



Columbia River Treaty
Learn about our past.
Think about our future.

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY
INFORMATION SESSION SUMMARY
JAFFRAY

CONTENTS

Background	3
Jaffray Information Session	4
For More Information.....	6
Appendix: Jaffray Themes	7

This report, compiled by Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), provides background information and summarizes the format and discussion that took place at a 2011 Columbia River Treaty (CRT) information session. The purpose of the information session was to raise Basin residents' understanding and awareness around the CRT. Consultation on the CRT is a provincial responsibility. CBT is not consulting or gathering views and values on the CRT; therefore, this document is not a consultation summary, nor a summary of views and values. The discussion themes summarized in this document originated with Basin residents attending the information session and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of CBT staff and management and, where applicable, have not been reviewed for accuracy.

BACKGROUND

The 1964 Columbia River Treaty (CRT) is an international agreement between Canada and the U.S. to coordinate flood control and optimize hydroelectric energy production on both sides of the border.

The CRT has no official expiry date, but has a minimum length of 60 years, which is met in September 2024. Either Canada or the U.S. can terminate many of the provisions of the agreement effective any time after September 2024, provided written notice is filed at least 10 years in advance (2014).

While no decision has been made by either Canada or the U.S. on the future of the CRT, given the importance of the issues, and the approaching date of 2014, both countries are now conducting studies and exploring future options for the CRT.

In 1995, Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) was created to benefit the areas most adversely affected by the CRT. CBT's primary role in regard to the CRT is to act as an information resource for Basin residents and local governments. CBT is not a decision maker on the future of the CRT, and CBT's role is not to consult with Basin residents on the future of the CRT—consultation is a provincial responsibility.

In anticipation of a potential decision in 2014 regarding the future of the CRT, CBT is engaging Basin residents with the objective of increasing their understanding of the basic framework (content and structure) of the CRT and helping them prepare to effectively engage in any provincial CRT consultation processes. To reach this goal, CBT, in partnership with local governments and the CRT Local Governments' Committee, hosted a series of 11 face-to-face information sessions (an open house and dinner followed by a presentation and discussion), one school-based open house, 12 small-group presentations and three online information sessions between June 2011 and November 2011 to:

- increase the level of understanding and awareness of Basin residents around what the CRT is and how it works;
- update Basin residents on potential changes to the CRT currently being considered by Canada and the U.S.; and
- provide an opportunity for residents to have a conversation and share their perspectives around the future of the CRT.

Local knowledge and community networks were essential to successful planning and delivery of the CRT information sessions. For each session, a Local Organizing Committee (LOC) was formed and included representatives from local governments, chambers of commerce, groups and organizations. The LOCs helped refine local publicity tactics and ensured the session was tailored to meet its community's needs. CBT thanks the LOC volunteers for helping to plan, organize and advertise the CRT information sessions.

JAFFRAY INFORMATION SESSION

The information session in Jaffray took place on October 4, 2011.

Approximately 118 people attended the open house and evening session, hosted by Gary Merkel, Chair, CBT Board of Directors. Merkel emphasized the purpose of the session was to educate and inform people about the CRT. He noted that the session was not consultation; that is a responsibility of the provincial government.

Mary Mahseelah, Chief, Tobacco Plains Band, provided an opening welcome, and Heath Slee, Director, Regional District of East Kootenay, noted that local governments from across the Canadian portion of the Basin have formed a committee to help Basin residents and elected officials build their understanding of the CRT and bring forward regional views, values and interests to provincial and federal agencies. This is called the CRT Local Governments' Committee.

This session was unique: Approximately 64 people attending the CRT Academics Forum, being held in Kimberley at the same time, came to the session.

Afternoon	<p>Open house staffed by CBT.</p> <p>Displays: CRT overview, downstream power benefits, flood control, key CRT dates, future of the CRT, changes in water management, pre- and post-dam images, historical photos depicting lifestyles, landmarks and landscapes prior to the CRT.</p> <p>Documents: fact sheets and brochures.</p> <p>Multimedia: video on CRT basics, Google Earth flyover of local dam/reservoir, DVDs of CBT-produced CRT videos.</p> <p>Maps: local community map and 3-D map of entire Basin in Canada.</p> <p>Speakers' Corner: residents were encouraged to record their CRT thoughts on video to share across the Basin.</p>
Dinner	Free dinner and ongoing open house.
Evening	Presentation and discussion with residents, CBT and resource people.

Kindy Gosal, CBT Director, Water and Environment, led the presentation, acknowledging the past and encouraging people to think about building a better future. During the presentation, Gosal emphasized the following:

1. The purpose of the CRT is to coordinate flood control and optimize hydroelectric energy production in the Basin on both sides of the border.
2. The CRT has no official expiry date, but 2024 is the earliest some provisions can be

terminated by either Canada or the U.S. (provided either country gives a minimum of 10 years' written notice).

3. In 2024 the Assured Annual Flood Control provision expires and the current On Call Flood Control provision changes to a Called Upon operation, if and when requested by the U.S.
4. The Canadian Entitlement—\$150 – 300 million US/year—stays in place as long as the CRT is in place. However, if the CRT is terminated, the Canadian Entitlement ends.
5. At this time no decision has been made by either country to terminate, renegotiate or modify the terms of the current CRT. Given the importance of CRT issues, both the Canadian and U.S. entities are completing ongoing studies.
6. CBT's primary role in regard to the CRT is to act as an information resource for Basin residents and local governments.

The following three resources, which can be found at www.cbt.org/crt/resources.html, summarize much of the information presented:

- Video: [Columbia River Treaty: Learn About Our Past and Think About Our Future](#)
- Video: [Columbia River Treaty: The Basics](#)
- PowerPoint: [Columbia River Treaty Overview Presentation](#)

It was also noted that the completion of the Grand Coulee Dam in 1941 eliminated salmon in the upper Columbia River, long before construction of the CRT dams. The loss of salmon was both a cultural and spiritual loss to local First Nations, which remain committed to returning salmon into the river.

Jaffray Discussion and Top-of-mind Themes

Following the presentation, participants broke out into six groups to have small-group conversations hosted by CRT resource people on the following topics:

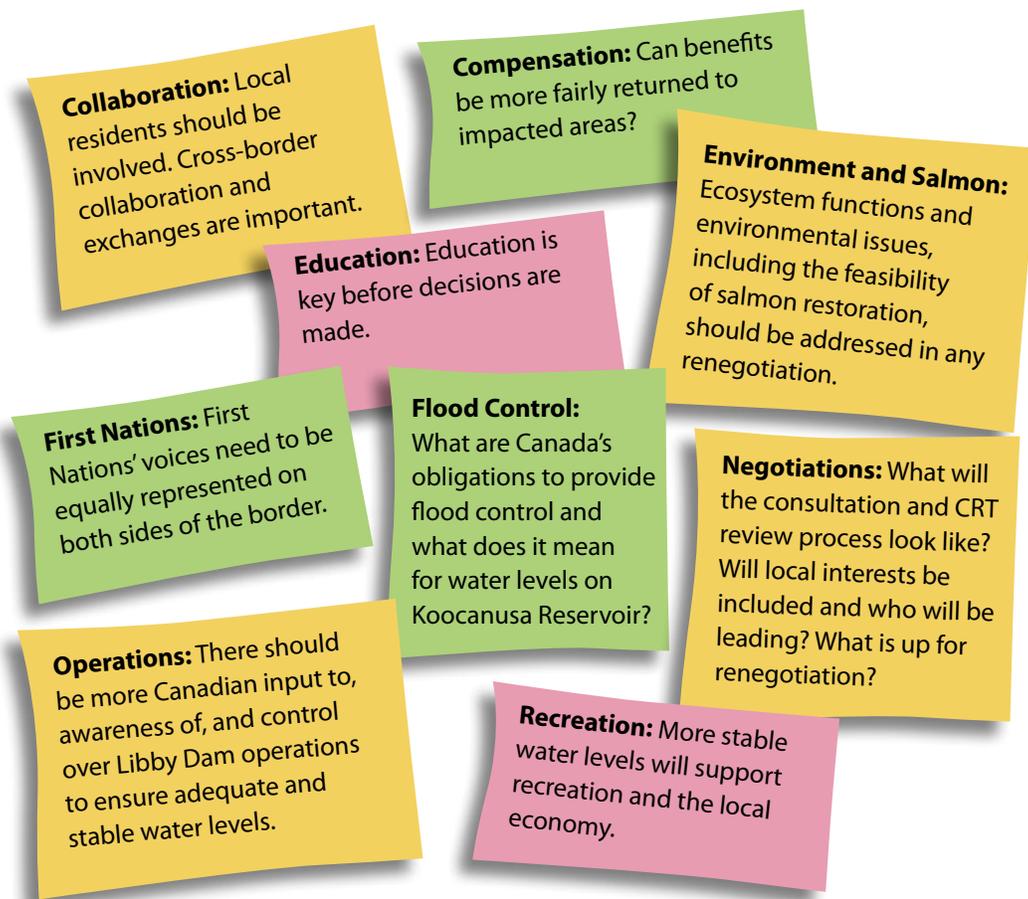
- CRT roles and responsibilities;
- Two basic future scenarios (continue or terminate); and
- Operations at Libby Dam and Koocanusa Reservoir.

Resource People:

- Adele Hurley, Monk Centre for International Studies (University of Toronto);
- Bill Green, Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission;
- Hans Schreier, University of British Columbia;
- John Harrison, Northwest Power and Conservation Council;
- John Shurts, Northwest Power and Conservation Council;
- Kelvin Ketchum, BC Hydro;
- Nigel Banks, University of Calgary;
- Richard Paisley, University of British Columbia; and
- Scott Barillaro, Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Participants returned to plenary for questions and answers and to hear reports from the small-group conversations. The discussion, along with top-of-mind comments provided by participants on sticky notes before leaving the information session, focused on the themes shown below. The themes are organized alphabetically. No ranking is intended and themes do not necessarily reflect consensus. For a list of all the themes that emerged, visit this document's Appendix.

Based on post-session participant surveys, 69 per cent learned a lot about the CRT, and another 31 per cent learned a few things. This is in light of the fact that 69 per cent of participants considered themselves somewhat knowledgeable about the CRT prior to attending the session.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further discussion of themes is available in CBT's *Columbia River Treaty 2011 Engagement and Education Summary Report*, located at www.cbt.org/2011CRTSummaryReport. Answers to frequently asked questions are posted at www.cbt.org/crt, along with the Speakers' Corner video "[Voices from Kooconusa Reservoir](#)," which captures CRT ideas and comments from Basin residents.

To learn more about the CRT, visit www.cbt.org/crt. Also visit the site to subscribe to CRT email updates.

APPENDIX: JAFFRAY THEMES

Each information session had written and oral opportunities for residents to share opinions and ideas and ask questions. In all, CBT was able to collect over 1,000 pieces of input. The Jaffray themes are summarized below, while the themes from all communities are summarized in the separate document “CRT Information Sessions Summary Appendix: Residents Share Ideas,” located online at www.cbt.org/2011CRTSummaryReportAppendix.

Collaboration: One Basin, one people, no borders. Need to have cross-border discussion of 2014/2024 with communities. Consider the entire Basin. Do residents south of the border have the same concern re: Koocanusa Reservoir as the BC residents up-reservoir? How much will the collaborative engagement process influence the final decisions made by the feds?

Compensation/History: How can fairness be maintained and how can the benefits be more fairly returned to the impacted areas? Agriculture and agricultural families suffered immensely with the creation of Libby Dam and Koocanusa Reservoir. Why were the people who were displaced refused land above the flood level to relocate (and now it’s being developed)?

Consultation: The BC government needs to ask the people what CRT changes they want. How will the Province conduct its consultation with local people? No BC government representation appealed to fight the Koocanusa drawdown for the Endangered Species Act in the 90s.

Education: Education is key. It is time to educate the public on the impacts of the CRT so as to go into the future informed.

Environment: Will Canadian/BC environmental and regional interests be addressed? What are the legal requirements to include ecosystem function in the CRT consideration (U.S. and Can)? The CRT should be revised for the environment. Is it technically or economically feasible to bring salmon up the Columbia?

First Nations: Will there be a plan to establish a Columbia Basin Commission with equal representation of indigenous and non-indigenous interests? The voices and concerns of the First Nations should be given first priority. First Nations must consent to a new CRT or annex to modernize the CRT. Where are First Nations voices? Columbia River First Nations are the owners of land and water.

Flood Control: Will expiration of the CRT and On Call Flood Control mean the Koocanusa is drawn down more often? Why is BC obligated to provide called-upon flood protection even if the CRT is terminated?

Negotiation: What will the BC CRT review process look like? Can we negotiate for control of levels? Who in the Province should be our contact person? What is the Province doing and where is it compared to the U.S.? Local control by the Basin? How will the Canadian Entitlement change after 2024? In the future, can the CRT include some provisions to limit the Endangered Species Act?

What needs to be done so that the Canadian Entitlement is perceived to be fair? A new CRT should not plan 50 years (adaptive governance). Don't forget affected locals in the negotiation and make decisions for the future to assist family agriculture operations.

Other Issues: Water Use Plan for Kootenay.

Recreation: Lake levels impact the local economy and recreation and wildlife; important for Kooconusa.

Reservoir Operations and Water Levels: Can the Canadian reservoirs be operated with higher minimum pool levels and still generate power? Address the problem that we have no control over how Libby Dam is operated. Low reservoir levels equal negative impacts to the local economy. Kooconusa locals need better communication and transparency from Libby Dam operators on plans and decisions. Since the U.S. introduced the Endangered Species Act (unilaterally), it sucked the lake down.



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