



Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #728 September 22, 2020

In This Issue

- Thank you new Annual Convention sponsors
- EPA awards \$2 million in Columbia Basin restoration grants
- Corps seeks comments on proposed NWP rulemaking
- Walden, witnesses reinforce value of PNW hydropower
- Time is running out to respond to the 2020 Census
- FEMA wildfire response/recovery coordination call tomorrow

Thank you new Annual Convention sponsors

Our 2020 Annual Convention is only two weeks away! Free [registration is still open](#) to PNWA members, partner agency staff members, and elected officials and their staffs.

We would like to thank our latest 2020 Annual Convention sponsors for their support:

Gold Sponsor



TIDEWATER
TRANSPORTATION & TERMINALS

Bronze Sponsor

Port of Whitman County

Want to help support PNWA? Additional sponsorship opportunities are available at the [Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze levels](#). Request a sponsorship when you [register for the convention](#), or contact Randi Besser [by email](#) or at 503-234-8550 for more details.

EPA awards \$2 million in Columbia Basin restoration grants

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Sept. 16 that it is [awarding](#)



[over \\$2 million in grants to 14 organizations, universities, and government agencies](#) to reduce and assess toxics affecting the Columbia River Basin watershed.

These grants are the first from the Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program, which was established by Congress in 2016 in part to reduce toxics that have long affected the health of

the waters throughout the basin.

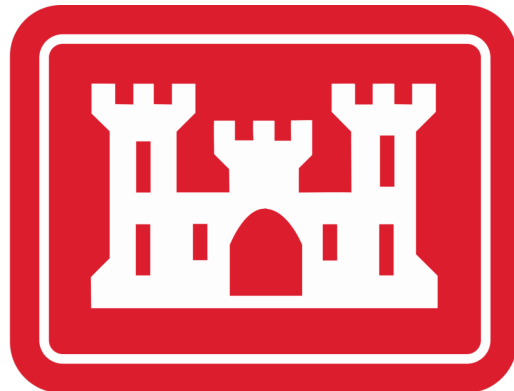
The Columbia River Basin Restoration Program was created through an amendment to the Clean Water Act. It established both a Funding Assistance Program and a working group made up of state governments, tribal governments, industry representatives, and others.

PNWA started working on the concept of this program with EPA, the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and others in 2011. After years of lobbying Congressional delegation members and staffers, we are incredibly gratified to see this idea authorized, funded, and now finally directed toward on-the-ground work.

Corps seeks comments on proposed NWP rulemaking

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking public comments on [proposed rulemaking for its Nationwide Permits](#). NWP's authorize certain activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

The Corps is proposing to reissue its existing NWP's and associated general conditions and definitions, with some modifications. They are also proposing to issue five new NWP's.



Two of those proposed new NWP's would authorize certain categories of mariculture activities (i.e., seaweed and finfish) that are not authorized by NWP 48. They are proposing to divide the current NWP 12 that authorizes utility line activities into three separate NWP's, modifying the current NWP to authorize only oil and natural gas pipeline activities, and proposing two new NWP's to authorize activities associated with the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of electric utility lines/telecommunication lines and utility lines that convey water, sewage, and other substances.

The fifth proposed new NWP would authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into jurisdictional waters for the construction, expansion, and maintenance of water reuse and reclamation facilities.

PNWA Member Van Ness Feldman provided a [brief summary of the pre-publication document](#) in August. Comments on the formally published document are due by Nov.

Walden, witnesses reinforce importance of PNW hydropower



Thank you to Congressman Greg Walden and the witnesses at Wednesday's House Energy and Commerce Committee Environment & Climate Change Subcommittee hearing on "Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: Opportunities for an Equitable, Low-Carbon Recovery" for reinforcing the critical role our region's hydropower-producing dams play in

fighting both climate change and electricity blackouts.

[View Congressman Walden's hearing Q&A here](#)

Time is running out to respond to the 2020 Census

Census statistics help determine how billions of dollars in federal funds will be allocated by state, local, and federal lawmakers every year for the next 10 years. Join Census Bureau partners nationwide in reminding your network that time is running out to respond to the 2020 Census.

Share this [2020 Census graphic](#) with your social media followers using the hashtag #2020Census, and post this [2020 Census banner](#) on your website. Plan to send an email or text message reminder to your constituents, customers, partners and employees with a link to respond at 2020census.gov.



Support your digital engagement with activities like chalking the sidewalks in your community. For example, social media reminders could be combined with "Chalk the Walk" reminders that ask your stakeholders and social media followers to chalk "last chance to be counted in the #2020Census" on their sidewalks.

FEMA wildfire response/recovery coordination call tomorrow

Join FEMA Regions 8, 9 and 10 Wednesday, Sept. 23 for their weekly public-private coordination call on current wildfire operations.

The purpose of the call is to engage private sector stakeholders with updated situational awareness on wildfire response and recovery operations, identify any supply chain issues, identify partnership opportunities, and provide awareness of federal/state programs that may be of interest to



FEMA

your employees.

Bring your questions, comments, or just tune-in for the briefings.

**Western Regional Public/Private Coordination
Group Call**

Next Call: this Wednesday, September 23

11:00am-12:00pm PDT

1-888-270-9936 / PIN: 1237645#

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