



Contact: Scott Clemans, Communications Director, PNWA
503-234-8551 or scott.clemans@pnwa.net

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**PNWA thanks U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
for Bonneville navigation lock response**

PORTLAND, Ore. - On behalf of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association's [141 member organizations](#), PNWA Executive Director Kristin Meira today thanked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Portland District for returning the navigation lock at Bonneville Lock & Dam to service so quickly after detecting damage to a concrete sill that helps hold the lock's downstream gates closed.

"We want to thank the Corps for the extraordinary effort they put into returning the Bonneville navigation lock to service. The Columbia and Snake rivers are two of the Pacific Northwest's major water 'highways,' and we're happy to see the barges, cruise ships and other vessels moving again," Meira said.

The [Columbia Snake River System](#) is the United States' largest wheat export gateway, and its second largest corn and soy export gateway. The inland barge navigation system accommodated over 8 million tons of commercial cargo in 2017. An increasingly popular river cruise industry also hosted 18,000 passengers in 2017 and contributed \$15 million in direct economic benefits to the region.

"These federal waterways are critical to jobs and trade in our region, and deliver real value to the nation," Meira said. "Our Pacific Northwest Congressional delegation and other partners have been very supportive in advocating for a robust and well-funded inspection, maintenance and rehabilitation plan for locks and other navigation infrastructure here in the Pacific Northwest."

[According to the Corps](#), Bonneville Lock & Dam operators observed

problems when closing the navigation lock's downstream gates on Sept. 5. The Corps closed and drained the lock, and determined cracks and other damage to the sill were the cause. Corps contractors demolished and replaced the old sill Sept. 8-23. Concrete curing and operational testing followed. The Corps announced today that the lock would return to service at least 48 hours ahead of schedule.

The [Pacific Northwest Waterways Association](#) is a non-profit trade association that advocates for federal policies and funding in support of regional economic development. PNWA is a collaboration of ports, businesses, public agencies and individuals who combine their economic and political strength in support of navigation, energy, trade and economic development throughout the Pacific Northwest.

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