



# Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #766 June 2, 2021

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## Thank you new Summer Conference sponsor

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Thank you to our newest [PNWA 2021 Summer Conference](#) sponsor for their generous support:

### Gold Sponsor

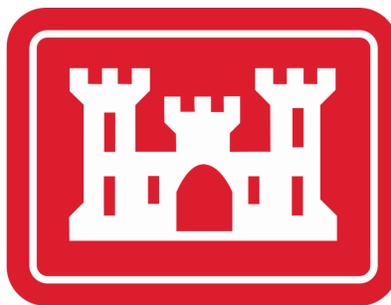


*Additional sponsorships are available.* Increase your organization's visibility to our members, partners and friends while supporting PNWA's advocacy efforts. [Bronze](#), [Silver](#), [Gold](#) and [Platinum levels](#) are available. Sign up online when you register for the conference or [contact Randi Besser](#).

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## Attend Kevin Brice's online retirement ceremony Friday, 6/4

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Cordially invites you to attend:

**The Retirement Ceremony for Mr. Kevin Brice**  
**Friday, June 4, 2021**  
**1 p.m. PDT**

<https://usace1.webex.com/meet/cheryl.a.long>

*No RSVP is necessary for the online event.  
The online audience will be able to view the ceremony,  
but will remain muted by the host.*

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## Wyden introduces bill to improve small port broadband coverage

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Sen. Ron Wyden (D, OR) introduced a bill last week to help small ports get federal loans that would improve their broadband coverage, helping them to grow economically and ensuring they have real-time access to weather updates.

Wyden's *Broadband Internet for Small Ports Act* would add small ports to the priority list for applications to the Agriculture Department's Rural Utility Service broadband access loan program, which funds construction and improvement of internet infrastructure for eligible rural areas. Rep. Stacey Plaskett (D, VI) will introduce companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.



Full text of the bill can be found [here](#).

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## FAA seeks airport environmental impact grant applications

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The [Federal Aviation Administration](#) is accepting pre-applications from airports for the [Environmental Mitigation Pilot Program](#). The program will fund up to six projects that will measurably reduce or mitigate aviation impacts on noise, air quality or water quality at an airport or within five miles of the airport.

Public-use airport operators have until July 9, 2021, to submit a pre-application to the FAA. Projects submitted must be carried out by a joint team consisting of at least two of the following organizations:

- private sector business;
- public or private educational or research organization;

- state or local government entities; or federal laboratories.
- business must be incorporated in the U.S.; educational or research organizations and governments must be located in the U.S.

The pre-application must contain the scope of the project, describe the new environmental mitigation techniques or technologies that have been proven in laboratory demonstrations, and describe the roles and responsibilities of each entity involved in the program.

After reviewing all applications, the FAA will fund up to six projects in 2022 and 2023 that provide the greatest environmental benefits. The cost of each project cannot exceed \$2.5 million. The federal share of the project cost is 50 percent with the selected airports providing the other 50 percent. Airports must complete projects within 24 months of receiving the grants.

[Section 190 of the Reauthorization Act of 2018](#) required the FAA to create a pilot program for environmental mitigation. Grants are made from the noise and environmental set-aside of the [Airport Improvement Program](#).

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