



# Nor'wester newsletter

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## NOAA hosting coastal flooding listening session Jan. 25

NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services and Office for Coastal Management are hosting a listening session from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m. PT on Tuesday, Jan. 25.**

NOAA wants to hear from the transportation community about coastal communities' needs and share tools for reducing coastal hazards and planning for resilience.

Your participation will help NOAA's National Ocean Service improve data, tools, and services to build coastal resilience at longer time horizons.

Seating is limited. Reserve your space by registering here:

<https://forms.gle/asPx9Vkoqmf9ogC67>



## Portland, Walla Walla districts announce annual outages

*Work includes downstream miter gate repairs at The Dalles Dam*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland and Walla Walla districts begin annual maintenance closures on the Columbia and Snake rivers Feb. 13. The closures will last up to



five weeks and are scheduled each year so the Corps may perform regularly scheduled annual inspections, preventative maintenance, and repairs.

Portland District will also repair cracking in the downstream miter gate at The Dalles Dam during these closures. The Corps will provide regular status

updates for the work at The Dalles Dam. Status updates are scheduled throughout February and March.

#### Virtual status updates – The Dalles Dam repairs

- **Dates:** February 2, 9, 16 and 23; March 2, 9 and 16
  - (all meetings begin at 2:30 p.m. PT)
- **Meeting link:** <https://usace1.webex.com/meet/david.a.tucker>
- **Phone-in option:** 1-844-800-2712
- **Access code:** 1993 59 4598

Walla Walla District will also perform some non-routine work during these closures and may temporarily suspend public vehicle crossings at Lower Monumental, Little Goose and/or Lower Granite dams due to work activity. Crossings are subject to closure at any time, but the Corps will notify the public in advance of these closures if possible. Travelers in Washington state can call 888-DAM-INFO (888-326-4636) for dam-crossing information in advance of their travel.

[Click here](#) for more information on Walla Walla District closures.

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## Public comment period for proposed WOTUS rule closes Feb. 7

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of the Army have announced a proposed rule to re-establish the pre-2015 definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) which had been in place for decades, updated to reflect consideration of Supreme Court decisions.



This action advances the agencies’ goal of establishing a durable definition of WOTUS that protects public health, the environment, and downstream communities while supporting economic opportunity, agriculture, and other industries that depend on clean water. This [proposed rule](#) would support a stable implementation of “waters of the United States” while the agencies continue to consult with states, Tribes, local governments, and a broad array of stakeholders in both the implementation of WOTUS and future regulatory actions.

The proposed rule would maintain the longstanding exclusions of the pre-2015 regulations as well as the exemptions and exclusions in the Clean Water Act on which the agricultural community has come to rely.

In developing the proposed rule, the EPA and Army reviewed and considered the extensive feedback and recommendations received from states, tribes, local governments, and stakeholders through consultations and pre-proposal meetings and webinars.

**The agencies are continuing to accept public comment on the proposed rule through Feb. 7, 2022. Public comments can be submitted through the [Federal Register](#) or via email at [OW-Docket@epa.gov](mailto:OW-Docket@epa.gov).**

For more information on the proposal, visit [www.epa.gov/wotus](http://www.epa.gov/wotus).

PNWA is reviewing this change to WOTUS to determine how it may impact the many sectors of our membership. If you have impacts or concerns to share, please contact PNWA Government Relations Director [Dena Horton](#).

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## Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program closes Feb. 8, 2022

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Applications for EPA's [Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program](#) grants are due no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on **Feb. 8, 2022**. Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov.

Eligible entities include state governments, tribal governments, regional

water pollution control agencies and entities, local government entities, nongovernmental entities, or soil and water conservation districts. The work must be for the purpose of environmental protection and restoration activities within the Columbia River Basin and may include programs, projects, and studies.

EPA anticipates awarding about 30 cooperative agreements in total, ranging from \$75,000 to \$350,000 in federal funds per project, subject to the availability of funds, the quality of applications received, and other applicable considerations.

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## MARAD grant funding update

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PNWA staff recently attended a Maritime Administration (MARAD) presentation during which it was announced that the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP), America's Marine Highway Program (AMHP), and the National Infrastructure

Project (NIP) anticipate releasing Notice of Funding Opportunities in mid-February.

For the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act of 2022, there will be \$450 million available for the PIDP, \$25 million for the AMHP, and \$5 billion for the NIP. To determine if additional funding for the program will be available through the annual

appropriations process, the FY2022 appropriations need to pass first. The current continuing resolution expires on February 18, 2022.

It was announced the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity and the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America bills are also awaiting FY2022 appropriations for those programs.

For more information on these funding programs, visit [www.maritime.dot.gov/about-us/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-maritime-administration](http://www.maritime.dot.gov/about-us/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-maritime-administration).

The slide is titled "DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAMS" and features a green arrow graphic pointing upwards. The arrow contains the text "TOTAL INVESTMENT AS OF JANUARY 2022" and "\$5.8 B". Below the arrow, there is a table with the following data:

Total port projects	158
Ports awarded grants:	79
Ports awarded 2+ grants:	25
Number of States	36
Number of Territories	2

Below the table, it states: "There are 41 States with navigable waterways and/or ocean access. Current projects encompass 36 of those States." The U.S. Department of Transportation logo is in the bottom right corner. A video call inset in the top right shows a woman with the name "Wilson, Brandon (MS&D)" below her.

- **Port Infrastructure Development Program**
  - 2021 PIDP – 25 Grants (10 Large > \$5 M & 15 Small < \$5 M)
  - 2022 IJA PIDP \$450M NOFO announcement pending – Likely Mid-February
  - 2022 PIDP – Awaiting appropriation
- **Marine Highway Program**
  - 2021 MH Grants – Grant agreements – 9 Grants
  - Project Designations – In concurrence
  - 2022 IJA MH \$25M – NOFO in mid-February
  - 2022 MH – Awaiting appropriation
- **2022 RAISE – Awaiting appropriation**
- **2022 INFRA – Awaiting appropriation**
- **2022 IJA NIP – Pending NOFO – Likely Mid-February**

## Thank you to Mission to Washington Gold Sponsor Shaver Transportation!

A big thank you to Shaver Transportation, our Gold Sponsor for the upcoming Mission to Washington! It's through the support of our members that we're able to host events that elevate our industry and have a real impact.



Just a reminder that this year's Mission is virtual and will take place **March 14–17**. Registration is open and we still have sponsorships available! Increase your organization's visibility, support PNWA's advocacy efforts, gain exposure on our web and social media sites and our Nor'wester newsletter, and be recognized during our meetings and webinars.

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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