



# Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #781 September 29, 2021

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## Thank you Annual Convention sponsors

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Thank you to our newest [PNWA 2021 Annual Convention](#) sponsors for your generous support:

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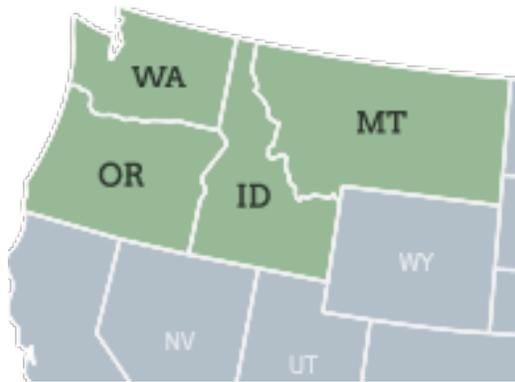
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## States release lopsided Columbia Basin Collaborative roster

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As we have previously reported, the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana are planning to create a new group called the [Columbia Basin Collaborative](#), with the stated intention of rebuilding Basin salmon and steelhead stocks and advancing the goals of the former [Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force](#). This has sometimes been referred to as the *four-state solution* or *four governors' process*.

PNWA and others have [previously expressed our reservations](#) over the lopsided representation of interests proposed by the states for this process. To date, PNWA has not received a response to our July letter to the four Governors. Last week the states confirmed our concerns with the release of a [draft participant list for the Collaborative's Integration/Recommendations Group](#).

As shown in [this process diagram](#), the I/RG's role is to assess the feasibility of recommendations from topic-specific work groups - the technical experts - and develop recommendations for implementation to the Collaborative's conveners and other entities.

If federal and state agency representatives are not included, the proposed composition of the I/RG includes 16 tribal representatives - twice as many as those from other interests. And of the eight representatives of other interests, more than half are on record supporting the removal of the lower Snake River dams.

PNWA has tried to maintain a sense of optimism about the Columbia Basin Collaborative's potential to identify and implement real salmon recovery solutions in the Pacific Northwest. However, the deliberate assembly of a dam-breaching supermajority in the process' key decision making body clearly shows that there is more work to be done, to ensure that the Collaborative is truly representative and reflective of diverse viewpoints across four states.

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## Puget Sound Pilots welcome new executive director

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The Puget Sound Pilots are pleased to announce the hiring of Charles Costanzo as Executive Director.

Mr. Costanzo joins Puget Sound Pilots after over a decade at The American Waterways Operators where he served as General Counsel and Vice President – Pacific Region.

“We are thrilled to have Charlie join PSP

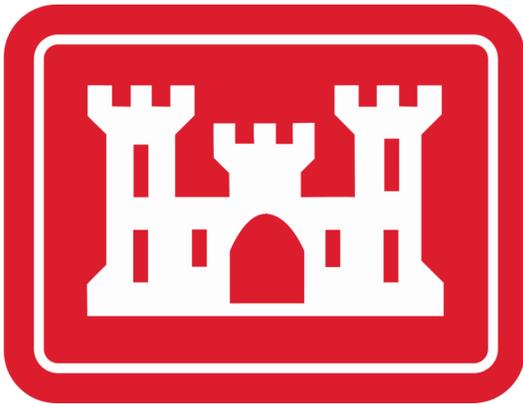
as our new Executive Director and we are confident that his strong background in advocacy and marine safety will serve PSP for years to come,” said Puget Sound Pilots President Ivan Carlson.



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## Portland District names new MCR project manager

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Portland District has selected Julia Keiter as the new permanent project manager for its Mouth of the Columbia River project.

Julia started her career in Portland District's Construction Branch, then transitioned to managing dredging contracts for the district's Channels and Harbors Project, where she quickly established her skills and affinity for the navigation program.

District leaders cite Julia's experience with construction, working with project managers, management of dredging contracts, assistance with Regional Sediment Management, and ability to develop strong working relationships as key factors in her selection.

Julia has been working temporarily in the MCR PM role since August; she jumped right into the position, proactively working internal and external relationships as well as learning the various MCR projects. Her official start date in this permanent role will be Sept. 26.

Julia earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Kansas State University. She has been involved in Engineers Without Borders, the Society of Women in Engineering, and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

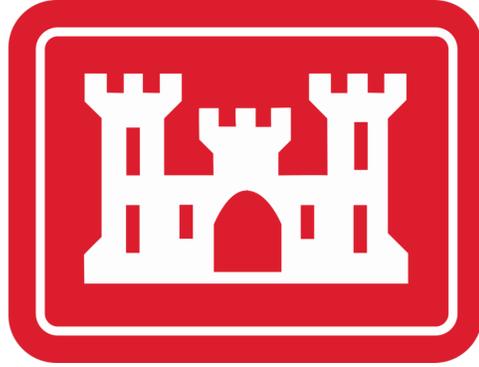
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## Seattle District offers details on Ballard Locks gate replacement

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The Corps' Seattle District has received funding to proceed with the replacement of the Lake Washington Ship Canal large lock center gate project. This will also remove and replace some of the embedded steel and/or structure components from the concrete around the gate, and all the related sealing components.

The in-water work for this project is expected to take two to four years. Assuming successful award in late Summer 2022, the in-water work is projected to happen between 2023 and 2027 during work windows of Oct. 15 to Feb. 15. To minimize outages, the district is currently proposing to allow the contractor an option of working within short outages, using a cofferdam, or a combination. Maximum work shifts are also allowed. Current proposed restrictions to these options include:



#### **Outage closures (large lock closures)**

- Maximum large lock outage closure duration would be 30 days
- Outages during the work window of Oct. 15 to Feb. 15
- At least 15 days of navigation between each large lock outage

#### **Cofferdam work**

- Restriction of large lock width from 80 feet to 65 feet
- Navigation would be allowed when work is not occurring behind the cofferdam, approximately half the time in a 24 hour period but at a minimum from 5 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- The cofferdam could stay in place up to 90 days at any given time during the in-water work window of Oct. 15 to Feb. 15

The district is implementing methods within the specification to allow the contractor the flexibility with work scheduled, work shift, work duration, crew size and other items. All of this is to help minimize outages, outage duration and impact to the stakeholders.

For more information, contact LWSC Operations Manager Jon Hofstra at [Jonathan.C.Hofstra@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jonathan.C.Hofstra@usace.army.mil) or 206-297-9737.

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## Port of Benton lands FAA funding

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Congratulations to PNWA member Port of Benton for earning over \$3.1 million in Federal Aviation Administration funding through the Airport Improvement Program to provide electrical, lighting, and guidance system upgrades at the Richland Airport.

Learn more: <https://portofbenton.com/richland-airport-receives-federal-aviation-administration-grant/>

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