

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY

SIGNED: 1961
RATIFIED: 1964





U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Bonneville Power Administration

Columbia River Treaty by Key Dates

- **1933-42** – Grand Coulee Dam built
- **1943-44** – Corps of Engineers, International Joint Commission (IJC) begin Columbia River studies
- **1948** – Columbia River flood caused deaths, much property damage in both countries
- **1948-59** – Treaty analyses conducted, Treaty project site evaluations
- **1950** – Flood Control Act of 1950 (HD 531) authorization of the Federal Columbia River Flood Control System within the United States with appropriate interfaces for those parts of the basin within Canada.
- **1961-64** – Columbia River Treaty signed and ratified, plus sale of first 30 years' of Canadian Entitlement to the U.S.; Southern Intertie planning begun; Pacific Northwest Coordination Agreement signed
- **1967-73** – Duncan, Keenleyside, Mica, and Libby dams completed
- **2003** – all Treaty Entitlement energy deliveries made to Canada (end of 30-year sale) now at the U.S.-Canada border
- **2014** – latest at least 10-year notice for termination of Columbia River Treaty in 2024 may be given by either Canada or U.S. if termination by 2024 is desired (may be later if a later termination date is desired).
- **2024** – earliest possible termination date for Columbia River Treaty (September 16, 2024)

Slide 3

General Treaty Provisions

- The Treaty required Canada to construct and operate three large dams (Mica, Arrow, and Duncan) with 15.5 million acre-feet (Maf) of storage in the upper Columbia River basin in Canada for optimum power generation and flood control downstream in Canada and the U.S.
- The Treaty allowed the U.S. to construct and operate Libby dam with 5 Maf of storage on the Kootenai River in Montana for flood control and other purposes. Libby creates power and flood control benefits downstream in Canada and the U.S., and these benefits have no payment requirements.
- U.S. and Canada are to share equally the downstream power benefits (DSB's) produced in the U.S from the operation of Canadian Treaty storage.

If the Treaty is Terminated

- B.C. will operate Mica, Arrow, and Duncan for the benefit of Canada (subject to Boundary Waters Treaty), except for called upon flood control operations. The U.S. will continue to coordinate with Canada on the operation of Libby.
- Canadian Entitlement will cease to exist, and the U.S. will retain all incremental power at downstream U.S. projects from the operation of Canadian storage.
- Without Treaty planning and coordination in place, Canadian storage operations (except for flood control) could be potentially uncertain and un-coordinated.
- Flood control provided by Canadian projects transitions mainly to a "Called Upon" operation after 2024 for the life of the projects.



If the Treaty is not terminated

- B.C. will continue to operate their Treaty storage for optimum power generation downstream in Canada AND the United States.
- Canadian Entitlement will continue.
- Certainty in Canadian storage operations through Treaty planning and coordination.
- Flood control provided by Canadian projects transitions mainly to a “Called Upon” operation after 2024 for the life of the projects.



COMMON THEMES & QUESTIONS (ACCORDING TO TREATY TEAM)

1. Uncertainty of Canadian Operations and Assumptions
2. Climate Change
3. Water Supply
4. Effects on Fish
5. Broader Ecosystem Questions
6. Revised Approaches to Flood Control
7. Effective Use
8. Flood Risk Management
9. Conservation & Alternative Sources of Power
10. Canadian Entitlement
11. Preferential Customers
12. System Reliability & Flexibility
13. Balance and Trade-Offs

SOME OF THE ISSUES AFFECTING OREGON

1. If the treaty is not renewed there could be significant reductions in the flow of water past Umatilla during summer months.
2. There is a group negotiating/working on the allocation of stored water and possibly free flow. This group is made up of a large number of people. The Army Corp. of Engineers and the EPA are the major players.
3. The impact of the Treaty to the rest of the river issues is somewhat tenuous. A number of people are going to be utilizing the renegotiation of the treaty as a primer to extract further concessions from all water users.
4. We must understand the importance of a failure to renegotiate a treaty.
5. There are a series of concerns that have not yet been measured/quantified, and as a result, much of the discussion, so far, is abstract in nature.