on a case-by-case basis.
- It is important that actions be grounded in science, but it is also crucial to act in the face of scientific uncertainty. It is equally important to identify critical uncertainties, consider them in developing management strategies, and develop plans for resolving the uncertainties.

Topic #2 of Key Messages and Recommendations - Adapt to changes over time.

- Numerical goals provide the means to measure progress, and the region should develop specific timeframes and benchmarks for success, along with contingency actions to be taken if benchmarks are not achieved.
- There should be explicit systems in place to ensure that we learn about the biological response to certain actions and can adapt our actions accordingly.
- Technological innovations may arise in the future (e.g., battery storage that means less demand for reservoir storage) that enhance our ability to achieve the goals, and the region should be open to and encourage such solutions.
- Climate change and human population growth will have increasingly significant major effects on salmon habitats and ecosystems throughout the Pacific Northwest and North Pacific Ocean.

Topic #3 of Key Messages and Recommendations - Increase education, understanding, and support.

- See small group handout on this topic.

Topic #4 of Key Messages and Recommendations - Expand funding sources to support salmon recovery.

- Current funding is not sufficient to support actions needed to achieve CBP goals. The region should develop principled, comprehensive and equitable funding mechanisms to ensure that all who benefit from Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead contributes necessary funding for salmon and steelhead recovery measures.
- We should reduce the “frictional costs” of making changes needed to achieve the goals by achieving win/win solutions and/or finding ways to both reduce and equitably share any economic burdens of change across sectors.
- Evaluation of costs and benefits of actions (or no action) should consider all costs and all benefits in a fair and representative way and also account for non-monetized benefits and costs
- There should be a fair/equitable/balanced sharing of recovery burdens/requirements.
- Much of the investment to date has been focused on mitigation. There is a need for more funding to go to salmon recovery efforts.

Topic #5: Make strategic choices.

- It may be not realistic to achieve the high-range natural production goals for every population in the basin. The region should consider approaches such as identifying areas with the greatest potential to achieve the natural production goals, considering restoration potential and future conditions such as climate change.
- Given the constant reality of limited resources, we must prioritize our restoration efforts to provide the most efficient and effective restoration benefit at the lowest net cost.

Topic #6: Consider social, cultural, economic and ecological interests from across the basin in decisions about salmon and steelhead management.

- Key messages from SCEE Chapter

Category 7: Establish an effective, sustainable group to monitor, advocate for and oversee this salmon recovery.

- Value of collaboration and partnerships going forward
- Recommendations from Path Forward/ Governance group