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PNWA is pleased to announce the launch of a new website, www.snakeriverdams.com. The website has information about the dams' role in ensuring safe and efficient navigation and providing clean, renewable hydropower, as well as showcasing the incredible successes with salmon returns on the river. We hope it will serve as a resource about the many benefits these unique and vital pieces of federal infrastructure provide for our region. The website also features a letter stakeholders can sign, demonstrating their support for the Snake River locks and dams.

The completion of the Snake River dredging project has put the dams in the news again and it is extremely important to ensure the public is hearing factual information about how important these dams are to the entire Northwest. Our website shows how the Snake River dams provide key economic benefits to the region, and also highlights the success our region is celebrating as a result of historic collaboration to protect and enhance our iconic fish runs. Please feel free to share this information with your members and with the public. We welcome your feedback, as well as any additional information you would like to feature on the site. Please direct your feedback to Peter Godlewski at peter.godlewski@pnwa.net.

Snake River dredging complete

On Thursday, February 26, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District announced the completion of maintenance dredging on the lower Snake River. The work started on January 12 and occurred at the downstream lock approach for Ice Harbor Dam, the Lower Granite pool at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers, and berthing areas for the Ports of Lewiston and Clarkston. The purpose of the dredging was to re-establish the river channel to the congressionally authorized depth of 14 feet.

Barges will now be able to load to their maximum draft of 14 feet and safely travel down river. "Navigation on the lower Snake River is now safer," said Lt. Col. Timothy Vail, Walla Walla District Commander. "We considered potential alternatives, determined dredging was the only effective short-term tool for addressing problem sediment that had accumulated to the point of interfering with navigation, and successfully completed maintenance dredging during the designated winter work window."

Nor'wester readers will remember that this dredging project was temporarily postponed when several environmental groups and the Nez Perce Tribe filed for an injunction. This injunction was [denied](#) by a federal judge in Seattle on January 5, 2015, thus paving the way for the project to be completed. PNWA would like to thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District and American Construction, based in Tacoma, for their incredible response in completing this project within the shortened work window.

US Army Corps of Engineers announces change of leadership at Northwestern Division

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced that Brigadier General John Kem, Commanding General of the Northwestern Division, will be leaving the Northwest to assume duty as Deputy Commandant of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College/Deputy Commanding General, Leader Development and Education, United States Army Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Brig. Gen. Kem has been a respected partner for the navigation community in the Northwest, and has been instrumental in moving many critical projects and policies forward during his tenure.

Brig. Gen. Kem will be replaced by Brigadier General Scott Spellmon, who most recently served as Commanding General at U.S. Army Operational Test Command in Fort Hood. PNWA wishes General Kem the very best in his new role, and looks forward to welcoming Brig. Gen. Spellmon to the region. A date for the Change of Command has not been announced, but PNWA will keep our membership informed as the transition occurs.

Oregon ports solicit federal advocacy services

The Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) is seeking federal advocacy services for the Oregon ports, including providing IFA with representation with appropriate congressional offices and federal agencies to promote continued federal support for water resources and marine development projects for Oregon ports, continued U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintenance dredging and navigation improvement projects. The contract is anticipated to start April 2015, and will be offered for an initial two-year period, with options to extend for two additional two-year periods. A copy of the full RFP is available at <http://www.oregon4biz.com/Contracting/>, or by emailing jon.walton@oregon.gov, and the due date for proposals is March 9th, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. PT.

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