

# BAC DISCUSSION GUIDE

## 2024 Priorities

Prepared for January 24, 2024 BAC Meeting

### Background

For the first Basin Advisory Committee meeting of 2024, we would like to focus on sharing and discussing BAC member priorities for the year and beyond. We have an hour on our agenda for this discussion. Offered below are some draft priorities that the Tri-Sovereigns developed at the end of 2023. This list of Tri-Sovereign priorities is intended as a starting point; we expect there will be new items suggested by BAC members. The Tri-Sovereigns want to hear from BAC members on their hopes and visions for 2024 before the list is finalized. As a helpful reference the Tier 1 Strategy list is also included from the 2021 Strategic Plan.

### BAC Discussion Questions

1. Thinking broadly about the Walla Walla Basin as a whole (beyond the interests you represent) what do you think the BAC’s priorities should be for 2024?
2. Thinking about your organization’s or interest’s priorities for 2024, what kind of support do you need from BAC members and or the Tri-Sovereigns to implement your priorities?
3. Below is a list of priorities developed with by the Tri-Sovereigns. Which resonate with you and which don’t?

### DRAFT Tri-Sovereign Priorities

TRI-SOVEREIGN DRAFT PRIORITIES 2024-2025	
<b>Major Reports/Studies &amp; Legislation</b>	<b>Bi-State Co-Management</b>
Advance Bi-State Flow Study	Finalize Tri -Sovereign MOU
Continue Progress USGS Study	Implement Developed Water Concept from RCW 90.90.120
Move forward on US Bureau of Reclamation Basin Study	Complete Stateline Basalt Aquifer Characterization
Pass OR Walla Walla Basin Legislation SB 1567 (companion to WA legislation)	<b>Implementation of the 2050 Plan</b>
Draft & Complete WA Legislative Report	Develop Biennial Budget Project List for Potential OCR Funding
<b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>	Greater Awareness & Action During Drought
Increase Federal Agency Participation	Strategies
Support agricultural BAC interests with coordination outside of meetings	Formalize Temporary Winter Water Agreement
New & Updated Communication Materials (Website, storymap, handouts)	Allocate Leftover Partnership Money
Continue Small Group BAC-Tri-Sov Meetings	Evaluate Current Ecology tools (Metering Database etc.)
Consider Restructure of Working Groups as needed	Local 2050 Advocacy Formation for Future Federal Legislative Request
Increase County Engagement	Instream Flows Secured for Tribal Fisheries



## WW2050 Plan Tier 1 Priorities

WW 2050 Strategic Plan Tier 1 Strategies		
Floodplains, Habitat & Fish Passage	1.01	Reconnect floodplain and restore channel complexity Basin wide to reduce flood risk and improve habitat
	1.06	Improve fish passage and habitat conditions in weired and concrete channel sections of flood control project in Mill Creek
	1.07	Restore and protect riparian habitat along tributaries, small streams, and the Walla Walla River Basin wide
	1.09	Protect and improve fish passage at Nursery Bridge and implement levee setback projects upstream and downstream of Milton Freewater
	1.12	Improve flow and timing of fish passage through the Hofer Dam fishway
	1.19	Improve fish passage at Gose Street long term
	1.23	Improve fish passage at Bennington Diversion Dam
Monitoring and Metering	1.1	Develop an overarching monitoring strategy and adaptive management plan for fish, habitat, and water to inform actions and evaluate effectiveness
	1.15	Expand and fund streamflow gages throughout the Basin
	1.2	Improve agricultural irrigation water use metering and reporting programs in WA and OR by installing telemetry and improving data use by agencies and water users
Water Policy and Management	1.11	Address legal implications of Bi-State surface water management and protection of instream flow across the state border and protection of instream flow within States
	1.14	Improve coordination and response to drought management Basin-wide
	1.16	Increase coordination and enforcement of floodplain and riparian regulations and management between Counties and State water management entities
	1.21	Additional Bi-State coordination on groundwater regulation
Streamflows, Groundwater and Water Supply	1.02	Support the ongoing analyses of the Bi-State Flow Study and work toward a recommendation on implementation of the preferred alternative
	1.03	Direct additional winter flow down the Little Walla Walla River to support alluvial aquifer recharge and stream function
	1.08	Decrease surface water diversions or substitute for basalt wells during low flow periods
	1.04	Water rights acquisitions (short-term, long-term, and split season) to restore streamflows
	1.05	Improve and expand managed aquifer recharge (MAR)
	1.13	Expand and support Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) to maintain groundwater quality and capacity
Water Quality	1.17	Increase infiltration of stormwater rather than discharge to surface water bodies and improve coordination and management
	1.18	Upgrade Dayton wastewater treatment plant to meet Ecology requirements and watershed community environmental goals
	1.22	Implement conservation tillage and soil erosion BMPs to decrease nonpoint source pollution