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Lower Monumental lock and dam receives \$14 million in stimulus funds

Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) is pleased to announce that the Lower Monumental lock and dam (LoMo) received \$14 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). This injection of stimulus money should allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers enough time to design and construct a new downstream lock gate for placement during the planned 16-week Columbia Snake River System extended lock outage that will begin in December 2010.

"U.S. Senator Patty Murray was the key reason LoMo received this funding. The region owes a big thank you to her for her diligent work with the Corps and Administration to secure this funding," said Glenn Vanselow, executive director of Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA). "The entire Northwest delegation has been supportive of this project and we thank them for their continued support of navigation on the Columbia and Snake Rivers," Vanselow added.

LoMo is located on the Snake River and is an essential component of the Columbia Snake River System export gateway. On average, this project supports the movement of over 3.3 million tons of cargo and helps to sustain the largest U.S. gateway for wheat and barley exports.

Just one typical 4-barge tow on the Columbia Snake River System moves cargo that would otherwise have to be shipped in 140 jumbo hopper rail cars, or 538 tractor trailers. 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.

About PNWA. For 75 years, PNWA has been the regional leader in working with Congress, federal agencies and regional decision makers on federal policy in support of transportation, trade, economic development and environmental sustainability in the Pacific Northwest. PNWA represents multiple industries in the public and private sectors in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and northern California. Members include public ports, navigation, transportation, international trade, agriculture, forest products, energy and governmental interests.

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