Columbia Basin Initiative
The Columbia Basin Initiative Major Issues

- BPA is Experiencing Serious Financial Challenges
- Agriculture and Power Companies face Never Ending Lawsuits
- Idaho’s Salmon and Steelhead Numbers are Near Extinction

Status Quo Isn’t Working
An opportunity to break the unsustainable status quo

- Let’s end the “salmon wars”
  - Billions of dollars have been spent on litigation and failed mitigation and recovery plans.
  - We can stop the never-ending lawsuits.
  - We can have people and fish - this is not people vs. fish.

- This is about more than salmon and dams
  - This is an opportunity to create our own path forward - to invest in agriculture, clean energy, local economies, and more.
An opportunity to expand agriculture infrastructure

- The infrastructure investments in this comprehensive proposal would allow producers to affordably maintain our region’s diverse agricultural industries through:
  - Funding for animal nutrient research and development $400M
  - A 25-year voluntary watershed program to improve and enhance water quality and temperature
  - Snake River Transportation - $3.6B
    - Improving grain transportation network
    - Shippers, handlers, and port facility adjustments
  - Rail and port development in the Tri-Cities and Lewiston-Clarkston to enhance the commodity transportation system
  - Reconfigured irrigation that is compatible with a restored lower Snake River
We Can Replace the Power

- $10B would be made available to BPA for clean, firm power replacement.
- Replacement power must be online before the first dam is bypassed.
- Pump storage and new battery technology and small modular reactors will create an effective combination for replacing energy.
- The concept creates the “Snake River Center for Advanced Energy Storage” co-located at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the new Lewiston-Clarkston Research Technology Campus.
- Transmission Resiliency and Optimization $2B
Benefits for Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

- Borrowing cap with Treasury increases from $7.7B to $15B
- Fish mitigation responsibility met with a capped annual $600M payment, net $480M
- Certain legacy costs become 4(h)(10)(C) eligible
- Removed from direct fish management responsibilities
The State of Snake River Salmon

- Over the past 30 years, more than $17 billion have been spent on failed fish recovery efforts.
  - More salmon and steelhead are listed under the Endangered Species Act today than in 1980.
- Today, all Snake River salmon and steelhead are listed as threatened or endangered.
We Can End the ‘Salmon Wars’

- This concept would lock in ALL major dams that produce more than 5 Megawatts in the Columbia, Snake and Willamette Basins, extending their licenses from 35-50 years.

- It would also halt all litigation concerning these same dams related to Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act for 35 years.

- Dam Mitigation and Indemnification Program
  - Voluntary removal or mitigation of dams and diversions - $500M
  - Liability protection for dam owners - $500M
Columbia Basin Dams Impacted

- Dams subject to FERC license extension and/or litigation moratorium.
- Willamette federal dams potentially deauthorized for electricity generation.
- Lower Snake River dams to be breached.

**Dam Hydroelectric Capacity**
- 0 - 10 MW
- 10 - 100 MW
- 100 - 1000 MW
- 1000 - 2500 MW
- 2500+ MW
Bypassing 4 dams - Restoring Lower Snake River

- Removing Earthen Berms & Sediment - $1.4B (2030-2031)
- Sediment Mitigation Fund - $400M
- Lower Snake River Corridor Restoration Fund - $75M
- Lower Snake River Corridor Road & Rail Study & Mitigation - $300M
Improving Water Quality

- **Watershed Partnerships - $3B**
  - Voluntary working groups to improve water quality and quantity
  - Snake River ($700M)

- **Animal/Nutrient Management - $1.6B**
  - Idaho Snake River Basin Animal Nutrient Research & Development - $400M
Investing in Communities

- **Lewiston-Clarkston Waterfront Restoration** - $150M

- **Snake River Center for Advanced Energy Storage** - $1.25B
  - DOE program to develop large scale storage methods for renewable generation

- **Economic Development and Compensation Funds** - $875M
  - Including recreation, tourism, and commercial industries

- **Designation of a Lower Snake River National Recreation Area**
An opportunity to create our own path forward

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to shape an investment package that:

- Brings abundant salmon and steelhead to Idaho
- Maintains Idaho’s agricultural legacy
- Secures reliable and affordable clean energy
- Honors the commitments to Northwest tribes
- Strengthens local economies

We can secure a more prosperous and sustainable Northwest future.
Commonly Asked Questions

- What about predators?
- What about Idaho Water (487,000 acre feet) being flushed down river annually?
- What about power Idaho gets from those 4 Washington dams?
- What dams need to be bypassed? Are they used for flood control?
  - Lower Granite Dam
  - Little Goose Dam
  - Lower Monumental Dam
  - Ice Harbor Dam
- What happens if we just fight?
  - Spotted Owl
  - Klamath Basin
Comments, Questions, Suggestions

Email: simpson.concept@mail.house.gov

Website: Simpson.house.gov/salmon