



# PACIFIC NORTHWEST WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION COLUMBIA-SNAKE RIVER SYSTEM



## POWERING NORTHWEST COMMUNITIES FOR 80 YEARS

The Columbia-Snake River System provides our region with clean power, family-wage jobs, efficient transportation, irrigation, flood control, and more. This complex system of dams, locks, irrigation, and fish passage infrastructure has strengthened the Pacific Northwest communities for more than 80 years. It is even more critical today as we work to keep our region stable and competitive in a time of global economic and social uncertainties.



**The Pacific Northwest is one of the nation's top export regions thanks to our working waterways.** Without the ability to barge on the Snake River, we risk losing commerce, jobs, and revenue to other trade hubs, such as the Canadian West Coast and the U.S. Gulf Coast region.



**The system provides us with a clean, reliable source of renewable power: hydroelectricity.** It is used as a stable base that allows incorporation of intermittent renewables like wind and solar. Without hydropower, which provides 90% of our renewable energy, other "firm" power sources such as coal, natural gas, and nuclear would be needed to answer the energy demand.



**Irrigation and municipal water supply from the Columbia and Snake rivers supports hundreds of communities and farms in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.** The Northwesterners who live and work in these agricultural communities feed our nation and the world, growing tree fruit, wheat, potatoes, onions, pulse crops, barley, oilseeds, livestock, and much more for U.S. and international markets.



**Fuel-efficient barging on our river system keeps thousands of trucks off the highways.** This helps reduce congestion and pollution in a time when addressing climate change is a top priority.

## OUR BALANCED RIVER SYSTEM IS AT RISK

Some in our region are advocating for the breaching of Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose, and Lower Granite dams—the four federal dams on the Lower Snake River. They believe this is the only solution to save salmon, and therefore, save Southern Resident orcas.

We share their commitment to salmon recovery. In fact, 95% of juvenile fish pass through each of the eight federal dams on the system today, and our region and nation continually improve fish passage, survival, and habitat. But salmon survival just isn't simple; the species faces a variety of challenges, including birds, sea lions, predatory fish, changing ocean conditions, and more.

The Pacific Northwest is a global example of maintaining a healthy economy and environment through good management practices and reinvestment in our natural resources.

# A STRONG RIVER SYSTEM BENEFITS EASTERN WASHINGTON AND OREGON COMMUNITIES

This map shows where your constituents see benefits from the river system, including low-carbon electricity, agriculture-related commerce, habitat investments, and recreation and related economic benefit.



## HYDROPOWER

The hydroelectric dams of the Columbia-Snake River System generate 90% of renewable energy for Pacific Northwest communities, and integrates less reliable solar and wind power into the grid.



## AGRICULTURE

The Columbia-Snake River System irrigates more than 5 million acres of farmland and provides a vital link between U.S. growers and global customers. It is the top wheat export gateway in the nation, second for soy and corn exports, and tops the West Coast for autos, wood and mineral bulk exports.



## RECREATION

The river system supports local economies through many types of recreation, including river cruises. Day trips, meals, shopping, and other services for cruise passengers generate \$3.4 million in economic activity for the Lewis Clark Valley each year.



## FISH HABITAT

Federal, state, tribal, and other partners work together to balance the river system by protecting and restoring hundreds of miles of stream and riparian habitat. Projects include increasing water volume in streams, installing screens to keep fish out of irrigation canals and removing barriers to fish passage.

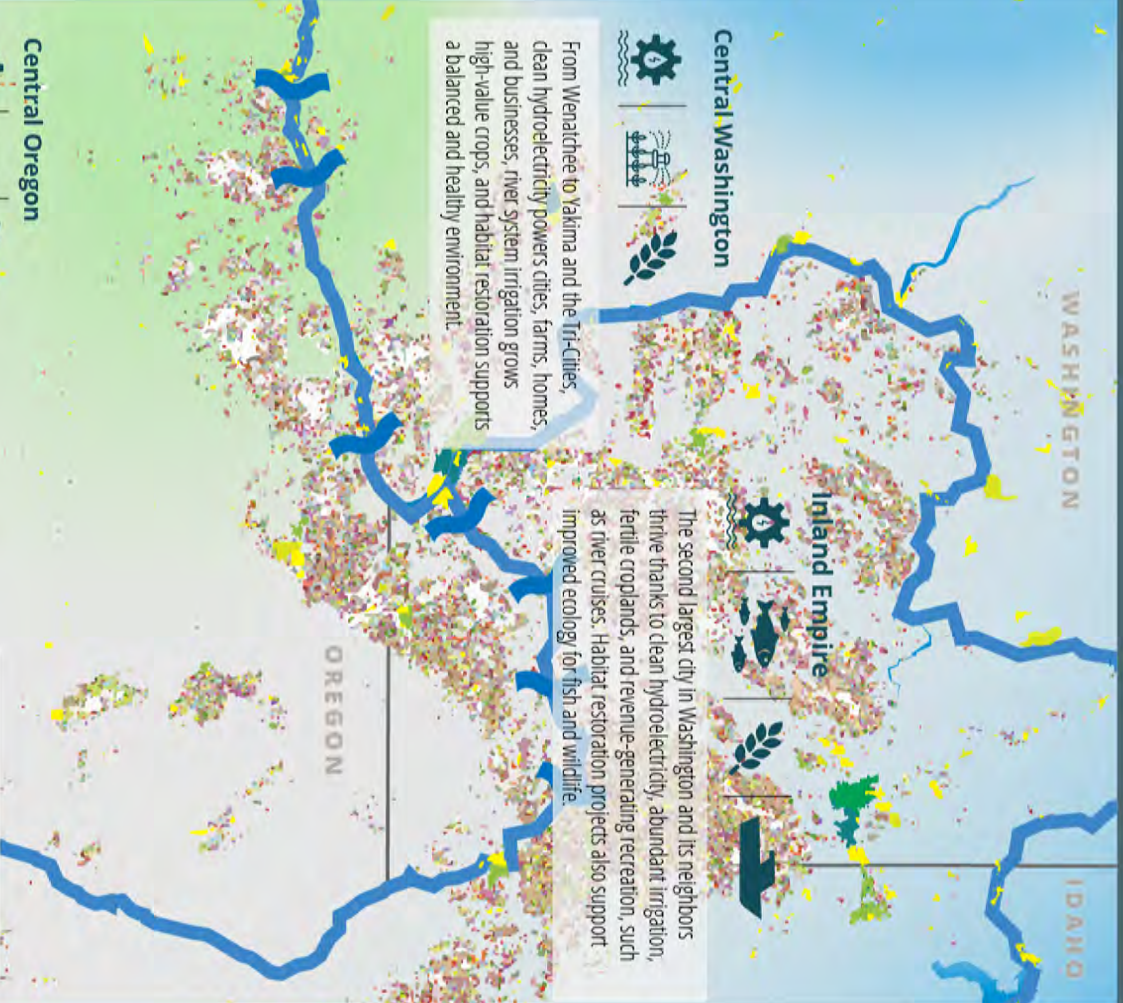


## IRRIGATION

Water from the river system and its tributaries supports a variety of crops, including fruit, wheat, potatoes, grapes, and hops. About 6% of the Columbia River's flow is used for irrigation, some of which returns to the river.

### MORE INFORMATION

Dena Horton, PNWA Government Relations Director  
503-234-8553  
dena.horton@pnwa.net



### Central Oregon

River system irrigation is the lifeblood of this arid region. Water from the Columbia River and its tributaries makes possible ranching and the cultivation of wheat, alfalfa, onions, potatoes, and sugar beets—supporting workers and communities from Boardman to Madras and Bend.

### LEGEND

