

Columbia Basin Management Plan

2024-2034

Columbia
Basin **trust**

Columbia Basin Trust is grateful to operate in the traditional territories of the Ktunaxa, Lheidli T'enneh, Secwépemc, Sinixt and Syilx Nations. The Columbia Basin region is also home to six Métis Nation BC Chartered Communities.

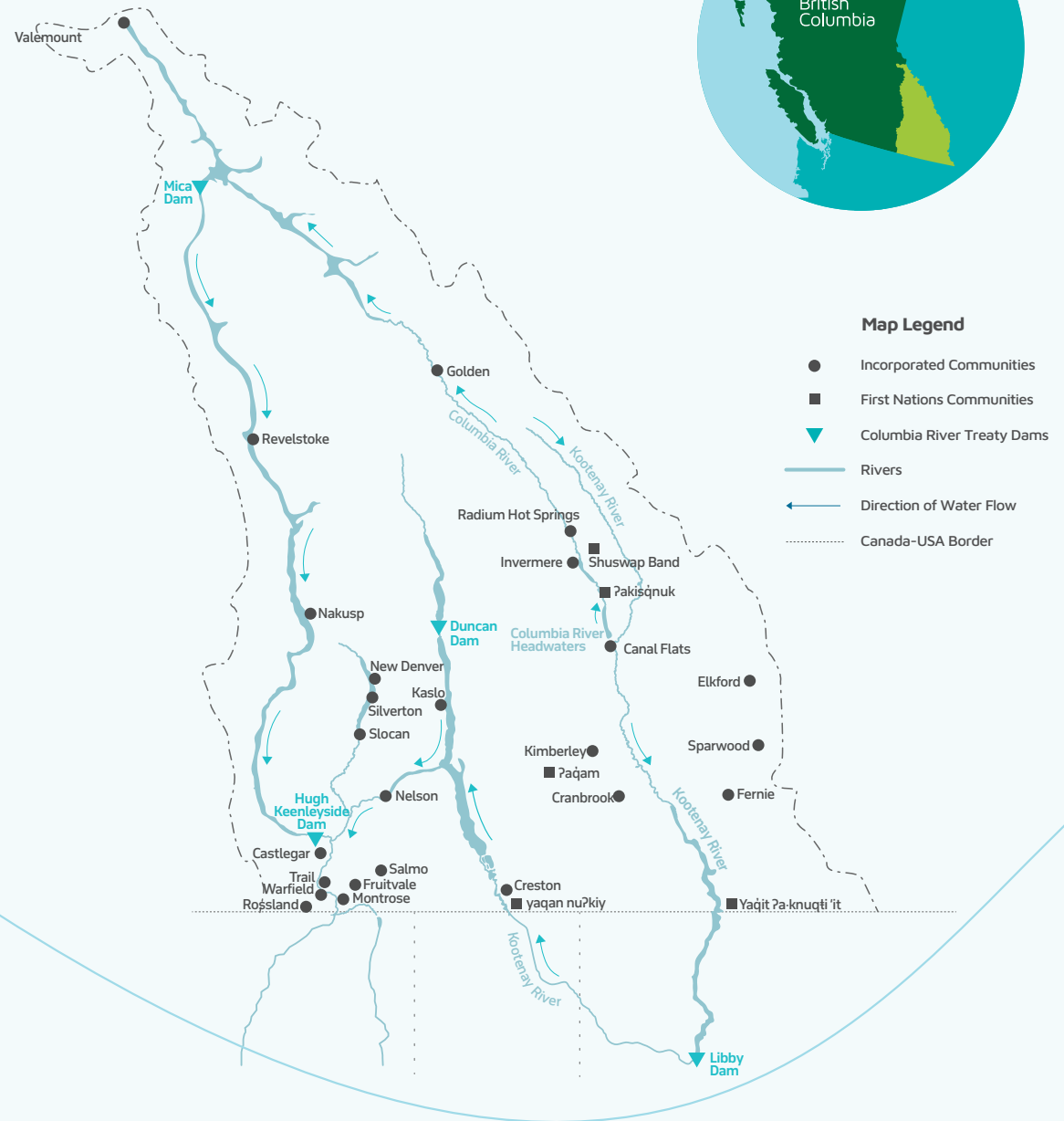
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mission

Columbia Basin Trust supports efforts by the people of the Columbia Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being and to achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

region



guiding principles

Be True to Our Foundation

We will provide support that is consistent with our legislation, mandate and core tenets, and the principles set out in this Plan:

- Respecting the region-wide unity demonstrated by Basin residents when the organization was created.
- Being accountable to Basin residents, and to the Trust's shareholder, the Province of British Columbia.
- Not displacing the responsibilities of any level of government.

Integrate Perspectives of Indigenous Peoples

The diverse cultures, histories, knowledge and governance systems of Indigenous Peoples are integral parts of life in the Basin.

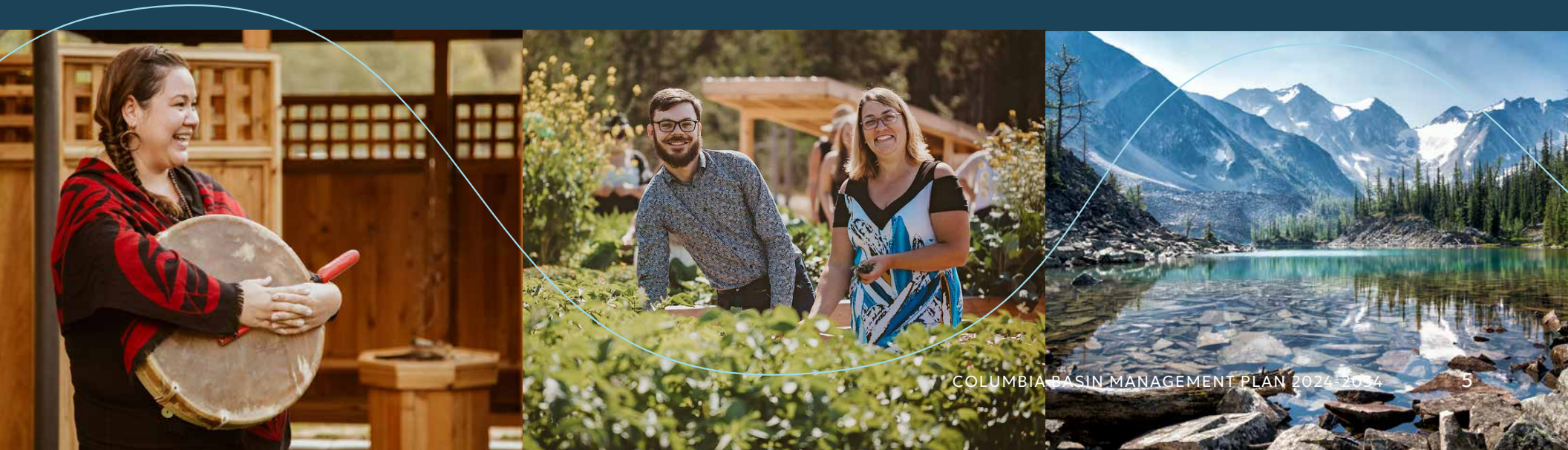
We will listen and seek to understand the voices of First Nations and Métis Peoples in the Basin so that their distinct perspectives help guide our activities.

Support Residents' Efforts

We will continue to convene community conversations and engage with Basin residents to understand evolving priorities. The ways we support residents will adapt to reflect changing circumstances.

Aim for Balance and Recognize Interconnection

We will seek to balance the environmental, social and economic benefits of our activities, including through our investments, support for communities, and our own operations.



values

Stewardship

Our resources are responsibly managed to ensure benefits for both present and future generations.

Engagement

We recognize that active involvement in communities is critical to our overall success.

Respect

We treat people with respect, welcoming varied perspectives and viewpoints, and honouring the history of the Basin and the origins of the Trust.

Accountability

We are accountable to Basin residents for the decisions that we make in fulfilling our mandate.

Empowerment

We help others make their own choices on issues and opportunities that affect their future.

Transparency

We maintain a high level of openness, sharing meaningful and accurate information about our activities.



timespan and implementation

Our strategic direction for the next 10 years.

This Plan is informed by feedback we continuously receive from Basin residents, as well as a comprehensive engagement process throughout 2023.

Residents have shared how important it is that we balance being focused with being responsive to changing conditions in the Basin. Therefore, over the Plan's 10 years, residents can expect approaches and objectives to evolve, progress to be reported, and updates to be shared.

We will seek further input from residents on how to implement the Plan, including through the creation of task forces and advisory committees.

We will engage directly with First Nations and Métis Peoples to listen and understand perspectives on how to support their activities. We will also reflect on and adapt our approaches in response to evolving relationships and understandings with Indigenous Peoples.

This Plan can be read together with the Trust's Charter, the enduring part of the Columbia Basin Management Plan that sets out our mandate, vision and core values.

“The Trust doesn’t exist to speak for residents. It exists to ensure residents’ voices are heard.”

BASIN RESIDENT





our focus: health and resilience

Just like the river that connects the Basin, health and resilience connects the work we do as described in the four focus areas of this Plan.



organization

relationships

communities

**natural
environment**

We will focus on a healthy and resilient organization

GOAL

Ensure the prudent management of our assets and investments so that the organization continues to be self-sufficient and so that future generations benefit from at least the same level of support as current residents.

ACTIONS

- Continue to grow the original endowment provided to the Basin, reinvest for future returns and make risk-based investment management decisions.
- Have positive impacts on the Basin's economy and local employment through prudent investment.
- Repay debt as committed.
- Internally fund organizational costs and operate efficiently and effectively.
- Commit to continuous learning about the history, rights, contemporary presence, perspectives and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples in the Basin.
- Measure and report on the Trust's performance to Basin residents and to the Province.

“Make sure that part of the plan includes living within the means of the organization. Our expectations need to be realistic, and we need to ensure funding is available in the future.”

BASIN RESIDENT



We will focus on healthy and resilient relationships

GOAL

Deepen our relationships with Basin communities, Indigenous Peoples and all those connected to the Columbia River system.

ACTIONS

- Help residents across the Basin come together as neighbours connected to the same river system.
- Build an understanding of:
 - the Columbia River Treaty and its impacts
 - the origin and creation of the Trust and how it operates
 - the regional culture and the power of a united Basin.
- Be present in the Basin by participating in and celebrating community by directly and continually engaging with residents.
- Prioritize strong relationships built on mutual trust, respect and understanding to support the efforts of Indigenous Peoples in the Basin.
- Engage in discussions with residents, including First Nations and Métis Peoples, to:
 - provide focused support, particularly for those who require more assistance or face barriers to engaging with us
 - help residents and communities identify and follow their own paths to achieving their visions.
- Listen to and value the perspectives of Basin youth. Explore ideas together and provide support so they can realize their visions. Seek opportunities to ensure youth can grow, learn and continue to remain in the Basin.



**“Remember
that the river
connects us.”**

BASIN RESIDENT

We will focus on healthy and resilient communities

GOAL 1

Help Basin communities take action to continue to be incredible and vibrant places.

ACTIONS

- Be a collaborative partner on Indigenous-led initiatives to improve well-being in the Basin.
- Partner in efforts to increase and maintain affordable housing stock.
- Support healthy childhood development, including activities for children.
- Help communities support diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Support Basin residents to lead healthy and active lifestyles, with a focus on those who face barriers to doing so.
- Increase opportunities for Basin residents to learn about and access affordable, locally grown, healthy food.
- Support opportunities for Basin residents to enjoy a range of arts, culture and heritage opportunities in the region.
- Support targeted opportunities for Basin residents to obtain training and/or education that leads directly to employment.
- Support local employment and purchases in Basin communities through all the Trust's activities.
- Create opportunities that help small businesses and residents withstand economic conditions in the Basin should they significantly decline.
- Explore ways to support residents who have a desire to contribute toward their community well-being.



**“Get closer to and
more embedded
in community.”**

BASIN RESIDENT

GOAL 2

Support residents and communities to make the Basin more resilient to climate change and to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts.

ACTIONS

- Amplify the success of Basin residents who are rising to the challenges of climate change and inspire optimism and commitment in communities.
- Help communities, including First Nations and Métis Peoples, as they prepare for and take actions to adapt to and mitigate climate change.
- Support climate resilience in the Basin by supporting:
 - communities facing risks like wildfire, extreme weather, drought and lack of access to water
 - food producers and processors so they can ensure the availability of local food
 - Basin residents who are most susceptible to the impacts of climate change.
- Explore clean energy generation options, and ensure energy-efficiency and energy-saving measures continue to be available in the Basin.



“Support initiatives that help communities work together and share resources.”

BASIN RESIDENT

We will focus on a healthy and resilient

natural environment

GOAL

Support community-led efforts to maintain and enhance ecosystems in the Basin, including forests, grasslands, wetlands, riparian areas, bodies of water and the alpine.

ACTIONS

- Support opportunities for Basin residents, including First Nations and Métis Peoples, to steward and lead ecosystem enhancements.
- Support residents to balance the use of land and water for enjoyment with the need to ensure the natural environment is healthy and accessible for future generations.
- Support efforts to conserve Basin lands that are valued by residents and include Indigenous engagement and participation.
- Recognize the importance of water resources to overall Basin well-being, and help ensure access to fresh, safe and healthy water for current and future generations of Basin residents.
- Support efforts of the Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative to reintroduce salmon to the Columbia River system in BC.



“We can never take our environment for granted. Let’s protect what we have—the rivers and mountains are why we live here.”

BASIN RESIDENT

trust roles

Partner

Collaborate with others who share common values and goals to achieve the objectives in this Plan.

Learner

Commit to learning as an organization—including by listening, increasing understanding and spending time together with Basin communities, First Nations and Métis Peoples.

Funder

Provide funding to the activities identified in this Plan and, where appropriate, help communities and organizations with common goals access additional resources from within and beyond the Basin.

Convener and Information Resource

Support residents to learn, come together and share information related to topics in this Plan.

Investor and Steward

Ensure our assets are managed to create sustainable, predictable and appreciating benefits for present and future generations.



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