

Preservation Efforts along the Columbia River Basin

The Columbia River Basin region is home to 4.6 million people, covers 258,000 square miles and includes Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington and the Canadian province of British Columbia. In its 1,200-mile course to the ocean, the Columbia River flows through four mountain ranges and drains more water to the Pacific Ocean than any other river in North or South America.

This region is valued for its rich diversity of habitat for fish and other wildlife, its agricultural productivity, its role as a vital transportation link for goods and tourism, and its natural beauty and recreational opportunities. The Columbia River Basin is home to tribal nations whose cultural heritage and archeological significance endures.

People of all walks of life are keen to protect and preserve this special region. In the face of growing pressures from population, climate change, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses, schools, and communities, some of the most recent developments include:

- Representative Mark Simpson (R-Idaho) released an [Energy, Dams and Salmon proposal](#) that has garnered widespread attention.
- The Governors of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington have formed the Governors' Collaborative to focus on collective actions that promote and further the goals established for salmon and steelhead by the [Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force](#).

- The [task force seeks to collaborate](#) with the region's tribes, federal agencies and stakeholders.
- The task force presented nearly four years of work in a [final report](#) during an October 2020 meeting.
- The [Columbia River Treaty Modernization](#) negotiations between Canada and the United States continue with community outreach and town halls on both sides of the border convening to assure that communities and businesses are up to date on progress.

The [Legislative Council on River Governance](#) (LCRG) will be discussing these and other issues of regional importance at its next meeting, **August 23-24, 2021** in **Lewiston, Idaho**.