

# Framing the Next Phase(s)

A Hybrid Approach to Exploring and Recommending Flow Changes  
on the Nechako System



# Nechako WEI Process Steps



## We are here!

### Phase 1 (Immediate Term)



Flow alternatives within the existing water budget for the Nechako system

### Phase 2 (Near & Med Term)



Flow Alternatives that would explore more significant changes and may require regulatory authorizations and potential changes to existing agreements

### Phase 3 (Med & Longer Term)



Flow Alternatives that explore flow changes in combination with new water management facilities and would require new authorizations and EAs

# Assessment Process of Flow Alternatives – in a Snapshot

## Purpose

To explore and determine ways to improve water management operations on the Nechako, given the multiple and competing water uses

## Schedule

- **Phase 2 & 3** TBD – largely driven by the technical work (guided by TWG) to model & assess the effects of different Flow Alternatives



## Planning Framework

Structured Decision Making (consistent with *Provincial WUP Guidelines*)

## WEI Main Table

To collaboratively share interests; identify and assess different flow alternatives; and **aim to reach agreement on a preferred (and balanced) flow regime** for the water control facilities

# Some Reflections & Observations

Some observations from the Planning Team on what we learnt during the assessment of Phase 1 Flow Alternatives,

- There was **very little water available to re-shape** and develop new flow alternatives without significant losses in hydropower generation (Tier 2) for many water years.
- Many of the **Performance Measures were insensitive** and did not show significant improvements (benefits) to many water uses because of,
  - The **magnitude of flow differences** across some of the flow alternatives were fairly insignificant
  - In some cases, **key performance measures** were either (a) **incomplete**, (b) **too coarse** and high level to provide an accurate assessment of an effect, and/or (c) associated with **too much uncertainty** and requiring more detailed studies to be carried out.
- This was representative of the final recommended flow alternative that was agreed to that had limited demonstrable benefits according to the PMs
- However, the Main Table recognized this and recommended 37 new studies to be carried out over the next 2 to 3 years

# Some Reflections & Observations

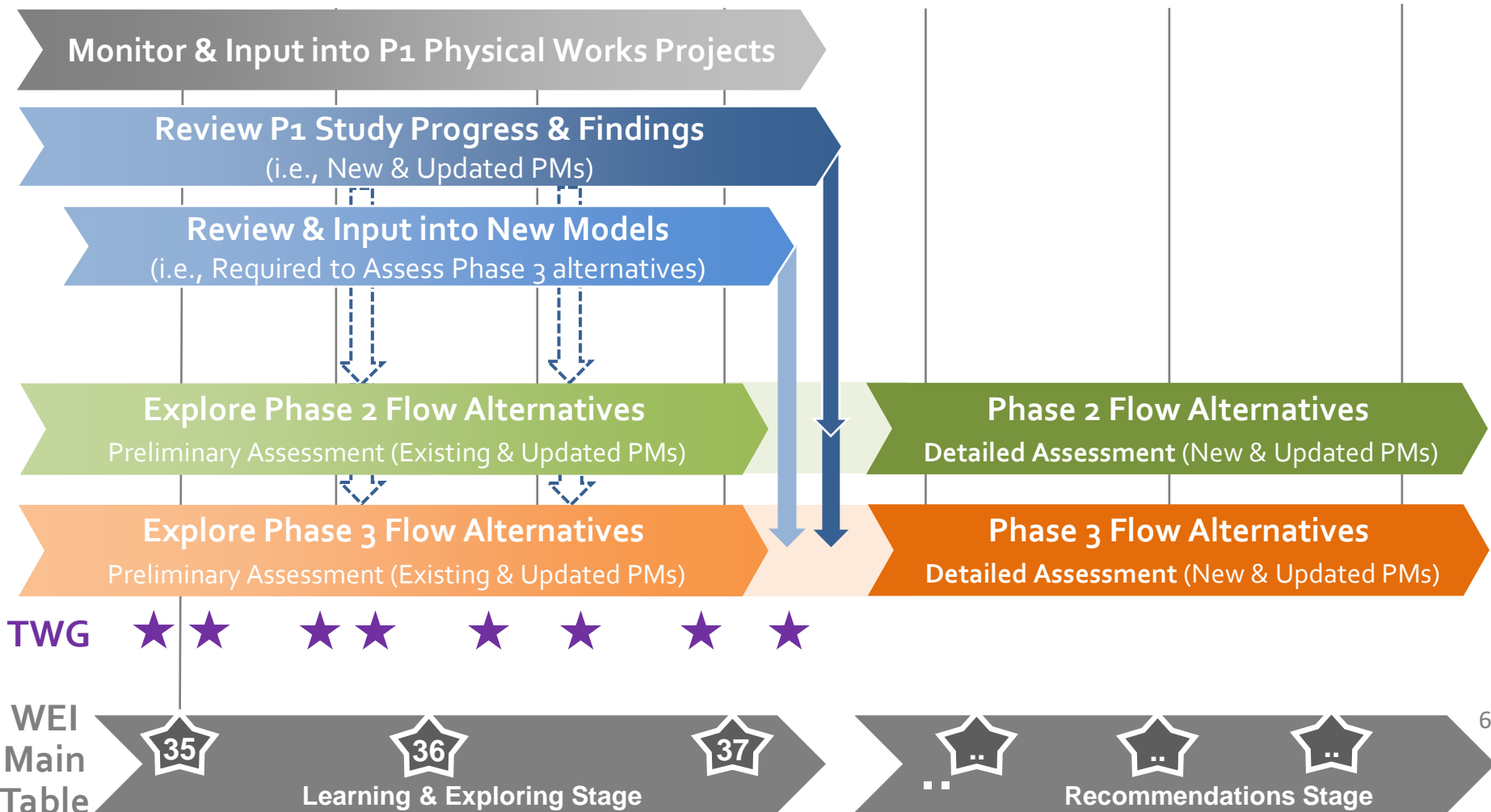
A key aspect of the 37 recommended studies was,

- To address key uncertainties associated with the new Flow Alternative 6A and better ensure there are no unintended consequences
- **Primarily** the new studies are meant to better characterize potential effects (impacts and benefits) associated with making more significant flow changes with the exploration of different Phase 2 and Phase 3 flow alternatives
- Accordingly, the new studies are central to making informed future water management decisions and balancing more difficult trade-offs that improve the health of the Nechako system
- **Therefore, if we do NOT have confidence and trust in the current PMs, it is unlikely that we will reach agreement on flow changes that show uncertain benefits but have significant impacts!**

So where does this leave us for moving into  
Phase 2 and Phase 3?

# A Proposal – New Hybrid Phase

The Planning Team is proposing a new hybrid approach for Main Table’s next phase of work, as follows:



# A Proposal – New Hybrid Phase

**Questions  
and  
Thoughts**

