

League of Women Voters® of Idaho

TO: U.S. Entity, Columbia River Treaty:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the remaining stages of the technical analysis and the recommendation for the Columbia River Treaty post-2024.

The League of Women Voters of Idaho has an adopted position that prioritizes the water supply, ecosystem, recreation and navigation topics you enquired about.

Details of Position

"The League of Women Voters of Idaho is concerned about the many uses of the Columbia River beyond the generation of electricity. Minimum stream flows should be established as a public right and maintained on streams in the Columbia River Basin. Regional planning policy should provide for irrigated agriculture as well as for the protection and enhancement of anadromous and resident fish.

In order to meet the present and future needs within the Columbia River Basin, the League of Women Voters of Idaho believes comprehensive planning on a basin-wide basis for conservation, development and management of water is essential to the optimum utilization of our water resources. Machinery is needed which will provide coordinated planning and administration among federal, state and other agencies and establish a process for resolving conflicts among uses. Procedures should be established which provide information and an opportunity for citizen participation in policy decisions affecting water resources development. The federal government has a role in financing water resources development, but state and local government and private users should share such costs based on benefits received and the ability to pay.

The League believes that wise planning for the use of water in the Columbia River Basin requires an inventory of the water resources within the basin. This inventory should include all water-related rights, current use and projected needs. This information should be readily available to concerned agencies and the general public."

Idaho citizens and our stewards of the associated river basins need information on the impacts of potential recommendations on fish, farmers, recreation and navigation and how to effectively mitigate them to limit further water resource damage and where possible enhance the Columbia River and its associated river basins.

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