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Subobjective: Columbia River

EPA met its commitment for the Columbia River subobjective and was only able to report partial results for a second measure (Figure 91).

Figure 91: Columbia River Subobjective Five-Year Trend



FY 2012 ACS Code	Abbreviated Measure Description	Results and Commitment Status						Appendix Page Number (D-0)/ Figure Number
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Subobjective 2.2.12 Restore and Protect the Columbia River Basin								
CR-SP53	Number acres Columbia River contaminated sediments cleaned up (cumulative)		0	10	20	63	79	C-68
CR-SP54	Percent reduction Columbia River contaminants in water & fish					92%		C-68

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More than 1,200 miles long, the Columbia River spans portions of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, and Montana, as well as a substantial portion of British Columbia. The 260,000-square-mile Columbia River Basin includes ecosystems that are home to a variety of biologically significant plants and animals and supports industries vital to the Pacific Northwest, including sport and commercial fisheries, agriculture, transportation, recreation, and electrical power generation.

FY 2012 Performance Highlights and Management Challenges

The Columbia River Program cleaned up an additional 16 acres of contaminated sediment at the Zidell cleanup site in the Lower Columbia River in FY 2012. The program exceeded its commitment of a cumulative total of 63 acres cleaned up since FY 2006, with a total of 79 acres cleaned up as of 2012. This is a significant accomplishment for the health of the Columbia River, as sediment cleanup is complicated and takes time. These cleanups provide a significant contribution to reducing toxics in the Columbia River.

Over the past few years, EPA has measured the reduction in contaminants of concern in the water column and fish in the Columbia River. Originally, the Agency selected five sites in the Columbia River basin to monitor, but because of limited resources, the program was only able to monitor at the West Prong Little Walla Walla River site (South of Stateline Road, Oregon) in FY 2012. At this site, there was a 95% decrease in the average and maximum detection levels between 2006 (baseline year) and 2011 for Chlorphyrifos and 100% reduction in azinphos-methyl. No data are available for the other sites.

