Columbia River Basin Restoration Program

Collaboration, Results, and Science

September 2026

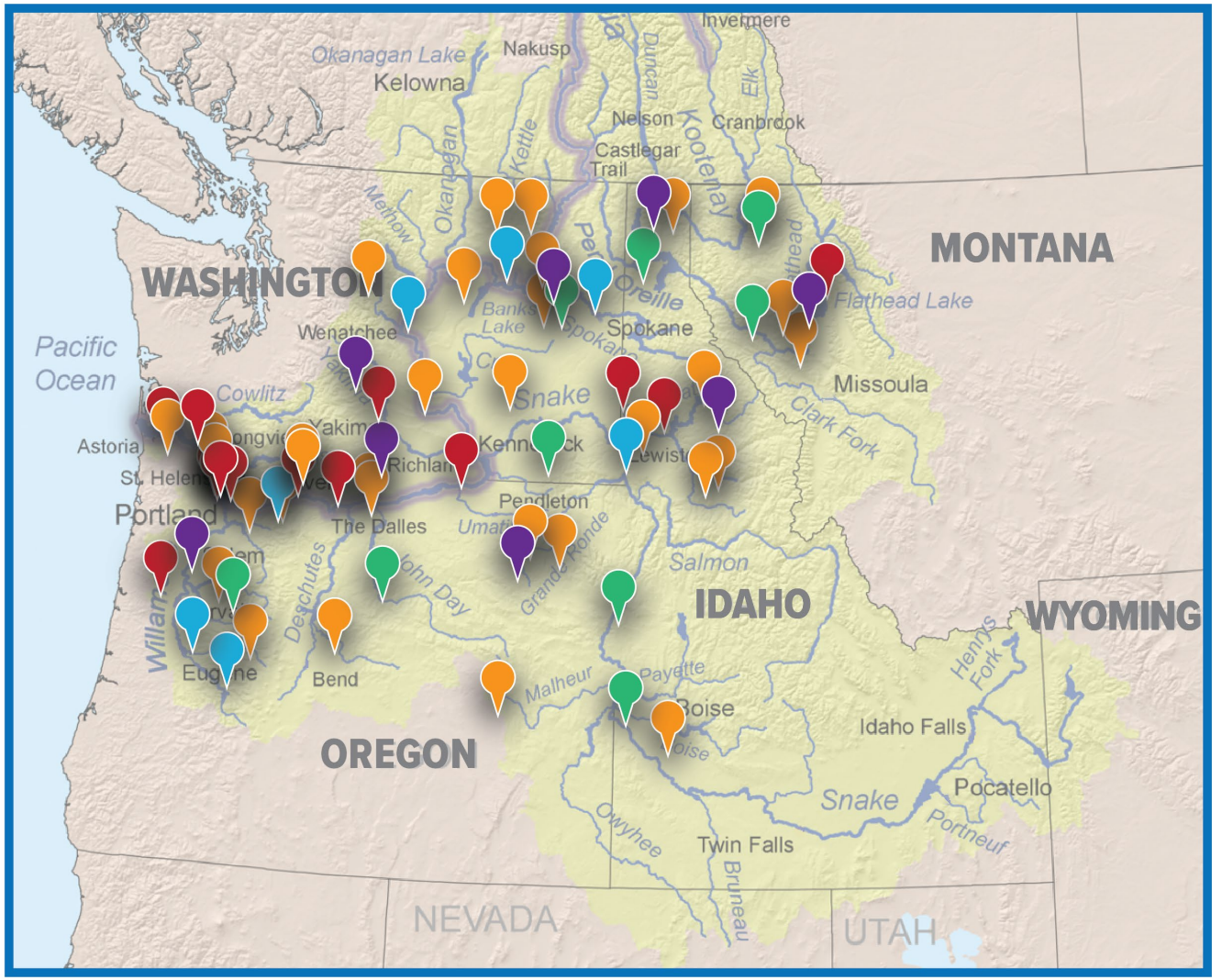
Purpose of the Program

- **Clean Water Act Section 123** directed EPA to establish a Columbia River Basin Restoration Program to:
  - **assess trends in water quality**, collect and assess water quality data, and identify possible causes of environmental problems;
  - **provide grants** to reduce pollution, improve water quality, monitor to evaluate trends, provide public education and outreach; and
  - **establish a working group** to recommend and prioritize projects and actions and review progress.
- Additionally, the EPA's Columbia River Basin Restoration Program supports two of the EPA's pillars:
  - **Pillar 1:** Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
  - **Pillar 3:** Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, Cross-Agency Partnership

The program is grounded in statutory direction, sound science, efficient use of resources, and meeting the needs of local communities by addressing legacy contamination and preventing new pollution through non-regulatory partner actions.

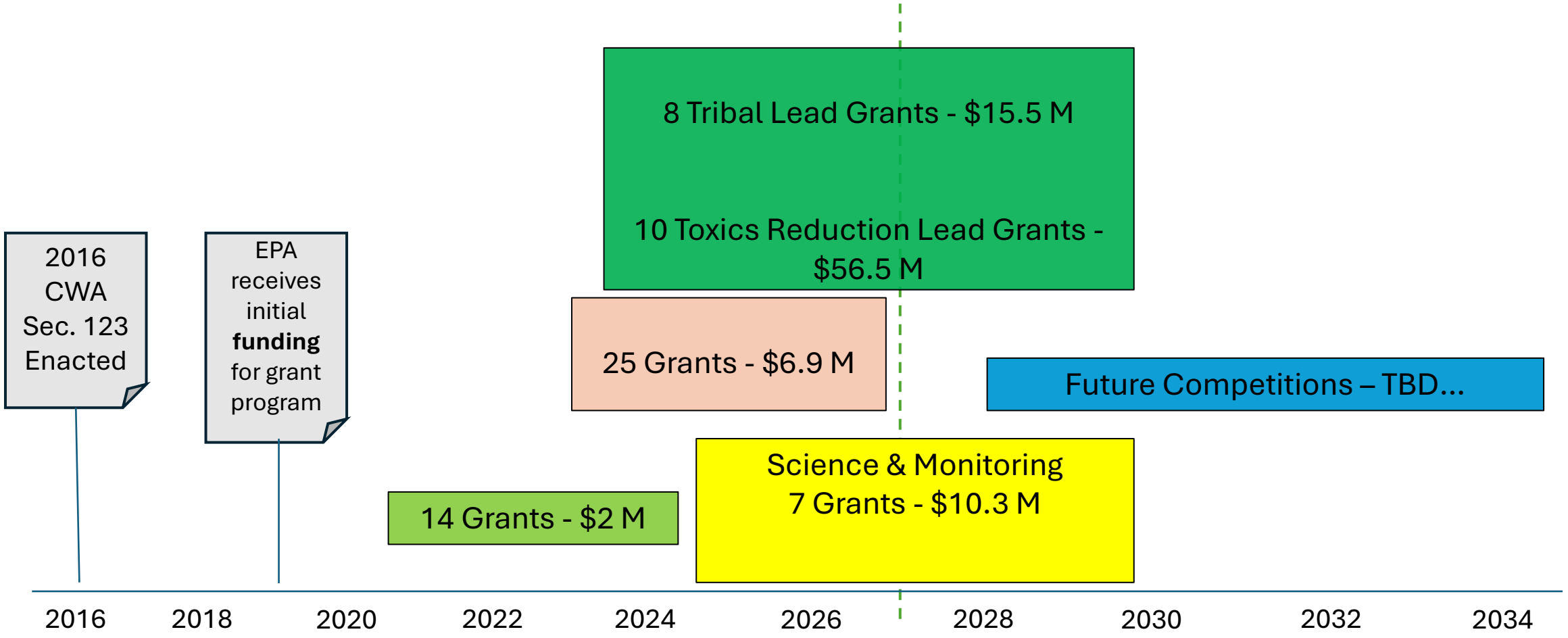
Specifics of the Grant Program

- Since 2020, the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program has awarded **64 grants totaling almost $91 million** to state, Tribal, and local governments, universities, and nonprofits. This does not include over $119 million in leveraged funds from partners within the Basin.
- Eighteen **Toxics Reduction Lead and Tribal Lead cooperative agreements** are underway, with $10 million in **science and monitoring** projects in progress.
- **Focus**: on-the-ground toxics reduction work.



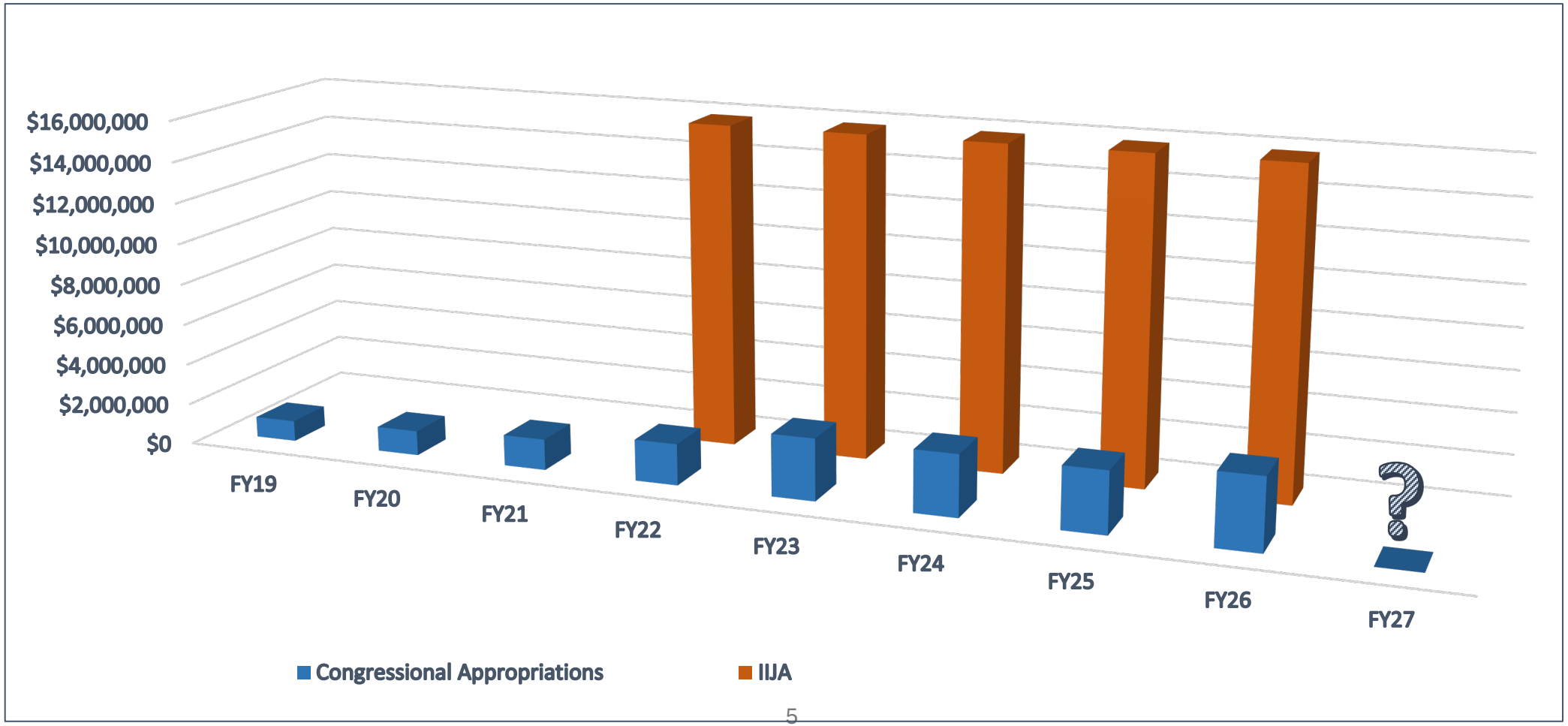
Columbia River Basin Restoration Program

Funding Amounts Over Time



Columbia River Basin Restoration Program

Appropriations Over Time



Results and Grant Achievements

Agricultural Innovation:
- Leveraged $5.6 million of EPA funds into $100 million+ in Idaho Power Company irrigation modernization investments.
- Reduced total phosphorus loading by an estimated 8,000 lbs in 2025; 116 irrigation projects screened for eligibility for 2026.
- 162,000+ acres transitioned to certified sustainable agricultural practices, reducing pesticide use.

Pesticide Stewardship:
- Removed nearly 18,000 pounds of unusable pesticides in Washington.
- Supported 350+ businesses with pesticide chemical spill kits and containment tools.

Runoff Reduction:
- Completed green infrastructure projects and pavement removal at 6 Oregon schools and parks. Construction underway at 3 more in summer 2026, with 9 more planned and 4 more being developed for possible refit by the end of the project period.
- Treated 1.3M+ gallons of stormwater annually using 26 Grattix filtration boxes.

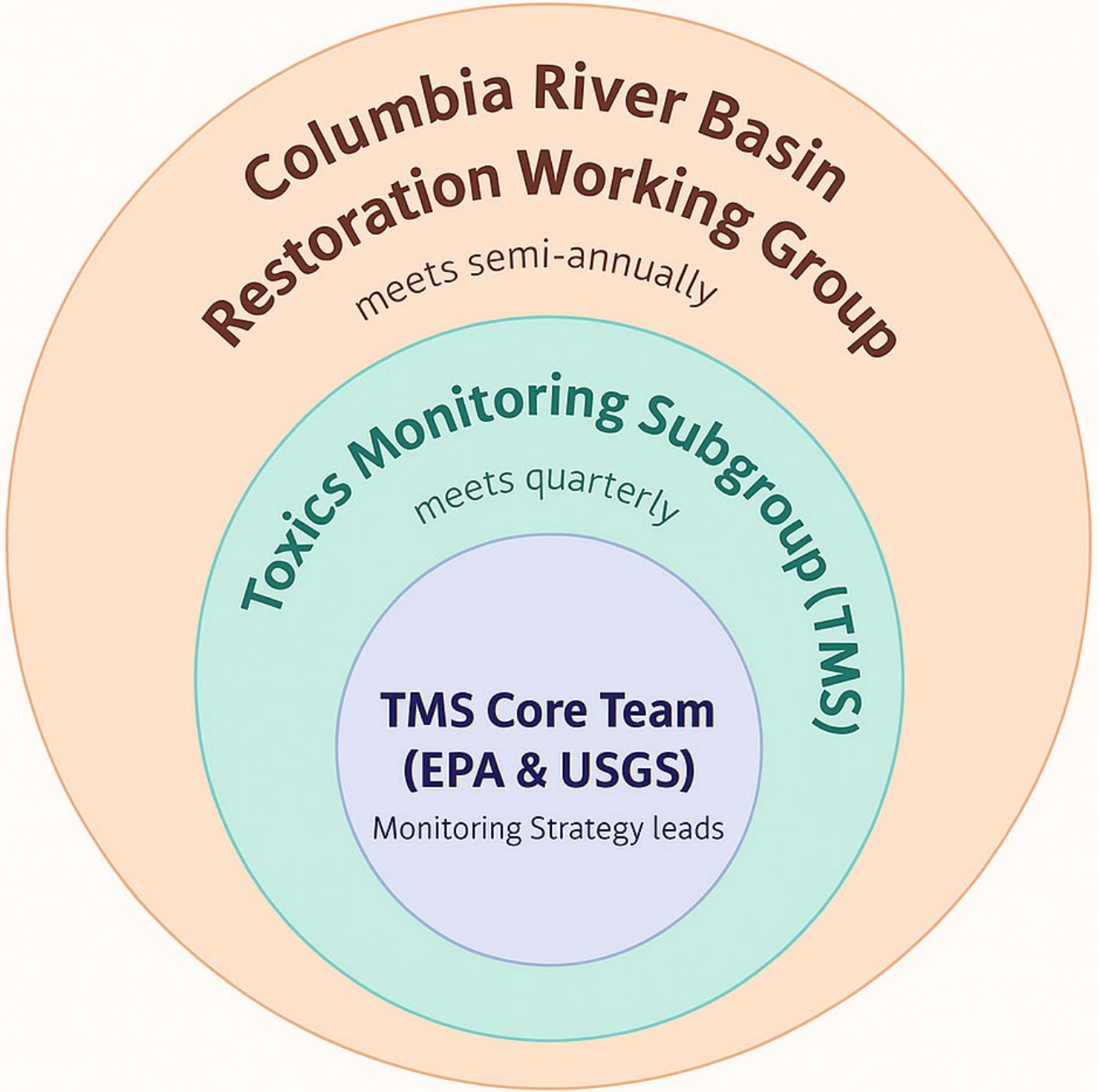
Public Engagement:
- Reached 4M+ people through Basin-wide educational outreach.
- Completed 18 projects addressing septic and stormwater toxics in western Montana.
- Expanded a University of Idaho mercury monitoring program using volunteer citizen science, in 59 sites across Idaho.
- Advanced large-scale septic system analysis.

Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group

The Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group includes over 450 participants from states, Tribes, industries, and non-governmental organizations. The group meets semi-annually to share information on toxics reduction projects and coordinate on monitoring across the Columbia River Basin. Please consider joining us!

Next Meeting (virtual): November 5, 2026, 9 am – 1 pm Pacific

Next In-Person Meeting: April 2027, pending approval



Toxics Monitoring Subgroup

- Subgroup of Working Group
- Shares information on monitoring, and leverages activities within and outside of EPA funded grants

Core Team Members

- Patrick Moran, USGS
- Mark Jankowski, EPA
- Lisa Kusnierz, EPA
- Meghan Dunn, EPA
- Kai Elgethun, EPA
- Ashley Zanolli, EPA
- Sarah Dunn, USGS

Contact us anytime!

gs-crbtoxmon@usgs.gov

Toxics Monitoring Strategy

Vision: A comprehensive, collaborative approach for monitoring toxic pollutants to assess trends and inform water quality protection and restoration activities across jurisdictions and sub-basins in the Columbia River Basin.

2027-2047 Monitoring Strategy Goals

1. Sustain and grow the **partnership to monitor** toxic pollution across the Basin.
2. **Identify and prioritize pollutants** in Columbia Basin waters by evaluating risk to humans and aquatic life.
3. Assess the **status and trends** and locations of priority pollutants in water, sediment, and/or fish.
4. Utilize **new tools and approaches** to evaluate legacy, emerging chemicals, and mixtures.

Scope of Monitoring Strategy

What's In Scope vs. Out of Scope

Monitoring Strategy Focus:
Consistent with Clean Water Act Section 123, the strategy addresses status and trends assessment in water quality, including what to monitor, where, and how.

The Monitoring Strategy DOES NOT:

- Identify implementation responsibilities
- Connect monitoring results to toxics reduction actions (Working Group role)
- Monitor for BMP effectiveness
- Communicate to public audiences (Reports will)
- Address long-term funding needs

CRBRP In Action

32 active grant projects working on the ground,

32 completed

Over 450 Working Group participants – next convening virtually Nov 5

Post 20-year Basin-Wide Toxics Monitoring Strategy to agency website by Winter 2027/2028

Roll Out FY28-31 Monitoring Plan for Strategy Implementation in Winter 2027/2028