

PNWA Climate Change Agenda

For over 75-years, PNWA has advocated for the development of low cost, fuel efficient and clean infrastructure to support our region's economy and environment. To continue our efforts, the following statements have been included in our 2010 Priority Action Agenda:

Transportation Efficiencies

Maintain and improve navigation capabilities. Maximizing navigation capabilities is the best solution for meeting America's need for environmentally responsible, efficient and affordable transportation. It is the least polluting and most fuel efficient mode of transportation. Each year, barging on the Columbia and Snake Rivers keeps 700,000 trucks off the highways running through the sensitive airshed of the Columbia River Gorge. Barges get 576 ton-miles to the gallon. That is better than rail and truck combined. Supporting navigation means fewer trucks on the road, less road congestion, greater public safety, and a cleaner environment.

Improve rural and intermodal rail connections. Rural communities need a robust short line rail capability to reduce truck hauls from farm and factory to the market. After navigation, rail is the cleanest way to move cargo.

Energy Efficiencies

Maintain hydropower capabilities. Hydropower is a renewable resource. Federal policy should reflect that. Hydropower generates low cost, carbon-free electricity and is imperative to maintaining a clean environment in the Northwest. It would take 3 nuclear, 6 coal-fired, or 14 gas-fired power plants to generate the same peaking capacity provided by the four lower Snake River dams. Hydropower reduces carbon dioxide emissions by an amount equal to the annual exhaust of 62.2 million passenger cars, or half of the cars currently on U.S. roads.

Support alternative energy development. Support development of new wind, solar, wave and biomass energy projects to meet regional demand. Integrate renewables while maintaining system reliability and meeting customer load requirements.

Ecosystem Restoration

- Support Sec. 536 funding for ecosystem restoration in the lower Columbia River estuary
- Support extending the duration and increasing the funding authority for Sec. 536
- Support funding the cleanup of toxic and conventional pollutants in the Columbia River basin
- Support the Columbia River Restoration Act to fund toxics reduction and clean up

Air Emissions Reductions

- Support the global reduction of greenhouse gases without impacting domestic jobs or manufacturing
- Support federal grant funding for diesel emission reductions in DERA, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act
- Expand DERA grant eligibility criteria to include attainment areas
- Encourage port and towboat members to continue transition to cleaner power sources
- Fund the Clean Diesel Initiative grant program at the Congressionally-authorized level of \$200M

Streamline the Permitting Process

Since 2000, PNWA has been working with Congress and the federal agencies to help identify and overcome barriers, and expedite the permitting process for economic and environmental projects. We have had great success. Accomplishments include peer review of the Northwestern Division's permitting processes, Corps Headquarters assigning additional regulatory staff to the Seattle District, revision of the Sediment Evaluation Framework (SEF), and the implementation and extension of WRDA Section 214. We continue to work to these ends, including ongoing efforts for Section 214 permanence and to address inefficiencies in the internal processes of the federal agencies.



Working for
environmental and
economic balance
in the Pacific
Northwest



PNWA

PNWA is proud to represent navigation and hydropower interests. Navigation is the most fuel efficient and least polluting way to transport cargo. Hydropower is renewable, and produces zero air emissions. Both contribute to a clean environment while providing for a strong economy in the Pacific Northwest.

PNWA has worked to support environmental initiatives while maintaining economic growth for the region. Highlights include:

- PNWA staff co-chaired the Lower Columbia River Bi-State Water Quality Study.
- PNWA staff chaired the Lower Columbia River Estuary Program Management Committee, completing the management plan to improve water quality and restore the river's ecosystem.
- PNWA staff is a member of the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership Board of Directors.
- PNWA helped craft Sec. 536 of WRDA, which authorized \$30 million in funding for ecosystem restoration projects on the Columbia River.
- PNWA has advocated every year for ecosystem restoration appropriations under Sec. 536 and for Columbia and Snake River fish mitigation appropriations.
- PNWA supports additional ecosystem restoration project funding in the Columbia River, Oregon Coast and Puget Sound to ensure the long-term health of the region's environment and economy.
- PNWA leads a national coalition to make WRDA Section 214 permanent. This authority provides a more efficient permitting process, reduces permitting backlogs, and has led to expedited implementation of environmental restoration and economic development projects in the Pacific Northwest and California.
- PNWA played a key role in breaking a log jam between the Corps of Engineers, EPA and Congress, allowing the Corps to budget for environmental cleanup of the U.S. Moorings Superfund site on the Willamette River. This is the home of the federal dredges *Essayons* and *Yaquina*.
- PNWA negotiated a settlement with the Corps of Engineers and National Wildlife Federation regarding dredging on the Lower Snake River. The settlement allowed dredging to move forward, and also will result in the preparation of a Programmatic Sediment Management Plan (PSMP) for the Snake River. PNWA is seeking funding in FY2010 to enable the Corps to continue work on the PSMP.
- PNWA continues to actively participate in regional forums seeking effective salmon recovery measures while maintaining a healthy environment and strong regional economy.
- PNWA supports hydropower as a clean, carbon-free and truly renewable resource, and believes that federal policy should reflect that.
- PNWA works to secure funding to maintain the existing Federal Columbia River Power System dams generating this green energy source for the Northwest.

About PNWA. PNWA is a regional association representing ports, steamship and towboat operators, grain and forest products shippers, electric utilities and other economic development and local government interests in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and California. We address federal policy and funding affecting transportation, trade, tourism, energy and the environment before Congress and federal agencies.

Nearly every decision, process and project undertaken by PNWA and our members now includes an environmental component, ranging from reducing the use of natural resources, recycling, environmental restoration projects, and upgrading to more efficient technologies in their buildings, land development and equipment.

To read more about what our individual members of PNWA are doing to reduce impacts and improve the environment, log on to: www.pnwa.net/new/Articles/PNWA_Environmental_initiatives.pdf