



# The Expert Regional Technical Group (ERTG): Description and Discussion

Columbia River Estuary Conference

May 16, 2012

Astoria, Oregon



# Objectives and Content

- Describe the ERTG and its role
- Discuss the ERTG in a question/answer period
- Purpose and genesis
- Composition
- Process
- What the ERTG does and doesn't do
- Work products
- Current work requests
- Contacts for more information
- Questions/answers and discussion



# Purpose and Genesis

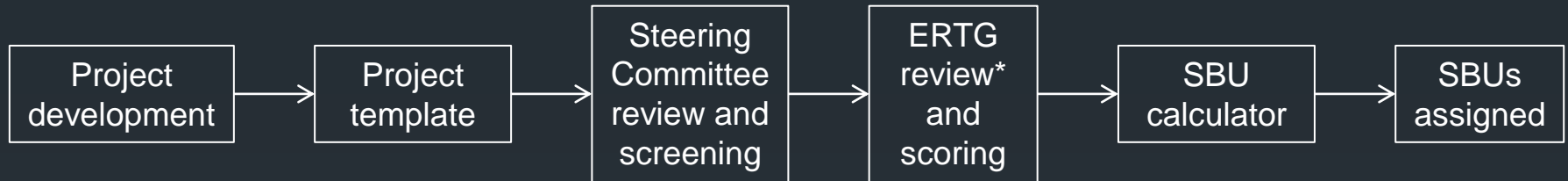
- The purpose of the ERTG is to *assign survival benefits units* for ocean- and stream-type juvenile salmon from estuary habitat actions being implemented by the BPA and USACE in response to the 2008/2010 Biological Opinion on operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System.
- In Reasonable and Prudent Alternative action #37, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) stated, “...*To support [restoration] project selection the Action Agencies will convene an expert regional technical group. This group will use the habitat metrics to determine the estimated change in survival which would result from full implementation...*”
- BPA, NMFS, and USACE formed the ERTG in July 2009.

# Composition

- ERTG Members
  - Dan Bottom (NMFS)
  - Greg Hood (Skagit River Coop.)
  - Kim Jones (ODFW)
  - Kirk Krueger (WDFW)
  - Ron Thom (PNNL)
- Steering Committee (leads)
  - Blaine Ebberts (USACE)
  - Lynne Krasnow (NMFS)
  - Ben Zelinsky (BPA)



# Process



\*Site visits,  
presentations,  
meetings, discussions

- Philosophy: transparent, science-based, documented

# What the ERTG...

## Does do...

- Applies the best available science
- Reviews and scores proposed restoration projects
- Assigns SBUs
- Provides informal feedback on project designs
- Works on assignments from the Steering Committee

## Does not do...

- Provide official review of project engineering designs
- Work on assignments outside the Steering Committee process
- Consult for project sponsors

# Work Products

- Project template (ERTG Doc #2010-01)
- Scoring criteria (#2010-02)
- History and calculator (#2010-03)
- Feedback on calculator (#2011-01)
- Subaction guidance (#2011-02)
- Meeting notes (#2011-03)
- SBU reports (#2011-04)





# Current Work Requests

- Extreme High Water (ERTG Work Request #2012-01)
  - Request: Define, including time period, extreme high water and provide the rationale for this definition.
  - Status: Submittal to the Steering Committee is being processed by BPA and USACE.
- Uncertainties (ERTG Work Request #2012-02)
  - Request: List the key uncertainties and rationale for each that the ERTG faces when scoring prospective restoration projects.
  - Status: Under construction; submittal to the Steering Committee expected in early June.



# Contacts for More Information

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# Discussion: Question and Answer Period

