

Science to Policy Summit 2026
Lessons & Opportunities from the Columbia River Basin
Restoration Program
Lacamas Lake Lodge • September 2, 2026

9:30 Check in and registration

10:00 Opening remarks

- Elaine Placido, *Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership*
- Senator Jeff Merkley (video), *US Senate*
- Robin Parker, *US Environmental Protection Agency*

10:20 Panel: Lessons from Monitoring

- Sean Payne, *US Geological Survey*
Tracking Toxics in the Lower Columbia
- Elena Nilsen, *US Geological Survey*
Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Chinook Salmon, Pacific Lamprey, and other Resident Fish Species in the Pacific Northwest
- Will Hobbs, *Washington Department of Ecology*
Washington State Toxics Monitoring and Resident Fish Movement in the Columbia River
- Laura Shira, *Yakama Nation*
Columbia River Mainstem Fish Tissue and Water Quality Monitoring Program

11:20 Panel Q&A

11:35 Lunch

12:20 Panel: Toxic Reduction Results

- Tim Wigington, *Freshwater Trust*
Mid-Snake Toxics and Runoff Reduction Program
- Chris Hathaway, *Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership*
School Stormwater Reduction Program

- Jerry White, Jr. and/or Caroline Keever, *Upper Columbia United Tribes Toxics Reduction Lead – Montana, Idaho, Washington Member Tribes*
- David Gruen, *Oregon Department of Environmental Quality DEQ's Collaborative Plan to Amplify Toxics Reduction Efforts*

1:20 Panel Q&A

1:35 Table discussions – moderator, Elaine Placido, *Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership*

If the grant program were continued, how would your organization use the knowledge gained from previous CRBRP-funded work to reduce toxics in the Columbia River basin?

2:00 Debrah Marriott, *Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership Director Emeritus*

The history of how the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act became a law

2:15 Elaine Placido, *Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership*

Congressional appropriations and future opportunities

2:25 Q&A

2:35 Table discussions

How can your organization support funding efforts for the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program?

2:55 Closing remarks

- Elaine Placido, *Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership*

3:00 Summit closes