

Findings from CRPAG Member Interviews

Columbia River Policy Advisory Group (CRPAG)

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General Themes

- In recent years, the PAG has evolved from supporting OCR in program development into advising OCR how to support relevant projects and emerging issues in the basin.
- Members expressed interest in long-term planning
- Members expressed interest in clarity from OCR regarding highest priority input needed from the PAG
- Members expressed interest in more closely coordinating with other groups meeting on similar topics to improve efficiency and create better synergies.

Focus Areas & Topics of Interest

- Long term water use planning scenarios that involve all competing interests and climate factors
- More detailed understanding of potential range of impacts from climate change
 - Impacts on flows, fish/wildlife, power generation, drought frequency, snowpack projections, and more
- Water efficiency projects
- Continued advisory role to OCR on resource needs and prioritization
- Continue updates on current/upcoming projects and emerging issues
- Several members identified issues regarding local relevance that are appropriate for the PAG as progress is made
 - More time given to members to deep dive about their interests in specific issues and how it relates to broader Basin issues

Ideas for Improvement

- Clear direction and purpose from OCR
 - What is expected of PAG members and what OCR's advisory needs are from the group
- Understand OCR's priorities and role in various issues/topics in the basin
- Increase member-to-member engagement and create more opportunities for conversations in meetings
 - Introductions for newer members
 - Develop a deeper understanding about each other
 - Keep agenda topics relevant and provide a clear purpose for discussions
 - More site visits
- Increase member participation in agenda development
- Coordinate with groups with similar priorities (e.g., Yakima Basin, County Commissioners, etc.)