

Press Releases: Town Hall To Discuss Modernization of the Columbia River Treaty Regime

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

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U.S. Columbia River Treaty Negotiator Jill Smail will lead a town hall March 20, 2019, in Kalispell, Montana on the modernization of the Columbia River Treaty regime. The town hall, which is co-hosted by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, is free of charge, open to the public, and will take place at the Red Lion Hotel from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. This town hall will follow the February 27-28 round of negotiations on the treaty regime in Washington, DC. At the town hall, U.S. government representatives will provide an overview of the negotiations and take questions from the public; feel free to send questions in advance to ColumbiaRiverTreaty@state.gov. For more information on the town hall, including call-in details, please see the [Federal Register Notice](#).

The Columbia River Treaty is an international model for transboundary water cooperation. The 1964 treaty's flood risk and hydropower operations have provided substantial benefits to millions of people on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border. The treaty has also facilitated additional benefits such as supporting the river's ecosystem, irrigation, municipal water use, industrial use, navigation, and recreation. More information can be found on the [Department's Treaty website](#).

As the United States continues bilateral negotiations with Canada, key objectives are guided by the U.S. Entity Regional Recommendation for the Future of the Columbia River Treaty after 2024, a consensus document published in 2013 after five years of consultations among the Tribes, states, stakeholders, public, and federal agencies. The U.S. negotiating team is led by the U.S. Department of State and comprises the Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division, the Department of the Interior, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

To receive periodic updates on events and developments related to the modernization of the Columbia River Treaty regime, please contact

ColumbiaRiverTreaty@state.gov. For press inquiries, please contact WHAPress@state.gov.

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