

THE FUTURE OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN HANGS IN THE BALANCE



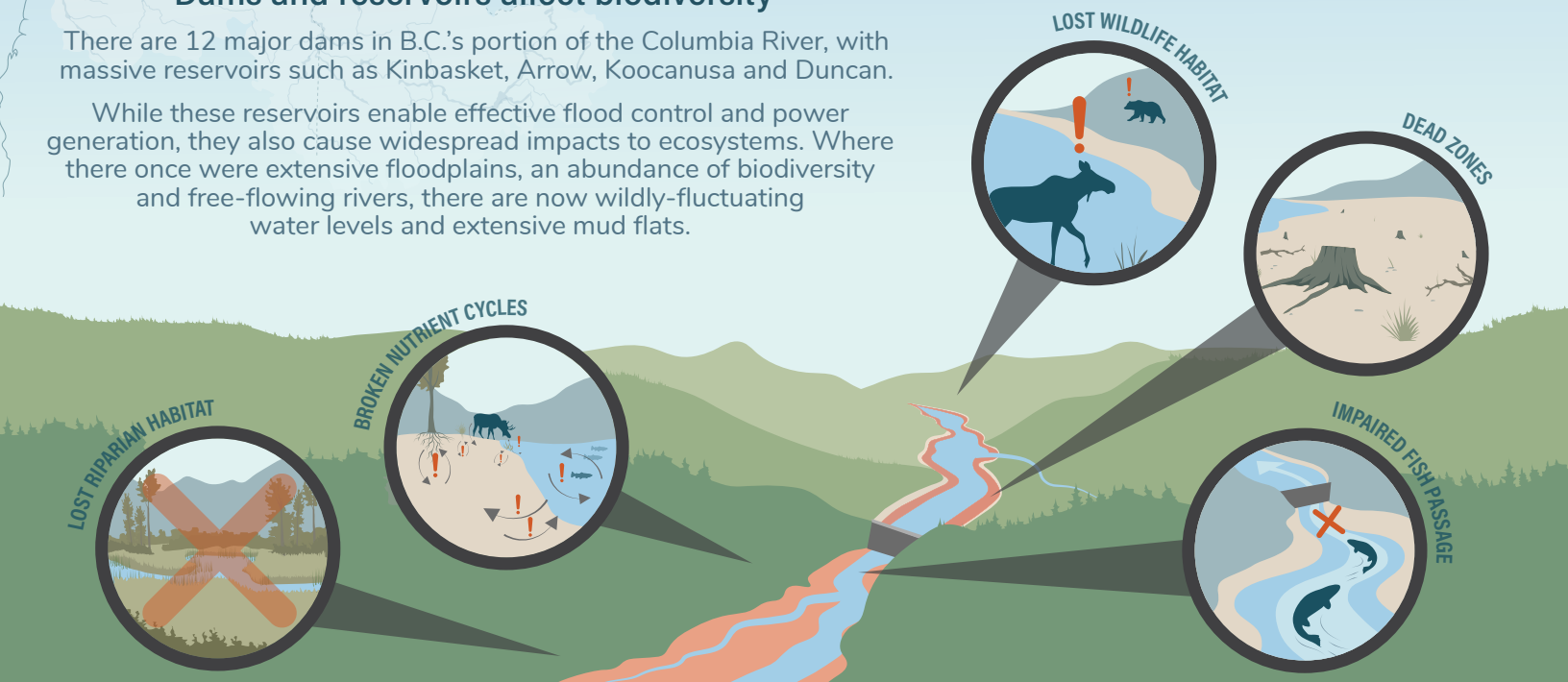
The Columbia is one of the most heavily dammed rivers in the world

The Columbia River Basin spans from the interior of B.C. to the Oregon coast and contributes more water to the Pacific Ocean than anywhere else in North and South America. Home to over 600 species of fish and wildlife, the Basin is also one of the most regulated river systems in the world, with over 80 major dams on the Columbia River and key tributaries.

Dams and reservoirs affect biodiversity

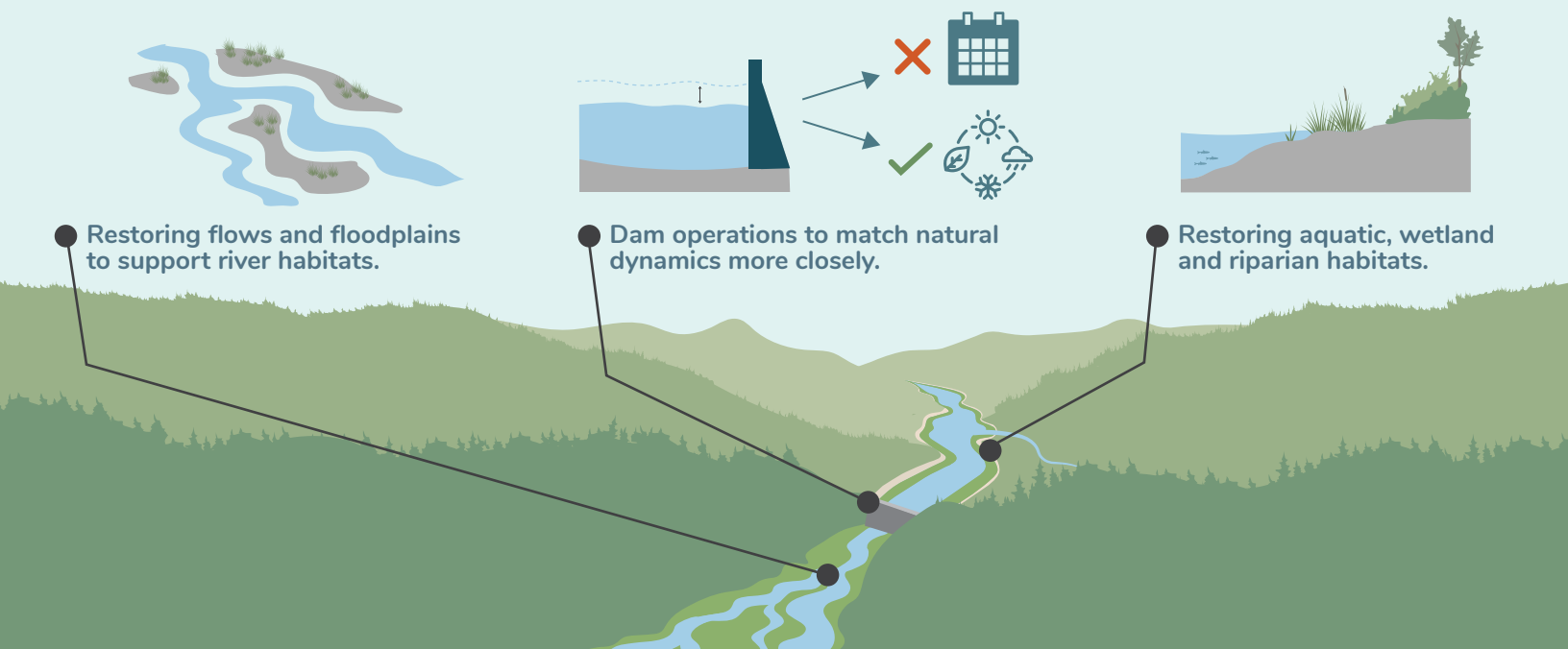
There are 12 major dams in B.C.'s portion of the Columbia River, with massive reservoirs such as Kinbasket, Arrow, Kootenai and Duncan.

While these reservoirs enable effective flood control and power generation, they also cause widespread impacts to ecosystems. Where there once were extensive floodplains, an abundance of biodiversity and free-flowing rivers, there are now wildly-fluctuating water levels and extensive mud flats.



Restoration and changes to dam operations can improve ecosystem function

Fortunately, even small changes in reservoir operations, often paired with on-the-ground restoration, can bring life back to riparian areas and waterbodies with only modest changes to power production and adjustments to flood risk:



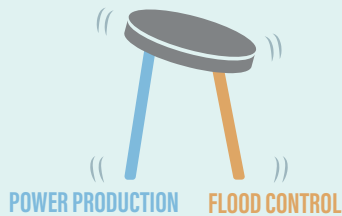
Canada has a unique opportunity to manage reservoirs differently

Management of the Columbia River Basin does not currently prioritize biodiversity and ecosystems. However, Canada and the U.S. are now renegotiating the international treaty that shapes reservoir and river management in the B.C. portion of the Basin.

Once a revised Columbia River Treaty is in place, it will likely be in force for decades.

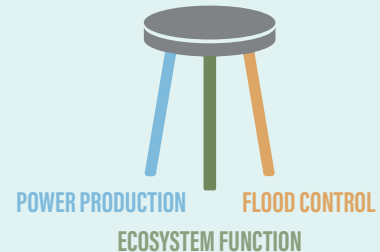
Now is the time to make changes for the future of this Basin.

Current Approach



Let's add a third leg.

What We Need

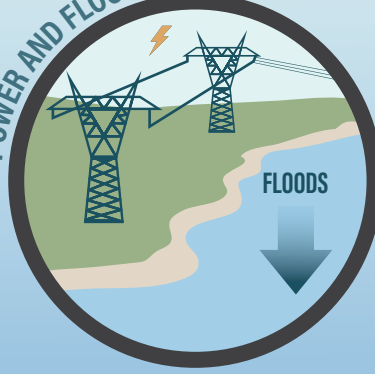


With the environment as a new and equal priority, there will be a mandate to improve reservoir and river ecosystems across the Basin while while meeting needs for power generation and flood risk management.

FUNCTIONING ECOSYSTEMS



POWER AND FLOOD CONTROL



IMPROVED HABITATS



The Upper Columbia Basin Environmental Collaborative (UCBEC) is actively working with Columbia Basin Indigenous Nations and others to improve ecosystem function and assess the feasibility of returning salmon to the Upper Columbia.

The government is actively listening to the public... now is the time to add your voice.

Let the B.C. government know you support adding the environment as a third priority in the Columbia River Treaty negotiations. Contact: columbiarivertreaty@gov.bc.ca

Stay informed to participate in other ways:

Website: engage.gov.bc.ca/columbiarivertreaty

Twitter: @CRTreaty | Facebook: @ColumbiaRiverTreaty

