



2006 Annual Report

"I want to acknowledge the outstanding work performed by the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association."

U.S. Rep. Brian Baird
March 14, 2006 on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives before passage of the WRDA Section 214 extension



PNWA - Delivering Success in 2006

The following accomplishments would not have happened without PNWA's leadership and advocacy ...

Snake River dredging completed

Full 14 feet now available. Navigation interests led by PNWA won the right to dredge the Snake River by negotiating settlement of the Snake River dredging lawsuit. Dredging was completed in March 2006, leaving the Snake River at full authorized depth for the first time since 1999.

Permitting efficiencies extended

Extension of 214 passed. As the session came to a close, Congress passed a bill conceived by PNWA staff that extended Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Section 214 for two years, until December 31, 2008. Sec. 214 allows public entities to contribute funds to the Corps to speed up project review. This avoided a sunset of that capability. PNWA is working to make Section 214 permanent in WRDA in 2007.

Continued dredge fleet success

Proposals to eliminate restrictions. This year, PNWA successfully lobbied for inclusion of language removing operating restrictions from the federal hopper dredges *Essayons* and *Yaquina* in both the Senate WRDA and FY2007 Senate Energy & Water appropriations bills. PNWA secured support from AAPA and Members of Congress outside the region. We will work to protect these provisions as Congress takes up WRDA and appropriations bills early in 2007.

BiOp victory in court

Ruling protects navigation. Judge Redden rejected a motion to modify flow measures for the salmon migration season that began in April. This ruling maintains reservoirs at levels that fully meet navigation requirements. Judge Redden ruled May 22 to combine this Columbia River BiOp remand with the Upper Snake River BiOp, which could bring new challenges to navigation, irrigation and hydropower. PNWA is managing our members' intervention in this lawsuit.

PNWA played a major role in accomplishing the following ...

Funding goals advanced

Most projects receive Administration funding. Overall, PNWA's supported projects fared well in the President's FY2007 budget. Nearly all inland navigation projects were adequately funded, and PNWA achieved great success in having nearly all of our shallow draft ports included.

Work on Energy & Water Appropriations continues. The FY2007 House Energy & Water Appropriations bill included increased funding for the Elliott Bay Seawall study and dredging at Coos Bay, but raised major concerns by funding Corps operations and maintenance on a regional basis.

PNWA is pleased to report that the Senate funded projects individually, rejected the Administration's proposal to move ESA compliance activities to the O&M account, and rejected the regionalized/watershed approach to funding O&M. PNWA successfully lobbied for an additional \$8,863,000 in funding for nine projects in the Senate Energy & Water appropriations bill. PNWA is working to ensure the highest amount of funding when Congress completes work on appropriations early in 2007.

Navigation improvements continue

Jetty repair underway. Repair of the Columbia River north jetty is complete, and work on the south jetty has begun. Repairs are necessary to prevent potentially catastrophic failure that could jeopardize navigation and international trade. PNWA secured \$8.6M in the President's budget, and an additional \$1M in the Senate appropriations bill to complete repairs to the south jetty in 2007. PNWA has secured \$916K in the Senate bill to complete a major rehab report on the jetties.

Channel deepening continues. Dredging for the Columbia River channel deepening began after resolving lengthy court, funding and ESA consultation issues. River miles 3 - 32, 42 - 48, and 91 - 104 have been deepened to 43 feet. With anticipated FY2007 funding, another 20 miles of the navigation channel will be deepened to 43 feet.