



# Nor'wester newsletter

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## Thank You to our Newest PNWA Annual Convention Sponsors

Thank you to our newest PNWA 2022 Annual Convention sponsors for your generous support:

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*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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**PNWA Washington, D.C. Advocacy Trip Recap**

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PNWA Members speaking to Rep. Larsen's (D, WA-2) Staff

Last week, PNWA traveled to Washington, DC to engage *in person* with Members of our Congressional delegation and their staff, federal agency officials and national partners. We met with Janet Coit, the Acting Assistant Secretary of NOAA and Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), minority staff for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Natural Resources Committee, staff from the Northwest Congressional delegation, and colleagues from the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) and National Waterways Conference (NWC).

It was a productive trip highlighting PNWA's FY2023 appropriations needs for federal navigation projects, requests for projects and policy language in the 2022 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), potential solutions for regulatory challenges, and providing updates on activities related to the Snake River Dams.

For more information or to join a future PNWA member trip to DC, contact [Dena Horton](#).



PNWA at the Department of Commerce to meet with Janet Coit, Acting Asst. Sec. of NOAA/Asst. Administrator of NMFS

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## Reminder: Bradford Island Superfund Project Public Meeting

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The Portland District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is holding a public meeting in conjunction with a virtual meeting to present information on the Bradford Island, Cascade Locks, Oregon site. Since 1998, the Corps has conducted studies to assess the nature and extent of the contamination and performed limited removal actions, including the removal of electrical equipment and contaminated sediment from the river, to address source concerns. The EPA formally listed the site on the National Priorities List (NPL) on March 16, 2022.

**In Person Public Meeting:** The in-person meeting will be held at the City of Cascade Locks, City Council Chambers located at 140 SW Wa Na Pa, Cascade Locks, OR 97014. There is parking available in the back of the building. Please contact Gordon Zimmerman ([gzimmerman@cascade-locks.or.us](mailto:gzimmerman@cascade-locks.or.us) / 541-374-8484), City Manager, with any questions about the venue.

**Virtual Public Meeting:** There will also be a zoom link available for those who can't attend in person. The virtual portion of the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m, at this

[Zoom Link.](#)

Copies of investigative reports and studies and other supporting information and documentation are available for public review. Electronic copies of this information may be accessed via the following links:

**EPA Website:** <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=1002228>

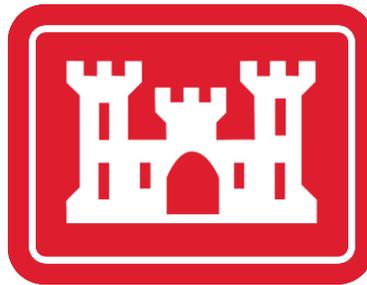
**USACE Website:** <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/bonneville/bradford-island>

Any questions about this public meeting may be directed to the following contact: John Morgan at 503-201-0856 or [John.L.Morgan@usace.army.mil](mailto:John.L.Morgan@usace.army.mil) Or, the public comment email: [BradfordIslandPublicCommentInbox@usace.army.mil](mailto:BradfordIslandPublicCommentInbox@usace.army.mil).

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## Lake Washington Levels to Drop Below 20 Feet

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that Lake Washington's level will drop below an elevation of 20 feet and are taking steps through lockage efficiency to conserve water during this year's dry weather.

Last week, the lake level was at 20 feet but current forecasts indicate that it will drop below the typical minimum elevation beginning on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 with water levels low until the rain returns. Based on the historical data record, the lake level is not expected to drop below 19.75 ft.

Seattle Public Utilities on September 23<sup>rd</sup> released more water from Chester Morse Dam increasing flow into Lake Washington from Cedar River, reducing the rate at which Lake Washington elevation lowers.

Typically, USACE maintains the water level between 20 and 22 feet, this is measured at Chittenden Locks. Corps officials keep winter water levels at 20 feet, and begin the annual summer refill in February, targeting a 22-foot elevation by late May to early June. The 22-foot target was accomplished in June of this year. The higher level helps meet summer water use requirements, providing water necessary for fish passage, navigation, and salinity control. Water is slowly consumed throughout the summer, until it reaches the winter level typically in early December. Due to the dry conditions this summer, Lake Washington is lower than it typically is this time of year; the normal September precipitation in Seattle is 1.61 inches this year, Seattle has only received 0.22 inches of rain this September.

The Corps has taken steps to maximize lockage efficiency by increasing the number of recreational vessels in each locking and prioritizing use of the small locks. As lake levels change, additional measures to conserve water could be implemented. Officials are also recommending floating homeowners, others with floating structures and vessels moored on Lakes Washington and Union and along the Ship Canal prepare for

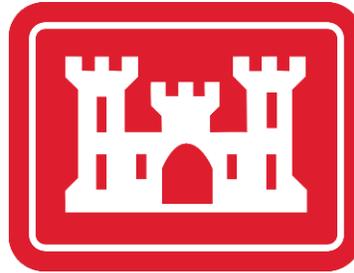
possible lower water levels.

For more information about Locks activities please visit this [website](#) or follow on social media: [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#).

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## Chittenden Locks to Close for Inspections on October 31<sup>st</sup>

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced the Hiram M. Chittenden large and small locks will close to all marine traffic on October 31<sup>st</sup>, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. PST, to inspect the large locks and open a saltwater drain screen structure.

The eight-hour closure will also facilitate inspection of large lock sill and pump discharge, in preparation for the large lock dewatering outage.

The structure immediately upstream of the Locks prevents salmon from entering the locks' saltwater return intake. Divers will open the doors and inspect the curved-front, mesh screen structure. The inspection of the structure is conducted annually after the salmon migration ends in mid-September.

This inspection requires both locks to be closed to all for a few hours except for emergency vessels and calls.

For more information about Locks activities please visit this [website](#) or follow on social media: [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#).

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## Washington State Department of Commerce Offers Grants to Spur Industrial Development

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The Washington State Department of Commerce has launched an Industrial Site Readiness grant program designed to support counties, cities, port districts, and tribal governments with plans to develop and revitalize properties for manufacturing or other industrial uses. Those public entities that are eligible can apply for grants of \$200,000 to \$500,000 each till October 14<sup>th</sup> via Department of Commerce's online application: [here](#).

Statewide, a total of \$2.5 million is available to develop large manufacturing sites, or

to safely clean up and revitalize federal Environmental Protection Agency designated brownfield sites. This is a one-time grant program designed to help accelerate business attraction efforts at a local level. Eligible uses of funds include a range of activities such as engineering studies, permitting, and site due diligence.

Grant applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. October 14. Complete details including program guidelines and contact information are available on the [commerce website](#).

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## USDOT: \$1B National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Program Open to Applications

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This past Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced that the Department’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in close coordination with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, has opened applications for tribal, state, and local governments to access a total of \$1 billion over five years from the new National Culvert Removal, Replacement and Restoration-Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Program established by the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA), otherwise known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Secretary Buttigieg made the announcement alongside Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, Congresswoman Kim Schrier, Congressman Rick Larsen and local and Tribal leaders in King County.

This program builds on the over \$2 billion eligible to support fish passage under the BIL and will specifically help communities remove and repair culverts found under roads that can prevent fish passage. In addition to improving anadromous fish passage, this program will also help make culverts and weirs more resilient to increased flooding events due to the impacts of climate change on weather and precipitation.

The Culvert AOP Program focuses on two project categories as differentiated by structure type:

1. Projects to replace, remove, or repair culverts that would meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish.
2. Projects to replace, remove, or repair weirs that would meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish. With respect to weirs, the project may include: 1) infrastructure to facilitate fish passage around or over the weir; and 2) weir improvements.

The following types of projects will be prioritized for Culvert AOP Program funding:

- 1) Projects that would improve fish passage for:
  - a. Anadromous fish stocks listed as an endangered species or a threatened species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. § 1533);
  - b. Anadromous fish stocks identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that could reasonably become listed as an endangered species or a threatened species under that section;
  - c. Anadromous fish stocks identified by the NMFS or USFWS as prey for endangered species, threatened species, or protected species, including Southern resident orcas (*Orcinus orcas*); or
  - d. Anadromous fish stocks identified by the NMFS or the USFWS as climate resilient stocks; and
- 2) Projects that would open up more than 200 meters of upstream anadromous habitat before the end of the natural habitat

Applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on **Monday February 6, 2023**. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications in advance of the application deadline; however, applications will not be evaluated, and awards will not be made, until after the application deadline.

Tribes, state, and local governments will be able to apply for a portion of the \$196 million of Fiscal Year 2022 funding currently available through this program. Additional technical assistance for Tribal governments with regards to Bipartisan Infrastructure Law implementation was released by FHWA earlier this year.

Alongside FHWA's program, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also provides funding for fish passage and ecosystem restoration efforts by other Federal agencies. These efforts include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' National Fish Passage Program, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service's Restoring Fish Passage funding opportunities.

For Thursday's Press Release from the Department of Transportation click [here](#). For more information on the Culvert AOP Program, visit the FHWA web site [here](#), or the grant Notice of Funding Opportunity [here](#).

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## RiverFest 2022 this Saturday, October 8th

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This Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 3:00pm at Columbia Park in Kennewick, WA the Pasco Chamber of Commerce is holding their annual RiverFest to pay tribute

to the many benefits of the Federal Hydropower system with a focus on the lower Snake River Dams. This is the first RiverFest event since 2019, and we are excited to share that PNWA will be hosting a booth alongside the Ports of Benton and Pasco so come check us out for a good time!

RiverFest is a FREE, fun, and educational family event, featuring exhibitors, vendors, and entertainment to showcase all the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System and highlight the importance of our four lower Snake River dams for navigation, irrigation, recreation and power. People of all ages are welcome to attend and will find something fun to do and learn about at the festival.

More information on the event can be found at this [website](#).

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