



Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #811 April 15, 2022

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Welcome new member: Mid Columbia Producers



Mid Columbia Producers, Inc.

We are pleased to welcome [Mid Columbia Producers](#) to the PNWA family!

Mid Columbia Producers is a farmer-owned cooperative formed in 1988 that has three divisions: grain, seed and retail. Mid Columbia Producers operates numerous grain facilities in Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington state, warehousing grain products from the region that are then utilized domestically and worldwide. Mid Columbia Producers Seed Division markets and sources seed from across the Pacific Northwest and offers a wide range to cover producers' needs. They also operate a farm store in Wasco, Oregon.

Justin Miller is Mid Columbia Producers' official representative to PNWA. Justin can be reached at 541-565-3737 or jmiller@mcpcoop.com.

Federal Affairs webinar series features agriculture panel April 20

Join us at 10 a.m. PST on April 20 to hear from national experts in the grain and agriculture fields. Our panelists will discuss the latest issues and challenges, both domestic and international, affecting movement of grain and ag products from farms to global markets.

Agriculture Panel Discussion

Wednesday, April 20

10 a.m. Pacific/1 p.m. Eastern

Panelists:

- **Shelby Swain Myers**, American Farm Bureau Federation, Economist
- **Taylor Williamson**, National Association of Wheat Growers, Government Relations Representative
- **Bobby Frederick**, National Grain and Feed Association, Director of Legislative Affairs
- **Alexa Combelic**, American Soybean Association, Director of Government Affairs

[Click to learn more and RSVP.](#)

Corps Releases FY23 IIJA Spend Plan

PNWA was pleased to see the passage of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA), which provided a total of \$17.1 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As a result, we are seeing record infrastructure funding appropriated and proposed for our Northwest navigation projects. While we are still awaiting the FY22 workplan from the omnibus appropriations bill passed in mid-March, the Corps released the details of the proposed spend plan for the FY23 round of IIJA funding.



Please note this is in addition to funds proposed in the President's FY23 budget and Congress must still appropriate the FY23 funds to be directed to these projects. PNWA continues to advocate for the highest level of funding for our Northwest projects through the annual appropriations process and in current and future IIJA spend plans.

FY23 Proposed IIJA Funding

[Construction Account](#)

- Howard Hanson Dam, WA - \$220M – to complete preliminary engineering and design and initiate construction.
- Operations & Maintenance Account (link O&M spend plan document)
- Bonneville Lock & Dam, OR & WA - \$1M for spillway gate repair and service pit modernization.
- The Dalles Lock & Dam, WA & OR - \$3.025M to fabricate and install tainter valve.
- McNary Lock & Dam, OR & WA - \$21M to repair sump unwatering system and replace navigation lock power systems and controls.
- Ice Harbor Lock & Dam, WA - \$412K to repair coffer cell #4.
- Lower Granite Lock & Dam, WA - \$3.243M for timber replacement on upstream floating guidewall.
- Columbia River at the Mouth, WA & OR - \$10.3M for procurement, engineering during construction and S & A for the Sand Island Pile Dike construction.

- Columbia & Lower Willamette Rivers Below Vancouver, WA and Portland, OR - \$6.241M for additional dredging work.

As a reminder, Northwest projects fared very well in the previously funded FY22 IIJA spend plan for the Corps. Highlights of this funding include the following:

[FY22 IIJA Construction Account](#)

- Columbia River Fish Mitigation, WA, OR & ID – \$36.016M to fund the highest priority work as determined by the expert panel established in response to the September 1, 2021 interim injunction order, in the effort to yield a no jeopardy opinion for Chinook salmon and Steelhead.

[FY22 IIJA Operations & Maintenance](#)

- John Day Lock & Dam, OR & WA - \$3.168M for environmental compliance work, plans & specifications for potable water and irrigation systems, complete design of navigation lock tainter valve, and replacement of the downstream gate bearing shoes.
- McNary Lock & Dam, OR & WA - \$22.797M for dredging and surveys, replacing the downstream gate gudgeon anchors, a second derrick crane, spillway gate hoists and spillway gates, rehabilitate levee drainage pump stations, eradicating flowering rush, upgrade Hood Park septic system, and reconstruct 3rd Street road.
- Lower Monumental Lock & Dam, WA - \$10.21M to remove sediment and debris from the stilling basin and replace navigation lock electrical power systems.
- Little Goose Lock & Dam, WA - \$ 2.2M to repair navigation lock monolith water-stops and remove sediment and debris from the stilling basin.
- Lower Granite Lock & Dam, WA - \$6.176M for dredging, surveys, and removing sediment and debris from the stilling basin.
- Howard Hanson Dam, WA - \$274K for asphalt seal coating and sealing and security system upgrade.
- Lake Washington Ship Canal, WA - \$10.8M to replace small lock machinery and control systems.
- Grays Harbor, WA - \$10.945M for full repair of the North Jetty.
- Tillamook Bay & Bar - \$62M for construction of the South Jetty head and trunk repair.

Please contact [Dena Horton](#) if you have any questions.

Senator Cantwell Highlights Multiple Federal Funding Sources for I-5 Bridge Replacement

Senator Maria Cantwell (D, WA) held a press conference in Vancouver, WA at the base of the I-5 Bridge to encourage the Interstate Bridge Replacement program partners to submit applications for multiple sources of federal funding including the Multimodal Project Discretionary

Grant Program (megaprojects) as well as the Bridge Replacement, Rehabilitation, Preservation, Protection, and Construction Program (bridge formula program).

The megaprojects program is known statutorily as the National Infrastructure Project Assistance program and is administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Senator Cantwell noted that while the committee drafted the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the language for the megaprojects section was written with projects like the I-5 Bridge in mind. The megaprojects grant funding is intended to support large, multimodal, multijurisdictional projects that are regionally and nationally significant to the economy, but too large or complex for existing funding programs.



The Senator was joined by representatives of the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program, City of Vancouver, Port of Vancouver, and the IBR Citizen Advisory Group for the press conference. Press conference attendees included Washington State Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar, four Washington state legislators, and representatives of PNWA, C-Tran, and the Clark County Transportation Alliance.

Lower Columbia River Channel Maintenance Plan info sessions scheduled for April 26–28

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Columbia River non-federal Sponsors Ports (Longview, Kalama, Woodland, Vancouver, and Portland) are hosting five information sessions to update the public on the Lower Columbia River Channel Maintenance Plan (LCR CMP) Dredge Material Management Plan (DMMP). These information sessions are designed to provide an update on development of the LCR CMP DMMP and EIS. All sessions will be conducted virtually through WebEx and will present the same content.



- Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.
- Thursday, April 28, 2022, 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- Thursday, April 28, 2022, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

For more information and login instructions, visit www.nwp.usace.army.mil/lcrchannelmaintenance.

USDOT provides update on IJA notices of funding



The USDOT has updated stakeholders on expected timing for the release of Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) relating to programs in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Here are the most current projections for when NOFOs on certain programs will emerge.

Month | Notice of Funding Opportunity | Agency

- **May** | [Transit-Oriented Development Pilot Program](#) | Federal Transit Administration
- **May** | [Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program](#) | USDOT Office of the Secretary
- **May** | [Bridge Investment Program](#) | Federal Highways Administration
- **June** | [Railroad Crossing Elimination Program](#) | Federal Railroad Administration
- **June** | [Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program](#) | USDOT Office of the Secretary
- **July** | [All Stations Accessibility Program](#) | Federal Transit Administration
- **July** | [Rail Vehicle Replacement Program](#) | Federal Transit Administration
- **Summer** | [National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program](#) | Federal Highways Administration
- **August** | [Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements Grant Program](#) | Federal Railroad Administration
- **September** | [Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Grant Program](#) | USDOT Office of the Secretary

Recognizing Franklin PUD's journey to provide local broadband access



The April 2022 Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) Bulletin magazine highlights the Franklin Public Utility District's diligent efforts to connect its communities to broadband infrastructure and service. Seeing a lack of reliable broadband networks in the area, Franklin PUD partnered with other PUDs and ports to create the nonprofit mutual corporation Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet). After more than a decade of work and expansion, Franklin PUD now has over 350 miles of fiber-optic cable placed in Franklin County. This system serves many rural areas and provides a citywide Wi-Fi network capable of over 50 Mbps.

We applaud Franklin PUD and NoaNet partners that have committed to providing reliable low-cost broadband to their communities. This infrastructure allows those throughout the county, including in rural areas, to stay connected to the resources and services they need. It also supports operations of local hospitals, school districts, libraries, and other vital community and government services.

Read more about Franklin PUD's broadband journey in [NWPPA's Bulletin magazine](#).

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