

Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force Phase 2 (Final) Report and Recommendations

October, 2020



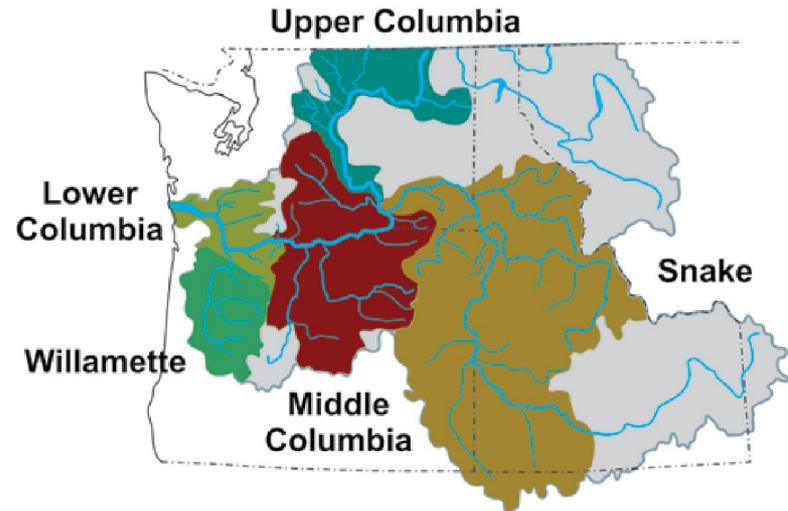
CBP Task Force

- Launched in 2017
- The purpose of the Partnership was to develop goals for all ESA-listed and non-listed Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead that address conservation needs, provide harvest/fishing opportunities, and meet tribal treaty/ trust responsibilities.
- 31 diverse members:
 - NOAA Fisheries
 - Four Northwest states
 - Federally-recognized tribes
 - Agriculture, ranching and irrigation
 - River users – utilities, ports
 - Local watershed and ESA recovery groups
 - Environmental groups
 - Commercial and recreational fishing



Unique Aspects of Partnership

- The Partnership took a basinwide approach to Columbia River salmon and steelhead from the ocean to the spawning grounds for natural and hatchery-origin fish.
- The Partnership brought stakeholders and sovereign managers together. The diverse members have not all been at one table before. This approach allowed for learning and joint problem solving, and constructive relationship-building.



Phase 1 Results (2017- 2019):

- ✓ Guiding Principles
- ✓ Basinwide Vision
- ✓ Qualitative Goals
- ✓ Provisional Quantitative Goals

Phase 2 Results (2019-2020):

- ✓ Final Quantitative Goals
- ✓ Key Messages
- ✓ Path Forward recommendations
- ✓ Partnership also explored:
 - Biological factors limiting salmon and steelhead
 - Scenarios and strategies for potentially achieving goals
 - Social, Cultural, Economic and Ecological Considerations



Qualitative Goals

Natural Production:

Restore salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin to healthy and harvestable/fishable levels.

Harvest/Fisheries:

Provide diverse, productive, and dependable tribal and non-tribal harvest and fishing opportunities for Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead in fresh and marine waters.

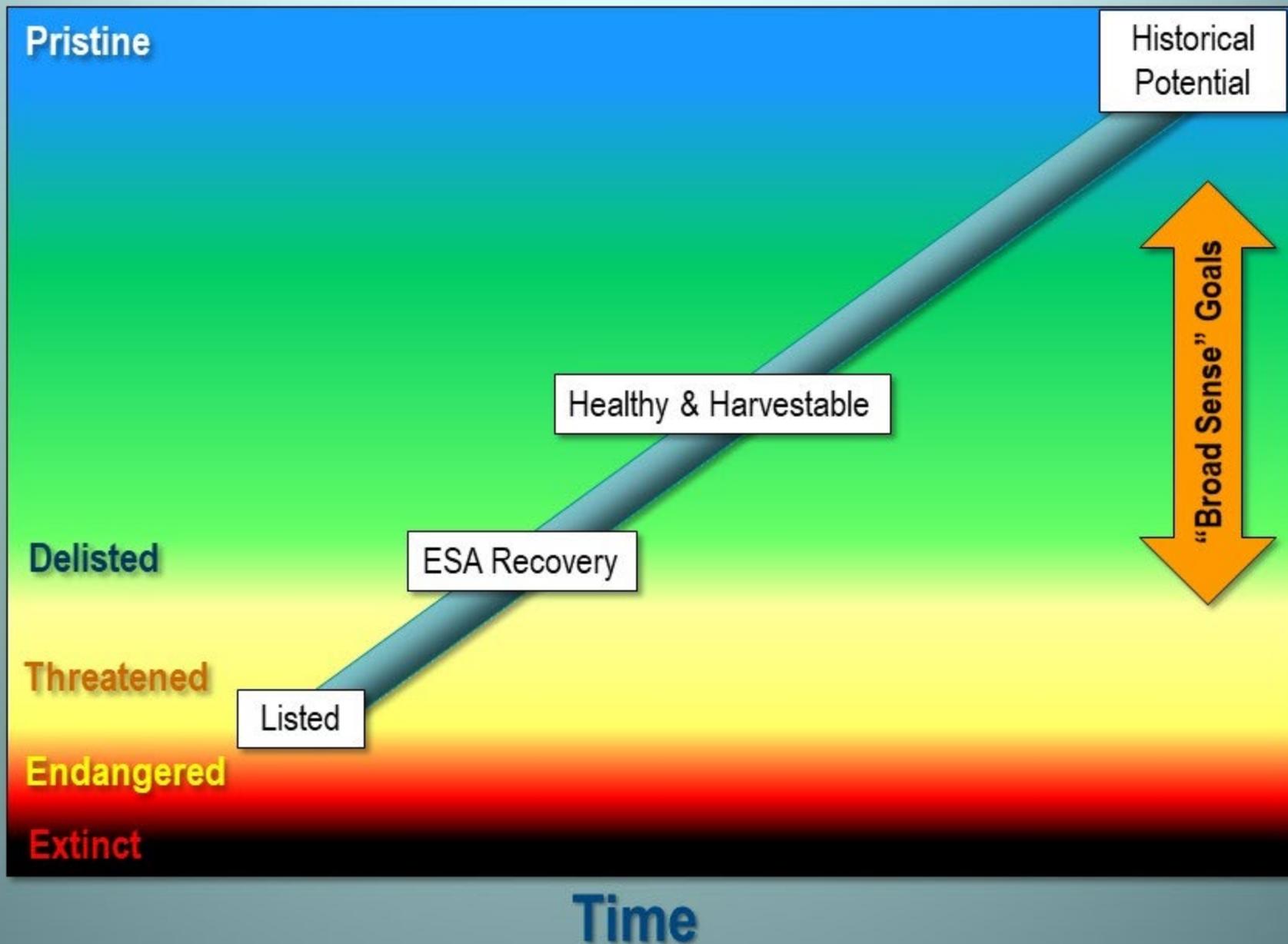
Hatchery/Mitigation:

Produce hatchery salmon and steelhead to support conservation, mitigate for lost natural production, and support fisheries, in a manner that strategically aligns hatchery production with natural production recovery goals.

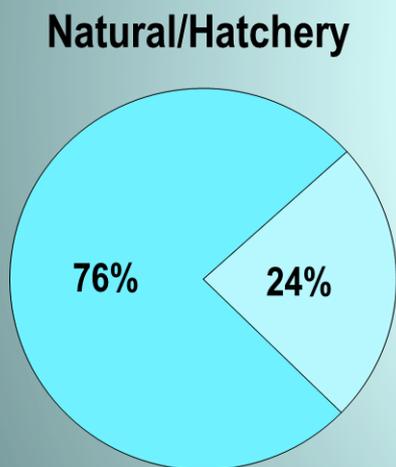
Social, cultural, economic, and ecological considerations:

Make decisions within a broader context that reflects and considers effects to the full range of social, cultural, economic, and ecosystem values and diversity in the Columbia Basin.

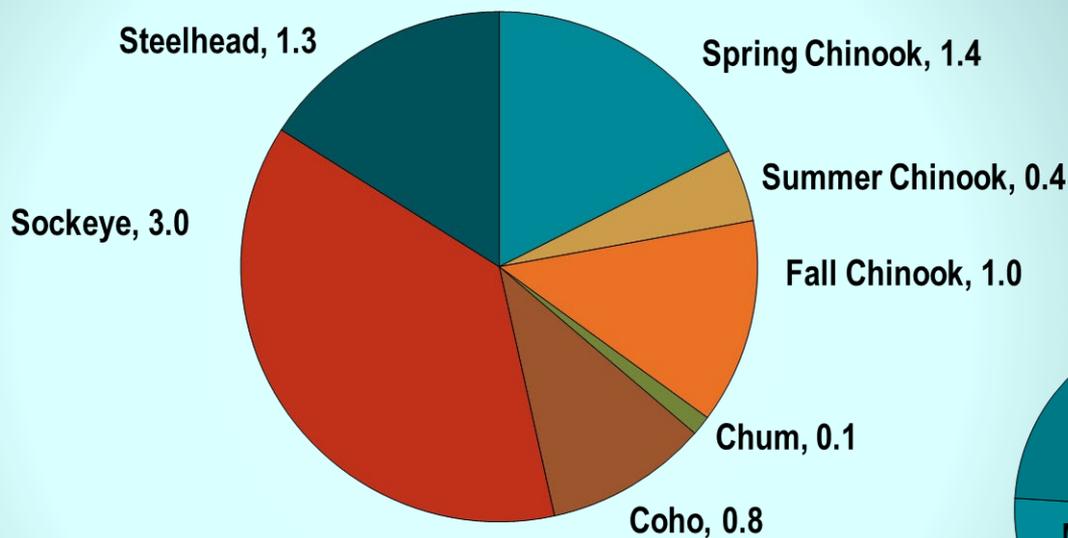
Salmon Status



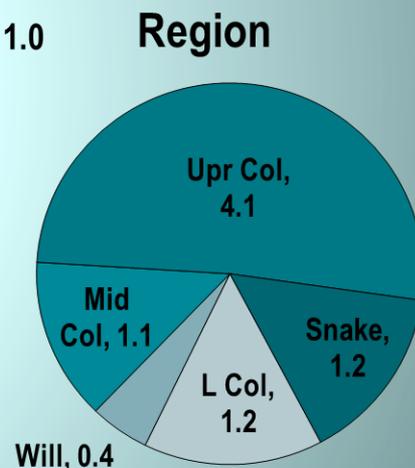
Columbia River Run Total @ High Goals



Includes spawners, hatchery returns & harvest



8.0 million



Numbers in millions

Biological Analysis

- Partnership explored the factors (or threats) affecting salmon and steelhead survival.
- Analyses showed that no single strategy (e.g., reducing predation, increasing habitat, reducing harvest) will achieve the goals on its own.



Scenarios and Strategies

- Partnerships used scenarios to explore alternative pathways to achieve goals.
- Scenarios defined for Partnership purposes as a combination of one or more strategies, sets of assumed future conditions, and other components or approaches that would achieve salmon and steelhead goals.
- Ten scenarios with biological and other strategies were submitted.
- The Phase 2 Report includes a synthesis of biological and other strategies to capture a range of suggested approaches.

Social, Cultural, Economic, and Ecological Considerations

- Partnership members shared perspectives, opportunities, and challenges going forward. The collection of stories in Phase 2 Report reflects the richness and diversity of viewpoints.



Shared Tribal Perspectives

“We are asking too much of salmon.”

- Historical and legal context is critical and necessary.
- Treaty and trust responsibilities are non-negotiable.
- Beyond the right to take, right to access, and right to a fair share, there has always been an inherent understanding by the tribes that there would actually be fish.
- Settlers and regional authorities were fully aware of how salmon were being impacted by the decisions being made, converting the wealth derived from salmon to wealth in other forms.
- The tribal nations are not willing to accept the normalization of the status quo and do not concede our long-term goals
- The many sectors of the Columbia Basin economy that enjoys the benefits of the developed Columbia River must be willing to return a portion of those benefits for the purposes of restoring the very salmon that were sacrificed on their behalf.
- The full extent of the quantitative goals can only be realized when salmon can access the entirety of their historical range, which includes all currently blocked areas.

Qualitative and Quantitative Goals Going Forward

- Next steps include regional conversations about how to best achieve the goals, and to explore and agree on specific strategies and actions for near and long term.
- Information from scenarios, strategies, and social, cultural, economic and ecological considerations will help inform those next conversations.

Key Messages

Partnership members aligned around a series of powerful words to relay their passion and guide future efforts:

- A call to action;
- The path forward needs a salmon ethic, strong leadership, and collaboration; and
- Science plus accountability delivers a healthy ecosystem and a vibrant quality of life.

Path Forward Recommendations

- Partnership recommends continuing stakeholder/sovereign engagement into the future.
- More work needed to determine best approaches to achieving goals.

