



COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
a legacy for the people

OVERVIEW

CBT WATER INITIATIVES PROGRAM

WORKING ON WATER ISSUES

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is committed to working with Basin residents to improve their understanding of and involvement in water issues. CBT is achieving this mandate by creating active and diverse partnerships with Basin residents, non-profit groups, all levels of government, regulatory agencies, industry and the science community.

CBT has identified three goals that provide direction to the Water Initiatives Program:

- Goal 1: Improving the overall understanding and awareness of water related issues
- Goal 2: Helping build effective partnerships
- Goal 3: Facilitating participation in major decisions related to water in the Columbia Basin

To achieve these goals the Water Initiatives Programs works on five focus areas. Within the five focus areas CBT is working on over 20 projects and initiatives.

FOCUSING ON FIVE PRIORITY AREAS

1. Water Stewardship

Water is the foundation of the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Columbia River Basin. CBT supports the efforts of Basin residents to help create a stewardship ethic in which citizens care for and understand the water resources of the Basin, enabling them to actively participate in and make informed decisions around how water is managed.

2. Water Quality

Clean, fresh water is important to every aspect of life in the Columbia Basin. It is essential that Basin residents understand factors affecting water quality and understand the measures necessary for water quality protection. CBT actively supports a number of community groups and organizations that are addressing water quality issues in the Columbia Basin.

3. Water Quantity

Despite the apparent wealth of fresh water in the Columbia Basin, increasing human activities, population growth and climate change are placing pressure on this precious resource.

CBT supports a wide variety of education and awareness initiatives to help Basin residents understand the interconnectiveness of the supply, uses and demands of this invaluable natural resource.

4. Water Governance

The Columbia River Basin is a complex system with a number of federal, provincial, First Nation and local governments involved in the management of the river system. CBT helps to create and support mechanisms for Basin residents to actively and meaningfully participate in water management decisions at local and regional levels.

5. Transboundary Water

The entire Columbia River Basin (Canada and the US) crosses one international boundary and seven state boundaries; however ecosystems and water management issues transcend these boundaries. CBT works with a variety of federal, provincial, state, First Nation, and local governments to address transboundary water management issues.

The vision of the Water Initiatives Program is to have an active and diverse partnership of residents and organizations work together to improve and protect water values in the Columbia Basin.

Columbia Basin Watershed Network

The Columbia Basin Watershed Network (the Network) is a network of 23 watershed groups, agencies and individuals in the Canadian portion of the Columbia Basin working on water stewardship. The Network is an opportunity for those working in watershed management to share experiences and resources, and build knowledge and expertise. CBT supports the Network by acting as a facilitator and convener that is helping each watershed group achieve their own goals, and helping all 23 groups to work cooperatively around water issues in the Basin. CBT also provides direct funding support to the Network and the Watershed Network volunteer steering committee.

Water Quality Monitoring

The Water Quality Monitoring project is an innovative three-year water quality monitoring project through which eight community groups are monitoring the health of local streams and rivers. Partnering with CBT and federal and provincial agencies, the watershed groups are collecting water quality data using the Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) method.

Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative

In a 2004 survey, Basin residents acknowledged water consumption in the Basin is high, and that there is a need for water conservation measures. Residents requested information and education about the quantity of water in the Basin, the costs of potable water and the economic and environmental benefits of conserving water. CBT has responded to these requests and is working with local governments to create a Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative to address Basin-wide water conservation. The Columbia Basin Water Smart Initiative will provide local governments with access to technical experts in the water conservation field and the opportunity to create a community specific Water Conservation Action Plan.

Canadian Columbia River Forum

The Canadian Columbia River Forum (CCRF) is made up of seventeen Canadian federal, provincial, regional and First Nation agencies committed to collaborating on water-management initiatives in the trans-boundary reach of the Canadian Columbia River Basin. This forum brings together decision-makers to collaborate on existing and emerging water management issues that influence the Columbia River Basin in Canada. The CCRF activities include examining the Columbia River Treaty and other water management issues between Canada and the US.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council - Memorandum of Agreement

CBT and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPPCC) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) 2002 in which both organizations recognized that ecosystems transcend international borders. Together CBT and NWPPCC committed to working collaboratively to educate and communicate with Basin residents, share information, improve fish and wildlife habitat, and address transboundary water management issues. One of the current collaborative projects is the Columbia Basin Centre of Knowledge.

Contact Us

Kindy Gosal
Director, Water and Environment
kgosal@cbt.org

Heather Mitchell
Program Manager, Water Initiatives
hmitchell@cbt.org

Charlene Desrochers
Assistant, Water Initiatives
cdesrochers@cbt.org

1.800.505.8998

Columbia Basin Trust is committed to working with residents to increase our understanding, and build our collective wisdom around water resources in the Columbia Basin.

To learn more about CBT's water initiatives, visit www.cbt.org/water or call 1.800.505.8998.

