

Town Hall Messages

The United States and Canada are negotiating the Columbia River Treaty. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to help protect and restore the Columbia River. On September 6, the U.S. State Department will give you an opportunity to provide input. Please take time to attend this [Town Hall meeting](#) - for the River and life that depends on the River.

When: Sept 6, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Where: Portland, Bonneville Power Administration's Rates Hearing Room, 905 NE 11th Ave

Below are suggested messages that may help you in developing your own personal message to deliver to the State Department's negotiating team for the Columbia River Treaty:

(1) "Ecosystem-based Function" must be included as a new primary, co-equal purpose of a new Columbia River Treaty – alongside power production and flood management. At its heart, ecosystem-based function is a way to achieve a healthier river and healthier fish and wildlife populations. It can mean operational changes that provide additional water during low and moderate flow years in the spring and summer to increase survival of juvenile salmon migrating downstream to the Pacific Ocean. It also includes fish passage and reintroduction of salmon above Grand Coulee Dam and into Canada.

(2) The U.S. should add a representative for "ecosystem function" to the Treaty Negotiating Team: *the River needs a voice in treaty negotiations.*

(3) The U.S. should add a new, third representative to the "U.S. Entity" that can represent the river's ecosystem needs during treaty implementation: *the River needs a voice in treaty implementation.*

The U.S. Entity today includes just two federal dam agencies – BPA and ACOE – neither has a record as a responsible steward of natural resources like wild salmon and steelhead, lamprey and other species. The U.S. Entity must include a new voice for the river and its health.

(4) The U.S. should create an advisory committee to the U.S. Entity that allows stakeholders to understand and share information about the operation of the Treaty dams, and their impacts on communities and natural resources.

(5) Create a common analytic base between both nations and all those affected by re-establishing the collaborative modeling workgroup.

(6) Residents in the greater Portland area want to understand the costs, benefits and tradeoffs from today's flood management strategies – as well as possible alternatives. In

order to prepare, the U.S. Army Corps should conduct a basin-wide review of flood risk management.

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