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## Northwest Power and Conservation Council

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Oregon

November 8, 2022

### MEMORANDUM

**TO: Council Members**

**FROM: Bill Edmonds, executive director**

**SUBJECT: Presentation by the Columbia Basin Trust**

Johnny Strilaeff, the President and CEO of the Columbia Basin Trust, will address the Council at our November meeting. The Trust is an agency of the Province of British Columbia, located in the Columbia River portion of the province. The purpose of the Trust is to help the residents in the Columbia basin address the economic, social and environmental effects of the storage dams Canada agreed to build under the Columbia River Treaty. <https://ourtrust.org/>

The Trust and the Council have had a close, cooperative relationship ever since the formation of the Trust in the mid-1990s, memorialized by a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation first executed in 2000 and renewed in 2011. A copy of the MOU is attached.

One action the Council and Trust agreed to do is exchange visits at least annually “to report on current and future planned activities and provide notice of initiatives of mutual interest.” That is the purpose of the visit by Trust officials to the Council’s November Council meeting. Along with President/CEO Strilaeff, we expect the delegation from the Trust to include David Raven, Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Trust, and Katie Kendall, Senior Manager for Special Initiatives.

Johnny Strilaeff was born and raised in the Basin region. He joined the Trust in 2005 after working for several years in the financial services sector. He became Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer in 2012, and the Board of Directors promoted him to President and CEO in November 2016. In 2017 Johnny also assumed Acting CEO responsibilities for Columbia Power Corporation. He continues to have oversight responsibilities for all power project related business.



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

January 2011

In 2000, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) and Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) agreed to formalize the relationship that had developed between our two agencies through the designation of liaisons and an exchange of letters that came to be characterized as a "Memorandum of Understanding." In 2011 the Council and CBT hereby reaffirm that relationship by formalizing this Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation.

The Council and CBT recognize this relationship as a means of enhancing transboundary cooperation on key issues related to ecosystem and river management in the Columbia River Basin, as detailed below. We also recognize that the relationship is a means to advance CBT's mandate to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being in the Basin and its goal of playing a creative role in positive change and to advance the Council's mandate of promoting public education, outreach and involvement on regional energy and fish and wildlife matters.

Specifically, the Council and CBT agree to work collaboratively to:

1. Foster and promote an understanding and appreciation of the connection the Columbia River provides between residents on the two sides of the international border.
2. Encourage public awareness and support for the concept of Basin-wide and sub-Basin planning consistent with Basin-wide goals and objectives.
3. Pursue the development, funding and implementation of projects to protect, mitigate and enhance transboundary species of fish and wildlife, consistent with each organization's project-funding requirements and processes.
4. Share scientific information and pursue mutually beneficial scientific research, consistent with the unique program goals and project-funding requirements of each agency.
5. Conduct joint activities such as public workshops, conferences and meetings that address Columbia River Basin fish, wildlife, energy and water issues.
6. Exchange visits by liaisons designated by each agency at least annually to report on current and future planned activities and provide notice of initiatives of mutual interest.

7. Continue an informal dialogue on Columbia River Basin policy issues including, but not limited to, water management, water quality and the impact of hydropower on transboundary fish and wildlife, with the understanding that this dialogue could lead to common policy positions that may be communicated to state, provincial and national elected officials and action agencies, when appropriate.

Staff will jointly develop an annual workplan that identifies specific projects linked to these objectives and tracks actions taken by both the Council and CBT.

On behalf of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and the Columbia Basin Trust, we look forward to the continuation of our long and fruitful relationship that will benefit the people and the environment of the Columbia River Basin.

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Bruce Measure  
Chair  
Northwest Power and Conservation Council  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Garry Merkel  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Columbia Basin Trust  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_