Columbia River Treaty
Columbia River Basin

15% of area in Canada

35-50% of water flows from Canada – highest during big freshet years
Welcome to The Source of the Columbia River

This is a special place. Springing from this quiet mouth, one of North America’s greatest rivers starts its journey to the sea. The Columbia River has seen a lot of changes, but some of the landscapes are still wild. They provide vital habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

This area has also been a magnet for people, thanks to its unique geography. This narrow strip of land between two rivers was first a source of food and later the site of a canal for steamboats. Today, people are still drawn to it—to enjoy the mouth, watch birds, or canoe the river.

Please feel free to stroll along the interpretive trail. We hope you enjoy your experience here at The Source and carry it in your heart with you.

KEY
- Legend
- Interpretive trails
- Visitor center
- Nature trails
- Interpretive trail
- Map

What are Greenways?

Greenways are corridors of land that owned communities to each other and the river. They provide habitat for wildlife, open access to natural environments for people. Work from Greenways is in line with the national strategy on greenways. Many more including greenways will be developed to benefit the local community and help preserve the heritage. Greenways are also designed to attract water and protect the environment. Greenways can be managed by people or community groups and are an important tool in the protection of green areas.
We Invite Your Feedback

Pick up a paper copy or get it online by googling AKBLG CRT

Send feedback:
by email to our Executive Director:
cindypearce@telus.net

Or send written
comments to: CRT LGC,
Box 2029, Revelstoke,
BC V0E 2S0
DUNCAN DAM

For Your Information:

DUNCAN DAM

Duncan Dam, located 42 kilometers north of Nelson, was the first of three B.C. Hydro Columbia Treaty Dams. Construction of the earth-filled storage dam across the Duncan River Valley started September 24, 1964 and it was declared operational on July 31, 1967. The 40 meter high structure, which extends 800 meters across the valley, has created a 45,000-hectare reservoir that provides 1,7 trillion cubic meters of live storage.

Concern for the Environment

The Meadow Creek Spawning Channel is believed to be the longest in the world for fresh water fish and is the first river constructed for salmon.

An ideal waterfront nesting and feeding habitat has been developed at Duncan Lake through the building of the Duncan reservoir area formerly used by migratory fish.

Recreation

Each year Hydro's reservoir debris program removes wood debris from Duncan reservoir so that it may be used for recreational purposes. The Duncan Dam area provides many recreation opportunities for nature lovers. Duncan reservoir contains a beach and a boat launching ramp at However, 5 km north of the dam on the west shore. A visitor center, picnic area, and washrooms facilities is provided by B.C. Hydro. A forest Service campground and beach is located on the east shore about 6 km above the dam.

Quick facts

- Intakes: The water enters the powerhouse from the reservoir. They are equipped with large gate and steel "pump" gates which prevent loss from entering the tunnels and damaging the discharge gates.
- Tunnels: The two concrete-lined tunnels are made of steel and are used to control water from the reservoir for power generation.
- Discharge Gates: Two radial arm gates are used to control water from the reservoir for power generation.
- Spillway: The spillway gates are used for water release. They represent the discharge gates, usually during periods of high reservoir.

Columbia River Treaty dams included Mica, Hugh Keenleyside and Duncan in Canada, and Libby, Dam in the United States. Other dams in the Columbia River system are Kootenay Canal, completed in 1978, Seven Mile in 1978, and Revelstoke in 1984.