

PNWA SUPPORTS SALMON RECOVERY EFFORTS

Supporting Environmentally Sustainable Waterways

For many years, PNWA has advocated for efficient, reliable, and environmentally sustainable waterways. We support federal funding for the Columbia River Fish Mitigation Program annually and partnered closely with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) to advocate for passage of the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act in 2016 to establish a grant program to clean up toxic pollutants in the Columbia River Basin. We remain supportive of full annual funding of the program and participate in the EPA's Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Working Group. PNWA also supports federal funding requests for CRITFC's sea lion abatement program, and we continue look for opportunities to partner with the community and Tribes on salmon recovery projects in the region.



Fish Passage at Dams

PNWA believes salmon and dams with fish passage can coexist. We advocate for fish passage and other infrastructure improvements at dams to restore habitat and make the dams as transparent as possible to adult and juvenile fish.

Although neither Howard A. Hanson Dam (HAHD) nor Mud Mountain Dam (MMD) represent a navigation or commercial trade benefit, PNWA advocates for funding fish passage improvements at both facilities. The HAHD is located on the Green-Duwamish River Basin and MMD is located on the White-Puyallup River Basin. Both facilities are on waterways that directly flow into the Puget Sound. Improvements to spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and other species will also improve the food sources to nourish the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whale Orca.

HAHD received \$220 million in FY2022 from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 and \$50 million in the President's FY2024 budget towards design and construction of the downstream fish passage facility. The project will open more than 60 miles of the upper Green River watershed for Chinook salmon. When the fish passage facility construction is completed, the Corps will continue working on projects to provide additional water storage for surrounding communities.

PNWA Supports Reintroduction

PNWA is supporting the efforts of the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) to reintroduce salmon above Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams. The UCUT have established a four-phased approach to guide the development of fish passage and reintroduction in this area and completed Phase I studies in 2019 which indicated that reintroduction of salmon to the blocked area could be successful but that there remained uncertainty around dam passage and survival.

The UCUT are currently in Phase 2 of the project which looks to address some of the uncertainty and test the overall feasibility. Phase 2 includes establishing sources of donor stocks and development of interim hatchery and passage facilities required to more thorough evaluate reintroduction. The UCUT is conducting the studies and implementation of Phase 2 such that it does not require major operational changes to the power production, flood control or irrigation functions of the system. PNWA looks forward to supporting these efforts, including future funding opportunities to move the project forward in a more expedited manner.

Environmental Improvements

PNWA supports a wide range of environmental improvements to bolster salmon recovery and habitat restoration including:

- Beneficial use of dredge material to assist with creation of shallow water habitat and cold water refugia
- Culvert removal and spawning habitat restoration
- Efforts to address climate change and monitoring and improving ocean conditions
- Predator abatement including avian, piscivorous fish, and pinnipeds
- Toxics reduction and storm-water treatment

