



Nor'wester Newsletter

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Corps recommends 57' in Seattle Harbor draft feasibility study

The Seattle District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has released the [Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment](#) for the Seattle Harbor deepening project. The [proposed project](#) would deepen the East and West Waterways to a depth of 57', which will be deep enough for the newest generation of container ships and allow for the increased size of future ships. When completed, Seattle will be one of the deepest harbors in North America. The project is being sponsored by the Port of Seattle and the Northwest Seaport Alliance and you can read their press release [here!](#)

Comments on the project will be accepted through August 31st, and can be sent to seattleharbor@usace.army.mil or mailed to:

Nancy Gleason
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CENWS-PM-ER
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98214

PNWA has been strongly supportive of this project since its inception. PNWA will be contributing a letter of

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support, and looks forward to the successful and timely completion of the study phase.

Ports of Everett and Portland receive TIGER grants

Recipients of the eighth round of the TIGER grant program [have been announced](#), with the Port of Everett and Port of Portland receiving grants totaling over \$17 million. These ports were two of six ports nationwide to receive TIGER funding this year. \$500 million was available for the program in FY2016, with 40 projects nation-wide awarded funding out of 585 applicants.

The [Port of Everett received a \\$10 million TIGER grant](#) for the upgrade and modernization of the port's South Terminal dock. The upgrades will allow the port to double its rail capacity and strengthen the dock to allow larger vessels to call at the port. Improvements at the dock will allow the port to better accommodate the new Boeing 777X airplane, where the wing of the new airplane is being built in its plant in Everett.

The [Port of Portland received \\$7.329 million](#) for upgrades to the Rivergate rail crossing and a new pedestrian overpass. The rail crossing at Rivergate is one of the busiest at the Port and results in significant congestion on the surrounding roads while trains move through. Improvements will help reduce congestion at the entrance to the Port's Terminal 5 and improve pedestrian safety.

PNWA was proud to support these projects, and would like to congratulate both Ports on these critical TIGER grants.

PNWA supports NWC comments on nationwide permits

Nor'wester readers will remember that the Corps was [recently accepting](#) public comments for the renewal of existing nationwide permits (NWP) and the issuance of two new NWPs. Nationwide Permits allow projects with minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects to receive streamlined processing.

Recently, NWC President Amy Larson submitted comprehensive [comments](#) with regard to the nationwide permit program. The National Waterways Conference (NWC) advocates in favor of national policy and laws that recognize the vital importance of America's water resources infrastructure to our nation's well-being and quality of life. PNWA has long partnered with NWC on regulatory, navigation, flood control, and many other issues. Steven Burns, Chairman of NWC's Legislative Policy Committee, spearheaded the effort to produce these comments. As a member of NWC, PNWA appreciates and supports the points made in NWC's submission on this important part of the Corps' regulatory program for our nation's ports and navigation interests.

In addition to the renewal of the NWPs, each regional office of the Corps is responsible for developing a list of conditions specific to the needs and/or requirements of a particular region or state. Regional conditions are important mechanisms to ensure the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the NWPs are no more than minimal, both individually and cumulatively. Division engineers may also suspend or revoke specific NWPs in certain geographic areas (e.g., states or watersheds) or high-value aquatic systems where the adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by those NWPs may be more than minimal. PNWA previously highlighted the open comment periods for all three of our districts in the region. We would like to remind our members that the period is still open for the Seattle District, for those who would like to submit their thoughts for that particular area:

[Seattle District proposed regional conditions](#)

Comments are due by August 19th
Submit to Karen.m.urelius@usace.army.mil

For more information, contact [Kristin Meira](#) at PNWA.

PBS adds Coleman to the team

PBS Engineering and Environmental is [pleased to announce](#) that former Port of Vancouver USA CEO, Todd Coleman, has joined PBS as their Port Sector Manager. Todd's primary responsibilities will be providing outreach to port organizations and serving as an advocate for ports by connecting them with the full-service capabilities the PBS-HDJ team now offers.

Plas Newydd joins PNWA

PNWA is proud to announce the addition of the [Plas Newydd](#) to our growing membership! Formerly, Plas Newydd Farm was managed as a year-round dairy farm, year-round cattle ranch, and then for extraction forestry. Current land use practices on the farm include sustainable timber harvest, seasonal leased cattle grazing, duck hunting leases, NRCS-funded farm activities, and maintenance of forestry and agricultural infrastructure including outbuildings, dikes, levees, water control structures, ditches, access roads, rock pits, gates, fencing, and off-channel watering systems. Historical land use management actions that have impacted the Plas Newydd property include conversion of floodplain for agriculture through diking, ditching, dredging and placement of dredge material, filling, grading and diversion of water. We established a Conservation Program to address historical land use management impacts by restoring site-scale watershed processes with a focus on dynamic floodplain habitat-forming and maintaining processes that support a broad range of ecological functions.

The Plas Newydd Farm Conservation Program complements the Farms' Forestry and Agriculture programs to create a sustainable working landscape that will conserve the open space and habitat values of the Columbia and Lewis River floodplains, while providing an economic alternative to residential or commercial development. The Morgan family has been stewarding the land for three generations, since 1941, and the Conservation Program is their vision to maintain the family ownership and diversify the activities and land-based revenue. The Conservation Program will ultimately restore, enhance, and preserve over 1,000 acres of diverse floodplain and adjacent upland habitats located along the lower three miles of the Lewis River at the confluence with the Columbia River, using a variety of conservation mechanisms. Tools to allow the restoration of habitats and enhance and preserve the biodiversity of this unique lower Columbia River landscape will include ecosystem services mitigation (banking as well as turn-key mitigation), traditional grant funded restoration, and others.

Plas Newydd Farm Conservation Program efforts are currently focused on the development of the 876-acre Wapato Valley Mitigation and Conservation Bank. Implementation of the Wapato Valley Bank will result in increased biodiversity of native flora and fauna, and a resilient landscape that can adapt to changing environmental conditions and river management operations. The Wapato Valley Bank, when implemented, will create significant gains in the quality and quantity of riverine wetlands, increase habitat diversity and availability of tidally influenced freshwater rearing areas for ESA-listed juvenile salmon and other native fishes to use, and increase both area and improve functions of sensitive aquatic, floodplain, riparian, and upland Oregon white-oak woodland habitats. Certification of this large-scale wetland mitigation and conservation bank will serve to simultaneously restore critical habitats and ecosystem functions, increasing biodiversity in the Lower Columbia, and streamline permitting and remove barriers to water-dependent infrastructure development in the Lower Columbia region. Other projects are possible, so please contact us on our website at <http://pnfarm.com/> for more information. Conservation Program staff are also available to consult on watershed restoration projects or programs. Within PNWA, Plas Newydd will be represented by Kelley Jorgensen can be reached by email at kjorgensen@pnfarm.com.



PLAS NEWYDD FARM
EST. 1941
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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