

Water Policy Interim Committee
Technical Working Group CSKT Compact
Draft Work Plan June 6, 2014

Initial discussions within the CSKT Technical Working Group (TWG) and between individuals indicate that there are three sources of information available for consideration:

- 1) The Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) have produced reports, data, and models (with documentation) that have been presented in several venues.
- 2) The Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission (RWRCC) has evaluated the information from the CSKT which includes additional analyses and modeling.
- 3) Estimates of stream/canal discharge and consumptive use by crops by individual landowners has been documented and presented to the TWG by at least one interested party. Although there was no independent effort to collect and model data throughout the compact area, there may be pertinent and relevant information and questions to specific technical issues for the TWG to consider. There are also reports by US Bureau of Reclamation that may provide additional information related to crop water use and other water budget components.

The TWG will hold a series of working meetings, open to the public, that will explore each of these areas. The RWRCC and the CSKT have agreed to present information to the TWG, one individual has provided testimony as well as documentation, and there has been tentative interest expressed by other groups. The meetings will be conducted with interaction between the TWG and the presenter; topic specific questions, comments, or responses by the public (individuals and groups) will be sought, and moderated by the TWG.

A detailed examination stream flow data, which would include QA/QC checks, data validation, and an evaluation of data-usability, would consume far more time than is available. However, the TWG will review some of the information with the RWRCC to establish their confidence in the data.

Examination of the models used will consider several aspects including model input data, range of scenarios modeled, calibration, modeled results, and negotiated values. The latter aspect is, of course, not one subject to examination by the TWG, but where applicable and appropriate, its provenance will be examined.

The TWG will present a two-part summary of its work to the WPIC:

Part 1: Balance-Regier Proposal questions will be addressed as appropriate with a draft reply to the WPIC at its July 2014 meeting. Revision or refinement of questions by Representatives Nancy Ballance and Keith Regier and the WPIC would be returned to the TWG for additional work.

Part 2: The TWG will provide a draft summary of findings to the WPIC at its August 2014 meeting. Overall, a significant benefit of the interactive meetings is to provide a public venue to discuss the “technical” basis of the compact; the goal of the meetings will be to vet relevant and applicable technical questions and issues raised by interested parties for the public record. The TWG summary will present the issue/question and the response/answer, if determined and as applicable. A final summary with comments incorporated will be presented to WPIC in September 2014.