

## STAR's Comments on Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Report:

### Executive Council Recommendation 1:

- The Reaching 2025 report should be better reflected in the report and used to guide next steps for the partnership especially for how GITs should report on progress for 2023 and 2024, and for greater specificity of how to best integrate the latest scientific findings into decision making.
- Changes to Goals and Outcomes may need to be considered at the same time as restructuring of Goals and Outcomes and breaking down silos.
- The focus should be on making changes to existing Outcomes *and* how they are interpreted, but the language in this recommendation should also reflect the possibility of new Outcomes.

### Executive Council Recommendation 2:

- The complexity of the CBP may need to be better managed rather than simplified. Efforts to streamline and simplify have the potential to cause unintentional consequences. New teams have been added despite talk about simplifying, creating workload issues. The third-party described in this recommendation may provide more support than just facilitation if the one enlisted has experience on program restructuring too.

### Science:

- The recommendations don't fully acknowledge all of the reports and new data that is available already.
- More specific recommendations and specific examples are helpful when recommending integration of scientific findings in decision making. For example recommendation language could be, "identify the latest scientific advances that could be used to better inform decision-making."
- Social science is a highly desired need and the addition of social scientists to the partnership can increase CBP capacity for productive engagement with stakeholders and communities.

### Restoration and Conservation:

- The pillars of "science, restoration and partnership" are not actually codified in the Watershed Agreement, but have acted as guiding posts, so elevating conservation in this way would still be impactful. The CBP needs to utilize conservation as a framework for their work.

- STAR generally supports the addition of conservation but would like to note that it is important to consider the value (ecologically, socially, culturally) of what is being conserved.

Partnership:

- Utilization of external contractors to address CBP challenges should involve them working very closely **with** CBP rather than doing something **for** CBP.
- Partnering with NGOs more to enhance our capacity to deliver technical assistance and community engagement.