

PNWA PRIORITY ACTION AGENDA



PNWA works to strengthen the regional economy by increasing economic and environmental sustainability

NAVIGATION POLICY

- Protect increased federal funding to meet operations and maintenance, major rehabilitation, and new construction needs of the region's deep draft, shallow draft, and inland ports, harbors and waterways including funding for NOAA's Weather Service and Office of Coast Survey.
- Protect Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) and Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) to ensure that all transportation user fees collected are used for their stated transportation infrastructure maintenance and development purposes.
- Support full use of annual Harbor Maintenance Tax collections, spending down the HMTF surplus, and annual appropriations of HMTF consistent with amounts specified in WRDA 2020 including for expanded uses.
- Support WRDA enactment on a two year cycle.
- Support funding for implementation of the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Freight mobility. Support projects, policies and planning that enhance navigation, multi-modal connections, broadband services, port security, cybersecurity, and efficient freight and passenger mobility for ports, waterways, rail and roads.

ENERGY

- Ensure that the Northwest hydropower system remains efficient, reliable and cost competitive.
- Maintain a robust Federal Columbia River Power System to ensure system reliability, meet customer load requirements, and keep power rates as low as possible.
- Maintain and enhance grid resiliency and regional hydropower capabilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Support the global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions without negatively impacting U.S. or Pacific Northwest jobs, agriculture, manufacturing, or transportation.

ENVIRONMENT

- Support the Columbia River System Operations (CRSO) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Biological Opinion.
- Oppose dam breaching, reservoir drawdown, excessive flow augmentation and excessive spill.
- Congress and the Administration should provide direction and sufficient resources to ensure that the Corps, NMFS, USFWS, and other resource agencies process permits to meet statutory timelines. Encourage federal agencies to improve communication, consistency, and timeliness in the permitting process, and work with ports and industry stakeholders to resolve the significant challenges regarding baseline conditions, compensatory mitigation, programmatic permits, and designation of dredged material placement sites.
- Encourage federal agencies to regulate appropriate to the recent changes in the regulatory/legal environment and implementing current court decisions such as Loper Bright, Corner Post, Maine Lobstermen, and definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS), and overturning of Chevron deference.
- Support federal funding to modernize working waterfronts to include electrification of both docks and equipment (and supporting charging facilities) without negatively impacting U.S. or Pacific Northwest jobs and support federal funding for diesel emissions reductions in Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), and other programs in the EPA Clean Ports initiative, that support the reduction of transportation sector emissions.
- Partner with regional Tribes and other entities to support increased funding for habitat restoration, toxics reduction, culvert removal, pinniped and avian predation management, sediment management, wildfire prevention on public lands, and monitoring ocean conditions.

WATER

Columbia River Treaty. Work with the U.S. Entity (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and BPA), Department of State, and Northwest Congressional delegation to ensure that navigation, hydropower, irrigation and flood control are protected during negotiations with Canada and throughout implementation of a modernized agreement. Partner with Columbia River Treaty Power Group. Recognize the impacts of river flows on sediment management and vessel maneuverability on the Columbia River. Encourage the timely execution of a new flood control agreement and new treaty.