



Lower Snake River Dams Stakeholder Engagement Public Workshops

January 7, 2020 – Clarkston, WA

January 9, 2020 – Vancouver, WA

January 13, 2020 – Tri-Cities, WA

Agenda

6:00-6:30pm Open House

6:30-8:30pm Summary of Draft Report (presentation by Jim Kramer) and Panel Discussion

8:30-9:00pm Open House

Background

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the federal Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration are preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the operation, maintenance and configuration of the 14 federal hydropower projects in the Columbia River System, including the four lower Snake River dams (LSRD). The EIS was ordered by the U.S. District Court for Oregon and is being conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft EIS is scheduled to be publicly available in February 2020 and the final EIS will be completed in June 2020.

The Washington State Legislature provided funding in the 2019-21 operating budget for the Governor's Office to consider the issues associated with retaining or breaching the LSRD and the views of Washingtonians on these issues to help inform Gov. Jay Inslee's position on the draft EIS. To conduct the engagement process approved by the Legislature, the Governor's Office hired a contractor team of Ross Strategic, Kramer Consulting, White Bluffs Consulting and Anchor QEA. The team is providing neutral facilitation and evaluation services; they will submit a final report describing the views of Washingtonians on potential positive and negative impacts of retaining or breaching the LSRD in March 2020. The purpose of the report is to summarize available information and faithfully capture people's perspectives. Regarding the stakeholder engagement process and draft report, Gov. Inslee said:

"I thank all the stakeholders from all over the state for weighing in on this crucial issue. I encourage Washingtonians to get engaged in the public comment period over the next month and share their input on what should be done. We need to hear from a variety of people from different regions and perspectives."

"I look forward to the public engagement and to working in partnership with the federal government going forward."

The Panelists



Dustin Aherin (*speaking at all three meetings*) is a 5th generation Idahoan and has been guiding on the Salmon, Snake and Owyhee rivers for over 25 years. He has owned Idaho River Adventures since 2011 operating rafting and fishing trips on the Middle Fork Salmon and Lower Salmon rivers. Dustin has been involved with various efforts to bring back and protect wild salmon and steelhead in Idaho since the mid-1990's. Dustin is president of the Middle Fork Outfitters

Association, the trade organization representing the 24 licensed outfitters operating on the Middle Fork Salmon River.

Kieran Connolly (*speaking at the Tri-Cities meeting*) is Vice President of Generation Asset Management in Power Services at Bonneville Power Administration. Managing the federal system with BPA partners (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and Energy Northwest) to meet the multiple purposes it serves is fundamental to the success of BPA and the region. Kieran previously served as BPA manager of Generation Scheduling, which includes hydroelectric scheduling of the 31 dams in the Federal Columbia River Power System and day-ahead system planning and policy issues that impact real-time power system operations. He has also managed Regional Coordination in Power Services Generation Asset Management's Power and Operations Planning group, requiring knowledge of long-term hydro system modeling, coordination with Canada on river operations, and the integration of fish operations in overall system planning. Kieran began his career at BPA in 1991 as a supply system analyst. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Economics from Willamette University and a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Portland.



Dr. Deborah Giles (she goes by her last name) (*speaking at all three meetings*) received her PhD from the University of California Davis in 2014 which focused on the federally listed Southern Resident killer whales. Formerly the Research Director at the Center for Whale Research, she is now the Science and Research Director for the non-profit Wild Orca and a resident scientist and lecturer at the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Lab. Since

2009, Giles has been a research scientist with UW's Center for Conservation Biology, utilizing a scat detection dog to locate floating killer whale scat to monitor the physiological health of whales in the Salish Sea. Giles is a scientific adviser for the Orca Salmon Alliance, a program advisor for Killer Whale Tales, and is on the Steering Committee for the Salish Sea Ecosystem Advocates (SalishSEA).



Nancy Hirsh (*speaking at the Clarkston and Tri-Cities meetings*) is Executive Director for the NW Energy Coalition. Nancy directs the Coalition's efforts to enhance investments in energy efficiency, renewable resources, and low-income energy services through work with utilities, commissioners, regulators, and legislators. She serves on the board of Renewable Northwest and the Centralia Coal Transition Board. She is also on the

advisory committee for the Institute for Energy Studies at Western Washington University. From 1996 through 2014 she served as the Coalition's policy director. Before joining the Coalition, she spent twelve years in Washington, DC working on national energy policy issues for the Environmental Action Foundation and the National Wildlife Federation. She lives in Seattle with her husband, children and dog. When not advocating clean energy solutions, she is an avid backpacker and hiker.

David Johnson (*speaking at all three meetings*) is the Department Manager for the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Department. With 190 employees, a \$23 million annual budget, and eight offices located in two states, the Nez Perce Tribe's Fisheries Department is one of the largest tribal fisheries programs of any of the Tribes in the United States. Dave has been the Manager for the program since 2002 and has worked for the Tribe for over 28 years. He has also been employed as Fisheries Biologist with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He has a bachelor's and master's degree in Biology from Northern Arizona University and is an enrolled member of the Navajo Tribe.



Joel Kawahara (*speaking at all three meetings*) is a commercial salmon troller based in Quilcene. He has fished salmon first on his father's boat and, since 1987, on his own boat. He has fished salmon from Morro Bay, California, to Yakutat, Alaska. He was born in Seattle and attended the UW, earning a BS in Physics in 1978 and subsequently BSEE in 1985. He left a job and went fishing in 1991. He served on the PFMC Habitat

Committee as commercial fishing representative from 2007 until 2018. He has been involved in multiple salmon fishing organizations and currently serves as Vice President to the Coastal Trollers Association. He also serves as one of two commercial fishing representatives to the Save our Wild Salmon Coalition.

Birgit Koehler (*speaking at the Clarkston and Vancouver meetings*) is the Policy Lead for Power on the Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement (CRSO EIS) at the Bonneville Power Administration. She oversees technical work analyzing potential future operations of the Columbia River System and then brings that information into the policy discussions. Birgit joined BPA in 2002 as a “hydro duty scheduler” responsible for the real-time, hourly operation of the “big 10” projects, ensuring compliance with flood risk management constraints and fish operations, and meeting power needs. She later managed the Regional Coordination group, which is responsible for the implementation of the Columbia River Treaty and negotiation preparation around the future of the Treaty. Prior to joining BPA, Birgit was a DOE Global Change Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow researching chemical reactions on the surface of polar stratospheric clouds implicated in the formation of the ozone hole. She then joined the faculty at Williams College and studied chemical reactions on soot particles related to contrail formation and climate change. Birgit holds an AB in chemistry and physics from Dartmouth College and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Stanford University.



David Konz (*speaking at the Clarkston meeting*) grew up in the Pacific Northwest and has been working in the maritime industry for nearly two decades. Presently, he works for Tidewater Transportation and Terminals (Tidewater), which has been transporting commodities in the Pacific Northwest for 87 years and is the largest inland marine transportation company west of the Mississippi River. Headquartered in Vancouver, Washington, Tidewater’s operating area spans

465 miles of the Columbia and Snake River systems, Canadian West Coast and Puget Sound region. Mr. Konz holds various roles at Tidewater including risk management for all of Tidewater’s operating companies as well as building relationships and engagement in advocacy with industry associations, regulatory partners and local, state and federal government officials and staff. Mr. Konz is active in many local organizations including currently serving as the President of the Columbia River Towboat Association, Chair of the Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee and Board Member for the Rotary Foundation in Vancouver, Washington. Mr. Konz previously served on the United States’ Inland Waterways User Board as the Region Six representative.



Sam Mace (*speaking at the Clarkston and Vancouver meetings*) learned to love rivers and salmon growing up in a fishing/timber town on the Oregon Coast. Sam first got involved in conservation working to protect forested watersheds and began working on Snake River salmon and steelhead restoration in the 1990s for Idaho Wildlife Federation. She had been Save our Wild Salmon's Inland Northwest Director since 2004. Spokane has been home since 1995, where she enjoys gardening, fishing and hiking.

Rob Masonis (*speaking at the Tri-Cities meeting*) manages Trout Unlimited's five conservation programs in the western U.S., which focus on conserving coldwater ecosystems and building an enduring conservation ethic among trout and salmon anglers. During his 26-year professional conservation career he has worked on many aspects of watershed and fisheries conservation and has extensive experience working in the Columbia-Snake Basin. He is an avid angler and fishes throughout Washington and the Pacific Northwest.



Alex McGregor (*speaking at all three meetings*) is chairman of The McGregor Company, a team of 350 colleagues who provide essential crop nutrients and agronomic expertise for 2,000 farm families in more than three dozen farm communities east of the Cascades. He is managing partner of McGregor Land and Livestock, a 137-year old farming and ranching business near the 'breaks' of the Snake River. He serves as chair of the Association of Washington Business Rural Economic Vitality Task Force. Alex is a former history professor who writes about the remarkable people and the remarkable lands of Inland Northwest farm and ranch country.

Blaine Meek (*speaking at the Vancouver and Tri-Cities meetings*) was raised on a family farm and dairy in Southeast Idaho. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a B.S. in finance from the Marriot School of Business. Blaine has been pursuing his passion for farming for 22 years and currently raises process potatoes, carrots, onions, sweet corn, green peas, corn, and wheat with water pumped from Lake Sacajawea behind Ice Harbor Dam. Blaine and his wife Rachelle have been married for 19 years and have 8 children.



Bill Newbry (*speaking at all three meetings*) is President and Chief Executive Officer of Pacific Northwest Farmers' Cooperative (PNW) and has been in that position since 1996. PNW is a 1600-member grain and legume agricultural cooperative formed from numerous cooperative mergers. PNW's growing area spans over 50 facilities and encompasses grain movement from 3 Snake River barge terminals and a shuttle train transportation facility that ships grain from Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington. In Addition to grains, PNW is also a major exporter of pulses to over 40 countries in the world and supplies numerous canners and hummus manufacturers in the U.S.



Rob Rich (*speaking at the Vancouver and Tri-Cities meetings*), originally from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, started on the river as a deckhand with the former Knappton Towboat Company in 1979. Rob has been at Shaver Transportation Company since 1986 in the operations and administration departments. He currently is V.P. Marine Services. Mr. Rich is Past President of the Columbia River Towboat Association (CRTA), Immediate Past President of Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), and Vice Chair of Columbia River Steamship

Operators Association (CRSOA), as well as serving on the OMM (Steamer Portland) Board of Directors.

Sara Patton (*speaking at the Vancouver meeting*) led the NW Energy Coalition as its Executive Director from 1993 to 2015 advocating a clean and affordable energy future through energy efficiency, consumer protection, clean renewable energy resources and restoration of fish and wildlife. For 15 years prior to her tenure at the NW Energy Coalition, Ms. Patton built the first major energy efficiency programs at Seattle City Light. Community service and includes the Board of Save Our Wild Salmon, the Board of the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, the Seattle City Light Review Panel, the Sierra Club's Cascade Chapter Executive Committee, the Pike Place Market Historical Commission, the 2006 Helen H. Jackson Woman of Valor Award, and the Friends of the Market Board.



Timeline

**August–Late
November 2019**

Contractor gathers publicly available information and interviews stakeholders.
Governor's office conducts tribal consultation with consultant support.
Governor's office consults with the states of Oregon, Idaho and Montana.
Governor's office will also brief legislators, the state's congressional delegation and federal agencies.

**December 20,
2019**

Draft report available for public written comment.

January 2020

January 7th – Clarkston

Quality Inn & Suites Conference Center
700 Port Drive, Clarkston, WA 99403

January 9th – Vancouver

Washington State University Vancouver – Dengerink Administration Building
(VDEN)
14204 NE Salmon Creek Ave, Vancouver, WA 98686-9600

January 13th – Tri Cities

Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center
2525 North 20th Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301

**January 24,
2020**

Public input period ends.

**Early March
2020**

Final report complete and submitted to the governor and legislature.

To read the full draft report, submit online comments and find recordings of these public meetings, please visit: <http://lsrdstakeholderprocess.org>