



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

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY
INFORMATION SESSION SUMMARY
MEADOW CREEK AND KASLO

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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.

MEADOW CREEK AND KASLO INFORMATION SESSIONS

An information session was held in Meadow Creek on November 29, 2011, and a school-based open house was held in Kaslo on November 30, 2011.

<p>Afternoon</p>	<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>
<p>Dinner</p>	<p>Free dinner and ongoing open house.</p>
<p>Evening</p>	<p>Presentation and discussion with residents, CBT and resource people.</p>

Approximately 54 people attended the open house and evening session in Meadow Creek, hosted by Paul Peterson, CBT Board Member and Director, Regional District of Central Kootenay. Peterson 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.

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.

As requested by the Local Organizing Committee, a school-based open house was held in Kaslo the day after the Meadow Creek information session. The Kaslo open house, which included displays, print materials and the opportunity to talk with resource people, was attended by approximately 85 people, including students. Three classes toured the open house, received a short presentation and completed a CRT quiz designed to build their general awareness.

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.

Meadow Creek and Kaslo Discussions and Top-of-mind Themes

Following the presentation in Meadow Creek, Gosal and three members of CBT's Water Advisory Panel answered questions from Basin residents.

Water Advisory Panel Members:

- Chad Day, Simon Fraser University;
- Jim Mattison, Comptroller of Water Rights (BC), retired; and
- Hans Schreier, University of British Columbia.

The discussion, along with top-of-mind comments provided by participants on sticky notes before leaving the Meadow Creek information session and the Kaslo open house, 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.

CBT and CRT: What happens to CBT if the CRT is terminated?

Climate Change: What is the impact of glacial recession and water supply on the CRT? Any new CRT should be flexible and able to respond to long-term impacts of climate change.

Community Engagement: Will Basin residents have a voice and will they be heard? Basin residents want to understand the process, from grassroots to the negotiators.

Compensation: More financial compensation should come to the Basin, and, more specifically, the Lardeau Valley.

Downstream Power Benefits: Canada should receive a greater share.

Environment: Environmental and sustainability issues should be considered if the CRT continues.

Fish: Returning salmon to the Columbia River is desirable, but is it feasible?

Negative Impacts: Fruit growers in Canada (i.e., Columbia Basin and Okanagan) have been impacted by CRT-enabled irrigation in the U.S.

Negotiations: The positions of both Canada and the U.S. need to be better understood by Basin residents. What would Americans and Canadians gain or lose by continuing or terminating the CRT? What can be renegotiated? What can't be renegotiated? Basin residents want Canada to have a strong negotiating position and want to know who the negotiators will be. Domestic water needs should be a priority.

Operations: What is the lifespan of the CRT dams?

Power Generation: Add generating capacity to the Duncan Dam.

Based on post-session participant surveys, 83 per cent learned a lot about the CRT, and another 14 per cent learned a few things. This is in light of the fact that 43 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 Kootenay Lake and Duncan 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: MEADOW CREEK AND KASLO 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 Meadow Creek and Kaslo 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.

BC Hydro: What will the impact be on the CRT if BC Hydro is privatized?

CBT: Is the future of CBT tied to the future of the CRT?

Climate Change: Will there be lost carbon sequestration as a result of the CRT? What is the long-term impact of climate change on the CRT? Will the CRT be flexible/able to respond to climate change issues? What is the glacial recession impact on the CRT?

Community Engagement: Will Basin voices be heard/influence decision makers? Basin residents should tour Columbia River and dams, and read General McNaughton’s biography. Prepare a CRT process/negotiation diagram, from grassroots to negotiators.

Compensation: Why don’t more downstream benefits/\$ come to Lardeau to compensate for economic/job losses? More direct compensation to the Basin, not to Victoria.

Dams and Operations: What is the lifespan of the dams? What are the water levels post-CRT if it is terminated and operated solely for Canadian interests? If CRT dams in Canada are operated solely for hydro generation, how much more power could Canada generate? Retain local control of water.

Downstream Power Benefits: What if the U.S. does not want to pay for downstream benefits in the future? Keep downstream benefits coming to Canada. Downstream benefits (\$) need to come to local communities to address economic/job losses. What per cent of downstream benefits come to the Basin?

Environmental Mitigation: Add mosquito management and environmental remediation to the negotiations, plus sediment impacts. Returning salmon is desirable but is it feasible/affordable? Ecological sustainability should be considered if the CRT continues.

Impacts: The irrigation benefit to the U.S. impacted fruit growers in Canada (Basin and Okanagan).

Negotiating: What parts of the CRT are up for negotiation/not up for renegotiation? What are the options for the future and how can we prepare to understand the options? What are the pros/cons of each side? What would Americans lose by cancelling the CRT and not paying for downstream benefits or flood control? What is the U.S. attitude toward paying for downstream benefits? Should Canada get more for downstream benefits? Flood control strengthens the Canadian negotiating position. How can Canada ensure a strong negotiating position re: downstream benefits and other issues? Would a value be assigned to lost carbon sequestration (trees) and included in negotiations?

Keep water in Canada for domestic needs and power generation. If there is less water overall in the future, will Canada have to release some to the U.S.?

Negotiators: What power do Basin residents have? Who are the negotiators locally, provincially and federally? How do you access negotiators? Will Basin residents have a voice? Canada needs to have a strong negotiating position and team.

Power Generation: Add generating capacity to Duncan. How much more hydro could Canada generate if not sending water to the U.S.?

Sustainability: The CRT should be reviewed from social, economic and environmental perspectives. Ecological sustainability must not be compromised



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