



AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATES OF OREGON, WASHINGTON, IDAHO AND MONTANA TO DEFINE A FUTURE COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK TO ANALYZE AND DISCUSS KEY ISSUES RELATED TO SALMON AND STEELHEAD WITH THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING OVERALL ABUNDANCE

October 2020

This Agreement represents a commitment between the four signatory states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana to work together to rebuild Columbia River salmon and steelhead stocks and to advance the goals of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force. We commit to one another and to the Region that we will do so in a collaborative, public process to be defined with involvement from the region's tribes (including recognition of their treaty and cultural rights and their co-management of natural resources), federal agencies, and stakeholders.

The states participated in the Partnership Task Force which set qualitative and quantitative goals for 24 stocks of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin (Phase 1), and defined social, cultural, economic and environmental factors to be considered when deciding how to achieve those goals (Phase 2). The Partnership understood that implementation of strategies and actions to achieve the goals would occur within existing management structures administered by the sovereign entities, and that continued regional interaction through a collaborative process would be a constructive, science-based effort to develop those strategies and actions.

The Governors received a similar message in a letter from regional stakeholders urging us to help “identify the actions and investments needed to recover harvestable salmon and steelhead populations, conserve other fish and wildlife, honor and protect tribal needs and way of life, and strengthen the electricity and agricultural services that communities rely on.” We recognize the relevance of the recent release of the Columbia River System Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement, the Biological Opinions, and the Record of Decision for Columbia River System Operations to this collaboration effort. Our respective states may view the adequacy of these documents differently, and as such, act on that assessment differently. However, regardless of those differences and separate from each state's recourse, we commit to this ongoing collaboration to help achieve the Partnership's abundance goals to uphold treaty rights, support state fishery and fishery-related objectives and river-dependent economies. We also recognize the relevance and importance of advancing state clean energy goals and the regional goal to ensure an efficient, reliable, and affordable energy system.

This Agreement represents an authorization for state representatives to work with others in the region, including federal partners, co-manager tribes, and interested stakeholders, to define a future collaborative framework. The framework should provide for broad-based participation,

accountability and transparency, and full opportunity for analysis and discussion of key regional issues relating to salmon and steelhead abundance and opportunities for advancing Partnership objectives, both short term and long-range.

We wish to congratulate NOAA Fisheries and the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force members for their achievements in setting the goals for abundant and sustainable native salmon and steelhead. We will commit to engaging our tribal and federal partners, and other stakeholders, in this collaborative effort which we fully expect to lead to meaningful actions to achieve these goals.



Governor Kate Brown
State of Oregon



Governor Brad Little
State of Idaho



Governor Jay Inslee
State of Washington



Governor Steve Bullock
State of Montana