



# Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #670 March 1, 2019

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## Columbia River Treaty update

The State Department has recently made two announcements regarding the Columbia River Treaty.

A [town hall](#) on the Columbia River Treaty has been scheduled for Wednesday March 20th in Kalispell MT. This town hall follows earlier town halls in 2018 in Spokane and Portland, as well as a phone interview with U.S. State Department negotiator Jill Smail in October. PNWA has participated in all of these past venues, and is working to ensure there is representation from the navigation, shipping, and farming communities at the Kalispell town hall. If you plan to attend, please touch base with [Kristin Meira](#) to coordinate.

The State Department also sent a [press release](#) today, noting the conclusion of the fifth round of negotiations that took place this week in Washington, D.C. On February 27th and 28th the U.S. and Canadian negotiators discussed U.S. priorities, including continued careful flood risk management, maintaining a reliable and economical power supply, and ecosystem benefit improvement. The next round of negotiations will take place April 10-11 in Victoria, British Columbia.

PNWA staff recently met with State Department staff to continue providing perspectives related to safe and efficient navigation in the Basin. We have also confirmed U.S. State Department negotiator Jill Smail to speak at PNWA's Mission to Washington for the second year in a row. PNWA continues to highlight the Treaty in all Hill and

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Administration meetings, especially with regard to navigation, reliable irrigation and water supply, and cost-effective hydropower production. To learn more, check out our [fact sheet](#) or contact [Kristin Meira](#).

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## Port of Grays Harbor celebrates deepening of the Grays Harbor Navigation Channel

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Port of Grays Harbor Commissioners, staff and community members celebrated the completion of the deepening of the Grays Harbor Navigation Channel to its full congressionally authorized depth. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District Commander and District Engineer, Colonel Mark A. Gerald and his staff attended the celebration. Executive Director Gary Nelson acknowledged past strategic investments in infrastructure resulted in completing Phase II of the Grays Harbor Navigation Improvement Project, also known as Deeper Draft.

"It has been an honor working with the Seattle District on this important navigation project. We truly value the partnership with the Corps and I am pleased to announce we have already seen the benefits of the project with an increase in the average tonnage of vessels calling Grays Harbor," said Executive Director Gary Nelson.



Port of Grays Harbor celebrates the completion of Deeper Draft.

# PNWA submits comments on WRDA implementation

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Earlier this month, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a notice requesting public comments as they develop implementation guidance for provisions in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018. PNWA worked with our membership to [draft comments](#). Our letter highlights particular WRDA sections which are critical to Northwest ports and shippers, and also notes that we are supportive of the comments submitted by the National Waterways Conference and the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA). For additional information, please contact [Heather Stebbings](#).

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