



## **Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group *Virtual Meeting Summary***

**OCTOBER 31, 2024**



**Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group  
Virtual Meeting Summary  
October 31, 2024 // 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Pacific**

## Attendees

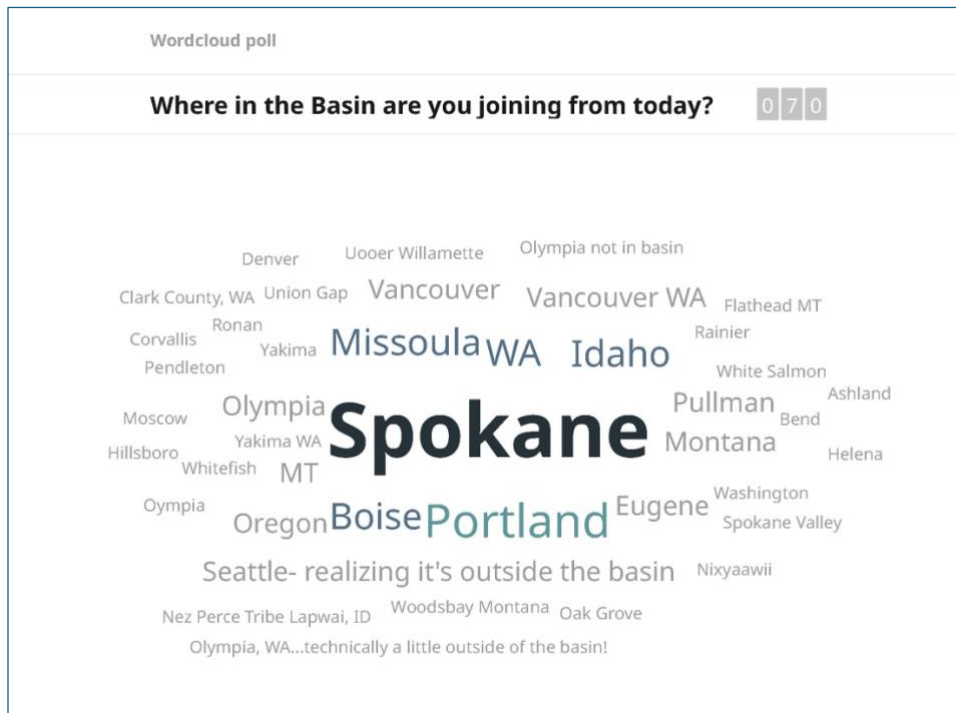
- Adriane Borgias, WA Dept of Ecology
- Amy Puls, USGS/PNAMP
- Andrea Sumerau, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Andrew Swanson, Oregon ACWA and Clackamas Water Environment Services (in Clackamas County, Oregon)
- Andy Maher, WA Dept of Ecology, HWTR, PPA Partnership Coordinator
- Annie Simpson, WA Dept of Ecology
- Anthony Capetillo, Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries
- Ashley Zanolli, EPA Region 10
- Austin Baldwin, USGS Idaho
- Becky Casey, City of Spokane Wastewater Management
- Ben Jarvis, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Bill Labiosa, USGS Northwest & Pacific Islands Region
- Brendan Dowling, WA Dept of Ecology
- Brian Crego, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
- Brian Muegge, Salmon-Safe
- Bryan DeDoncker, Clark County Washington
- Brook Beeler, Eastern Region, Ecology
- Cailin Alexander Sinclair, Oregon State University
- Carl Merkle, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Caroline Keever, UCUT-Columbia River Toxics Reduction Lead Entity
- Casey Lewis, Western Montana Conservation Commission
- Catherine Corbett, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Catherine Gockel, EPA Region 10 Geographic Programs Section Manager
- Cavan Gerrish, US Bureau of Reclamation
- Chris Berry, City of Santa Cruz California
- Dan Kent, Salmon-Safe
- David Bowen, WA Dept of Ecology
- David Brooks, Montana Trout Unlimited
- David Primozich, The Freshwater Trust
- Devan Noblit, CTUIR
- Dianne Barton, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Dirk Helder, U.S. EPA
- Dorie Sutton, City of Vancouver WA
- Edyth Hermosillo, U.S. EPA
- Elaine Placido, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Elena Nilsen, USGS Oregon Water Science Center
- Ellen Woods, Oregon DEQ
- Emerson Christie, WA DOH
- Emilie Henry, Western Montana Conservation Commission, MT DNRC
- Eric Lambert, Clark County Public Works

- Erik Peterson, U.S. EPA
- Evan Smith, The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Eve Goldman, Tualatin Riverkeepers
- Fred Kirschner, Toxics Release Inventory Program, Spokane Tribe
- Gayle Killam, Water Policy Pathways, on contract with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Portland
- Gina Hoff, US Bureau of Reclamation
- Glenn Fee, Tualatin Riverkeepers
- Greg Anderson, EPA Region 8
- Greg Frey, The Council Oak
- Hailey Smith, PhD candidate at WSU
- Hanna Sweet, Office of Senator Merkley
- Heidi Fleury, Western Montana
- Hilary Cosentino, The Freshwater Trust
- James Willacker, U.S. Geological Survey
- Jan Boll, Washington State University, Rivers, Watersheds, Communities Program
- Janelle Groff, Flathead Lake Biological Station, Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program
- Jared Glass, Flathead Lake Biological Station
- Jeffery Donovan, City of Spokane Washington
- Jen Bayer, USGS/PNAMP
- Jennie Morgan, Oregon Department of Transportation
- Jeremy Johnson, Alta Science & Engineering
- Jeremy Wolf, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Jerry White, UCUT, Columbia River Toxics Reduction Lead Entity
- JoAnn Holloway, U.S. Geological Survey
- Johnna Sandow, NOAA
- John Spencer, City of Nampa
- Jordan Tollefson, NorthWestern Energy Montana
- Julia Blass, The Council Oak
- Karen Schumacher, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Karl Rains, WA Dept of Ecology
- Kelly Hendrix, Western Montana Conservation Commission
- Kevin Masterson, Stony Creek Consulting, representing the Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA)
- Kirk Shimeall, Cascade Pacific RCD, Urban Water Partnership
- Kris Olinger, City of Vancouver WA
- Krista Lammers, Western Montana Conservation Commission
- Kristen Jordan, Western Montana Conservation Commission
- Latonya Jackson, Oregon DEQ
- Lara Christensen, Oak Lodge Water Services
- Laura Shira, Yakama Nation
- Lauren McDaid, EPA Region 10, Idaho Operations Office, CRBRP Team
- Lauren Noeker, Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation
- Lisa Kusnierz, EPA Region 10
- Lucy Edmondson, EPA Region 10 Washington Operations Office Director
- Lucy Walsh, Long Tom Watershed Council and the Urban Waters Partnership



- Marc Gauthier, Upper Columbia United Tribes
- Margaret Drennan, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Marie Helene Olland, Oregon State University
- Mark Jankowski, EPA Region 10
- Mark Peterschmidt, Washington Department of Ecology, Central Region Water Quality Program
- Mary Engels, University of Idaho
- Mary Rose Morigeau, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Matt Graves, Port of Vancouver USA
- Matt Szelag, EPA Idaho Operations Office
- Meg Belais, The Freshwater Trust
- Meghan Dunn, U.S. EPA
- Michael Karnosh, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Michael Strauhal, Pollution Prevention Resources Center
- Michelle Gaither, Pollution Prevention Resources Center
- Morgan Baker, WA Department of Ecology
- Nanette Nelson, Flathead Lake Bio Station, UM
- Natalie Swan, Yakaman Nation Fisheries
- Nathan Woods, WA Department of Ecology
- Negonnekodoqua (Stephanie) Blair, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Neil Crescenti, The Idaho Chapter of the Nature Conservancy
- Nikki Guillot, City of Vancouver, WA
- Patrick Moran, USGS Tacoma WA
- Paula Calvert, Bonneville Power Administration
- Peter Brumm, EPA Region 8 in Helena, MT. Watershed Section.
- Peter Ismert, EPA Region 8 in Denver, CO. Watershed Section.
- Peter Murchie, U.S. EPA
- Rachel Malison, Flathead Lake Biological Station
- Raylene Gennett, City of Spokane Washington
- Rebecca Casey, City of Spokane Washington
- Rebecca Stevens, Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Restoration Partnership
- Rob Lindsay, Spokane County Public Works
- Robert Derber, Private Citizen
- Robin Parker, EPA Region 10, Idaho Ops Office in Boise, CRB Working Group Lead and Grant Project Officer
- Rochelle Labiosa, EPA Region 10
- Roy Iwai, Multnomah County OR
- Ryan Dunbeck, Nez Perce Tribe
- Sarah Devens, Native Village of Kluti-Kaah in Copper Center Alaska.
- Sarah Whitney, Long Tom Watershed Council
- Serhan Mermer, Oregon State University
- Sharon Bosley, Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission
- Sherrie Duncan, Yakama Nation Fisheries
- Stan Hoffman, WA Department of Health
- Stephanie Murphy, Western Montana Conservation Commission, MT DNRC
- Tamara Knudson, Alta Science and Engineering
- Tanya Williams, WA Dept of Ecology

- Tara Galuska, WA Recreation and Conservation Office
- Theresa Blaine, EPA Region 10, Pollution Prevention Coordinator
- Trey George, City of Spokane Washington
- Whitney Fraser, Lodestone LLC.
- Will Hobbs, WA Department of Ecology
- Will Tiedemann, Idaho Conservation League
- Yongping Yuan, U.S. EPA
- Yvonne Vallette, EPA Region 10, Lower Columbia National Estuary Program lead Project Officer
- Zac Provant, Boise State's Hazard and Climate Resilience Institute



## Welcome, Agenda Review & Participant Instructions

**Robin Parker**, EPA Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group Lead ([parker.robin@epa.gov](mailto:parker.robin@epa.gov)), **Peter Murchie**, EPA Region 10 Geographic Programs Manager ([murchie.peter@epa.gov](mailto:murchie.peter@epa.gov)), **Catherine Gockel**, EPA Region 10 Geographic Programs Section Manager ([gockel.catherine@epa.gov](mailto:gockel.catherine@epa.gov)) & **Greg Frey**, Council Oak ([gfrey@thecounciloak.com](mailto:gfrey@thecounciloak.com)).

Robin opened the meeting and welcomed participants. Greg Frey reviewed the agenda and facilitated introductions in the chat. Peter reported that EPA recently finalized a reorganization to best support its watershed-based programs and emphasized that the Columbia River Basin is an important national priority program for EPA and the Administration. Peter also provided a funding update, reporting that the program has over \$100M from annual appropriations and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (noting that the BIL funding will stop coming in 2026). Catherine introduced herself as a new member of the EPA's team and noted that she is particularly interested in elevating the leadership roles of tribes and developing a community of practice for toxics reduction while helping tell this story of adaptive management in the Basin.

The EPA team provided a brief grant status update, noting that the program has issued \$89M via 60 awards with partners contributing an additional \$15M. The most recent funding opportunity closed in May and awards are currently being finalized. A total of \$32.5M was requested for \$10.3M of available funding; due to this large discrepancy, EPA was only able to offer full funding to four projects and partial funding to three. Awardees planning to hold their own press announcement event should coordinate with EPA in advance and can contact Michelle Wilcox, grants lead ([wilcox.michelle@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.michelle@epa.gov)).

## Partner Updates

**Nikki Guillot**, *City of Vancouver, Washington* ([Nikki.Guillot@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:Nikki.Guillot@cityofvancouver.us)), provided updates on the Waste Incentive Network. The project has been ongoing over the last few years and was recently extended through September 2025. The project conducts business outreach to educate businesses about dangerous waste disposal, set up a coupon program for small businesses to properly dispose of dangerous waste, provides guidance for property managers and owners on household hazardous waste, and conducted a needs assessment for city residents. The project also published a resource on [Pollution Prevention for Businesses](#). The P2 West 2024: Pollution Prevention Roundtable will be held November 19, 2024 (<https://www.pprc.org/events/p2west2024>).

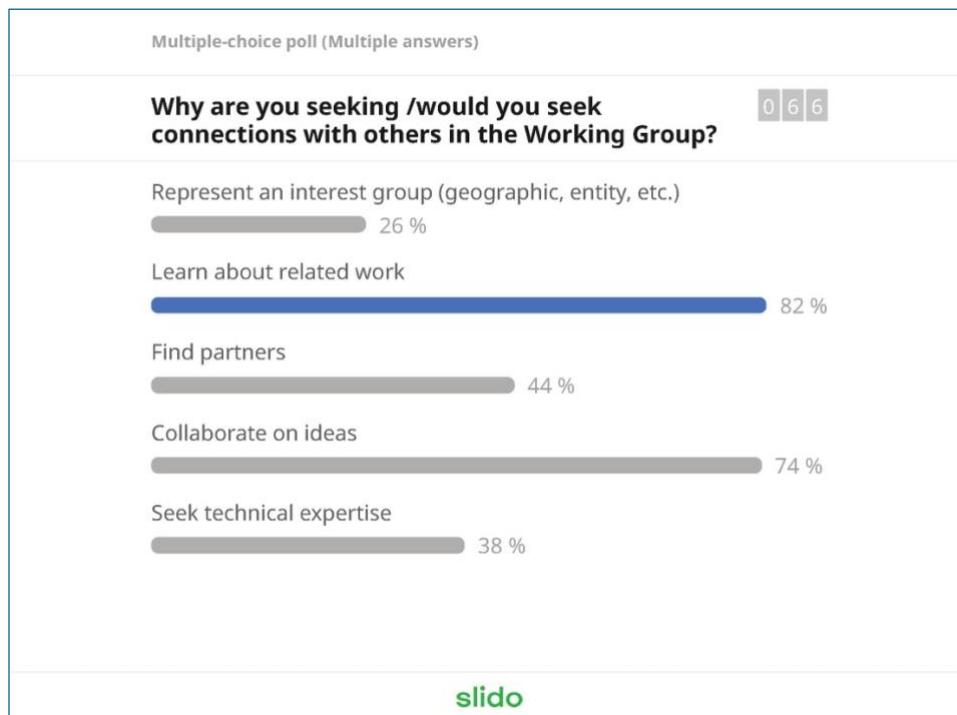
**Nanette Nelson**, *Flathead Lake Biological Station* ([nanette.nelson@flbs.umt.edu](mailto:nanette.nelson@flbs.umt.edu)), presented a study on the removal of non-native lake trout and its implications related to methylmercury (MeHg) biomagnification that concluded in 2023. The study sought to answer two questions: to what extent do length and trophic level control MeHg concentration in lake trout and other fish in Flathead Lake, and what are the potential health outcomes for Tribal women of childbearing age who eat these fish when donated to local food pantries. The study found that longer lake trout have more MeHg, and that with one meal a week, there is only a 3% chance a person would exceed the recommended level of exposure, but with three meals per week that chance increases to 70%. The study also found that the majority of Tribal women of childbearing age were not eating enough at those levels and that most ate fewer than four meals of fish per month.

## Working Group Working for You

Attendees participated in a facilitated polling session about how EPA can better support WG partners engaging directly with each other. Attendee feedback is presented below.

**Question 1: Why are you seeking /would you seek connections with others in the Working Group?**

Most attendees expressed interest in learning about related work and collaborating on ideas for toxics reduction.



**Question 2: What other connections would be helpful?**

Responses included various suggestions for discussions in smaller groups and interest in continuing to see presentations on examples and sharing lessons learned at these meetings. Respondents asked for data sharing and resources like best management practices and case studies.

Open text poll

**What other connections would be helpful?**  
(1/3)

0 2 6

- Strategic Planning
- Continued discussion on toxics reduction strategies and how best to provide long-term stability for this work.
- Interim, geographically focused meetings to provide collaboration space between the two larger meetings annually
- Data sets/ shared data
- Case studies on Stormwater management Emerging contaminants
- Stormwater monitoring teams would be great. Want to see
- which details are most effective at removing what pollutants
- Please continue providing case studies during these meetings...real world examples from partners in the basin about what is and isn't working to improve the watershed's health
- Structured smaller subgroups
- Shared data
- Collaborating on ways of using monitoring data findings to effectively focus pollution reduction efforts
- It would be great to get a clarification if these funds can or

Open text poll

**What other connections would be helpful?**  
(2/3)

0 2 6

- cannot be utilized in a Suoerfund Site that is listed on the NPL.
- Working towards equitable funding from Congress for the CRB Geographic Program, compared to other Geographic Programs.
- Share common needs that others can assist with. Visualize all our work on a CRB wide map.
- Up to date information on regulatory and technical changes and local responses.
- finding out about other working groups, coalitions, workshops, etc.
- Resource sharing, successful education messages
- Templates, BMPs, SOPs, Program Development Tools
- Collaborative research
- +1 on lessons learned from other regions
- Sharing resources, programs, materials already developed between groups across the basin! Shared and collaborative messaging to expand reach across states!
- success stories on leveraging non-profits, conservation and local government programs



Open text poll

**What other connections would be helpful?** 0 2 6  
(3/3)

- Additional resources and datasets.
- Basin wide monitoring strategy, sub monitoring strategies for specific areas and sectors (ag, mining, urban runoff)
- Partners to engage in co-developed science
- Learning about what other large geographic regions are doing about toxics.
- Success stories and editable resources (no need to reinvent the wheel!)

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### Question 3: What expertise would you like to share with others?

Several attendees would like to share expertise with study design and techniques. Others wished to share experience with collaborative efforts and new partners. Multiple attendees offered to share information on stormwater and green infrastructure.

Open text poll

**What expertise would you like to share with others?** 0 2 2  
(1/2)

- Assistance with study/monitoring design, statistical approaches, analytical services.
- site selection framework (in progress)
- Toxicology, Risk assessment and exposure assessment
- PFAS source identification and outreach (public and business)
- in a couple years, septic mapping and modelling QAPP
- Stormwater management and pollution prevention
- green stormwater infrastructure design + O&M
- + lessons learned, strategic partnership building
- toxics monitoring
- Published datasets can be shared to a central resource listing
- Engaging farmers and farm groups, regenerative agriculture tech support
- Toxicology, fish consumption
- Remote sensing techniques in climate change and environmental health assessments.
- When working with Tribes during data collection

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Open text poll

**What expertise would you like to share with others?** 0 2 2  
(2/2)

- it is important to recognize Tribal sovereignty.
- survey research
- Pollution Prevention and Source Reduction grant programs in Region 10
- Overlapping challenges in stormwater (CWA), drinking water (SDWA) and contaminated sites (CERLCA)
- Mining-related impacts in headwater catchments;
- traditional ecological knowledge
- How to engage in collaborative efforts within a watershed.
- Survey research and writing a QAPP for survey work.
- Effective stormwater management for both pollutant removal effectiveness and reducing maintenance demands
- Stormwater/green stormwater infrastructure best practices
- Ecotoxicology expertise

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- **Chat Question:** how do we connect the answers to sharing expertise and the experts?

#### Question 4: What would you like to learn from others?

Several respondents would like to learn about Tribal priorities, how to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge, and managing Tribal data. Others expressed interest in partnerships, leveraging funding, prioritizing pollutants across the Basin, and communicating messages.

Open text poll

**What would you like to learn from others?** (1/3) 0 2 2

- QAPP methodology
- Role of implementation of Reserved Rights Rule and Tribal Baseline Water Quality Standards
- Advancing stormwater management from various perspectives, doing better with septic systems, lessons learned and what not to do, what programs are best to incentivize actions.
- Opportunities to create/consolidate a Basin Wide interactive mapping tool that can be

- used to identify work efforts and toxics data across the entire basin
- where in the basin are the opportunities for source control?
- how to move past outreach to co-creation on toxics reduction in communities
- how to effectively get messages/outreach/info to the general public to get them interested in toxics reduction etc
- how to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into our programs
- how to leverage funding and match dollars

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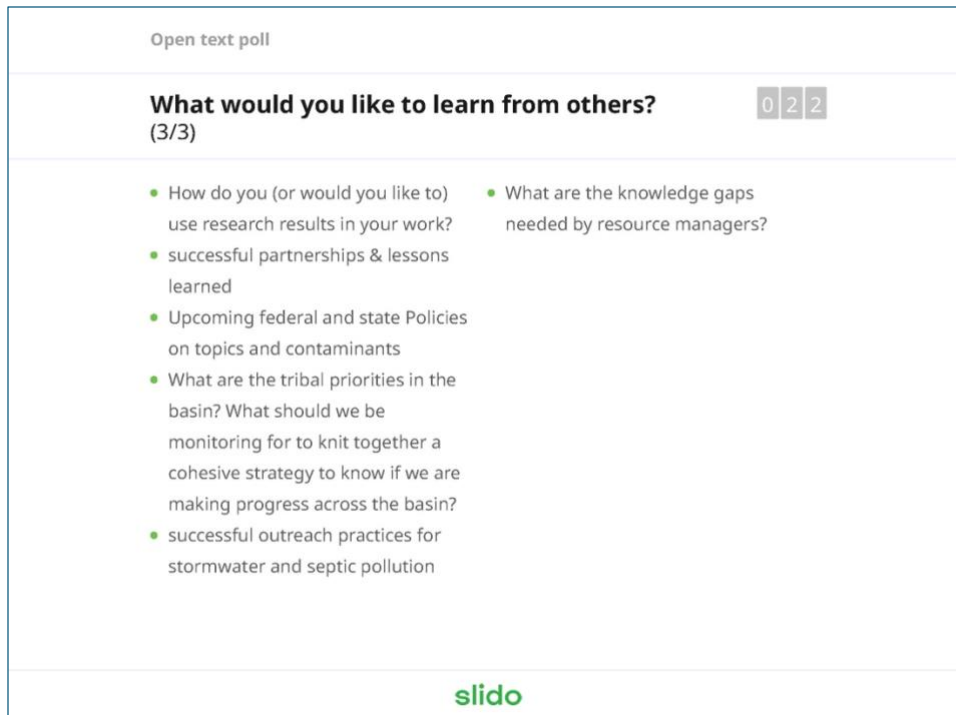
Open text poll

**What would you like to learn from others?** (2/3) 0 2 2

- how to handle tribal data sovereignty?
- building relationships with stakeholders: urban, ag, nurseries, gardeners, pesticide retailers, etc
- Approaches to prioritizing toxic pollutants for watershed monitoring and pollution prevention
- Learned what outreach actually works in smaller communities, and what did not work and why
- Tribal community priorities for toxics reduction

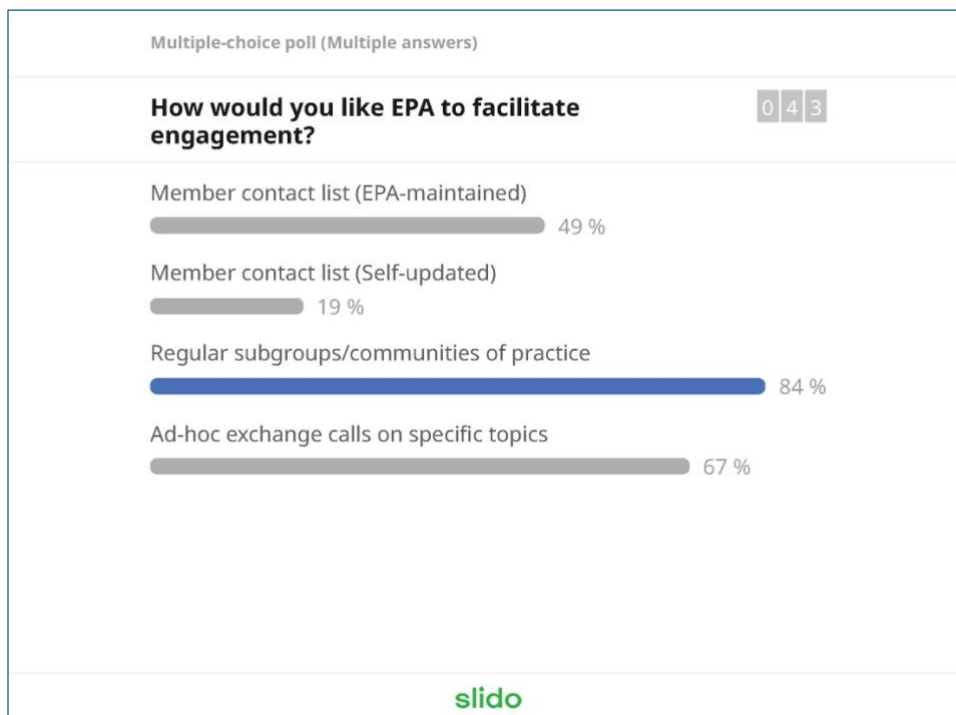
- Public x private partnership successes for green infrastructure research, installation, and maintenance.
- Stormwater monitoring best practices with a goal of identifying the most effective emerging pollutant removal/sequestering
- Bioassessment methods and incorporating indigenous knowledge in definitions of ecological integrity
- What the key toxics interests are and in what geographic areas

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**Question 5: How would you like EPA to facilitate this engagement?**

Several respondents would like to learn about Tribal priorities, how to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge, and managing Tribal data. Others expressed interest in partnerships, leveraging funding, prioritizing pollutants across the Basin, and communicating messages.



### Question 6: Are there other ways that EPA can help the working group work for you?

Responses included ways to share information about what various partners are working on and tools for making data available. Other suggestions focused on forums for making connections, like poster sessions, informal gatherings, or lightning talks.

Open text poll

**Are there other ways that EPA can help the Working Group work for you?** 0 2 2

(1/3)

- Periodic forum to learn about emerging contaminants
- support outreach efforts, collaborating with others who have similar messaging
- Establish more frequent check ins.
- Poster session at meeting to display and discuss work
- Help coordinating outreach - a lot of us are trying to get people to pay attention to overlapping messages and we could benefit from working together?
- Connecting subject area

- experts to further deepen those expertise
- Connecting EPA/state work on advancing safer chemicals & products to water quality improvement activities and goals
- Create a database similar to the Washington State Department of Ecology's Environmental Information Management database, where data can be uploaded

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Open text poll

**Are there other ways that EPA can help the Working Group work for you?** 0 2 2

(2/3)

- in a standardized format by individual data generators, but where it can be accessed and used by any interested parties.
- science lightning talks from other basins
- More informal ways to connect with others.
- Include an informal "mixer" or open science forum in the meeting to facilitate getting to know each other.
- Something to show what each group is an expert on so we know who to connect with!

- More coordinated and consistent monitoring to enable us to answer basin-wide questions
- Bring example from other watersheds
- more introductory materials about the groups (like a guide?)
- Coordinate tools and resources that are basin wide (like, for example, a Story Map where everyone can participate)
- Develop a basin-wide monitoring strategy.
- forums where we can communicate in

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Open text poll

**Are there other ways that EPA can help the Working Group work for you?** 0 2 2

(3/3)

- an informal and untimed manner
- By sharing what is coming down the pipeline concerning the particular problems or contaminants.
- Helping tribes connect with each other who are doing similar work so they can discuss how they overcame roadblocks and built partnerships or anything else leading to success.
- A platform for posting jobs and internships from across the CRB Working Group for student engagement and recruitment
- Put us all on a map.
- Develop an overarching science and monitoring strategy for the Basin, and then get Working Group feedback on it so we can all be rowing in the same direction

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## Columbia River Basin Emerging Topics: Funding Opportunities and 6PPD

**Catherine Gockel**, EPA Region 10 Geographic Programs Section Manager ([gockel.catherine@epa.gov](mailto:gockel.catherine@epa.gov)) & **Tanya Williams**, Washington Department of Ecology ([TAWI461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:TAWI461@ECY.WA.GOV))

Catherine announced that on October 29, EPA introduced its plan to reduce PCBs in the Spokane Basin, establishing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) from the Idaho border to the confluence with the Columbia River. She also reported on the funding and technical assistance available to address Environmental Justice separate from the Columbia River Basin Restoration Grant program, including the Thriving Community Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs) that are assigned to each EPA region. There are also grants available via the Community Change Grants and the Thriving Community Grant Maker Subawards. EPA also has funding available through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants and there is technical assistance available through the [Climate Resilience and Adaption Funding Toolbox](#).

### Resources:

- Spokane River PCB TMDL: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-issues-final-pcbs-reduction-plan-spokane-river>
- Thriving Community Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)
  - R10 Willamette Partnership - <https://nwejc.org/>
  - R10 University of Washington - <https://deohs.washington.edu/cehe/>
  - R8 MT State University - <https://montana.edu/thrivingcommunities/>
  - If you have questions about free technical assistance in Idaho through the TCTAC program, contact [zacharyprovant@boisestate.edu](mailto:zacharyprovant@boisestate.edu)
- Thriving Community Grant Maker (TCGM) Subawards
  - R10 Philanthropy Northwest - <https://philanthropynw.org/epa-environmental-justice-thriving-communities-grantmaking-program>
  - R8 John Snow Institute (JSI) – <https://mapeigrants.org/>

- R8-10 Climate Justice Alliance – <https://climatejusticealliance.org/unite-ej/>

Tanya provided an update on 6PPD, a chemical additive found in tires, which transforms into 6PPD-quinone (6PPDQ) when exposed to ozone and is acutely toxic to coho salmon. Although 6PPDQ was discovered in Washington, there are other salmonids across the country that also could be impacted by this chemical. There is ongoing work to limit the amounts of 6PPDQ in the Basin through the [Safer Products for WA](#) authority, which restricts the use of chemicals in products. 6PPD is currently going through this program's 5-year rulemaking process. There is also a study looking for participants in central and eastern Washington to measure 6PPDQ in artificial turf runoff, and over 20 stormwater management studies about reducing 6PPDQ. Preliminary findings suggest that organic-based stormwater BMPs seem to be effective at reducing 6PPDQ in the system. Lastly, WA Department of Transportation is looking for input on priority stormwater retrofit locations that might be a source of 6PPDQ, and the Department of Ecology is holding a 6PPD training in November as part of the ATNI Natural Resources Summit and is planning a State of the Science on 6PPD in 2025.

#### Resources:

- WA Ecology 6PPD webpage: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-toxic-chemicals/Addressing-priority-toxic-chemicals/6PPD>
- EPA's 6PPD-quinone webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/6ppd-quinone>
- California DTSC is also very active on 6PPD: [https://dtsc.ca.gov/scp/motor\\_vehicle\\_tires\\_containing\\_6ppd/](https://dtsc.ca.gov/scp/motor_vehicle_tires_containing_6ppd/)
- Stormwater BMP Studies: [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1962/40944/6ppd\\_stormwater\\_best\\_management\\_practices\\_research.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1962/40944/6ppd_stormwater_best_management_practices_research.aspx)
- Final Leg Report: 6PPD Action Plan and Alternatives Assessment: Progress Report and Recommendations: [https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2404053.html?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2404053.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)
- ITRC Guidance Document: <https://6ppd.itrcweb.org/>
- ITRC: Overview of the Tire-Derived Chemicals 6PPD & 6PPD-quinone Training: <https://clu.in.org/conf/itrc/6PPD-Q/>
- **Chat Question:** Have any 6PPD-q studies been conducted on drag strips or racetracks in Washington? Seems like they would make a great case study. Not sure how these types of facilities manage stormwater.

## Panel Discussion: Engaging New Partners

**Neil Crescenti**, *The Nature Conservancy* ([neil.crescenti@TNC.ORG](mailto:neil.crescenti@TNC.ORG)), moderated the panel on partner engagement. Panelists included **Brian Muegge**, *Salmon-Safe* ([brian.muegge@salmonsafe.org](mailto:brian.muegge@salmonsafe.org)); **David Primozich**, *The Freshwater Trust* ([primozich@thefreshwatertrust.org](mailto:primozich@thefreshwatertrust.org)); **Negonnekodoqua Blair**, *Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation* ([StephanieBlair@ctuir.org](mailto:StephanieBlair@ctuir.org)), **Michelle Gaither**, *Pollution Prevention Resource Center* ([MGaither@pprc.org](mailto:MGaither@pprc.org)), and **Ben Jarvis**, *Idaho Department of Environmental Quality* ([ben.jarvis@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:ben.jarvis@deq.idaho.gov)).

Brian outlined how Salmon-Safe focuses on market-based solutions and has found success in engaging with agricultural and urban development audiences regarding stormwater mitigation efforts. Their approach is to leverage partnerships that already have trusted relationships in a community to help

establish Salmon-Safe practices. It is important to have an empathetic, friendly, and persistent attitude when building these partnerships and relationships.

David noted that the Freshwater Trust approaches problems at a watershed scale, so when entering a new locale, they look at the range of land and water management actions required to recover and sustain an ecosystem. In a recent project, they focused on phosphorus because of the high levels in the watershed that create conditions where people cannot eat fish due to its role in creation of methylmercury. Since agricultural runoff is the primary source of phosphorus, it is important to express the outcome of the actions that are relevant to potential partners and partner with existing supply chain players who can make trusted offers to farmers to upgrade their equipment. This allows for the scaling up of implementation of these changes in a way that a nonprofit could not achieve by itself.

Negonnekodoqua described that the Tribe received funding to do a toxics inventory and a strategic planning process to better understand the contaminants the Tribe should focus on. Their priorities are protecting human health, the first food species, and the complex ecosystems in which they live. In this process the Tribe seeks to learn from other tribal toxics monitoring programs and focus on methods and restoration practices that look at improving quality of air and water across ecosystems.

Michelle reported that the Center is working to develop a series of educational videos about their EcoBiz program, a green business certification program in Oregon, targeted at landscapers and auto shops. The Center leverages partnerships with city and state governments to get relevant, locally specific information to the desired audience.

Ben Jarvis added that improving your network is one of the best ways to improve your luck at making important connections and build your reputation as a trusted messenger. If you are not coming to the table with a lot of resources, it is important to have a trusted messenger to carry your message.

**Question:** Are there ways to bring traditional ecological knowledge into water management practices and modeling now or in the future to better protect or at the very least express concerns with first foods and first nations communities?

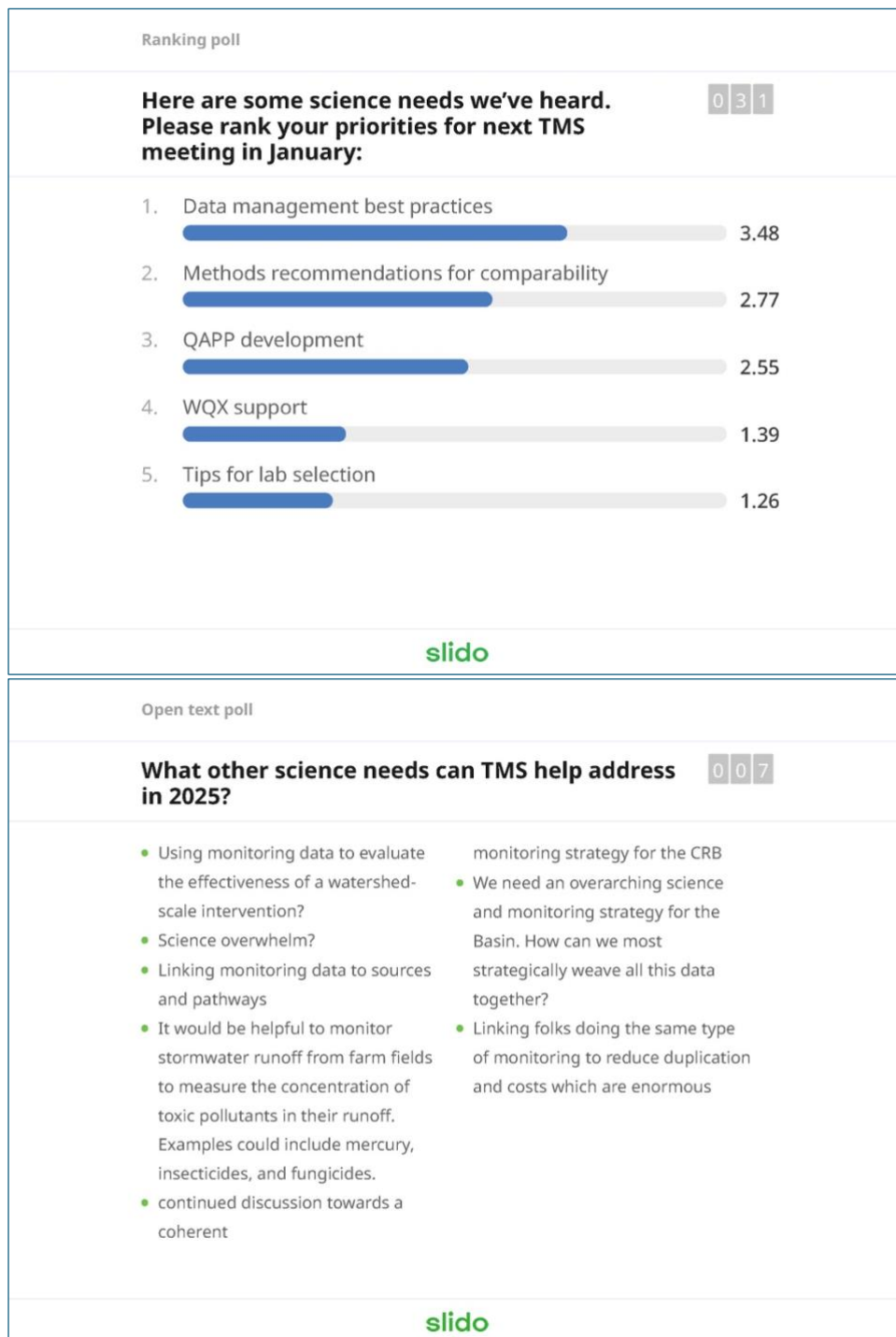
**Answer:** We are trying to communicate from a tribal perspective that first foods are food systems. This food system should be as protected as any other food systems; the major challenge is getting people to shift their thinking in this way. We need to recognize that our sensitive species and ecosystems are the basis for living a good quality of life.

## Toxics Monitoring Subgroup (TMS) Update

*Lisa Kusnierz, EPA Region 10 ([kusnierz.lisa@epa.gov](mailto:kusnierz.lisa@epa.gov)).*

Lisa reviewed progress from the Toxics Monitoring Subgroup, which is intended as a community of practice to share info about monitoring around the Basin. The subgroup convenes three virtual meetings and one workshop each year. The subgroup has created a [Monitoring Matrix](#), which is intended to serve as a repository on general information about monitoring projects around the Basin. The subgroup also published a [data dashboard](#) that displays the location of projects monitoring different kinds of toxics. Lastly, the subgroup developed screening values due to the need for consensus screening values to aid interpretation of monitoring data from across the Basin; the next step will be to prioritize the highest needs among this group for identifying benchmarks. The next subgroup meeting will be in January or

February, and the next in-person working group meeting will be a half-day addition to the 2025 Working Group meeting. Lisa used a poll to gauge interest on topics for the January/February meeting (below).





Want to join the TMS distribution list? Have feedback or other suggestions for the TMS? Email us at [gs-crbtoxmon@usgs.gov](mailto:gs-crbtoxmon@usgs.gov)

## Round Robin Partner Announcements

**David Brooks**, *Trout Unlimited Montana*, reported that his project was scheduled to wrap at the end of September but was extended, and that it was very easy to do a time extension with the EPA. The project completed all its sampling, both passive and fish tissue, in the Clark Fork River.

**Jan Boll**, *Washington State University*, reported that the Rivers, Watersheds, Communities (RWC) program at WSU now has more than 20 graduate students involved. The current students are looking to organize a career panel; anyone interested in joining such a panel should reach out to [j.boll@wsu.edu](mailto:j.boll@wsu.edu).

**Dan Kent**, *Salmon-Safe*, reported that through Salmon-Safe's urban development the Hood River bridge replacement project has committed to becoming the world's first salmon safe bridge. It is a 100-year-old structure with pollutants going straight into the river, and the new bridge will be designed to Salmon-Safe water quality standards, including mitigating for 6PPDQ.

**Theresa Blaine**, *EPA Region 10 Pollution prevention coordinator*, ([blaine.theresa@epa.gov](mailto:blaine.theresa@epa.gov)), shared the release of 2024–25 pollution prevention grants, six of which are in R10. The proposed project summaries can be found [here](#). There will be a new iteration of grants related in the spring of 2025 that are related to Environmental Justice through safer and more sustainable products. Also, PPRC and Idaho DEQ are hosting a [free virtual P2 conference](#) on November 19–20, and national pollution prevention training conference will be held in DC in December.

- **P2 grant programs for Spring 2025 - in development, EPA will have outreach in the coming months with additional info on these grant programs:**



- EJ in Communities - <https://www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-grant-environmental-justice-communities>
- EJ through Safer & More Sustainable Products: <https://www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-grant-environmental-justice-through-safer-and-more-sustainable-products>
- **Announcement of the selected 2024–25 Pollution Prevention Grant programs**
  - Yesterday's national press release: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-48-selectees-nearly-19-million-grants-help>
  - Next iteration of these grant programs will be in Spring 2026 - stay tuned
- Sign up for P2 news including grant information at this link: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USAEPAPPT/subscribers/qualify>

**Karen Schumacher**, *Kootenai Tribe*, shared a photo of some work the tribe did as a part of mitigation efforts at a culturally significant site for the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho at Ambush Rock.

#### **National Pollution Prevention Training Conference Dec 10–11 - virtual opportunity**

- Link to registration: <https://projects.erg.com/conferences/epa/register-p2-grantee.asp>
- Link to agenda: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-10/2024-epa-p2-draft-agenda.pdf>

**Caroline Keever**, *Upper Columbia United Tribes*, is managing the Upper Columbia United Tribes Columbia River Toxics Reduction Lead Entity project. We are getting underway with UCUT's Toxics Reduction Strategic Planning effort as part of that project. In developing our plan, we are searching for other Toxics-related Strategic Plan models. If there are any Plans that we should be aware of, please reach out to [caroline@ucut-nsn.org](mailto:caroline@ucut-nsn.org). We appreciate the information sharing!

## **May 2025 Meeting Planning**

Meeting locations will continue rotating between the upper and lower Basin. The group is considering Bend/Redmond OR, for the in-person meeting in Spring 2025, Missoula for 2026, and Boise for 2027. Robin polled the group to gauge interest in an in-person meeting in Bend in May 2025.

Multiple-choice poll

**Would you attend an in-person meeting in Bend or Redmond, OR in May 2025?**

0 4 0

Yes



73 %

No



3 %

Not sure



25 %

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Open text poll

**What themes or topics would you like to discuss at the May 2025 Working Group meeting?**

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- Discussion of shared/cross-boundary waters; field trip was a success in last meeting
- Highlight Deschutes Basin water quality and endangered species issues that connect to toxic contaminant priorities in the Columbia Basin (could be part of a field trip)
- columbia river basin reduction action plan-- update EPA TicTac updates
- research extension
- stormwater facility monitoring, residential
- stormwater programs, O&M training for BIPOC-owned businesses, incorporating DEIJ into our work
- Environmental justice
- outreach to community
- Strengthening Tribal communities
- Green stormwater infrastructure detail/design refinement
- Showcase Toxic Reduction Lead strategies, socialize a science/monitoring strategy and indicators for the basin

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Open text poll

**What would you like the Working Group to accomplish together as an outcome of the May 2025 meeting?**

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- relationship building: some way to know who each other are beyond the confines of the Spring & Fall meetings and have access to each other's contact information
- Exploring the formation of subgroups focused on common activities and priority pollutants
- A searchable map that identifies where projects are being implemented, where connections are being/can be made, etc.
- a community service day/event
- Connecting people with similar specialties to deepen and expand our knowledge bases and effectiveness
- Where in the basin are hotspots that need attention
- Have folks understand the Toxics Reduction Strategies for various segments of the Basin, and how they fit into them.
- sharing resources, making connections, seeing the larger picture of our collective efforts

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