



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PROGRAM

October 25, 2021

In reply refer to: FOIA #BPA-2021-00597-F

Alex Mierjeski  
ProPublica  
155 6th Ave  
New York, NY 10013  
Email: [alex.mierjeski@propublica.org](mailto:alex.mierjeski@propublica.org)

Dear Mr. Mierjeski,

This communication concerns your agency records request submitted to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), made via the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (FOIA). Your request was received on April 13, 2021 and formally acknowledged on April 23, 2021.

### Request

“...any correspondence from January 1, 2018, up to and including the date this request is processed between the administration and its customers that mention any of the following keywords: “hatcheries”, “hatchery”, “spill”, “mitigation.”

### Response

BPA searched for and gathered 137 pages of records responsive to your FOIA request from the agency’s email archive system. Those 137 pages accompany this communication, with 13 pages having minor redactions applied under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) (Exemption 6). A more detailed explanation of the applied exemptions follows.

### Explanation of Exemptions

The FOIA generally requires the release of all agency records upon request. However, the FOIA permits or requires withholding certain limited information that falls under one or more of nine statutory exemptions (5 U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(1-9)). Further, section (b) of the FOIA, which contains the FOIA’s nine statutory exemptions, also directs agencies to publicly release any reasonably segregable, non-exempt information that is contained in those records.

### Exemption 6

Exemption 6 serves to protect Personally Identifiable Information (PII) contained in agency records when no overriding public interest in the information exists. BPA does not find an

overriding public interest in a release of the information redacted under Exemption 6—specifically, cell phone numbers, personal email addresses, and a single redaction of personal, non-business information. This information sheds no light on the executive functions of the agency, and we find no overriding public interest in its release. BPA cannot waive these redactions, as the protections afforded by Exemption 6 belong to individuals and not to the agency.

Lastly, as required by 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A), information has been withheld only in instances where (1) disclosure is prohibited by statute, or (2) BPA foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by the exemption cited for the record. When full disclosure of a record is not possible, the FOIA statute further requires that BPA take reasonable steps to segregate and release nonexempt information. The agency has determined that in certain instances partial disclosure is possible, and has accordingly segregated the records into exempt and non-exempt portions.

### **Fees**

There are no fees associated with processing your FOIA request.

### **Certification**

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.7(b)(2), I am the individual responsible for the records search and information release and exemption determinations described above. Your FOIA request BPA-2021-00597-F is now closed with the responsive agency information provided.

### **Appeal**

The adequacy of the search may be appealed within 90 calendar days from your receipt of this letter pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8. Appeals should be addressed to:

Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals  
HG-1, L'Enfant Plaza  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585-1615

The written appeal, including the envelope, must clearly indicate that a FOIA appeal is being made. You may also submit your appeal by e-mail to [OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov](mailto:OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov), including the phrase “Freedom of Information Appeal” in the subject line. (The Office of Hearings and Appeals prefers to receive appeals by email.) The appeal must contain all the elements required by 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8, including a copy of the determination letter. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the Federal District Court either (1) in the district where you reside, (2) where you have your principal place of business, (3) where DOE’s records are situated, or (4) in the District of Columbia.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001  
E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Phone: 202-741-5770  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448  
Fax: 202-741-5769

Questions about this communication may be directed to the FOIA Public Liaison Jason Taylor at [jetaylor@bpa.gov](mailto:jetaylor@bpa.gov) or 503-230-3537. Questions may also be directed to Thanh Knudson, Flux Resources LLP, at [etknudson@bpa.gov](mailto:etknudson@bpa.gov) or 503-230-5221.

Sincerely,



Candice D. Palen  
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Officer

[Responsive agency information accompanies this communication.](#)

From: Roy, Ryan

Sent: Fri Apr 13 13:23:04 2018

To: MCHC@gcpud.org

Cc: Buehn, Scott

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Spring FISH Spill

Importance: Normal

\*\*\*Please take care when opening links, attachments or responding to this email as it originated outside of Grant.  
\*\*\*

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Thank you all for kindly pointing out that the season we are entering is “FISH Spill” and not “Fill Spill”. I will blame the spring sunshine and Friday afternoon and next time try to do better J

Enjoy your weekend!

**From:** Roy, Ryan [<mailto:Ryan.Roy@chelanpud.org>]

**Sent:** Friday, April 13, 2018 12:51 PM

**To:** MCHC@gcpud.org

**Cc:** Buehn, Scott <[scott.buehn@chelanpud.org](mailto:scott.buehn@chelanpud.org)>

**Subject:** <External> Spring Fill Spill

**Importance:** High

\*\*\*Please take care when opening links, attachments or responding to this email as it originated outside of Grant.  
\*\*\*

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All,

As a reminder, we are entering spring fish spill season. Below is a summary of the spring fish spill requirements at each project:

- Rocky Reach – No spring fish spill requirement
- Rock Island – 10% of the day average flow forecasted for the project
- Wanapum – Approximately 20 kcfs projected to start the third week of April
- Priest Rapids – Approximately 30 kcfs projected to start the third week of April

The following information was just provided by Chelan's biologists regarding the start of fish spill at Rock Island.

Rock Island Dam will conditionally begin spring fish spill on **17 April, at 00:00 hours**. The daily spill percentage will be **10% of the day average river flow forecasted for the Project**.

The current yearling Chinook, steelhead, and sockeye counts at the RI bypass trap are 45, 10, and 117, respectively. Based on the University of Washington's Program Realtime model, these counts represent less than 1% passage for each species through 13 April. Since 1 April, the yearling Chinook and steelhead daily counts have mostly remained in the single digits. However, we have observed the sockeye counts jump from less than 10 per day to greater than 30 per day since 11 April. Each species is still far below the passage threshold of 5% which is the trigger point to start fish spill to provide coverage for 95% of each fish run. The Realtime model is currently forecasting dates of 30 April, 9 May, and 26 April for yearling Chinook, steelhead, and sockeye to reach the 5% passage threshold, respectively.

Historically, when we started to see a bump in sockeye numbers at the RI bypass trap, we observed daily sockeye counts increasing into the hundreds. We obviously have not yet observed that magnitude this April.

We contacted the Colville Indian Tribe and Douglas County PUD earlier this week to inquire about hatchery releases from their facilities, and they both replied that releases of juvenile Chinook will start on Monday, 16 April.

If we do not observe a dramatic "pulse" in sockeye counts over this weekend and the hatcheries adhere to their scheduled release dates, I believe that we can plan on starting spill on 17 April. In 2017, the unexpected early release of hatchery Chinook on 13 April required the District to start "fish" spill on the 16<sup>th</sup> instead of the 17<sup>th</sup>.

To meet stakeholder's prescheduling needs, I need to submit the spill memo today to plan for the start of fish spill

on Tuesday. However, please be aware that I may need to move up the fish spill start date, if either of the aforementioned conditions (i.e. pulse of sockeye or early hatchery release) transpires this weekend. If I do need to move up the spill start date, I will notify everyone and submit a revised spill memo as soon as possible this weekend.

Consistent with the past 10 years plus, fish spill will be “shaped” in hourly blocks within each 24-hour day to provide slightly more spill volume during periods when juvenile salmon are passing the dam, and less volume during hours with lower fish passage. The average spill rate of all blocks will equal 10% of day average river flow.

Spring spill normally continues into late May at 10%. Summer fish spill will be 20% of the estimated day average river flow and could begin as soon as the week of 20 May but no later than the week of 3 June.

From: Media Relations

Sent: Fri Oct 12 11:28:27 2018

To: (b)(6)@yahoo.com; nyabed@ieee.org; radair@newsdata.com; chuck@nwedison.com; Karis.Alderson@pnl.gov; kandreasich@snl.com; news@publicpower.org; kjb4@pge.com; michael.ball@argusmedia.com; hbeaudry@cfaluminum.com; mjbennett@snopud.com; lberg@newsdata.com; dbharris@franklinpud.com; drboorse@bpa.gov; miranda.bowen@pse.com; JBrady@npr.org; sbrown@nru-nw.com; Adam.brunns@conway.com; Pearl\_A\_Buenvendida@omb.eop.gov; rbush@tdworld.com; acarlile@eenews.net; Crista.Chadwick@seattle.gov; cchandler@cencoast.com; pciampoli@publicpower.org; CityCouncil@troutdaleoregon.gov; geck@pge.com; michael.a.coffey@usace.army.mil; scorwin@ppcpdx.org; billcrampton@bendcable.com; (b)(6)@gmail.com; mdelfranco@nawindpower.com; Dan.Dent@evergreen-efficiency.com; sdoughton@seattletimes.com; dan.douthit@portlandoregon.gov; bdownen@ppcpdx.org; brenda@nwppa.org; eere\_network\_news@nrel.gov; Michelle Ehrlich (Mehrllich@cowlitzpud.org); Elledge,Fern S (CONTR) - N-1; aengblom@snl.com; Andrew.Engblom@spglobal.com; sernst@newsdata.com; (b)(6)@msn.com; gene.fadness@puc.idaho.gov; energlaw@aol.com; courtney.flatt@wsu.edu; fred.flippence@harneyelectric.org; tflores@nriverpartners.org; jim.fodrea@hdrinc.com; Wevers, Francois (FWevers@clark.edu); apspokane@ap.org; Matt.Gibbs@evergreen-efficiency.com; (b)(6)@gmail.com; (b)(6)@centurytel.net; briangray@ibew77.com; rgray@nru-nw.com; tgrover@nwcouncil.org; gena@habitatskc.org; (b)(6)@msn.com; zack.hale@spglobal.com; jharrison@nwcouncil.org; jonathan.hart@eweb.org; joe.harwood@eweb.org; ncheber@snopud.com; bruce.henrickson@usace.army.mil; holdenm@ashland.or.us; G.Horvath@flathead.coop; mhowe@otecc.com; ehowland@maine.rr.com; editor@powermag.com; Elliana.Jin@gs.com; bjohnson@tpud.org; davonna.johnson@seattle.gov; agm@fec.cc; Gregory.Jones@pgn.com; stevek@quixnet.net; jkallstrom@snopud.com; valarie@pnucc.org; valarie@pnucc.org; marc@nwenergy.org; mark.m.kruzel@xcelenergy.com; grace@skylertek.com; jlevis@nmlineil.com; sliebelt@crpud.org; (b)(6)@gmail.com; debi.long@bhienergy.com; CesarRdrgrz@clr-bsee-pe-mec.com; plusk@cityofpa.us; Michael.Lustig@spglobal.com; cmadron@nwcouncil.org; shauna@pnucc.org; smedved@publicpower.org; kcmehaffey@newsdata.com; kcmehaffey@newsdata.com; mmichel@canbyutility.org; jmiller@opterraenergy.com; millerk@bentonpud.org; Robert Mullin (robert.mullin@rtinsider.com); jmyer@masonpud3.org; jnoland@newsdata.com; marko@newsdata.com; JOllis@nwcouncil.org; Paynter,Julie A (BPA) - DKC-7; stan@putnamprice.com; Russell, James (jrussell@ci.tacoma.wa.us); lisa@samuelsoncom.com; data1@fec.cc; iscruggs@ppcpdx.org; PShukovsky@bna.com; news@signalamerican.org; rsporseen@cowlitzpud.org; marcy@methowvalleynews.com; jstanfield@snl.com; stapilus@ridenbaugh.com; mstratman@nru-nw.com; estratton@dailyastorian.com; Edward.Szall@trunews.com; ntahran@obec.com; btansey@newsdata.com; admin@smartenergyuniverse.com; gvaagen@cherrycreekradio.com; Rocha, Victoria A. (Victoria.Rocha@nreca.coop);

mwalker@nwcouncil.org; (b)(6)@gmail.com; rod.walton@clarionevents.com; Frances.white@pnnl.gov; Eric.Wilson@evergreen-efficiency.com; Wittpenn,Nancy A (BPA) - ECT-4; Kelima Yakupova (kelima@londoneconomics.com); business@portlandtribune.com; andre@tdn.com; frontdoor@tdn.com; Continuity@bpa.gov; Markos, Kassie (Kassie.Markos@pse.com); Patrice Flynn (patrice.flynn@cleareresult.com)

**Subject:** Partners united for salmon, steelhead and lamprey extend Columbia Basin Fish Accords

**Importance:** Normal

## **Partners united for salmon, steelhead and lamprey extend Columbia Basin Fish Accords**

**Portland, Ore.** – States, tribes and three federal agencies continue to work side by side for the good of endangered salmon and steelhead as they extend the historic Columbia Basin Fish Accords for up to four more years.

The original agreements, signed in 2008, provided states and tribes more than \$900 million to implement projects benefiting salmon, steelhead, and other fish and wildlife, and \$50 million for Pacific lamprey passage improvements at federal dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

The Accords partnerships over the past 10 years balanced the agencies' needs to perform their missions of navigation, flood risk management, hydropower production, fish and wildlife mitigation, recreation, water supply and irrigation in a manner consistent with tribal trust and treaty rights.

The new Accord extensions could run through September 2022 and will set aside more than \$400 million for fish and wildlife mitigation and protection.

Since 2008, Accord dollars have: protected more than 36,000 acres of riparian habitat and improved nearly 7,000 acres; protected nearly 100,000 acre-feet of water; restored nearly 600 miles of streams and tributaries; opened access to nearly 2,000 miles of blocked fish habitat; and improved Pacific lamprey passage at dams operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The agreements also committed funding for hatcheries.

"With this renewed commitment, we look forward to building on the momentum and progress of the past 10 years," said Brig. Gen. Pete Helmlinger, commander of the Corps' Northwestern Division.

"These agreements continue to represent a significant, regional partnership," says Lorri Gray, Pacific Northwest Regional Director for the Bureau of Reclamation. "The work we've accomplished with the Accords illustrates the progress we can make for fish when we work together. We've seen that spending dollars on improving habitat is good for the fish and good for the region."

"These extensions ensure we will continue to benefit from years of collaboration and direct coordination with our Accord partners," says Elliot Mainzer, administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration. "The alignment derived from these agreements ensures we will continue to get the highest value for the fish and wildlife investments we make in the region."

Accord agreements were extended with the Shoshone Bannock Tribes, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated

Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the states of Idaho and Montana, BPA, the Corps and Reclamation.

To read the new agreements, go to [www.bpa.gov/goto/FishAccordsExtensions](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/FishAccordsExtensions).

**From:** Normandeau, Mike (BPA) - PSE-RONAN

**Sent:** Thu Nov 15 15:55:41 2018

**To:** Colin Willenbrock

**Subject:** RE: BPA Public Processes, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (Sturgeon) and Early Termination of Foot Creek 1 Wind Project

**Importance:** Normal

I've heard there's some big trout below Libby. Probably above too. Never had the opportunity to go fish it. Hopefully whatever's good for the sturgeon is good for the trout... assuming those 300,000 hatchery sturgeon aren't eating the trout fry...

**From:** Colin Willenbrock [<mailto:cwillenbrock@popud.org>]

**Sent:** Thursday, November 15, 2018 4:23 PM

**To:** Normandeau, Mike (BPA) - PSE-RONAN

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: BPA Public Processes, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (Sturgeon) and Early Termination of Foot Creek 1 Wind Project

Thanks for the update, Mike. How's the fly fishing going to be on the Kootenai?

Colin

**F. Colin Willenbrock**

General Manager

**Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County**

logo\_pend P.O. Box 190 | 130 N. Washington

Newport, Washington 99156

509.447.3137 | [cwillenbrock@popud.org](mailto:cwillenbrock@popud.org) | [www.popud.org](http://www.popud.org)

**From:** Normandeau, Mike (BPA) - PSE-RONAN [<mailto:mrnormandeau@bpa.gov>]

**Sent:** Thursday, November 15, 2018 9:40 AM

**To:** Bear Prairie; 'Clint Taylor'; Colin Willenbrock; Dave Churchman; Frank O'Connor (frank.o'connor@northwestern.com); Jackie Flowers; Kimberly Gentle; Lisa Ailport (lailport@bonnersferry.id.gov); Mike Klaus (mklaus@bonnersferry.id.gov); Phil Law (plaw@gcpud.org); Richard Flanigan (Rflanig@gcpud.org); Hugo Anderson; Jean Matt; 'Joe Lukas'; 'Mark Grotbo'; 'Mark Hayden'; 'Mark Johnson'; Ray Ellis; 'Rollie Miller'

**Cc:** Moore, Lisa A (BPA) - PSSE-MEAD-GOB; Landon, Sean M (BPA) - PSSE-MEAD-GOB

**Subject:** BPA Public Processes, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (Sturgeon) and Early Termination of Foot Creek 1 Wind Project

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the POPUD. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Managers,

Couple of public processes were started this week. Please see the attached links for more information.

Footo Creek 1 Power Purchase Agreement Early Termination:

BPA is seeking public comment on its proposal to terminate the Footo Creek 1 Power Purchase Agreement before its stated termination date. The owners of the Footo Creek 1 wind project – PacifiCorp and Eugene Water and Electric Board – approached BPA with the request to terminate the Agreement early. After considering the request and assessing the remaining costs and benefits we expect from the project, BPA is proposing to buy-out the remaining term of the Agreement.

For more information or submit comments, see the [public comment website](#).

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho 4-year Funding Agreement:

BPA is seeking public comment on a proposed Memorandum of Agreement negotiated with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. The four-year agreement helps mitigate for the direct effects of construction, operation, inundation and maintenance of the Columbia River System on fish and wildlife resources of the Columbia River Basin, and the Kootenai River subbasin in particular. It provides certainty of funding for projects that protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife and utility customers whose rates support this mitigation agreement.

For more information or to submit comments, see the [public comment website](#).

*I will note that having spent some time up in Bonners Ferry over the past 12-years, the mitigation projects to date are impressive. In this case, there are visible, tangible results that can be seen when travelling through the area on the Kootenai River. Major improvements to the floodplain, habitat and river flows have been constructed above and through the City. I've attached a couple of images for those interested. The first is graphic illustrating the multi-year phases of the project on the river. The second image shows excavating equipment building one of the channel islands over the past few years...*

Mike

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[Pend Oreille County Public Utility District #1](#)

From: Schwendiman,Celeste M (BPA) - PSE-BOISE

Sent: Fri Nov 16 16:02:53 2018

To: Ken Dizes (ken@srec.org); Ken Dizes

Cc: Hardin,Craig A (TFE)(BPA) - TSE-TPP-2

Subject: Mailing List for Nez Perce Tribes' Johnson Creek Artificial Enhancement Program

Importance: Normal

Attachments: JCAPE\_Project\_Location.pdf

Hi Ken,

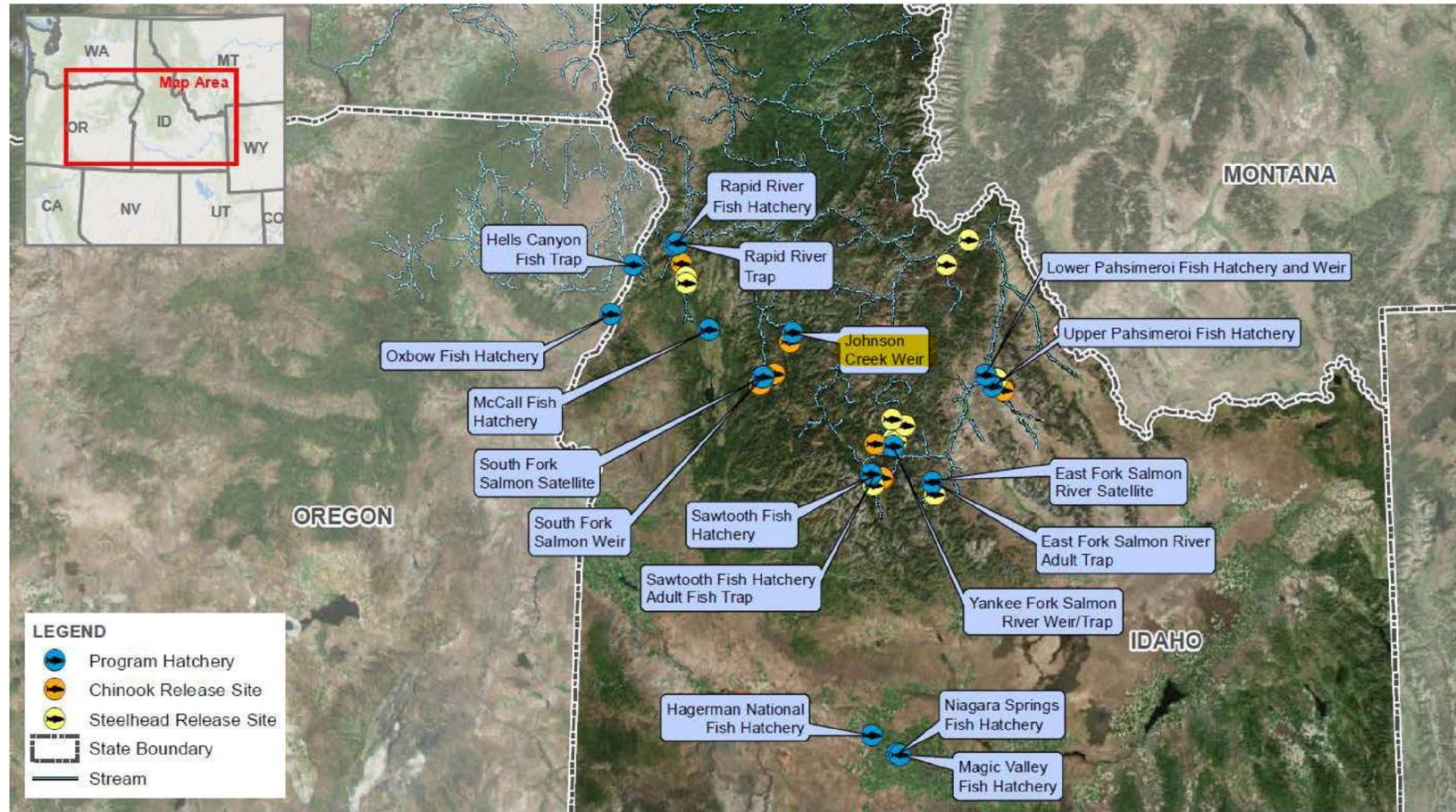
BPA is cooperating with National Marine Fisheries Service on an EA (environmental assessment) to support BPA's decision for the continued funding of the Nez Perce Tribes' Johnson Creek Artificial Enhancement Program. The project is in Valley County, Idaho.

**Project Description:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has a decision as to whether BPA will provide funding to the Nez Perce Tribe and the quantity of fish production that would occur with that funding. The primary goal of the JCAPE program is to use indigenous stock only to provide for the restoration of summer Chinook salmon in Johnson Creek and to mitigate for fish losses occurring as a result of the construction and operation of the four Lower Snake River dams. The program is an integrated recovery program for mitigation and is managed to recover and sustain the population and to provide harvest opportunities in years of abundant returns. The production target is up to 150,000 smolts (current and historical production targets are, and have been, 100,000 smolts) using natural-origin broodstock collected at a temporary picket weir and trap placed in Johnson Creek,

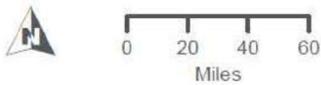
approximately 5.1 miles above the confluence of Johnson Creek and the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Upon collection, adults are transported to and held at the South Fork Salmon Satellite for spawning. Eggs are transferred to McCall Fish Hatchery for incubation and rearing and smolts are released in Johnson Creek at Moose Creek. No construction activities are proposed for the program. Eggs or fish in excess of hatchery capacity may at times require early release into Upper Johnson Creek. Up to 200 adult fish from other hatchery programs are returned to Johnson Creek to support nutrient enhancements.

Requested Action: BPA will be adding customer contacts to the mailing list started by the National Marine Fisheries Services. As this is somewhat near Salmon River Electric's service territory, if you would like me to include your name and contact information to the communication list, please don't hesitate to reply. As an fyi, I've been given a deadline of November 28<sup>th</sup> to respond internally with our customer contact information. -Celeste

1



DATA SOURCE: IDFG (2016) and USGS (2017)



2

3 Figure 2-3. Hatchery facilities and release sites for programs in the Salmon River Subbasin included in this EA.

**From:** Schwendiman,Celeste M (BPA) - PSE-BOISE

**Sent:** Thu Nov 29 14:00:00 2018

**To:** Ken Dizes

**Cc:** Hardin,Craig A (TFE)(BPA) - TSE-TPP-2

**Subject:** RE: Mailing List for Nez Perce Tribes' Johnson Creek Artificial Enhancement Program

**Importance:** Normal

Thanks Ken. It's possible Salmon River was already included. If so, I'll see if I can get you removed from the communication list. -Celeste

**From:** Ken Dizes <ken@srec.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 29, 2018 2:32 PM

**To:** Schwendiman,Celeste M (BPA) - PSE-BOISE <cmschwendiman@bpa.gov>

**Cc:** Hardin,Craig A (TFE)(BPA) - TSE-TPP-2 <cahardin@bpa.gov>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Mailing List for Nez Perce Tribes' Johnson Creek Artificial Enhancement Program

Celeste,

You don't need to include my name and contact information to the communication list. Thank you for your consideration of me on this issue.

Regards,

Ken

Ken Dizes

General Manager

Salmon River Electric Cooperative

Office: 208-879-2283 ext 3010

Cell: (b)(6)

signature\_1651766823

**From:** "Celeste (BPA) Schwendiman" <[cmschwendiman@bpa.gov](mailto:cmschwendiman@bpa.gov)>

**Date:** Friday, November 16, 2018 at 5:02 PM

**To:** "Ken Dizes ([ken@srec.org](mailto:ken@srec.org))" <[ken@srec.org](mailto:ken@srec.org)>, Ken Dizes <[kend@salmoncountry.net](mailto:kend@salmoncountry.net)>

**Cc:** Craig Hardin <[cahardin@bpa.gov](mailto:cahardin@bpa.gov)>

**Subject:** Mailing List for Nez Perce Tribes' Johnson Creek Artificial Enhancement Program

Hi Ken,

BPA is cooperating with National Marine Fisheries Service on an EA (environmental assessment) to support BPA's decision for the continued funding of the Nez Perce Tribes' Johnson Creek Artificial Enhancement Program. The project is in Valley County, Idaho.

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From: Evans, Kevin D CIV NAVFAC NW, PW8  
Sent: Fri Dec 14 08:49:04 2018  
To: Bob Demyanovich; Capuano, Michael P CIV NAVFAC NW, PW8; Cates, Nick E CIV NAVFAC NW, PRB327; Correa, Quincy Q CIV NAVFAC NW, PRB112; Dimak, Brian J CTR NAVFAC NW, PW6; Hickle, Curtis J CIV NAVFAC NW, PW8; Hrovat, Jeff D CTR NAVFAC NW, PW6; King, Eugene I JR NAVFAC NW, PRB112; Linton, Lee F CIV NAVSEA KPWA; McAllister, Max F CIV NAVFAC NW, PRED; Michael Huber (mrhuber@bpa.gov); Overby, Scott A CIV NAVFAC NW, PW8; Payne, John CTR NAVFAC NW, PW6; Pierzchala, Tabitha D CIV Navy Region NW, N44; Rogers, Randall H (CONTR) - PEJC-SEATTLE; SongeMoller, Paul CIV NAVFAC NW, PRB113; Taylor, Chris E CIV NAVFAC NW, PRW32  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Navy news from around the Northwest Region for Friday, December 14, 2018  
Importance: Normal  
Attachments: 20181214-CHINFO\_News\_Clips.docx

Very interesting articles about PSNS and new proposed state taxes to save orcas and salmon. //Kevin

-----Original Message-----

From: Yuenger, Leslie A CIV NAVFAC NW, PAO <leslie.yuenger@navy.mil>  
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 8:44 AM  
To: Brooks, Chad M CAPT NAVFAC NW, 00 <chad.m.brooks1@navy.mil>  
Cc:  
Subject: FW: Navy news from around the Northwest Region for Friday, December 14, 2018

Sir,

FYI/SA,

Very Respectfully,  
Leslie Yuenger  
Public Affairs Officer  
Protocol Officer  
Congressional Liaison  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest  
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203  
Silverdale, WA 98315  
O: (360) 396-6387  
C: (b)(6)

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Stories and Links:

Navy Gets Underway on Shipyard Upgrades  
U.S. Department of Defense/ C. Todd Lopez / Dec, 12, 2018

Story excerpt: Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer assured lawmakers that as part of the service's efforts to modernize the force, it was moving forward on plans to upgrade and improve the Navy's public shipyards, during testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee's seapower subcommittee.

What you need to know:

1 The Navy's four public shipyards:

Norfolk Naval Shipyard at Norfolk, Virginia; Portsmouth Naval Shipyard at Kittery, Maine; Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility at Bremerton, Washington; and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and

Intermediate Maintenance Facility at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Link:

<https://www.defense.gov/explore/story/Article/1711625/navy-gets-underway-on-shipyard-upgrades/>

Gov. Jay Inslee wants \$1.1 billion to help save Puget Sound's critically endangered orcas

The Seattle Times / Linda V. Mapes / Dec. 13, 2018

Full story: Gov. Jay Inslee wants \$1.1 billion to pay for a broad-based, unprecedented state effort to help recover the critically endangered southern resident population of killer whales.

The recommendations closely track those of the governor's task force for orca recovery, the fruit of months of work by more than 40 members.

Tax increases will be needed to pay for the recovery efforts, as well as other initiatives in Inslee's proposed biennial budget, released in a news conference Thursday in Olympia.

The initiatives are billion-dollar bold, and sure to be controversial, from seeking to revive salmon runs in the Columbia River, to a new panel charged with evaluating bypass of the Lower Snake River Dams; a three-year moratorium on whale-watching of the southern residents; developing options for managing seals and sea lions in Puget Sound and the Columbia River; and a spill program sending more water over the Columbia and Snake River dams to help salmon.

The initiatives will require sacrifice and support from people all over the state – and that is exactly what saving the killer whales that frequent Puget Sound will take, Inslee said. There are only 74 orcas left.

[HOSTILE WATERS | The orca and the orca catcher: How a generation of killer whales was taken from Puget Sound]

"Everybody is involved in this mission and everyone has to be for it to succeed," Inslee said in an interview in his office Wednesday.

"These expenditures have to be done now. There are lots of things in life you can put off for a decade. This is not one of them ... This is a one time shot. You won't be able to save them 10 years from now. That is why this is necessary."

He said he has confidence the public shares his love for the orcas and determination not to lose them as a species. He remembers as keenly as if it was yesterday the first time he saw – and heard – a pod of orcas, while out on a boat fishing with his father in the San Juan Islands, when he was about 6 years old, Inslee said: the primal huff of the orcas' breath, and sight of their giant dorsal fins all around the boat in the ghosting fog.

Mother orca Tahlequah also moved him and people around the world in July, as she swam more than 1,000 miles clinging to her dead calf. Prominently hanging on the wall of the governor's office in the capitol is the painting he made of Tahlequah, with her dead infant calf on her head.

While his connection to whales is one he feels in his heart, Inslee said, it is also one he understands as rooted in ecology. From reducing toxins in the water to boosting salmon in the rivers, "When we are taking care of Tahlequah, we are taking care of us," Inslee said.

"The orca is both inextricably related to us ecologically, and deeply embedded in our heart."

His proposals include:

Nearly \$363 million in the capital budget for salmon recovery, culvert removal, water-quality and water-supply projects around the state.

- \$296 million in the Washington State Department of Transportation budget for culvert repairs all over Western Washington, to respond to a

federal-district court injunction requiring the work, a judgment affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

- \$6.2 million to enhance compliance with existing state and federal habitat laws.

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"We have not had a robust discussion on how to replace services by the dams," Inslee said. "We just need to get the facts ... I know this is a controversy, but I believe the times demand a discussion."

The governor also is requesting \$580,000 for a three-year rule-making process to raise the allowable amount of dissolved oxygen gas in the Columbia and Snake Rivers with increased spill of water over the dams. The spill is intended to speed travel of young salmon to the sea and to lower water temperatures that in summer are proving lethal to salmon. That measure is controversial because it affects the ability of the Bonneville Power Administration to generate and sell power at the dams.

"We have to increase chinook and the Columbia is no small part of that," Inslee said. "It is not the only thing we need to improve, but it is a significant part," he said. Chinook are the primary prey of the southern residents, particularly in summer.

"This is the best short-term thing we have," said Inslee, estimating increased spill would generate on average 146,000 more adult chinook coming back to the river that could be snagged by the orcas as the salmon migrate home in saltwater. "It doesn't solve the problem, but it is a step forward. It is a modest reduction of electrical production but it is an investment worth making, and we think the science is credible enough to move forward." The budget also includes \$524,000 to examine increasing the chinook population by re-establishing salmon runs above Chief Joseph Dam on the Upper Columbia, and \$743,000 to improve monitoring and management of forage fish that chinook feed on.

Seals and sea lions in Puget Sound and Columbia would get a close look for possible culling with \$4.7 million to collect population information, and to develop management options.

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The purpose of the new regulations – which the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife would receive \$1.1 million to enforce – is to quiet the water to help the southern residents find the fish they need. The southern residents face a variety of threats to their survival, including toxic pollution, lack of adequate prey and availability to it, in part because of noise from vessel disturbance.

Hunger makes all of their other problems worse, and has been linked by scientists to the inability of the southern residents to successfully reproduce for the last three years.

"I thought a lot about this and concluded the general approach was a safe

and prudent one that errs on the side of survival," Inslee said. "For we humans, this is a relatively small inconvenience to give them a break," Inslee said of the southern residents. " ... someone who is starving should not be scrambling for that last morsel that can keep them alive." The whale-watch industry spends up to 85 percent of its time with customers watching other whales, Inslee said. "We will still have a robust whale watching industry. "I came away with the abiding feeling the risk of permanent extinction trumped 10 to 15 percent of viewing opportunities."

Link:

[https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/gov-jay-inslee-wants-1-1-billion-to-help-save-puget-sounds-critically-endangered-occas/?utm\\_source=marketingcloud&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=BNA\\_121318183209+BREAKING%3a+%241.1+billion+for+occas+in+Inslee%e2%80%99s+budget\\_12\\_13\\_2018&utm\\_term=Former%20Subscriber](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/gov-jay-inslee-wants-1-1-billion-to-help-save-puget-sounds-critically-endangered-occas/?utm_source=marketingcloud&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=BNA_121318183209+BREAKING%3a+%241.1+billion+for+occas+in+Inslee%e2%80%99s+budget_12_13_2018&utm_term=Former%20Subscriber)

Very interesting articles about PSNS and new proposed state taxes to save orcas and salmon. //Kevin

-----Original Message-----

From: Yuenger, Leslie A CIV NAVFAC NW, PAO <leslie.yuenger@navy.mil>

Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 8:44 AM

To: Brooks, Chad M CAPT NAVFAC NW, 00 <chad.m.brooks1@navy.mil>

Cc:

Subject: FW: Navy news from around the Northwest Region for Friday, December 14, 2018

Sir,

FYI/SA,

Very Respectfully,  
Leslie Yuenger  
Public Affairs Officer  
Protocol Officer  
Congressional Liaison  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest  
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203  
Silverdale, WA 98315  
O: (360) 396-6387  
C: (360) 340-5592

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# CHINFO NEWS CLIPS

Friday, December 14, 2018

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## ***On This Day In The Navy:***

*1814 - Under the command of Commodore Thomas Catesby Jones, U.S. gunboats, along with Sea Horse and Alligator, engage the British during the Battle of Lake Borgne, La. Though the American flotilla is defeated, the engagement delays the British attack on New Orleans for nine days, buying precious time for Gen. Andrew Jackson's successful defense of New Orleans.*

## **Executive Summary:**

In national news headlines today, media are reporting that the Department of Homeland Security reiterated the dangers of illegal border crossing and expressed "sincerest condolences" yesterday after reports that a 7-year-old girl died last week, and that the U.S. Department of Education announced yesterday it would automatically cancel \$150 million in student loans connected to for-profit colleges that closed in recent years. The John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group and the Essex Amphibious Ready Group started integrated operations in the Arabian Sea on Wednesday to support operations in Afghanistan reports USNI News. "Carrier strike groups and amphibious ready groups are inherently flexible maneuver forces, and these high-end integrated operations illustrate our commitment to the Central Region and demonstrate our ability to deliver naval combat power at a time and place of our choosing," said Vice Adm. Jim Malloy. Under Secretary Thomas Modly recently completed a three-day partnership building visit to Norway. Additionally, the future USS St. Louis is set to be christened in a ceremony in Marinette, Wisconsin on Saturday.

## **WARFIGHTING & LETHALITY:**

### **1. USS John C. Stennis, USS Essex Conduct Joint Operations In Arabian Sea**

(USNI NEWS 13 DEC 18) ... Ben Werner

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## **GREAT POWER COMPETITION:**

### **2. U.S. To Africa: Pick Either Us Or China And Russia, Not Both**

*John Bolton, national security adviser, lays out new American policy on Africa that aims to reward allies with trade and investment and punish others*

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 14 DEC 18) ... Dion Nissenbaum

WASHINGTON—President Trump plans to reshape America's policy in Africa by challenging the continent's leaders to make a strategic choice to align themselves with America instead of Russia or China.

### **3. Russia Says It's Willing To Keep Key Arms Treaty With US**

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 13 DEC 18)

MOSCOW — A top Russian diplomat says Moscow is willing to preserve a landmark arms treaty with the United States.

### **4. Captured Ukrainian Navy Captains Tell Russia: We Won't Testify**

(REUTERS 13 DEC 18) ... Tom Balmforth

MOSCOW - Two Ukrainian navy captains being held in a Russian jail have refused to provide testimony because they consider themselves prisoners of war, their lawyers said on Wednesday.

## **FLEET READINESS:**

### **5. Navy To Christen Littoral Combat Ship St. Louis**

(SEAPOWER MAGAZINE 13 DEC 18)

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy will christen its newest Freedom-variant littoral combat ship, St. Louis (LCS 19), during a ceremony Dec. 15 in Marinette, Wisconsin, the Defense Department said in a release.

## **SECURITY ENVIRONMENT:**

### **6. Yemen's Warring Sides Agree to Truce in Port City Crucial to Humanitarian Aid**

(NEW YORK TIMES 14 DEC 18) ... Declan Walsh

CAIRO — Yemen's warring parties have agreed to a cease-fire in the crucial port city of Hudaydah, the United Nations chief said on Thursday, announcing the biggest step toward peace in years for a war that has produced the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

### **7. Iran Hackers Hunt Nuke Workers, U.S. Officials**

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 13 DEC 18) ... Raphael Satter

LONDON — As U.S. President Donald Trump re-imposed harsh economic sanctions on Iran last month, hackers scrambled to break into personal emails of American officials tasked with enforcing them, The Associated Press has found — another sign of how deeply cyberespionage is embedded into the fabric of U.S.-Iranian relations.

### **8. Negotiations Yet To Begin On Return Of US Korean War Remains, Pentagon Agency Says**

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 13 DEC 18) ... Robert Burns

WASHINGTON — Months after the White House raised hopes for bringing home thousands of U.S. battlefield remains from North Korea, the returns have stalled. Detailed negotiations on future recovery arrangements have not even begun.

## **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE:**

### **9. As Pentagon Demands Cybersecurity, Industry Group Offers New Standards: AIA**

*As the DoD prepares to make cyber security a key pillar for what it buys -- and from whom -- a defense and aerospace trade group unveils a new standard that will allow companies, and the government, to see how secure contractors really are.*

(BREAKING DEFENSE 13 DEC 18) ... Paul McLeary

WASHINGTON: With the Pentagon increasingly anxious about how Chinese hackers constantly probe defense contractors' networks, the massive Aerospace Industries Association is releasing an ambitious new cybersecurity plan for companies hoping to win government work.

## **ALLIES & PARTNERS:**

### **10. Under Secretary Of The Navy Strengthens Alliances In Norway**

(NAVY.MIL 13 DEC 18) ... Cmdr. Paul Macapagal, Under Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs

VAERNES, Norway -- Under Secretary of the Navy, Thomas Modly, completed a three-day partnership-building visit to Norway, Dec. 12.

### **11. Philippine Navy Officials Tour U.S. Submarine In Palawan**

(PHILSTAR.COM 13 DEC 18) ... Patricia Lourdes Viray

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine Navy officials went aboard a US Navy submarine and a submarine tender during the latter's port visit to Puerto Princesa City, Palawan earlier this week.

### **12. U.S. Urges Hungary Not To Block Ukraine's NATO Engagement**

(REUTERS 13 DEC 18) ... Marton Dunai

BUDAPEST - The United States urged Hungary on Thursday to repair relations with neighboring Ukraine and not try to block Kiev's cooperation with NATO, saying "if Ukraine fails, Hungary will be on the front line of Russian aggression".

## **EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE:**

### **13. Senate Passes Resolution To Withdraw U.S. Support For War In Yemen**

*Resolution faces limited prospects for passage in House this year*

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 14 DEC 18) ... Natalie Andrews and Dion Nissenbaum

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Senate ignored appeals by the Trump administration and passed a resolution on Thursday to withdraw U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition at war in Yemen, delivering a bipartisan setback for the president's Middle East policy.

### **14. 'Blue Water Navy' Bill Backers Press Trump To Pressure Senators**

(STARS AND STRIPES 13 DEC 18) ... Tom Philpott

Using the last arrow in their quiver, veteran groups and service organizations urged President Donald Trump on Wednesday to use his personal influence with two Republican senators to persuade them to allow a vote on the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act (HR 299) before the 115th Congress expires next week.

### **15. House Funding Bill Scraps Arctic Icebreaker Program**

*(THE HILL 13 DEC 18) ... Rafael Bernal*

The Homeland Security funding bill that includes the \$5 billion requested by President Trump for his proposed border wall would scrap a program to expand the U.S. icebreaker presence in the Arctic.

## **PERSONNEL READINESS & VETERANS:**

### **16. Over 4,500 Kearsarge Group Sailors, 22nd MEU Marines Will Deploy This Month**

*(WTKR-TV CBS NORFOLK 13 DEC 18)*

NORFOLK, Va. – There are over 4,500 sailors and Marines serving in the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) that will deploy Dec. 17.

### **17. SRB Update Released With Pay For Performance Pilot**

*(NAVY.MIL 13 DEC 18) ... Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy updated the Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) award plan for Active Component and Full Time Support Sailors and announced a pay for performance pilot program in NAVADMIN 302/18, released Dec. 13.

## **NAVAL HISTORY:**

### **18. Inside The Secret U.S. Military Mission That Located The Titanic**

*(CNN.COM 13 DEC 18) ... Eric Levenson*

For years, the incredible discovery of the Titanic's wreckage at the bottom of the ocean in 1985 was thought to have been a purely scientific effort.

## **OUTREACH:**

### **19. A Brush With Admiralty**

*(ST. JOHN'S PREP 30 NOV 18)*

In the Boston area to commission the guided-missile destroyer USS Thomas Hudner tomorrow, Vice Admiral Richard Brown '81 reacquainted himself with the St. John's campus on Friday, nearly four decades after his graduation. In his first visit since June of 1981, the three-star admiral delivered a short lecture in the chapel and took questions for over 30 minutes from more than 150 seniors. Vice Admiral Brown, also commander of the US Navy's Pacific Fleet, addressed a wide range of topics with considerable nuance, but his message was simple.

## **COMMENTARY:**

### **20. Countering Russia And China In Africa**

*(WALL STREET JOURNAL 14 DEC 18) ... Editorial*

The Trump Administration announced on Thursday that competition with China and Russia will become a new American focus in Africa, rather than terrorism. The broad policy, as outlined by National Security Adviser John Bolton, is encouraging. Its success depends on the details of America's economic relationship with the continent.

### **21. The U.S. Navy's Amphibious Assault Renaissance: It's More Than Ships And Aircraft**

*(WAR ON THE ROCKS 12 DEC 18) ... George Galdorisi And Scott C. Truver*

Over the summer, the Smithsonian Channel featured a series, The Pacific War in Color. Amphibious assaults on Japanese-held islands, such as Tarawa, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and others were a prominent part of the program. Viewers witnessed armadas of amphibious ships and hundreds of landing craft that were part of each forcible-entry operation where an attacking force needed to come ashore in the face of significant opposition.

## **WARFIGHTING & LETHALITY:**

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*(USNI NEWS 13 DEC 18) ... Ben Werner*

The John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group (CSG) and the Essex Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) started integrated operations in the Arabian Sea on Wednesday, supporting operations in Afghanistan.

“Carrier strike groups and amphibious ready groups are inherently flexible maneuver forces, and these high-end integrated operations illustrate our commitment to the Central Region and demonstrate our ability to deliver naval combat power at a time and place of our choosing,” Vice Adm. Jim Malloy, the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and U.S. 5th Fleet, said in a statement.

Enabling a political solution in Afghanistan is considered vital to ending U.S. military operations in the country, Army Lt. Gen. Austin “Scott” Miller, now the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan and of NATO’s Operation Resolute Support, said during his Senate confirmation hearing in June.

The crews and fighters from both Stennis and Essex are expected to conduct a series of joint exercises, including an in-flight refueling of an F-35 from an F/A-18F Super Hornet, and

[Return to Index](#)

cross-deck training of deck, supply, intelligence, media, and medical personnel, according to a 5th Fleet statement.

USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74) left Naval Base Kitsap, in Bremerton, Wash., for deployment in October, and will ultimately enter a four-year mid-life refueling and complex overhaul (RCOH) at Huntington Ingalls Industries Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia. Stennis’ arrival marks the first time a Navy aircraft carrier operated in the region since March when USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) left the area.

In October, Wasp-class amphibious warship USS Essex (LHD-2) entered the Persian Gulf, bringing for the first time a squadron of Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters to the region through the Strait of Hormuz.

Joining Stennis in the Arabian Sea is Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9, Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay (CG-53) and Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Decatur (DDG 73) and USS Mitscher (DDG-57).

<https://news.usni.org/2018/12/13/39636>

## **GREAT POWER COMPETITION:**

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*John Bolton, national security adviser, lays out new American policy on Africa that aims to reward allies with trade and investment and punish others*

*(WALL STREET JOURNAL 14 DEC 18) ... Dion Nissenbaum*

WASHINGTON—President Trump plans to reshape America’s policy in Africa by challenging the continent’s leaders to make a strategic choice to align themselves with America instead of Russia or China.

As he has done in other parts of the globe, Mr. Trump is angling to strengthen ties with like-minded African allies and isolate uncooperative leaders who work with America’s biggest adversaries.

“The predatory practices pursued by China and Russia stunt economic growth in Africa, threaten the financial independence of African nations, inhibit opportunities for U.S. investment, interfere with U.S. military operations and pose a significant threat to U.S. national security interests,” John Bolton, Mr. Trump’s national security adviser, said Thursday in a speech unveiling the new approach.

The “Prosper Africa” plan is part of a broader Trump administration effort to shift U.S. focus from counterterrorism efforts to a fight for global supremacy with Russia and China.

While the administration is worried about a growing threat from militant groups across Africa, the Pentagon is preparing to cut 10% from the 7,200 American military service members working across the continent.

U.S. officials said the Pentagon now would focus on hot spots like Libya and Mali, where Islamic State and al Qaeda fighters remain potent threats. They didn’t say what countries would get less attention.

“We have developed a plan where we can scale back, but continue to provide the support to those governments that are

fighting terrorism,” said one senior U.S. administration official.

Mr. Bolton’s speech on Thursday at the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington marked the launch of a new effort by the Trump administration to strengthen ties with African leaders after some early missteps.

Mr. Trump, who has yet to visit the continent in his nearly two years as president, asked during an Oval Office immigration debate earlier this year why the U.S. should accept immigrants from “shithole countries” in Africa, according to people briefed on the meeting. The president’s private comments triggered widespread condemnation when they became public, forcing U.S. officials to undertake damage control efforts with key African leaders. Mr. Trump later denied making the comment.

During her solo trip to Africa in the fall, first lady Melania Trump was criticized for wearing a white helmet associated with colonial rule. Ms. Trump later said she wanted people to focus on what she does, not what she wears.

Now, the administration is aiming to shore up African allies with increased trade and scale back aid to places run by what Mr. Bolton said were unreliable partners in places like South Sudan.

“This administration will not allow hard-earned taxpayer dollars to fund corrupt autocrats, who use the money to fill their coffers at the expense of their people, or commit gross human rights abuses,” said Mr. Bolton.

One overriding concern, U.S. officials said, is China's expansive presence on the continent, from its East African military base in Djibouti to its role as one of Zambia's biggest debt-holders. China is also spending billions of dollars to build railways, dams, oil refineries and other major projects across Africa.

China's deepening ties come as Russia has expanded its military cooperation on the continent, including places like the Central African Republic, where Moscow has provided weapons. The administration is now framing those developments as national security threats to America as it tries to offer a reliable alternative with trade and investment.

"We can't do any of that if these countries are being overwhelmed by malign influence from China and from Russia," the administration official said.

U.S. trade with Africa represents a small percentage of the country's exports and imports. In 2017, the U.S. exported about \$14 billion in goods to sub-Saharan Africa and imported nearly \$25 billion, according to the U.S. Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. China recently agreed to invest more than \$60 billion more in Africa, a move that gives Beijing more leverage and influence to counter any new American initiatives.

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### 3. Russia Says It's Willing To Keep Key Arms Treaty With US

*(ASSOCIATED PRESS 13 DEC 18)*

MOSCOW — A top Russian diplomat says Moscow is willing to preserve a landmark arms treaty with the United States.

The remarks by Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov came after the U.S. officially announced last week that it would suspend its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Treaty (INF) in 60 days, accusing Russia and China — which is not a signatory to the treaty — of violating it.

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### 4. Captured Ukrainian Navy Captains Tell Russia: We Won't Testify

*(REUTERS 13 DEC 18)* ... Tom Balmforth

MOSCOW - Two Ukrainian navy captains being held in a Russian jail have refused to provide testimony because they consider themselves prisoners of war, their lawyers said on Wednesday.

Russia seized three Ukrainian navy vessels and their combined crew of 24 last month off the coast of Russian-annexed Crimea and accused them of illegally entering Russian waters.

Ukraine has said Russia captured the two small gunboats and one tugboat illegally and accused Moscow of military aggression.

The United States and the European Union have called for the release of the sailors, who are in pretrial detention in Moscow.

Roman Mokryak, the commander of one of the gunboats, told Russian investigators he would not provide any information until his crew was released, his lawyer, Ilya Novikov, said on Wednesday.

"He believes he alone answers for what happens on board, that his crew carried out his orders and that they cannot be held to account," Novikov wrote on Facebook.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington didn't respond to a request for comment.

Nikolay Lakhonin, a spokesman at the Russian Embassy in Washington, declined to comment Wednesday night on Mr. Bolton's planned speech and instead referred to previous statements by Russian leaders in support of Moscow's relations with African leaders. It didn't immediately comment on Thursday.

Mr. Bolton also warned the United Nations that the Trump administration could end its support for peacekeeping efforts in Africa, home to seven of the 14 ongoing "blue helmet" operations, if they are unable to forge lasting peace deals.

The Trump administration has expressed concerns about U.N. peacekeeping operations in the Western Sahara and Mali. And Mr. Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the U.N. and a longtime critic of the global body, said the White House would re-evaluate America's support for the U.N. in Africa. The U.N. didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-to-declare-russia-china-national-security-threats-in-africa-11544704321>

Ryabkov said in a statement Thursday that Moscow is "leaving the door open" for the U.S. to discuss how to keep the treaty in place.

He also said that U.S. officials have still not explained to Russia what is meant by suspending their obligations. He reiterated Russia's denials that it had ever tested or produced missiles that would be in violation of the treaty.

<https://www.stripes.com/news/europe/russia-says-it-s-willing-to-keep-key-arms-treaty-with-us-1.560487>

Oleh Melnychuk, the captain of the tugboat, has also refused to testify, denying Moscow's accusations and calling himself a prisoner of war, his lawyer Edem Semydlyayev wrote in a separate Facebook post on Wednesday.

No date has been set for the sailors' trial.

Ukraine has said it fears Russia is preparing to attack it, citing an alleged military buildup along its border. Russia denies this and says Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko is trying to whip up anti-Russian sentiment as part of an election campaign.

Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula in 2014 and backs separatists fighting Kiev's forces in the east of the country.

In Washington, the Pentagon said Ukraine Navy Commander Admiral Ihor Voronchenko would be meeting with officials, including Chief of U.S. Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson, on Thursday and Friday.

"(Pentagon) leaders will reiterate the U.S. support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters, as well as the right of its vessels to traverse

international waters,” Pentagon spokesman Eric Pahon told Reuters on Thursday.

*Reporting by Tom Balmforth. additional reporting by Idrees Ali in Washington; editing by John Stonestreet and Phil Berlowitz*

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## **FLEET READINESS:**

### **5. Navy To Christen Littoral Combat Ship St. Louis**

*(SEAPOWERMAGAZINE 13 DEC 18)*

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy will christen its newest Freedom-variant littoral combat ship, St. Louis (LCS 19), during a ceremony Dec. 15 in Marinette, Wisconsin, the Defense Department said in a release.

The future USS St. Louis honors Missouri’s major port city along the Mississippi River. It will be the seventh ship to bear the name St. Louis. The first was a sloop of war, the second a Civil War gunboat, followed by a Spanish-American War-era steamer troop ship, a World War I cruiser, a World War II light cruiser and a Cold War-era attack cargo ship.

The principal speaker will be U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt from Missouri. Barbara Taylor, wife of Andy Taylor, chairman of Enterprise Holdings, will serve as the ship’s sponsor. In a

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<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-russia-sailors/captured-ukrainian-navy-captains-tell-russia-we-wont-testify-idUSKBN1OC228>

time-honored Navy tradition, she will christen the ship by breaking a bottle of sparkling wine across the bow.

“The future USS St. Louis honors not just the great city of St. Louis, Missouri, but also the skilled industrial workforce who built this ship,” said Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer. “This christening marks the transition of USS St. Louis being a mere hull number to a ship with a name and a spirit, and is a testament to the increased lethality and readiness made possible by the combined effort between our industrial partners and the Navy and Marine Corps team.”

<http://seapowermagazine.org/stories/20181213-stlouis.html>

## **SECURITY ENVIRONMENT:**

### **6. Yemen’s Warring Sides Agree to Truce in Port City Crucial to Humanitarian Aid**

*(NEW YORK TIMES 14 DEC 18)* ... Declan Walsh

CAIRO — Yemen’s warring parties have agreed to a cease-fire in the crucial port city of Hudaydah, the United Nations chief said on Thursday, announcing the biggest step toward peace in years for a war that has produced the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

The Saudi-led coalition and Houthi rebels have agreed to withdraw their forces from Hudaydah, the main conduit for humanitarian aid entering Yemen, and to implement a cease-fire in the surrounding province, Secretary General António Guterres told reporters.

He made the announcement in Rimbo, Sweden, at the end of a week of negotiations intended to pave the way for full peace talks. Amid smiles and handshakes, representatives from the two sides also agreed to a prisoner exchange involving as many as 15,000 people, and to allow a humanitarian corridor into the city of Taiz, Yemen’s third-largest city. They agreed to meet again in January.

The terms of the deal announced by Mr. Guterres were vague in places, with talk of a “mutual redeployment” to stop the fighting in Hudaydah, and a “leading role” for the United Nations in the city. The United Nations is due to oversee the withdrawal of all combatants from the city within 21 days, but there was little detail about how that will happen.

Although the agreement offered a glimmer of hope for a conflict whose dire toll has drawn global outrage, numerous earlier peace efforts in Yemen have quickly crumbled, and analysts warned that this one required urgent, concerted international support to save it from a similar fate.

“Now it’s time for the U.N. Security Council to entrench the cease-fire agreement with a resolution,” Peter Salisbury, a Yemen expert at the International Crisis Group, wrote on Twitter. “There is no excuse for international inaction now, and this fragile moment must be protected.”

Both the Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition stressed that the cease-fire agreement signed Thursday was not a comprehensive peace deal, but purely a humanitarian gesture aimed at building good will.

“Neither side sees it as the beginning of the end of the conflict,” Mr. Salisbury said in an interview.

Even so, Thursday’s agreement marks a shift in the broader war.

In the past month, the United Arab Emirates, part of the Saudi coalition, has led a fierce drive to seize Hudaydah, with its warplanes supporting allied Yemeni forces on the ground. They have almost entirely surrounded the city, with the Houthis controlling just one road leading out of it.

Now, those hard-won gains will have to be surrendered if, as the deal stipulates, Hudaydah is effectively taken out of the fight.

Anwar Gargash, the Emirati minister of state for foreign affairs, put a positive gloss on the deal, framing it as a product of his forces’s military success. “Our sincere appreciation to the 5,000 Emirati soldiers along with Yemeni forces who were ready to liberate the port,” he said in a statement. “Their bravery and commitment made the diplomatic progress possible.”

The international sense of urgency over Yemen has been driven by warnings that the humanitarian crisis could soon turn into a catastrophe. Aid groups say that tens of thousands of children have already starved to death in Yemen because of the war, and that 12 million people are at risk of starvation if the fighting does not stop immediately. A child dies every 10 minutes in Yemen from preventable causes, according to Unicef.

Intense scrutiny of Saudi actions since the killing of the dissident Jamal Khashoggi has increased pressure on the Saudi-led coalition to come to talks and raised hopes for a peace agreement.

The Khashoggi case has also upped pressure on the United States, which provides military assistance to the Saudi-led side.

In Washington, the Senate voted resoundingly on Thursday afternoon to withdraw American military assistance for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen. The House, however, earlier this week moved to scuttle the measure, all but assuring it will expire this year without making it to President Trump's desk, who would likely veto it anyway.

The fighting in Yemen started when Houthis seized power in the chaos that engulfed the country after the Arab Spring in 2011. But the war has since developed into a proxy conflict of sorts with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates supporting the government, and Iran backing the Houthis, who belong to an offshoot of Shiite Islam known as Zaydism.

The last talks between Yemen's warring sides took place in 2016.

In the talks in Sweden this week, United Nations officials tried and failed to get both sides to sign on to a framework peace plan. Officials also had aimed to broker a deal to reopen the international airport in the capital, Sana, which has been subject of a Saudi blockade since 2015, but could not reach an agreement on that issue, either.

But they were able to strike a deal that may ease the suffering in Hudaydah.

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## 7. Iran Hackers Hunt Nuke Workers, U.S. Officials

*(ASSOCIATED PRESS 13 DEC 18)* ... Raphael Satter

LONDON — As U.S. President Donald Trump re-imposed harsh economic sanctions on Iran last month, hackers scrambled to break into personal emails of American officials tasked with enforcing them, The Associated Press has found — another sign of how deeply cyberespionage is embedded into the fabric of U.S.-Iranian relations.

The AP drew on data gathered by the London-based cybersecurity group Certfa to track how a hacking group often nicknamed Charming Kitten spent the past month trying to break into the private emails of more than a dozen U.S. Treasury officials. Also on the hackers' hit list: high-profile defenders, detractors and enforcers of the nuclear deal struck between Washington and Tehran, as well as Arab atomic scientists, Iranian civil society figures and D.C. think tank employees.

"Presumably, some of this is about figuring out what is going on with sanctions," said Frederick Kagan, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute who has written about Iranian cyberespionage and was among those targeted.

In the Yemeni port, where artillery guns boomed across the city Wednesday night, residents were cautious in their welcome to news of the deal.

"I just hope some life returns to the city so we can live peacefully, at least for a little while," said Ahmed Jerwan, who works in a computer company.

Muneer Shura'ee, a professor of English literature at Hudaydah University, was more skeptical. "I don't think this cease-fire will last," he said.

Still, the deal signed Thursday exceeded expectations.

At the start of the talks, United Nations officials were unsure if the two sides would even meet in person, and artillery and warplanes were striking Hudaydah, the focus of the Yemen fighting. Houthi fighters dug trenches across roads, apparently in preparation for a bigger battle for the city.

But on Thursday, beaming representatives for the Saudi-backed government, which is based in the southern city of Aden, and the Houthis shook hands in front of Mr. Guterres.

Britain's ambassador to Yemen, Michael Aron, described it in a Twitter post as "The moment we've been waiting for!"

The focus turns next to the United Nations Security Council. Britain, which directs discussions about Yemen, will decide whether to introduce a resolution to reinforce the deal signed in Sweden.

But the key is what happens on the ground in Yemen in the coming weeks, as United Nations officials oversee the planned withdrawal from Hudaydah.

"This is just a first step," said Abdikadir Mohamud, the director of Mercy Corps in Yemen. "The measure of the agreement will be taken in action on the ground, not words in a conference room."

*Reporting was contributed by Mohammed Ali Kalfood in Hudaydah, and Saeed Al-Batati in Mukalla, Yemen.*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/13/world/middleeast/yemen-cessfire-un.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fworld>

Kagan said he was alarmed by the targeting of foreign nuclear experts.

"This is a little more worrisome than I would have expected," he said.

The hit list surfaced after Charming Kitten mistakenly left one of its servers open to the internet last month. Researchers at Certfa found the server and extracted a list of 77 Gmail and Yahoo addresses targeted by the hackers that they handed to the AP for further analysis.

It's hard to know how many of the accounts were successfully compromised or how exactly they were targeted in each case. But even though the addresses likely represent only a fraction of the hackers' overall efforts, they still provide considerable insight into Tehran's espionage priorities.

"The targets are very specific," Certfa researcher Nariman Gharib said.

In a report published Thursday, Certfa tied the hackers to the Iranian government, a judgment drawn in part on operational blunders, including a couple of cases where the hackers appeared to have accidentally revealed that they were

operating from computers inside Iran. The assessment was backed by others who have tracked Charming Kitten. Allison Wikoff, a researcher with Atlanta-based Secureworks, recognized some of the digital infrastructure in Certfa's report and said the hackers' past operations left little doubt they were government-backed.

"It's fairly clear-cut," she said.

Calls to Iranian officials were not returned late Wednesday, the beginning of the weekend in the country.

Iran has previously denied responsibility for hacking operations, but an AP analysis of its targets suggests that Charming Kitten is working in close alignment with the Islamic Republic's interests. The most striking among them were the nuclear officials — a scientist working on a civilian nuclear project for the Pakistan's Ministry of Defense, a senior operator at the Research and Training Reactor in the Jordanian city of Ramtha, and a high-ranking researcher at the Atomic Energy Commission of Syria.

The trio suggested a general interest in nuclear technology and administration.

Others on the hit list — such as Guy Roberts, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs — pointed to an eagerness to keep track of officials charged with overseeing America's nuclear arsenal.

"This is something I've been worried about," Roberts said when alerted to his presence on the list.

Still more targets are connected to the Iran deal — a 2015 pact negotiated by former U.S. President Barack Obama's administration and other world powers that called for Tehran to curb its uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions. Trump tore up the deal in May over the objections of most of America's allies and has since re-imposed a series of punishing restrictions on Iran.

One of Charming Kitten's targets was Andrew J. Grotto, whose tenure on the U.S. National Security Council straddled the Obama and Trump administrations and who has written about Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Jarrett Blanc, a U.S. State Department official involved in the implementation of the nuclear deal under Obama, was also on the list. He said news of his targeting was no shock.

"I've retained contact with Iranian counterparts since leaving government," he said. "I'd be very surprised if there were not Iranian groups trying to hack into my various email accounts."

Like the Russian hackers who have chased after America's drone, space and submarine secrets, the list indicates that Iranian spies were also interested in the world of U.S. defense companies. One of those targeted is a senior director of "breakthrough technology" at the aerospace arm of Honeywell International Inc., the New Jersey-based industrial conglomerate. Another is a vice president at Virginia-based Science Applications International Corp., a prominent Pentagon contractor.

Honeywell said it was aware that one of its employees had their personal account "exposed," adding there was no evidence the company's network itself was compromised. SAIC said it found no trace of any hacking attempt against its employee's account.

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There were Iranian targets too, including media workers, an agronomist and a senior employee of the country's Department of Environment — a possible sign that Tehran's crackdown on environmentalists, which began earlier this year, continues.

Hacking has long been a feature of the tense relationship between the United States and Iran, whose militant brand of Shia Islam has challenged American interests in the Middle East since 1979.

It was against Iran that U.S. and Israeli spies are said to have deployed the pioneering, centrifuge-rattling computer worm dubbed Stuxnet in a bid to sabotage the country's uranium enrichment capabilities. Iranian hackers in turn are blamed for denial of service assaults on American banks and computer-wrecking cyberattacks in Saudi Arabia, Iran's regional archrival.

The Charming Kitten campaign uncovered by Certfa is far less sophisticated, generally relying on a password-stealing technique called phishing. Two Nov. 17 emails provided to the AP by Jim Sisco of Enodo Global Inc., a Virginia-based risk advisory firm targeted by Charming Kitten, mimic the look and feel of Gmail security alerts, a technique used by hackers across the globe.

An analysis of Certfa's data shows the group targeted at least 13 U.S. Treasury employees' personal emails, including one belonging to a director at the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, which fights money laundering and terror financing, and one used by the Iran licensing chief at the Office of Foreign Asset Control, which is in charge of enforcing U.S. sanctions. But a few employees' LinkedIn profiles referenced back office jobs or routine tax work.

The U.S. Treasury, which did not comment directly on the hacking, said it went to "great lengths" to protect its employees.

The mixed bag of government targets suggests "a fairly scattershot attempt," said Clay Stevenson, a former Treasury official who was himself targeted by Charming Kitten.

Others' experience suggests a more professional effort.

Georgetown University professor and South Asia security expert Christine Fair said she had only recently returned from a conference in Afghanistan attended by Iranian officials and a visit to the Iranian border when she learned she was in the hackers' sights.

"The timing is uncanny," she said.

Another Charming Kitten target was an intern working for the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a Washington think tank that has been one of the Iran deal's fiercest critics. How the intern — whose email isn't public and whose name appears nowhere on the organization's website — crossed the hackers' radar is not clear. The foundation issued a statement calling the revelation "yet another indicator that Iran must be viewed as a nefarious actor in all theatres in which it operates."

Kagan, the scholar, said most signs pointed to a serious, state-backed operation.

"It doesn't look like freelancers," he said.

*Monika Mathur and Desmond Butler in Washington contributed to this report.*

<https://www.fifthdomain.com/international/2018/12/13/iran-hackers-hunt-nuke-workers-us-officials/>

## 8. Negotiations Yet To Begin On Return Of US Korean War Remains, Pentagon Agency Says

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 13 DEC 18) ... Robert Burns

WASHINGTON — Months after the White House raised hopes for bringing home thousands of U.S. battlefield remains from North Korea, the returns have stalled. Detailed negotiations on future recovery arrangements have not even begun.

The slower pace appears linked to the more talked-about stalemate over North Korea's nuclear weapons.

At a June meeting with President Donald Trump, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un committed to "work toward" the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and to cooperate in recovering U.S. war remains. Neither issue is said to be explicitly dependent on the other, and in August, the North turned over 55 boxes of remains, with expectations of more to come soon. But progress then slowed, as has the nuclear diplomacy.

Trump has said he likely will have a second summit with Kim in January or February, and while the nuclear issue would be the central focus, some believe a second meeting is the best chance to restore momentum to the remains recovery effort.

"It is easy to wonder if that isn't what everyone is waiting on to happen," said Richard Downes, executive director of the Coalition of Families of Korean War and Cold War POW/MIAs, which advocates for a full accounting of the missing.

The remains of thousands of U.S. service members were left behind in North Korea when the war ended in 1953, with the North and South separated by a demilitarized zone and no formal end to the conflict. Joint U.S.-North Korean recovery operations started in 1996 and were halted in 2005 amid rising worries about the North's nuclear ambitions. More than 150 individuals have been identified from the remains that were jointly excavated and returned through 2005; those are separate from the remains in the 55 boxes, which had been stored by the North, probably for decades.

Of the remains repatriated in August in the 55 boxes, two have been positively identified. They are Army Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel, of Butler, Missouri, and Vernon, Indiana, and Army Pfc. William H. Jones, of Nash County, North Carolina.

Charles H. McDaniel Jr., who was 3 years old when his father went missing in November 1950, says the unexpected return of his father's remains has given him a new perspective on life. After having buried the remains in late October in Greenwood, Indiana, McDaniel says he sometimes finds himself gazing alternately at a photo of his 4-year-old granddaughter and a picture of his father in uniform — a reminder that family connections live on.

"I almost feel he's looking at me," McDaniel said in a telephone interview.

McDaniel describes himself as hopeful that more remains will be sent home from North Korea, but he is not optimistic.

"The bigger issue for the world is the missiles and the bombs," he said, referring to concern that a nuclear-armed North Korea will pose an unacceptable threat to the world. "When it's to their benefit they will let loose with something like the 55 boxes (of U.S. remains) to make them look good," without resolving the nuclear issue.

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Kelly McKeague, head of the Pentagon agency responsible for worldwide efforts to account for U.S. service members, said in September that he hoped to begin face-to-face negotiations with North Korea by the end of October on terms for resuming recovery missions in spring 2019.

McKeague's agency has detailed knowledge of locations of U.S. remains at former POW camps and elsewhere in North Korea, as well as sites around the country where U.S. airmen went down and were not recovered. But to travel to these locations and undertake excavations, the U.S. needs North Korea's cooperation. In the past, this has meant providing millions of dollars' worth of vehicles and fuel and other forms of support.

A McKeague spokesman, Charles Prichard, said Wednesday that no formal negotiations have begun. He said McKeague believes that "in the foreseeable future" North Korean Army officers and members of his agency will meet to determine the location and date for negotiations on "the finer details" of future recovery operations. An initial North Korean written proposal last summer was rejected by the U.S. as including unreasonable demands.

"At this time, it is still feasible that joint recovery missions could be planned and executed in the spring of 2019," Prichard said. He said the two sides have exchanged letters and documents, but he could not reveal details.

Last summer, Vice President Mike Pence publicly raised hopes for a complete accounting of Korean War remains in the North. Speaking in Hawaii, where he greeted the aircraft that delivered the 55 boxes from North Korea on Aug. 1, Pence spoke of a "new season of hope" for the families of servicemen missing from the 1950-53 war.

Pence asserted that Trump had secured from Kim a promise "to return the remains of all fallen U.S. service members lost in North Korea," although Pentagon officials so far have made limited progress in that direction. Of the nearly 7,700 service members listed as missing from the war, about 5,300 are believed to be in North Korea.

Some worry that the Pentagon's inability thus far to get the North Koreans to the negotiating table may be connected to recently tightened U.S. restrictions on American private aid workers traveling to North Korea.

Daniel Jasper, who has worked in North Korea for the American Friends Service Committee, which works with farmers in North Korea to improve food production, said in an email exchange this week that the limitations have confused the North Koreans. He said the State Department has cut back on exemptions to a U.S. ban on travel to North Korea. This has limited U.S.-based aid groups' work there and inhibited the flow of humanitarian help.

"The restrictions on humanitarian activities have, no doubt, sent mixed signals to the North Koreans," Jasper said. "We are worried these restrictions may have ripple effects in other areas of relations, including the repatriation operations."

<https://www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/2018/12/13/negotiations-yet-to-begin-on-return-of-us-korean-war-remains-pentagon-agency-says/>

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE:

### 9. As Pentagon Demands Cybersecurity, Industry Group Offers New Standards: AIA

*As the DoD prepares to make cyber security a key pillar for what it buys -- and from whom -- a defense and aerospace trade group unveils a new standard that will allow companies, and the government, to see how secure contractors really are.*

(BREAKING DEFENSE 13 DEC 18) ... Paul McLeary

WASHINGTON: With the Pentagon increasingly anxious about how Chinese hackers constantly probe defense contractors' networks, the massive Aerospace Industries Association is releasing an ambitious new cybersecurity plan for companies hoping to win government work.

The move comes as top officials warn the defense industry that cyber hygiene will increasingly become part of the Pentagon's decision-making process in deciding what to buy from the private sector, and amid increasing concerns that inconsistent standards for cyber security across industry are putting everyone at risk.

AIA's new (and voluntary) National Aerospace Standard on cybersecurity (NAS 9933) aims to build on existing government standards while adding some much-needed conformity across the massively complex and varied defense industrial base. According to documents to be released Thursday afternoon, the new standards will allow companies and the government to have a better idea how secure their potential partners are before going into business with them.

"With aggressive state and non-state cyber actors targeting the United States, it is essential that our industry work collectively to protect technology and information," said AIA president Eric Fanning, a veteran of the Obama Pentagon. "We are committed to bringing our industry together in partnership with government to implement this and other meaningful measures that keep us and our nation safer from cyber threats."

The group said that the rules and procedures will serve "as a companion to DOD's current minimum standards" and build on 2015's National Institute for Standards and Technology rules, which identify 110 benchmarks for cyber security.

But companies can still be awarded government contracts even if they don't implement all of NIST's 110 controls, which led AIA to recommend new performance levels that will be transparent to all involved.

Cybersecurity for contractors has become a top priority for the Pentagon. Tightening cyber standards is a key part of the DoD's recent Defense Industrial Base report and

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acquisition reform in general. Pentagon officials often say they want cybersecurity to be a "fourth pillar" of the acquisition process, alongside cost, schedule, and performance.

Under secretary for acquisition Ellen Lord said earlier this year that she has been meeting regularly with the defense industry to talk about how cyber security will affect future acquisition decisions. She said she's taken to bringing intelligence staffers along with her to meetings with industry to impress on them the dangers of poor cyber hygiene.

Calling it an ongoing "education process," Lord warned, "there is an expectation that standards will be met within industry."

"Up to this point in time there has really been self-reporting (of problems)," Lord said. "We are actually going to go in and 'red team' industry to see how robust their systems are. The reality of the world we live in means cyber security is going to become more and more of a discriminator." In other words, Pentagon hackers may test your security by trying to get into your company's network, and you can lose a contract for a weapons system if its cybersecurity can't protect that system's secrets — or potentially be barred from defense contracts altogether.

Pentagon comptroller David Norquist has also spoken frequently in recent months about how cyber issues have led to some uncomfortable conversations with the defense industry. One of the biggest reasons the Pentagon failed its recent first-ever audit of its financial systems was due to problems with its IT architecture and the ways those systems interact with contractors. Speaking to reporters to unveil the audit, he revealed the Pentagon's "single largest number" of failings was in its "IT security around our businesses."

Norquist warned defense industry execs last month, "if you fielded one of those systems that is vulnerable to cyber intrusions, that is filled with errors in the way it is set up, we need to talk because you're one of the reasons we're not passing the audit, and we need you to fix it."

<https://brcakingdcfencsc.com/2018/12/as-pentagon-demands-cybersecurity-industry-group-offers-new-standards-aia/>

## **ALLIES & PARTNERS:**

### **10. Under Secretary Of The Navy Strengthens Alliances In Norway**

*(NAVY.MIL 13 DEC 18)* ... Cmdr. Paul Macapagal, Under Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs

VAERNES, Norway -- Under Secretary of the Navy, Thomas Modly, completed a three-day partnership-building visit to Norway, Dec. 12.

Modly met with senior military and civilian officials to discuss security and stability issues and efforts along with touring some of the Norwegian assets and facilities.

Meetings were held with the U.S. ambassador, State Secretary of Defence, Chief of Royal Norwegian Navy, Commander of Norwegian Defence Liaison Office, members from the Royal Norwegian Air Force, Army and Navy, and U.S. Marines on rotation to Norway.

"The U.S. and Norway share a very close military relationship and collaborate on many global, regional and bilateral issues," said Modly. "Being able to see it first hand was impressive and helped underscore the enduring value of investing in cooperative security relationships."

During his visit, Modly toured a Royal Norwegian Navy Skjold class Corvette and Fridtjof Nansen class frigate and the facilities at the Marine Corps Pre-Positioning Program-Norway (MCPN).

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"By working together with one of our closest allies, we create force multipliers that enhance our capabilities and build a better understanding of each other," said Modly. "I look forward to fostering this relationship through our Navy and Marine Corps team."

On his final day, Modly had the opportunity to have lunch and a discussion with some of the U.S. Marines from the Marine Rotational Force - Europe.

"Marine training in Norway improves cold weather and mountain readiness in Arctic conditions," said Modly. "It also enhances interoperability between U.S. And Norwegian forces. Our marines are getting great training and building enduring relationships with their Norwegian partners."

Modly is on a multination visit to the European region focused on strengthening partnerships and cooperation in support of the second line of effort of the National Defense Strategy: Strengthening Partnerships and Alliances.

[https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=10810](https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=10810)

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### **11. Philippine Navy Officials Tour U.S. Submarine In Palawan**

*(PHILSTAR.COM 13 DEC 18)* ... Patricia Lourdes Viray

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine Navy officials went aboard a US Navy submarine and a submarine tender during the latter's port visit to Puerto Princesa City, Palawan earlier this week.

The crews of Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Greeneville and submarine tender USS Emory S. Land hosted Armed Forces of the Philippines officials for a tour and a meeting with submarine force crew members on December 10.

Capt. Carlos Sabarre—Naval Forces West deputy commander—and Capt. Edwin Nera of the Navy's Submarine Group were among the officers who took a tour of the submarine and met its crew, the US Pacific Fleet said in a report.

US Navy Cmdr. Terry Nemecek, USS Greeneville commanding officer, noted that the American and Filipino navies have worked together in the past and continue to participate in bilateral and multilateral exercises.

The Philippine Navy officials also toured Emory S. Land, where some of the 139 active duty and civilian crewmen are of Filipino descent.

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"The crews of the Greeneville and Land continue to impress our regional partners with their dedication and professionalism during recent visits," Capt. Michael Luckett, Land commanding officer, said.

USS Emory S. Land is deployed in the US 7th Fleet's area of operations and conducts maintenance and support for US Navy ships in the Indo-Pacific region.

Greeneville measures 360 feet long and weighs more than 6,900 tons, according to the US Pacific Fleet. It was commissioned in February 1996 and arrived at its current homeport at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in March 1997.

US military ships regularly conduct port visits in Puerto Princesa City, where the AFP's Naval Forces West is stationed.

In June, Spearhead-class joint high speed vessel USNS Millinocket docked in Puerto Princesa for bilateral training with Philippine marines.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/12/13/1876754/philippine-navy-officials-tour-us-submarine-palawan>

## 12. U.S. Urges Hungary Not To Block Ukraine's NATO Engagement

(REUTERS 13 DEC 18) ... Marton Dunai

BUDAPEST - The United States urged Hungary on Thursday to repair relations with neighboring Ukraine and not try to block Kiev's cooperation with NATO, saying "if Ukraine fails, Hungary will be on the front line of Russian aggression".

Hungary accuses Ukraine of trampling over the educational rights of its ethnic Hungarian minority. Budapest has threatened to retaliate by blocking Kiev's efforts to move closer to NATO and the European Union, clubs Hungary belongs to.

The U.S. ambassador in Budapest, David Cornstein, told a parliamentary committee that Hungary could do more to "prioritize alliances" at a time when he said Russia posed a renewed threat to Ukraine and to Europe.

"Now more than ever, Russia is testing the West," Cornstein said in a statement circulated by the embassy.

"We feel strongly ... that as NATO allies the best way to promote reforms in Ukraine is by talking to Ukraine, not by blocking Ukrainian engagement with NATO."

Earlier on Thursday, NATO head Jens Stoltenberg told Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko that NATO would

deliver secure communication equipment to Ukraine's military this month.

Cornstein said Hungary, which is heavily reliant on Russian oil, gas and nuclear expertise, was playing with fire by cosying up to President Vladimir Putin.

"We need to keep the big picture in mind," he said. "Putin is not interested in national sovereignty. His vision is neoimperial. If Ukraine fails, Hungary will be on the front line of Russian aggression."

Foreign Ministry State Secretary Levente Magyar told the parliamentary committee that the differences between the U.S. and Hungary were not strategic, and said he hoped dialogue would help rectify them, according to state news agency MTI.

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban has backed Western sanctions on Russia over its annexation of the Crimean peninsula and its backing for a pro-Russian separatist revolt in eastern Ukraine, but he has also criticized the measures.

*Reporting by Marton Dunai; Editing by Gareth Jones*

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-russia-hungary/u-s-urges-hungary-not-to-block-ukraines-nato-engagement-idUSKBN1OC1KB>

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## EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE:

### 13. Senate Passes Resolution To Withdraw U.S. Support For War In Yemen

*Resolution faces limited prospects for passage in House this year*

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 14 DEC 18) ... Natalie Andrews and Dion Nissenbaum

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Senate ignored appeals by the Trump administration and passed a resolution on Thursday to withdraw U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition at war in Yemen, delivering a bipartisan setback for the president's Middle East policy.

The measure, which passed in a 56-41 vote, pits a Senate upset by the October killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents against the Trump administration, which views Saudi Arabia as a vital strategic ally. Seven Republicans joined with all 49 members of the Democratic caucus to support the resolution. Three Republican senators were absent.

The resolution, sponsored by Sens. Bernie Sanders (I., Vt.) and Mike Lee (R., Utah), would withdraw U.S. military support for the Saudi-led coalition fighting Iran-allied Houthi militants in a conflict that has left tens of thousands dead and pushed millions to the brink of starvation. Among other elements, it would bar U.S. refueling of Saudi planes and scale back the U.S. presence in the region.

While setting up a clash between the Senate and Trump administration, the resolution is unlikely to affect U.S. military policy in the region. House Republican leaders on Wednesday stopped an effort that would have forced a vote on a similar Yemen resolution on the floor.

"It's important to send a message," Mr. Sanders told reporters before the vote, adding that it could come up next year. "My very strong expectation is that in January, with Democratic control over the House, it will succeed."

After the Senate approved the resolution, it also unanimously passed a resolution with broad bipartisan sponsorship that condemned the killing of Mr. Khashoggi and directly connected Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to the journalist's death.

"It's a strong statement of our condemnation of what has happened. To me, that's important even if it doesn't affect policy," said Sen. Bob Corker (R., Tenn.).

The Saudi government has repeatedly said the crown prince had no knowledge of the operation.

The Wall Street Journal reported earlier this month that the Central Intelligence Agency determined in a highly classified assessment that Prince Mohammed sent at least 11 messages to his closest adviser, who oversaw the team that killed Mr. Khashoggi, in the hours before and after the journalist's death.

Senior administration officials urged senators to vote against the Sanders-Lee resolution, arguing that withdrawing U.S. support would only harm the international effort to secure an end to the conflict and hinder efforts to contain Iran.

The congressional action came hours after the warring parties meeting at United Nations-led peace talks in Sweden agreed to a breakthrough deal meant to avert a dangerous military fight over Yemen's most important port city.

Martin Griffiths, the U.N. special envoy on Yemen, secured agreement on Thursday from both sides for a peaceful handover of control of the Hodeidah port from Houthi fighters

to U.N. forces, a deal designed to avert a risky military fight for the country's main gateway for humanitarian aid.

The agreement marked a rare moment of diplomatic success in the four-year-old conflict.

Mr. Griffiths is hoping to use the peace talks in Sweden as a launching pad for more substantive talks to resolve the war in Yemen, which the U.N. says is home to the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

"The progress on the peace negotiations is not coincidental to this vote," said Sen. Chris Murphy (D., Conn.). "The United States has said through the Senate that our support for the Saudi-led coalition is no longer open-ended. We expect our partners to be partners in peace."

In addition to the Sanders-Lee resolution, the Senate is also reviewing a separate bill introduced last week by Sen. Bob Menendez (D., N.J.) and Sen. Todd Young (R., Ind.) that

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## 14. 'Blue Water Navy' Bill Backers Press Trump To Pressure Senators

*(STARS AND STRIPES 13 DEC 18)* ... Tom Philpott

Using the last arrow in their quiver, veteran groups and service organizations urged President Donald Trump on Wednesday to use his personal influence with two Republican senators to persuade them to allow a vote on the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act (HR 299) before the 115th Congress expires next week.

In a joint letter hand-delivered to White House, seven groups representing a combined five million veterans asked Trump to issue "a public statement of support for the legislation, indicating that you would sign this bill."

They predicted this "could help to persuade" Sens. Mike Enzi, of Wyoming, and Mike Lee, of Utah, to drop their opposition and allow a fast-track "unanimous consent" vote, which they predicted "would receive overwhelming support."

Enzi on Monday evening blocked a first attempt for a unanimous consent vote on the bill made on a motion from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y. Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, endorsed the motion, but Enzi used authority that every individual senator has to block such votes.

Within six minutes of Gillibrand filing her motion, Isakson delivered his supportive pitch and Enzi blocked the vote.

Isakson argued his committee had "done the hard work" needed for colleagues to feel comfortable passing the bill by unanimous consent versus a full committee vote followed by hours of floor debate, the traditional path to final passage no longer open as the Senate rushed to complete other term-ending tasks.

Passed by the House unanimously in June, the Blue Water Navy bill stalled for months in the Senate, in part because, by August, the Department of Veterans Affairs under new Secretary Robert Wilkie had begun attacking it vigorously with the encouragement of the veteran policy officials in the Trump White House.

The bill would make tens of thousands of ailing veterans who had served on ships in territorial waters off Vietnam, and their survivors, eligible for VA disability compensation and health care for health conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides sprayed on jungles and forests during the war to expose enemy positions.

would suspend weapons sales to Saudi Arabia, sanction people who block humanitarian access in Yemen or aid Houthi rebels there, as well as sanction those responsible for Mr. Khashoggi's death.

Also on Thursday, Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed, the top Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, announced that the Department of Defense had discovered it had undercharged the Saudi-led coalition \$331 million for fuel and aerial refueling services from 2015 to 2018, and planned to bill Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"While the accounting error is being corrected, the larger issue remains that the Trump Administration and international community must capitalize on the progress that has been made during the Yemen peace talks in Sweden," Mr. Reed said.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/senate-passes-resolution-to-withdraw-u-s-support-for-war-in-yemen-11544732490>

"We finally have addressed all those things everybody has said about the Blue Water Bill [that] they didn't like," Isakson said. "Except some people want another study [or] to wait until the VA says they need this, that or the other. [Or] we don't even have the right number as to how many people this might affect."

What the Senate does know, said Isakson, is that the original Agent Orange Act of 1991 allowed VA to presume exposure to herbicides for anyone who served in the war theater. Only years later, in 2002, did VA interpret the law as applying only to veterans who served ashore. Later still, it expanded Agent Orange benefits to "brown water" veterans who had patrolled rivers and harbors of Vietnam.

"I would just ask every member, before they consider casting a no vote against this unanimous consent, to think about what you're doing," Isakson said. "You're saying 'no' to those who have had a benefit taken away from them by the VA itself. You're putting off a decision we're going to have to make in the future. You're not allowing us to do what we really ought to do."

Enzi immediately opposed the motion, citing a fresh cost estimate of \$1.3 billion over 10 years from the Congressional Budget Office, which is higher than the CBO estimate given the House before it passed HR 299 in June. VA's own analysis projects costs five times higher than that original estimate, Enzi added.

"There's clearly more work to do just on figuring out the spending and the administration of this, and the deficit impacts this bill will have," said Enzi, who has watched the national debt balloon as chairman of the Senate Budget Committee.

Another concern he cited was that HR 299 would cover part of the cost of expanding Agent Orange-related benefits to Blue Water veterans by raising fees on veterans using the VA home loan program. But fee increases planned would not be near enough to cover revised cost estimates. Also, he added, it's still uncertain how many veterans and survivors would become eligible for Agent Orange benefits, the range of estimates falling between 60,000 and 440,000, he said.

"That's a pretty big gap on who we let in, if they've got a [health] problem we need to take care of," Enzi said. Therefore, despite the work done on HR 299 this year by

Isakson; Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont.; and colleagues, still more time and study are required.

Wilkie had urged the Senate delay passage of HR 299 at least a year to consider findings of a new study to be released in 2019 comparing the overall health of Vietnam veterans with that of all Americans of similar age.

On Tuesday, Gillibrand, Tester, who is ranking Democrat on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., held a press conference with veteran group representatives. The senators vowed to file at least one more motion for a unanimous consent vote on HR 299 in the days ahead.

The veterans groups who appealed to Trump — Disabled American Veterans, The American Legion, Military Officers Association of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS and Paralyzed Veterans of America — believe another unanimous consent motion will give the president time to reverse VA's own stand on this issue and pressure Enzi and Lee to drop their opposition, a move that would gain the everlasting gratitude of Blue Water Navy veterans.

Tester predicted that if Enzi or Lee continue to block a unanimous consent vote, almost two years would pass before

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## 15. House Funding Bill Scraps Arctic Icebreaker Program

*(THE HILL 13 DEC 18)* ... Rafael Bernal

The Homeland Security funding bill that includes the \$5 billion requested by President Trump for his proposed border wall would scrap a program to expand the U.S. icebreaker presence in the Arctic.

The Senate version of the funding bill and an earlier version passed by the House Appropriations Committee both include \$750 million for the program, but the current House version of the funding bill does not include money for the icebreaker program.

Some lawmakers have blasted the funding being stripped out of the House bill, which includes the full amount requested by Trump for his border wall. The \$750 million would restart the construction program and get the first new icebreaker in the Arctic operational.

"It was supported widely and broadly here on the Senate side and on our Homeland bill. It needs to stay in there and we need to be doing more for next year so we actually get a production line going, like the Navy says," Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) told The Hill.

Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.), the presumptive incoming chairwoman of the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, said that the Trump administration is "diverting \$5 billion out of Homeland Security for that wall [and] we won't be able to address some of the real national security needs that we have."

"The best example that I can give is the Arctic, where the Coast Guard has been begging for a heavy ice cutter -- we have one that's 40 years old. They have to go on Ebay to get parts, and there are times when there is literally no U.S. presence in that area. Russia has 40 icebreakers, some of which are heavy icebreakers," she added.

U.S. officials have warned that other countries are increasing their presence in the Arctic region, especially as

the next Congress, in its final months, would be motivated to reconsider benefits to Blue Water veterans and survivors.

"We understand there is concern about the cost to provide benefits and health care to Blue Water Navy veterans suffering ... illnesses linked to Agent Orange," the vet groups told Trump. "But when our nation asks its brave men and women to serve in harm's way, America assumes a sacred obligation to care and compensate for the injuries and illnesses they suffer during that service.

"Some have argued that Congress should continue waiting until there is more 'scientific' evidence. However numerous studies by the Centers for Disease Control [and Prevention], the National Academy of Medicine and others have already found there is no scientific basis to exclude [these] veterans from benefits linked to Agent Orange exposure."

The letter closes with a vision for the president who often touts his "incredible" support for veterans, advising Trump that they "look forward to the day when you will be able to sign this legislation and finally pay a long overdue debt to thousands of Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans."

<https://www.stripes.com/blue-water-navy-bill-backers-press-trump-to-pressure-senators-1.560488>

permanent ice cover decreases due to climate change, allowing access to natural resources and new shipping lanes.

"Diplomacy and cooperation are really hollow or shallow without presence," Coast Guard Commandant Karl Schultz said recently. "If we're not present, if we don't own the environment today, guess who owns it tomorrow -- our competitors."

At a conference earlier this month, Schultz said he's "guardedly optimistic funding for that first polar security cutter is going to be there."

The United States currently operates two icebreakers, although only one, a medium icebreaker, is in the Arctic, with the other heavy one in Antarctica.

"The Russians have 40, the Chinese have four, Canada has six, India is building a couple. What do we have? Come on, we all know the answer to this. We have one operational ice breaker, one polar strength vessel that is down in Antarctica and will be for the rest of her useful days," Murkowski said.

"We have a medium strength, she's doing well but she can't be up there most of the time, she's a research vessel, and that's it," added Murkowski.

The Coast Guard's polar strength vessel, the Pole Star, is 12 years past its expected useful period and suffered serious damage in January after one of its propellers was damaged by a piece of ice, according to InsideClimate News.

The Trump administration originally requested \$750 million for the icebreaker program, which received bipartisan, bicameral support.

But amid the debate over a border wall, the administration is throwing its weight behind the House version of Homeland Security bill that diverts \$5 billion for southwest border security, at the expense of programs like the icebreakers.

"Borders are borders, right? You've got borders all the way around the country. What do we have on that northern

border? We've got water and we've got ice. So what do we need to protect that border? We need a polar security cutter. We need more than one polar security cutter," Murkowski told The Hill.

Representatives for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which oversees both land borders and the Coast Guard, did not return requests for comment.

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Congress has until Dec. 21 to pass a Homeland Security funding bill and avoid a partial government shutdown.

<https://thehill.com/homenews/house/421314-house-funding-bill-scraps-arctic-icebreaker-program>

## PERSONNEL READINESS & VETERANS:

### 16. Over 4,500 Kearsarge Group Sailors, 22nd MEU Marines Will Deploy This Month

*(WTKR-TV CBS NORFOLK 13 DEC 18)*

NORFOLK, Va. – There are over 4,500 sailors and Marines serving in the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) that will deploy Dec. 17.

A scheduled seven-month deployment is being conducted by The Navy-Marine Corps team in support of maritime security operations, crisis response and theater security cooperation, while a forward naval presence will be provided in Europe and the Middle East, the Navy announced.

The Kearsarge ARG consists of the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), the amphibious transport dock ship USS Arlington (LPD 24), the dock landing ship USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43), Fleet Surgical Team (FST) 2 and FST 8, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 26, Tactical Air Control Squadron 21, components of Naval Beach Group 2 and the embarked staff of Amphibious Squadron 6.

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Roughly 2,500 Marines and sailors comprise the 22nd MEU and includes a command element, ground combat element, aviation combat element and logistics combat element.

Kearsarge and Arlington are homeported at Naval Station Norfolk and Fort McHenry is homeported at Naval Station Mayport, Florida. The 22nd MEU is stationed in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

On December 16 nearly 6,500 sailors ended their deployment in the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group (HSTCSG). They will be returning from deployment across the 2nd, 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operations, the Navy said.

<https://www.stripes.com/news/us/over-4-500-kearsarge-group-sailors-22nd-meu-marines-will-deploy-this-month-1.560520>

### 17. SRB Update Released With Pay For Performance Pilot

*(NAVY.MIL 13 DEC 18)* ... Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy updated the Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) award plan for Active Component and Full Time Support Sailors and announced a pay for performance pilot program in NAVADMIN 302/18, released Dec. 13.

Updates include adding award levels for 19 skills in 10 ratings, increasing award levels for 35 skills in 12 ratings, decreasing award levels for 59 skills in 27 ratings and removing award levels for 11 skills in 7 ratings from the SRB program released May 2018, in NAVADMIN 119/18.

Increased award levels are effective immediately and decreased levels, including deletions, are effective 30 days after the release of NAVADMIN 302/18.

The NAVADMIN also announced a pilot program for Sailors in seven ratings who will receive an additional 0.5 multiple or "kicker" to their reenlistment bonus, based on demonstrated superior performance. The pilot is a Sailor 2025 initiative and is part of Navy's effort to incentivize and promote superior performance through its bonus programs.

To be eligible for the performance kicker, Sailors must:

-Be in one of the following ratings – Electrician's Mate (EM), Engineman (EN), Gas Turbine Systems Technician (GSM), Machinist's Mate (Surface) (MM(SW)), Damage

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Controlman (DC), Hull Maintenance Technician (HT) and Machinery Repairman (MR)

-Have received two early promotes (EP) on their three most recent regular periodic evaluations – transfer, concurrent or special evaluations will not qualify

-Have not received a non-judicial punishment within the last three years

-Have not failed any part of the physical fitness assessment in the last three years

The NAVADMIN also realigns the SRB reenlistment window to 180 days of a Sailor's end of active obligated service (EAOS) vice one year, for those who are eligible for combat zone tax exclusion and Sailors with an early promote on their most recent regular periodic evaluation.

Eligible Sailors looking to reenlist under SRB are encouraged to work with their command career counselor, command master chief and chain of command to discuss timing and procedures for their reenlistment well before their EAOS. Requests are required to be submitted a minimum of 35 days prior to the requested reenlistment date.

[https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=10810](https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=10810)

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## NAVAL HISTORY:

### 18. Inside The Secret U.S. Military Mission That Located The Titanic

(CNN.COM 13 DEC 18) ... Eric Levenson

For years, the incredible discovery of the Titanic's wreckage at the bottom of the ocean in 1985 was thought to have been a purely scientific effort.

But that was a ruse.

Speaking to CNN on Thursday about now-declassified events, Robert Ballard, who discovered the Titanic, said that the expedition was part of a secret US military mission to recover two sunken nuclear submarines on the bottom of the ocean.

"They did not want the world to know that, so I had to have a cover story," Ballard said.

The true story of what happened now serves as a museum exhibit at The National Geographic Museum in Washington, which is open through the end of the year.

Ballard was a commander in the US Navy and a scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The Navy offered him the funding and opportunity to search for the Titanic, but only if he first explored the USS Thresher and the USS Scorpion, two American nuclear subs that sank in the 1960s.

"We knew where the subs were," Ballard said. "What they wanted me to do was go back and not have the Russians follow me, because we were interested in the nuclear weapons that were on the Scorpion and also what the nuclear reactors (were) doing to the environment."

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## OUTREACH:

### 19. A Brush With Admiralty

(ST. JOHN'S PREP 30 NOV 18)

In the Boston area to commission the guided-missile destroyer USS Thomas Hudner tomorrow, Vice Admiral Richard Brown '81 reacquainted himself with the St. John's campus on Friday, nearly four decades after his graduation. In his first visit since June of 1981, the three-star admiral delivered a short lecture in the chapel and took questions for over 30 minutes from more than 150 seniors. Vice Admiral Brown, also commander of the US Navy's Pacific Fleet, addressed a wide range of topics with considerable nuance, but his message was simple.

"Believe it or not, 37 years goes by fast, and this year's emphasis on the St. John's values of trust and zeal to build servant leaders is right on the money," he told students from four different social studies classes. "Whether you decide to go into business, or politics or choose serve your country in the military, if you address it from the standpoint of service to others, you'll be wildly successful at whatever you do."

Vice Admiral Brown spoke from the heart, detailing his own family's legacy of service; from his mother and sister serving as teachers in the Lowell public school system, to his brothers' service in the navy and merchant marine, and his father's service in the Army, Navy and as a criminal investigator for the US Treasury Department. All three of

The search for the Titanic served as a great cover story, and the press was "totally oblivious to what I was doing," he said.

When his team finished exploring the Scorpion and Thresher, they had just 12 days left in their trip to search for the Titanic.

The famed ship that sank on its maiden voyage was found on the ocean floor at a depth of more than 12,000 feet in the North Atlantic Ocean.

"When we found the Titanic, we naturally were very excited, because it was a tough job. We got it, scoring the winning goal at the buzzer," Ballard said.

The famous discovery set off major press attention, but the expedition's true purpose was kept under wraps. A New York Times story from the days after the discovery features a series of denials from officials about the project.

Navy spokesman Capt. Brent Baker said at the time that the project was simply to test if the oceanographic system worked, and a scientist denied a military involvement.

"There was nothing classified," Dr. Robert Spindel, the head of the Woods Hole Ocean Engineering Department, told the Times.

Not so, Ballard admitted, and that wasn't the only one.

"I cannot talk about my other Navy missions, no," he said. "They have yet to be declassified."

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/13/us/titanic-discovery-classified-nuclear-sub/index.html>

Brown's brothers, Michael '76, Kevin '78, and Stephen '88, are graduates of the Prep.

Brown's candor and accessibility clearly resonated with his audience, and at least a half-dozen hands were still raised at the conclusion of the Q&A session. When a student asked if Brown had ever made a mistake while in command, the admiral seemed particularly pleased at the opportunity for a teaching moment.

"I've made a lot of mistakes," he said after quipping that he was obviously perfect. "Those mistakes weren't for lack of trying or will, and great people I worked for helped me through them. Mistakes are good if you learn from them. You have to learn from them. Some are unforgivable, like lying, cheating, stealing—you can't recover from those because you lose trust. But if you can learn from a mistake of execution, you're going to be better in the long run."

Asked what advice he would give to the 16-year-old version of himself, Brown didn't miss a beat: "I'd say, 'It's going to be OK.'" Quickly relating his answer to the experience of the students in front of him, he added, "There can be a lot of strife and peer pressure in high school, and you're still under tutelage of parents. You feel like an adult,

but you can't make every decision for yourself yet. Don't worry. It doesn't last forever, and that's OK, too."

#### **A bastion of hope**

A native of Lowell, Brown graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. He earned a Master of Science in Operations Research from the Naval Postgraduate School and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. His academic credentials notwithstanding, he was matter-of-fact with students about his relationship with academia.

"I'm not an academic by any stretch of the imagination," Brown confided, in spite of holding two formidable advanced degrees. "I graduated at the top of the bottom third of my class at the Academy. But, I love learning. Because you have to learn or else you don't survive. I read much of the day as part of my job, and I'm still constantly learning."

Brown's sea tours include postings as navigator and damage control assistant aboard USS Charles F. Adams, flag lieutenant for the commander of a cruiser destroyer group, operations officer aboard USS O'Bannon, operations officer aboard USS Leyte Gulf, executive officer aboard USS Mahan, commanding officer aboard USS The Sullivans, commanding officer aboard USS Gettysburg, and commander of Carrier Strike Group 11. Brown's crew earned the Battle Efficiency Award every year of his service as a commander. His billet as

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Vice Admiral in San Diego represents his 21st location-move for the Navy. And, it's abundantly clear that a love of the sea still courses through his veins.

"There's no other job in the world like being the captain of a naval ship," said Brown, who earned eight varsity letters at the Prep in football, winter track, and spring track. "When all the lines come in and you breast away from the pier, and those 300 sailors are under your charge and you're responsible for getting them home under with all 10 fingers and toes, that's the most comfortable I've ever felt in my own skin. I would give up stars and pay to go back and command a guided missile destroyer again.

"Just think of it," he adds. "There are 67 Aegis Combat System Destroyers in the Navy. That means 67 captains get to command those vessels out of 325 million Americans. Think of what it takes to be awarded that command."

Brown went on to convey his belief that the Prep is the type of institution that produces graduates capable of such lofty achievements.

"Right here in this room, some of you are going to go to Ivy League schools—we've got future lawyers, doctors, probably a congressman or senator, because that's what St. John's produces," he said. "In a lot of ways, that's why the U.S. is a bastion of hope for the world."

<https://www.stjohnsprep.org/page.cfm?p=17611&newsid=5965>

## **COMMENTARY:**

### **20. Countering Russia And China In Africa**

*(WALL STREET JOURNAL 14 DEC 18) ... Editorial*

The Trump Administration announced on Thursday that competition with China and Russia will become a new American focus in Africa, rather than terrorism. The broad policy, as outlined by National Security Adviser John Bolton, is encouraging. Its success depends on the details of America's economic relationship with the continent.

Washington wants to offer African countries an alternative to partnership with Beijing and Moscow. "America's vision for the region is one of independence, self-reliance and growth -- not dependency, domination, and debt," said Mr. Bolton. The U.S. plans to counter its rivals by reforming foreign-aid programs while deepening economic and security ties.

This new emphasis makes sense. The United Nations estimates that Africa's population could double to 2.5 billion by 2050 -- a huge market of human potential and natural resources. Friendly relations with a stable Africa are critical to U.S. economic and military interests, lest poverty and political dysfunction radiate instability through mass emigration or security threats.

Chinese investment in Africa was \$6.4 billion in 2016-17, including billions on railways, oil refineries, ports and public works. Beijing says its partnerships are based on "sincerity, friendship and equality." Yet it offers predatory loans that let it later seize strategic resources.

Consider how Djibouti fared as it deepened ties with China. The government's external debt-to-GDP ratio rose to 85% in 2016, from 50% in 2014, largely thanks to Chinese

loans. Beijing has used this economic leverage to gain a military base from which China harasses U.S. pilots. Chinese state-owned companies could soon take control of a strategic port in Djibouti along the Red Sea.

As an economic backwater, Russia has less to offer. But it still has established a foothold in countries like the Central African Republic, where it sells weapons and trains the military. European diplomats accuse Moscow of ties to antigovernment militias.

The U.S. can reject such transactional self-interest in favor of shared economic opportunity. Mr. Bolton stressed the new "Prosper Africa" initiative is not foreign aid. Instead, it will "support U.S. investment across the continent, grow Africa's middle class, and improve the overall business climate in the region."

The best approach is through trade rather than loan guarantees or other subsidies, and Mr. Bolton says the U.S. will pursue bilateral trade deals in Africa. Expanded opportunities for U.S. firms can foster economic growth and encourage better governance. Even better would be encouraging intra-Africa trade by opening the door for a multilateral deal linked to a continental free-trade area.

Terrorism won't disappear despite a U.S. pivot to economics. The Pentagon is preparing to remove 10% of its 7,200 service members in Africa, as Mr. Bolton wants Africans to "take ownership over peace and security in their own neighborhood." This is reasonable, but the U.S. needs to

assist in that effort lest terror pockets reassemble as jihadists did in Iraq.

President Trump has shown little interest in Africa, and Africans haven't forgotten his vulgar description of poor countries. But Mr. Bolton makes a good case for the

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## 21. The U.S. Navy's Amphibious Assault Renaissance: It's More Than Ships And Aircraft

(WAR ON THE ROCKS 12 DEC 18) ... George Galdorisi And Scott C. Truver

Over the summer, the Smithsonian Channel featured a series, The Pacific War in Color. Amphibious assaults on Japanese-held islands, such as Tarawa, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and others were a prominent part of the program. Viewers witnessed armadas of amphibious ships and hundreds of landing craft that were part of each forcible-entry operation where an attacking force needed to come ashore in the face of significant opposition.

In the post-Cold War era, amphibious assault forces have not been the most capable part of the U.S. Navy. In the years after 9/11 — while the Marine Corps was engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan and not embarked in amphibious ships — the amphibious-assault fleet was, at best, an afterthought. Today, the Marine Corps is largely disengaged from land-centric conflicts and, in a move spearheaded by two former commandants, is “returning to its amphibious roots,” signaling a new emphasis on amphibious warfare.

This renaissance in America's amphibious assault force has been chronicled in various publications, especially War on the Rocks. As David Fuquea put it in an article in this outlet five years ago, “Employing U.S. military forces in the 21st Century will require introducing combat forces across unimproved beaches or terrain on a potentially hostile shore.”

According to Lt. Gen. David Berger, commander of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command, “We need to be prepared for large-scale amphibious operations.” He continued, speaking to the sold-out National Defense Industrial Association Annual Expeditionary Warfare Conference, “We might do it differently in the future, but we can't ignore it.”

Other articles in War on the Rocks have reinforced the opinion that Navy-Marine Corps amphibious forces will be a critical element of America's strategic calculus in the 21st century. We encourage readers to revisit articles on amphibious assault by Brett Friedman, B.J. Armstrong, and Bryan Clark and Jesse Sloman. Critically, these authors called for innovative technologies to support U.S. amphibious forces as they deal with increasingly capable adversaries.

An article by Col. Clifford Weinstein in Marine Corps Gazette highlighted Marine thinking on future amphibious assault operations:

*While forcible-entry operations are often thought of exclusively in terms of initiating a continental campaign, an application some analysts assume to be unlikely, it may be more probable in the 21st century that they are conducted as part of a joint campaign that is maritime in character. It ought to be self-evident from looking at a map that military competition in the near seas will involve an amphibious component — to include amphibious assault when and where required.*

continent's strategic value, and Mr. Trump can help persuade Africans the U.S. is their best partner in promoting development and peace.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/countering-russia-and-china-in-africa-11544747163>

The Gazette article goes on to note that “a film about a modern amphibious operation would likely be boring, as there would be no dramatic scenes of large units fighting their way across a heavily defended beach.” Indeed, the Navy and Marine Corps have been developing more indirect approaches to move from ship to shore.

The indirect approach is exemplified by the operations of Task Force 58 — an integrated Navy-Marine Corps formation commanded by then-Brig. Gen. James N. Mattis. In 2001, multiple maneuver elements embarked on the USS Peleliu and the USS Bataan projected 350 miles inland to seize an airstrip south of Kandahar. Additional forces were introduced from that airstrip, renamed Forward Operating Base Rhino, leading to the seizure of the city. By definition, Task Force 58 constituted “forcible entry,” even though it bore no resemblance to the invasions of Normandy or Inchon.

Current U.S. Navy and Marine Corps operations suggest the sea services are training in the way they intend to fight. As reported by USNI News, Exercise Trident Juncture, involving 50,000 personnel, 65 ships, 250 aircraft, 14,000 American troops, and a carrier strike group, centered around a scenario of protecting Norway from an invasion by inserting reinforcements by air and amphibious landing. The exercise culminated with a force of U.S. marines pushing ashore with 12 amphibious assault vehicles, six light armored vehicles, and 21 Humvees. Maj. Gen. David Coffman, director of expeditionary warfare in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, described amphibious ships' usefulness to combatant commanders as a multiplication problem: “capacity times capability times readiness equals lethality.”

These changes to the Navy's amphibious assault forces are occurring at a time of rapid technological change in the platforms the service fields. There is little question that unmanned systems are one of the technologies having a profound impact on naval operations. Indeed, three recent Navy-commissioned studies recommend more unmanned systems in the Navy and Marine Corps inventories.

The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have spurred the development of unmanned aerial vehicles and unmanned ground vehicles to meet operational needs. Unmanned maritime vehicles (both surface and subsurface) have not received the same emphasis or funding. The renaissance of the Navy's expeditionary assault forces and its embrace of unmanned systems are intersecting in ways that promise to significantly change the way the service and the Marine Corps fight in the 21st century.

### America's Expeditionary Forces: Business Is on the Upswing

For decades, when a crisis emerged anywhere on the globe, the first question a U.S. president asked was, “Where are the carriers?” Today, that question is still asked, but increasingly, it has morphed into, “Where are the

expeditionary strike groups?” The reason for this is clear: These naval expeditionary formations — built around a large-deck amphibious assault ship, an amphibious transport dock, and a dock landing ship — have been the ones used extensively for a wide array of missions short of war, from anti-piracy patrols, to personnel evacuation to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. And where tensions lead to hostilities these forces are the only ones that give the U.S. military a forcible-entry option.

U.S. naval expeditionary forces have remained relatively robust even as the size of the Navy has shrunk from a high of 594 ships in 1987 to 272 ships in 2018. Naval expeditionary strike groups comprise an important part of the current fleet. Indeed, the blueprint for the future fleet the Navy is building, as seen in a recent Congressional Research Service report, maintains — and even increases — that percentage. The service’s annual shipbuilding projections have articulated this commitment to meet the Navy’s longstanding requirement for 38 amphibious force ships.

However, ships are increasingly expensive, and Navy and Marine Corps expeditionary forces have been proactive in looking to affordable new technology to add capability to their existing and future ships. One of the technologies that offers the most promise in this regard is unmanned systems. These unmanned systems can reduce the risk to human life in high-threat areas, deliver persistent surveillance over areas of interest, and provide options to warfighters — particularly given their ability to operate autonomously.

The Navy and Marine Corps have a wide array of unmanned aerial systems currently in their respective fleets or coming on line: the MQ-4C Triton, the MQ-8 Fire Scout, the MQ-1 Predator, the MQ-9 Reaper, the MQ-25 Stingray, and others. These capable assets are primarily used for theater-level surveillance (Triton), carrier strike group support (Fire Scout and Stingray), or supporting troops in the field (Predator and Reaper). There are few unmanned systems dedicated to the Navy-Marine Corps expeditionary forces while they are at sea or in the assault phase of an operation. That is beginning to change in profound ways.

#### **Testing and Evaluating Unmanned Systems to Support Expeditionary Strike Groups**

The Navy-Marine Corps team has sought to test and evaluate unmanned systems to add capability in the ship-to-shore maneuver and assault phase of their operations. Appropriately, this new technology insertion has primarily focused on supporting marines in the fight on the ground. Articles in this publication on the “Guardian Angel” and Warbot concepts have addressed the pros and the cons of current Navy and Marine Corps planning in this area, especially in regard to unmanned vehicles.

That said, there is one area that has not received as much attention regarding leveraging unmanned systems to support the Navy-Marine Corps amphibious team: gathering intelligence of the objective area — typically a defended port or beach — prior to an amphibious assault or raid. This is a critical aspect of any expeditionary operation. Part of the reason for this lack of emphasis may be the more compelling need to support marines on the ground and in the fight. Another reason is that the unmanned technologies needed to perform this intelligence-gathering have not, until recently, been mature enough to perform this mission. That is changing.

The reason for embracing unmanned systems and the sensors they carry to perform this mission is straightforward. Instead of having marines, sailors, or special operators gather intelligence — thereby putting them at high risk — unmanned systems offer commanders a way to keep warfighters safe while performing these critical missions.

For this reason, the Navy-Marine Corps expeditionary forces have been active in evaluating a wide variety of unmanned systems in various exercises, experiments, and demonstrations — especially unmanned surface vehicles. These platforms are especially adept at conducting intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions. They typically better suited for these missions than their aerial counterparts for several reasons, particularly their ability to remain undetected by enemy sensors, as well as their dwell time on station. By performing near-shore intelligence preparation of the battlespace, unmanned surface vehicles increase the standoff, reach, and distributed lethality of the manned platforms they support by providing the assault force with detailed information of the area where marines will be going ashore.

Navy-Marine Corps expeditionary forces recently tested new technologies in the Ship-to-Shore Maneuver Exploration and Experimentation Advanced Naval Technology Exercise (commonly called S2ME2) and the Bold Alligator exercise. These events demonstrated the potential of unmanned naval systems to be force multipliers and critical enablers for expeditionary strike groups. The former exercise focused on identifying gaps in capabilities that advanced unmanned maritime systems might close. One area singled out for special emphasis was the critical intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance mission needed before conducting the amphibious ship-to-shore operation. This exercise focused on unmanned systems — especially surface systems — that could provide real-time intelligence on the battlespace prior to and during an amphibious assault or raid.

During the assault phase of the exercise, the Navy-Marine Corps expeditionary force used an unmanned surface vehicle to thwart enemy defenses. The expeditionary commander launched an eight-foot MANTAS unmanned surface vehicle (one of a family of stealthy, low-profile, unmanned surface vehicles) to provide intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance of adversary positions. The vehicle swam undetected into the enemy port (the Del Mar Boat Basin on the southern Californian coast) and relayed information to the amphibious force command center using its command-and-control system.

Once this larger-scale intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance mission was completed, the operational commander needed to determine more granular information before launching waves of assault craft. For this effort, the MANTAS unmanned surface vehicle was driven to the surf zone to provide information crucial to planners. This included obstacle location (especially mine-like objects), beach gradient, and other factors to determine whether the hazards involved could be mitigated to the extent that the assault should go forward.

In an interview in Chips Online, one of the exercise’s organizers explained how unmanned systems supported the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance and intelligence preparation of the battlefield missions:

*We use the Navy's organic labs and warfare centers to bring together emerging technologies and innovation to solve a specific problem. It's focused on unmanned systems, with a big emphasis on intelligence gathering, surveillance, and reconnaissance.*

Tracy Conroy, SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific's experimentation director, highlighted the importance of having unmanned systems perform this critical — and inherently dangerous — task, explaining, “The innovative technology of unmanned vehicles offers a way to gather information that ultimately may help save lives. We take less of a risk of losing a marine or Navy SEAL.”

This exercise was a precursor to another major Navy-Marine Corps expeditionary exercise, Bold Alligator. This live exercise demonstrated maritime and amphibious force capabilities and focused on planning and conducting amphibious operations, as well as evaluating new technologies that support the expeditionary force, especially readily available commercial off-the-shelf technology.

The 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade directed scenario-driven events during Bold Alligator. The command element was embarked in three amphibious ships: USS Arlington, USS Fort McHenry, and USS Gunston Hall. In addition to the brigade's primary mission of a major amphibious assault, there was a significant secondary mission of attacking adversary positions along the Intracoastal Waterway.

The early phases of Bold Alligator were dedicated to long-range reconnaissance. Operators at the exercise command center at Naval Station Norfolk drove the six-foot and 12-foot MANTAS unmanned surface vehicles off North and South Onslow Beaches, as well as up the Intracoastal Waterway. Both unmanned surface vehicles streamed live, high-resolution video and sonar images to the command center. The video images showed vehicles, personnel, and other objects on the beaches and in the Intracoastal Waterway.

The 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade used a 12-foot MANTAS, equipped with a gyro stabilized camera and a forward-looking imaging sonar, to provide critical intelligence just prior to the ship-to-shore amphibious assault. The sonar images provided surf-zone bottom analysis and located objects — especially mines — and other obstacles that could present a hazard during the assault phase.

Bold Alligator underscored the ability of surface unmanned systems to provide real-time intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. This capability is crucial in amphibious operations to ensure that a landing or other craft could successfully navigate a waterway or enter the surf zone without encountering mines or other objects. Clearing a path for a vehicle or vessel to safely pass through the surf zone and onto the beach during an assault is the make-or-break factor for any amphibious operation.

From a mission command perspective, having the ability to view images of adversary positions and emplacements — both above and below the water — in real-time enables decision-makers not on scene to make time-critical determinations and balance the importance of the mission with the risks to operators. The value of providing commanders with real-time intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance is difficult to overstate, and it is likely that the Navy/Marine

Corps will continue to examine this capability in other expeditionary exercises going forward.

#### **Fielding Unmanned Maritime Systems Faster**

One of the major challenges to the Navy making a substantial commitment to unmanned maritime systems is the fact that they are relatively new and their development has been under the radar for all but a few professionals in the research and development, requirements, and acquisition communities. That is now changing.

The Naval Sea Systems Command and Navy laboratories have been accelerating the development of unmanned maritime vehicles. The Navy has partnered with industry to develop, field, and test a family of these platforms, such as the Medium Displacement Unmanned Surface Vehicle, MANTAS next-generation unmanned surface vessels, the Large Displacement Unmanned Underwater Vehicle, and others. As described in a recent U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings article, this includes the COTS Mk18 Mod1/Mod2 unmanned vehicles that are key to the Navy and Marine Corps Expeditionary Mine Countermeasures Company concept.

Indeed, testing has been so successful that the Department of the Navy has begun to provide increased support for unmanned maritime vehicles and has established program guidance for many of the systems important to the Navy and Marine Corps. This commitment to unmanned systems programs is reflected in the Navy Program Guide as well as in the 2018 Marine Corps Concepts and Programs publications.

Capt. Jon Rucker, then-program manager of the Navy program office with stewardship over unmanned maritime systems, discussed his programs with USNI News. The title of the article, “Navy Racing to Test, Field, Unmanned Maritime Vehicles for Future Ships,” captured the essence of where unmanned maritime systems will fit in tomorrow's Navy, as well as the Navy-after-next. Rucker shared:

*In addition to these programs of record, the Navy and Marine Corps have been testing as many unmanned vehicle prototypes as they can, hoping to see the art of the possible for unmanned systems taking on new mission sets. Many of these systems being tested are small surface and underwater vehicles that can be tested by the dozens at tech demonstrations or by operating units.*

While the Navy is committed to several programs of record for large unmanned maritime systems such as those described above, the Navy also sees great potential in expanding the scope of unmanned maritime systems testing:

*Rucker said a lot of the small, unmanned vehicles are used to extend the reach of a mission through aiding in communications or reconnaissance. None have become programs of record yet, but [Rucker's office] is monitoring their development and their participation in events like the Ship-to-Shore Maneuver Exploration and Experimentation Advanced Naval Technology Exercise, which featured several small UUVs [unmanned underwater vehicles] and USVs [unmanned surface vehicles].*

The ship-to-shore movement of an expeditionary assault force remains the most hazardous mission for any navy. Real-time intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance will spell the difference between mission success and failure — and

failure means the loss of life. For this reason, the Navy and Marine Corps team is, indeed, racing to field unmanned maritime systems, and especially unmanned surface systems, to directly support U.S. expeditionary forces (See Figure 1).

This commitment to unmanned maritime systems opens up new strategic, operational, and tactical possibilities for expeditionary strike groups. As pointed out by Douglas King and Brett Friedman in their War on the Rocks article, “Distributed Maritime Operations and the Modern Littoral Environment,” small, inexpensive connector vessels can be used to carry a large number of unmanned maritime systems toward a given area, keeping billion-dollar amphibious ships further offshore and out of the range of adversary defensive systems.

The Department of the Navy should make a strategic shift in its stewardship of unmanned systems. The recent actions of establishing — then standing down — two offices focused on

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unmanned systems, one at the secretariat level, and the other at the chief of naval operations staff level, is behind us. Now that unmanned systems are being mainstreamed (again), it is time to focus on developing and fielding unmanned systems that directly support Navy and Marine Corps warfighters. It is clear to us that the increased emphasis on unmanned surface systems is long overdue.

*A naval aviator, Capt. George Galdorisi had three tours in the amphibious-assault Navy, including command of the USS Cleveland and Amphibious Squadron Seven. Dr. Scott Truver manages Gryphon Technologies’ naval and maritime programs and serves as senior advisor at the Center for Naval Analyses.*

<https://warontherocks.com/2018/12/the-u-s-navys-amphibious-assault-renaissance-its-more-than-ships-and-aircraft/>

From: HEUSER Jason

Sent: Mon Jan 28 15:24:26 2019

To: Ball, Crystal A (BPA) - DIR-7; Alec Shebiel; Ashley Slater (aslater@pngc.com); Danelle Romain (dromain@theromaingroup.com); Jennifer Joly (jenniferjoly@omeu.org); Mike Freese (mfreese@theromaingroup.com); Ted Case (tcase@oreca.org)

Subject: RE: SAVE THE DATE: State of the Willamette River BiOp

Importance: Normal

I plan to be there. Wearing two hats really...we're very interested in what will be said about water supply, both quantity and quality (cyanotoxins).

**From:** Ball, Crystal A (BPA) - DIR-7 [<mailto:caball@bpa.gov>]

**Sent:** Monday, January 28, 2019 3:14 PM

**To:** Alec Shebiel <alec.shebiel@umatillaelectric.com>; Ashley Slater (aslater@pngc.com) <aslater@pngc.com>; Danelle Romain (dromain@theromaingroup.com) <dromain@theromaingroup.com>; HEUSER Jason <Jason.HEUSER@eweb.org>; Jennifer Joly (jenniferjoly@omeu.org) <jenniferjoly@omeu.org>; Mike Freese (mfreese@theromaingroup.com) <mfreese@theromaingroup.com>; Ted Case (tcase@oreca.org) <tcase@oreca.org>

**Subject:** FW: SAVE THE DATE: State of the Willamette River BiOp

Did you get this invite? Are you planning on going?

Thanks,

Crystal

**From:** Klausen, Alvin [<mailto:Alvin.Klausen@mail.house.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 2:41 PM  
**To:** Klausen, Alvin  
**Subject:** SAVE THE DATE: State of the Willamette River BiOp

cid:image001.jpg@01D4AF36.860E35C0

**State of the Willamette River BiOp Save the Date**

Currently, there are multiple Federal actions ongoing in the Willamette Valley. Federal agencies are doing studies, making structural and operational improvements, and beginning a re-evaluation process of how USACE operations on the Willamette River impact chinook and steelhead populations. You are invited to learn more about what all of this entails. Operations on the Willamette River include flood mitigation, recreation, fish and wildlife (hatcheries, water quality, adult and juvenile passage), water supply, power generation and other authorized purposes.

Come to better understand the process, how to participate and outcomes to expect.

**Friday, February 22, 2019**

**9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Willamette River Room, Wilsonville City Hall**

**29799 SW Town Center Loop East, Wilsonville, OR 97070**

Hosted by the offices of Congressman Schrader, Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley, Congressman DeFazio, Congressman Blumenauer and Congresswoman Bonamici.

More details to follow.

Questions/RSVP to [Alvin.klausen@mail.house.gov](mailto:Alvin.klausen@mail.house.gov)

From: Alec Shebiel

Sent: Tue Jan 29 09:55:17 2019

To: Ball, Crystal A (BPA) - DIR-7; Ashley Slater (aslater@pngc.com); Danelle Romain (dromain@theromaingroup.com); Jason Heuser (jason.heuser@eweb.org); Jennifer Joly (jenniferjoly@omeu.org); Mike Freese (mfreese@theromaingroup.com); Ted Case (tcase@oreca.org)

Subject: RE: SAVE THE DATE: State of the Willamette River BiOp

Importance: Normal

Thanks for this – I have it tentatively on my calendar.

Alec J. Shebiel

Government Affairs

[alec.shebiel@umatillaelectric.com](mailto:alec.shebiel@umatillaelectric.com)

cell: (b)(6)

cid:image001.jpg@01D45EDB.D0B30930

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**From:** Ball, Crystal A (BPA) - DIR-7 <caball@bpa.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, January 28, 2019 3:13:37 PM

**To:** Alec Shebiel; Ashley Slater (aslater@pngc.com); Danelle Romain (domain@theromaingroup.com); Jason Heuser (jason.heuser@eweb.org); Jennifer Joly (jenniferjoly@omeu.org); Mike Freese (mfreese@theromaingroup.com); Ted Case (tcase@oreca.org)

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Crystal

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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 2:41 PM

**To:** Klausen, Alvin

**Subject:** SAVE THE DATE: State of the Willamette River BiOp

cid:image001.jpg@01D4AF36.860E35C0

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From: Wilson,David B (BPA) - DKP-7

Sent: Fri Jul 19 09:36:04 2019

To: Mandi Hitt

Subject: RE: LSRD Correct the Record Facts

Importance: Normal

Hi again!

I left you a phone message but you are out on Friday.

I just want to make sure we're clear that BPA would prefer to NOT have these statements attributed to the agency.

We also prefer that you not email the document out to anyone.

However, please use them to answer questions and correct misinformation you see or hear.

I think you also wanted the info for an advertisement you are producing. I think that is fine but again please don't attribute to BPA.

If you have questions you're welcome to call my cell. (b)(6)

Thank you,

Dave

**David B. Wilson**

Communications | Media Relations | Policy

**Bonneville Power Administration**

[bpa.gov](http://bpa.gov) | P 503-230-5607 | C (b)(6)

[cid:image001.jpg@01D52CD7.ECB28190cid:image002.jpg@01D52CD7.ECB28190cid:image003.jpg@01D52CD7.ECB28190cid:image004.jpg@01D52CD7.ECB28190cid:image005.jpg@01D52CD7.ECB28190cid:image006.jpg@01D52CD7.ECB28190](#)

**From:** Wilson,David B (BPA) - DKP-7

**Sent:** Friday, July 19, 2019 9:22 AM

**To:** 'Mandi Hitt'

**Cc:** Carnes,Karrie L (BPA) - PEJB-6

**Subject:** LSRD Correct the Record Facts

Hi Mandi-

My apologies for not sending this earlier. They we're finalized the first of the month and then I was out on leave. Slipped my brain.

The info below is from 'internal use only' talking points. Meaning they are for external facing employees such as me (in media relations) to help answer questions from the public. We are also using them to help correct misinformation about LSRD on social media. So you are welcome to use them for similar purposes.

Thank you,

Dave

**Key messages and storyline**

- The four lower Snake River dams play an important role in powering the Northwest with approximately 1,000 average megawatts of carbon-free renewable energy and providing critical support for the high-voltage transmission system. The average annual output of these resources is roughly equal to the electricity consumed by the businesses, industries and households of Seattle over the course of one year.
- Together, these dams have the capacity to sustain 2,700 to 3,100 megawatts of peaking power for up to 120 hours a month during the fall, winter and spring months. This is one of the carbon-free power resources that helps power Northwest households and industries during multi-day cold snaps in the winter.
- Even though these dams were built with fish passage, the region's recent long-term investments in dam structures and updated operations have improved passage for better salmon survival.
- The following material reflects past analysis with the intent of providing information about the four lower Snake River dams, while not pre-determining any outcome of the ongoing Columbia River System Operation EIS.

## **Questions and answers**

### **1. How are the four lower Snake River dams impacting BPA's operations and rates?**

The lower Snake River dams are some of the most reliable and lowest-cost electricity sources of the 31 federal dams from which BPA markets power. Because the cost to generate at each of the four dams is low, the revenues

from the sale of the energy they produce are higher than other, higher-cost generation sources. While it is true that BPA's rates increased a little over 3 percent a year during the last decade, the list of cost pressures the agency is facing does not include the lower Snake River dams.

BPA is addressing the cost pressures it does have, and in fact, it's anticipated that there will be no power rate increase for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. However, there is uncertainty as to whether the Financial Reserves Policy surcharge will trigger. The analysis of whether a surcharge will be implemented will take place in November and could cause the effective power rate increase to be up to 1.5% year – well below the rate of inflation. Additionally, the price of power from BPA supplied utilities is lower than the national average, in large part because of affordable, clean and reliable hydropower.

## **2. What is the energy capacity situation in the Northwest and is it true that there is a 16% surplus of energy?**

The claim that there is a 16% energy surplus implies that the region has more energy than it needs. First, the 16% energy surplus applies to the entire region (primarily consisting of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Western Montana). BPA serves about 30 percent of the region's energy needs and is currently forecasting a 1% surplus in generation under critical water conditions from the federal system serving that 30% in 2020. From 2021 onward there is no forecast surplus. Regionally, the power surplus is forecast to drop significantly over the next several years with a forecasted surplus of 1% in 2026.

Under regional dialogue contracts, BPA sells Northwest preference customers the entire forecast federal system power produced under critical water, and therefore has little to no forecast surplus. While the region at times can produce more energy than needed to meet immediate demands, there are also times when BPA and other Northwest utilities must purchase power from outside the region in order to meet our obligations.

Whether or not there is surplus power available depends on a combination of factors: the amount of power being

consumed, which peaks at certain times of the day and certain times of the year; and the availability of water and generating resources. Hydropower production, for example, increases during high water years, but we have to be prepared for extremely low water years as well, and for unexpected seasonal variations in water availability. Looking forward, even after achieving the Council's energy efficiency targets, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council forecasts that the regional power supply will be inadequate in the early 2020s. This projected shortage is primarily due to the planned retirement of coal plants that serve the region.

As a federal agency, BPA is a nonprofit that sells power to its Northwest preference customers at cost. The power system allows the Northwest and Southwest to take advantage of each other's seasonal weather differences and differences in power supply. If BPA produces more energy than needed to meet Northwest preference customer demands, the agency can sell this surplus throughout the West. These sales are good for the region: they defray BPA's costs for Northwest consumers and reduce fossil fuel generation up and down the West Coast. The revenues from surplus power sales help keep BPA's power rates lower than they would have been otherwise.

### **3. How does current wind production compare to the average production of the four lower Snake River dams?**

Wind and hydropower are difficult to compare. Hydropower is a capacity resource – meaning it's always available and it can be easily ramped up or down as needed. Wind power, on the other hand, is variable. Its generation pattern follows the availability of wind regardless of consumer need or utility obligations. For reliability purposes, power planners must ensure the region has sufficient capacity resources, like hydro, to meet peak demands. Because of the variable generation pattern of wind, it is not a resource that can be relied upon at all times. The system also needs resources that can quickly (within seconds) ramp up to fill behind (or balance) wind generators when wind doesn't blow as expected. The lower Snake River dams provide these critical services along with the rest of the hydropower system. Reducing the capacity of the hydro system not only reduces the capacity resources available to serve load, but it reduces the ability of system operators to fill in behind variable resources.

#### **4. How does “oversupply” in the regional system impact BPA operations and energy pricing?**

Oversupply refers to limited periods, often in the spring, when the supply of power exceeds consumer demand and is so abundant, it can't be sold. Bonneville works with other utilities and generators to manage the total generation on its transmission system to ensure its reliability as is required by law.

As a federal agency, BPA is a nonprofit that sells power to its Northwest preference customers at cost. The power system allows the Northwest and Southwest to take advantage of each other's seasonal weather differences and differences in power supply. If BPA produces more energy than needed to meet Northwest demands, the agency can sell this surplus throughout the West. These sales are good for the region: they defray BPA's costs for Northwest consumers and reduce fossil fuel generation up and down the West Coast. The revenues from surplus power sales help keep BPA's power rates lower than they would have been otherwise.

#### **5. What is the forecast load growth for the region?**

First, BPA's loads and resources study expects regional load to remain fairly stable with a 1% percent increase over the next 10 years. However, energy load growth in the region is only part of the story. While energy efficiency gains and other factors have kept the demand for electricity fairly flat, the increase in planned and expected coal plant retirements across the West will shift more of that energy and capacity burden to hydro and natural gas resources – two of the leading generation sources that can be ramped up and down quickly. So even if regional load remains steady, the shift in generation resources will require a robust and responsive hydro system.

#### **6. How has the growth of regional wind and solar projects impacted “oversupply?”**

Oversupply occurs when there is too much power flowing onto the system when consumers don't need it. As the region increases the number of wind and solar projects that increases the factors that lead to additional oversupply. In this region to date this has been an intermittent time occurrence hitting mostly at night during high river flows. With more solar generation, the risk of day time oversupply increases. More importantly, a bigger and growing issue is the “undersupply” of reliable electricity when the region needs it during increasingly hot summers or during unexpected severely cold winters.

### **7. What impact has oversupply had on the four lower Snake River dams in terms of BPA's resources?**

Oversupply depresses power prices only for very short periods. Lower natural gas prices have recently been a primary driver of lower wholesale market power prices.

Out of the 31 dams in the federal system, the four lower Snake River dams are some of the cheapest to operate and therefore provide some of the greatest value for BPA ratepayers. In fact, the cost of power from these dams, ranging from \$10 to \$14 per megawatt-hour, makes them some of the most affordable power resources in the federal power system.

### **8. During times of oversupply, does BPA compensate wind generators to take energy off the grid?**

It's true that sometimes there can be too much of a good thing – like excess renewable power flowing from hydro, solar and wind all at once. This does not happen very often, but when it does it's usually springtime when water levels are highest.

In high water situations when there is more hydraulic flow than accessible hydraulic storage, BPA works with wind generators to take wind energy off the grid to decrease the amount of spill which increases gas levels in the river. BPA then reimburses them for certain lost opportunity costs, such as for production tax credits they would have

earned for generating power.

**9. What are the peak power demand benefits of the four lower Snake River dams and how does spill and low flows impact those benefits?**

The lower Snake River dams reliably provide critical services for the region. First, they produce about 1,000 average megawatts of electricity each year. That's nearly enough to meet the demands of the 800,000 households over the course of a year. The dams are critical in providing peak power generation most of the year.

Second, the four dams also provide up to one-quarter of BPA's operating reserves that are used to meet unexpected changes in generation or electrical demand. The agency is required to hold these reserves to ensure the reliability of the grid. Without them, the region would not be able to deliver as much energy or balance intermittent resources such as wind.

In addition, as Bonneville presented in its Integrated Program Review in 2018, over the next 20 years, the lower Snake River dams have a relatively low projected capital investment when compared to other federal hydro projects in the Columbia and Snake River basins.

one average megawatt is enough to power 796.36 Northwest homes for a year.

**10. Are the four lower Snake River dams used to meet within-hour load variability?**

The lower Snake River dams play a vital role as part of an integrated system to balance within-hour load variability. Hydro offers flexibility to meet the just-in-time needs of intermittent renewable generation and reliably integrate these resources onto the grid, and at low cost.

**11. What is the ability of the four lower Snake River dams to contribute power to peak demand in**

**December through February, the coldest months, and again in July and August, the hottest months?**

The lower Snake River dams are a key part of the Northwest's power resource mix throughout the year. Variable generation, like wind, can't be relied on to generate at the precise time the region needs power. On the other hand, the four lower Snake River dams provide sustainable capacity during winter and summer peaking periods, ranging from 800 to 1,200 average megawatts. For example, during a cold spell in 2017, the lower Snake River dams at times generated nearly 1,300 megawatts to contribute to Northwest energy needs. That's enough energy to power nearly 1 million average-sized homes.

**12. How important are the four lower Snake River dams to grid stability/reliability?**

The four lower Snake River dams help keep the power and transmission systems in balance. Because of the seasonal variation in power flow, during the summer months in particular, the additional generation available from the lower Columbia and Snake rivers provides improved voltage stability (the driving force that causes a current to flow in an electric circuit) and more reliable transmission grid performance.

In addition, the operating reserves supplied by these dams (see #9) are critical for transmission system reliability.

**13. How does the power produced at the four lower Snake River dams impact BPA's energy production costs?**

Out of the 31 dams in the federal system, the lower Snake River dams are some of the cheapest to operate and therefore provide some of the greatest value for BPA ratepayers. All four together cost less than the system average to operate. The cost of power from these dams, which ranges from \$10 to \$14 a megawatt-hour, makes them some of the most affordable power resources in the federal power system.

**14. Has the \$16 billion investment in fish and wildlife recovery efforts paid off?**

There are significantly more salmon and steelhead returning to the Columbia River Basin today than when Bonneville began investing in protecting, mitigating and enhancing habitat affected by development and construction of the FCRPS dams under the Northwest Power Act. Some stocks of salmon and steelhead are responding better than others to mitigation actions. However, there are many more environmental conditions impacting fish populations than operation of the dams. Nonetheless, Bonneville's mitigation activities are supporting wild and hatchery fish, which are returning to many of our rivers and streams where they haven't been seen in decades. Some stocks of wild fish are increasing, and in 2014 the Columbia Basin had the greatest return of fish since 1938.

**15. Have habitat restoration projects worked?**

BPA delivers on its public responsibilities through a commercially successful business. Bonneville's fish and wildlife costs include not just compliance with the Endangered Species Act, but also mitigation under the Northwest Power Act. BPA implements biologically sound and cost-effective measures to restore habitat, protect land and water, improve passage at the dams and operate state-of-the-art salmon and steelhead hatcheries. Bonneville's fish and wildlife program has opened up miles of stream habitat and restored acres of riparian habitat. In some cases fish sightings are reported within hours after habitat restoration projects are complete.

Columbia Basin and Snake River salmon and steelhead are returning to many of our rivers and streams where they haven't been seen in decades. Some stocks of wild fish are increasing, and in 2014 the Columbia Basin had the greatest return of fish since 1938.

**16. What is being done to address water temperature in the Snake River?**

It is difficult to speak in detail to this question. However, we continue to evaluate impacts to water temperature from

a wide variety of hydro system actions as part of the Columbia River System Operations EIS analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Operationally, we already conduct cold water releases. Specifically, we work with our federal partners to implement cold water releases from Dworshak Dam for cooling in the Snake River. Pumps have also been installed to provide additional cool water into fish ladders at Lower Granite and Little Goose dams.

Our on-the-ground habitat work in the Columbia and Snake rivers is also designed to address changing climate conditions and anticipate what fish and wildlife populations will need to survive under those conditions.

**David B. Wilson**

Communications | Media Relations | Policy

**Bonneville Power Administration**

[bpa.gov](http://bpa.gov) | P 503-230-5607 | C (b)(6)

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**From:** Mandi Hitt [<mailto:mandih@rrelectric.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2019 5:13 PM

**To:** Wilson, David B (BPA) - DKP-7

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Correct the Record Facts

Hi David,

I hope that you are doing well. I am just circling back with you on the Snake River dam talking points. If you sent them, I have not received them. However; that seems to be the case with a few of my emails.....

Thank you!

Mandi Hitt

Communications Manager / Executive Assistant

208-645-2906 *Direct*

208-645-2211 *Office*

800-342-7732 *Toll Free & After Hours*

208-645-2300 *Fax*

Raft River Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

P.O. Box 617 - 155 North Main - Malta, ID 83342

[mandih@rrelectric.com](mailto:mandih@rrelectric.com)

[www.rrelectric.com](http://www.rrelectric.com)

Office Hours: 7:00am – 5:30 pm (Monday – Thursday)

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**From:** Wilson,David B (BPA) - DKP-7 <dbwilson@bpa.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 5:19 PM

**To:** mandih@rrelectric.com

**Cc:** Hansen,Michael S (BPA) - DKP-7 <mshansen@bpa.gov>; Carnes,Karrie L (BPA) - DKP-7 <klcarnes@bpa.gov>

**Subject:** Correct the Record Facts

Hi Mandi-

Nice chatting with you this afternoon. I am finalizing the Snake River dam talking points and will try to send them to you later this week.

Thank you,

Dave

**David B. Wilson**

Communications – Media Relations

**Bonneville Power Administration**

[dbwilson@bpa.gov](mailto:dbwilson@bpa.gov) | P 503-230-5607 | (b)(6)

*Please consider the environment before printing this email.*

From: Joe Maroney

Sent: Tue Aug 13 16:30:15 2019

To: Foster, Marchelle M (BPA) - DIT-7; Ray Entz; osterman@knrd.org

Cc: Deane Osterman

Subject: Re: BPA Visit

Importance: Normal

Marcy: I just got off the phone with Ray about 10 mins ago. I'll get all that arranged tomorrow with lunch and site visit time. You take off on Thursday correct? It was good catching up with you today on the site visit and your new position at BIA. You'll hear from me tomorrow.

Joe

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Foster, Marchelle M (BPA) - DIT-7" <mmfoster@bpa.gov>

Date: 8/13/19 4:16 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: Ray Entz <rentz@kalispeltribe.com>, osterman@knrd.org, Joe Maroney <jmaroney@kalispeltribe.com>

Subject: RE: BPA Visit

I started to talk to Joe about lunch ideas. Is there a place to pick up sandwiches on the way (or on our way into the field) that you can recommend?

Marcy 503-380-1188

**From:** Ray Entz [<mailto:rentz@kalispeltribe.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2019 10:04 AM

**To:** Foster, Marchelle M (BPA) - DIT-7; osterman@knrd.org; Joe Maroney

**Subject:** RE: BPA Visit

Marcy,

Deane is out on vacation and likely does not have service in order to respond. While we spoke about and set aside the day, we did not discuss an agenda or itinerary before he left.

I think I can wing it as seen below:

Items for discussion

1. Relationship building and getting to know our respective teams.
  - a. There has been a lot of turnover in a short period of time within BPA and we would like to rebuild the relationships at the level we have grown accustomed over the last 25 plus years.

2. New policies/procedures from BPA – what can we expect into the future
3. BPA financial situation and future of Fish and Wildlife mitigation program
4. Mitigation spending and reallocating resources to areas that can provide multiple benefits and areas that have been under mitigated
  - a. Take stock from successes and redirect into areas of need
4. Communication protocols and understanding roles
5. Accord #2
  - a. Future Albeni Fish Passage O&M
6. Field Trip Itinerary – time may reduce the number site visits we can actually make
  - a. Wildlife properties and restoration
  - b. Fish hatchery and fish consumption program
  - c. Indian Creek Community Forest
  - d. Fish passage and habitat projects within the watershed
  - e. If time permits – Goose Creek floodplain and stream channel restoration

I hope this gets at most of the issues at hand and we can have a productive time together. I will let Joe weigh in on any additional items that I may have overlooked.

Regards,

**Ray D. Entz**

*Director of Wildlife and Terrestrial Resources*

**Kalispel Tribe of Indians**

Kalispel Natural Resources Department

509.447.7278 Office

(b)(6) Cell

[rentz@kalispeltribe.com](mailto:rentz@kalispeltribe.com)

[kalispeltribe.com](http://kalispeltribe.com) | [Facebook](#)

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**From:** Foster, Marchelle M (BPA) - DIT-7 <mmfoster@bpa.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2019 8:20 AM

**To:** osterman@knrd.org; Ray Entz <rentz@kalispeltribe.com>; Joe Maroney <jmaroney@kalispeltribe.com>

**Subject:** BPA Visit

Good Morning!

I am hoping that you can send me an agenda to share with the group today that includes discussion topics and the site locations we will be visiting. Tomorrow is my last day in the office before the trip next Thursday.

Also, the one thing I forgot to discuss with you is lunch. Can you suggest a place we can pick something up on the way?

All the best, Marcy

503-380-1188

From: SCHROETTNIG Matthew

Sent: Tue Sep 03 16:31:14 2019

To: Ball, Crystal A (BPA) - EW-4

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Is Bonneville going broke?

Importance: Normal

Ha! Exactly!

**From:** Ball, Crystal A (BPA) - EW-4 <caball@bpa.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2019 4:24 PM

**To:** SCHROETTNIG Matthew <Matthew.Schroettinig@EWEB.ORG>

**Subject:** RE: Is Bonneville going broke?

“To date, it has cost BPA nearly \$17 billion to mitigate the effects of its dams on threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead. Those costs translate into nearly a quarter of the rate BPA charges its power customers.

And that program is failing.

Fish runs continue to decline, and though proponents highlight fish passage improvements at dams, the program's primary success is that what were once some of the most prolific salmon and steelhead runs in North America haven't vanished yet.”

Good God, who's in charge of the fish and wildlife program at BPA?

**From:** SCHROETTIG Matthew <[Matthew.Schroettig@EWEB.ORG](mailto:Matthew.Schroettig@EWEB.ORG)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2019 3:07 PM  
**To:** Ball, Crystal A (BPA) - EW-4 <[caball@bpa.gov](mailto:caball@bpa.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Is Bonneville going broke?

Fun!

I'm looking forward to replying to this one.

**From:** MCCANN Mike <[Mike.MCCANN@eweb.org](mailto:Mike.MCCANN@eweb.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2019 3:03 PM  
**To:** 250Section <[250Section@eweb.org](mailto:250Section@eweb.org)>; ACKERMAN Susan <[Susan.Ackerman@EWEB.ORG](mailto:Susan.Ackerman@EWEB.ORG)>  
**Subject:** Is Bonneville going broke?

## ENERGY TRANSITIONS

# Hydropower giant Bonneville Power is going broke

[Jeremy P. Jacobs](#), E&E News reporter Published: Tuesday, September 3, 2019

[1942 photo of Grand Coulee Dam \(before forebay construction\). Photo credit: Library of Congress/Farm Security Administration/U.S. Bureau of Reclamation](#)

Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in 1942. The Bureau of Reclamation facility electrified the Pacific Northwest and remains one of the most productive hydropower plants in the world. Library of Congress/Farm Security Administration/U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

LEWISTON, Idaho — Nearly a century ago, America embarked on a great social experiment in the Pacific Northwest, charging up the Columbia River and erecting dams.

It worked. Construction jobs pulled the country out of the Great Depression. Cheap electricity spurred the growth of cities like Seattle, Portland and Boise. And hydropower fueled the military effort to defeat the spread of fascism in World War II.

Now the system is buckling.

The Bonneville Power Administration, the independent federal agency that sells the electricity produced by the dams, is careening toward a financial cliff. BPA is \$15 billion in debt, facing a rapidly changing energy market increasingly dominated by wind and solar and a desperate need to maintain aging infrastructure that's expected to cost \$300 million to maintain and upgrade by 2023.

"If this were a private company, you would be shorting BPA," said Tony Jones, an economist at consulting firm

Rocky Mountain Econometrics. "If it was a private-sector company, it would restructure. Or this would be a good time to declare bankruptcy."

Hydropower no longer produces the region's cheapest electricity.

In the past, the utility relied heavily on selling surplus power at high rates to states including California, often referred to as the utility's ATM. But starting around 2008, California invested in wind and solar, and soon it no longer needed BPA's power. Bonneville was left with virtually no customers for its extra power.

As a result, BPA's rates have risen 30% since 2008. BPA currently charges its utility customers nearly \$36 per megawatt-hour. On the open market, they could buy electricity for \$22.

BPA has survived so far because it inked 20-year contracts with its utility customers in 2008, before California and others shifted to solar, wind and natural gas. But those agreements end in 2028, and if BPA doesn't come up with a plan, its customers will buy cheaper electricity elsewhere.

If even a few do that, BPA would likely have to raise rates even higher to cover costs, which could lead other customers to similarly head for the exits. And that, in turn, could force even higher rate increases.

The economic term for that cycle, Jones said, is a "death spiral."

That's only part of BPA's problems. In addition to facing market pressures, it pays for the largest endangered species recovery program in U.S. history.

To date, it has cost BPA nearly \$17 billion to mitigate the effects of its dams on threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead. Those costs translate into nearly a quarter of the rate BPA charges its power customers.

And that program is failing.

Fish runs continue to decline, and though proponents highlight fish passage improvements at dams, the program's primary success is that what were once some of the most prolific salmon and steelhead runs in North America haven't vanished yet.

"We are not recovering salmon," said Patrick Wilson, a professor of natural resource policy at the University of Idaho. "We are just preventing them from going extinct."

Most experts give them 10 years until extinction.

The Northwest's status quo is broken. And it will only get worse, threatening to create a regional economic crisis.

Climate change will bring harsher conditions for the fish, including warmer rivers and oceans, potentially deadly reservoir temperatures, and less usable habitat.

BPA, meanwhile, is approaching its federal borrowing limit and could reach that cap by 2023, raising questions about whether it can even afford the fish program in the future.

The utility knows this. BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer testified last year that it's been a "bloodbath" on the wholesale market as new wind and solar have driven prices down.

Yet no one had questioned BPA's role as a regional powerhouse. Until now.

In April, Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) delivered a speech that for the first time said changes are needed.

"BPA is in trouble," Simpson said at an Andrus Center for Public Policy at Boise State University forum.

And in a first for a lawmaker, Simpson also said the fish problems and the crisis facing BPA are connected and must be addressed together.

Simpson stopped short of saying dams should be breached. But he spoke about salmon in nearly religious terms.

Recalling seeing adult salmon return to Idaho — swimming 900 miles from the ocean, gaining 7,000 feet of elevation — to spawn and die, he said: "It was the end of a cycle. And the beginning of a new one. These are the most incredible creatures, I think, that God's created."

His speech sent a tsunami through the political, environmental and energy communities.

"For 50 years, the federal agencies in charge of managing the dams on the Columbia and Snake have successfully managed to keep all the congressional delegation in the four affected states marching in lockstep and parroting their messaging," said Steven Hawley, a journalist and author of the book "Recovering a Lost River." "Simpson is the first to be openly critical and question what's going on with the hydro system."

He added, "I'm sure it makes people in the agencies really nervous."

It has also invigorated conservationists. Outdoor outfitter Patagonia Inc. is getting involved, and local activists are going on the road to drum up support.

They estimate ratepayers have contributed some \$10 billion toward the flawed fish program.

"And you are getting no results," said Linwood Laughy, a Harvard-educated activist based in Moscow, Idaho. "Well, shit, how dumb are we?"

They point to a 2017 report from the Fish Passage Center — an independent research entity funded by BPA by law — that concluded removing four dams on the Lower Snake River, increasing spill over other dams, would lead to a fourfold increase in the number of fish.

Simpson's assault on these problems won't be easy.

Interests that rely on the dams have had decades to become entrenched, and Simpson will have to somehow make sure everyone wins to drum up political support. That includes one of the country's most productive wheat-growing regions. Those farms rely on barging their 2.2 million tons of product from ports including the one here in Lewiston, Idaho, down the river to Portland for shipment overseas.

If they lose barging, they say, they'll be held hostage to rapidly escalating rail rates.

"If there is no longer a river system, somehow holding rail rates down while rail operates at a monopoly — there is nothing that holds that rate down," said Chris Peha of Northwest Grain Growers. "It's impossible to estimate a cost."

Many members of the Northwest's congressional delegation are dead set against removing dams, including Rep.

Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R), whose eastern Washington district includes some of the ones on the Lower Snake River.

"For me, dam breaching is off the table," McMorris Rodgers said in an interview, adding that the hydropower system is "really at the foundation of our economy."

"Bottom line: Dams and fish coexist," she said.

But others wonder whether it's time for change. The current regime was established by 1980 legislation that arose following a similar set of problems.

Sometimes "a whole bunch of circumstances align, and then you get an opportunity to do something, to fix something," said Michele DeHart of the Fish Passage Center, who has studied the issue for decades. "We may be in one of those places. It takes a lot of courage."

That is exactly what Simpson is talking about. He is obsessed with the issue. The walls of a room in his congressional office are papered with maps, statistics, financial reports and everything else exploring the problem.

"Make no doubt about it: I want salmon back in Idaho in healthy and sustainable populations," he said. "Can this be done? I honestly don't know. I don't know if the willpower is there to do it. I don't know if the willpower is in Congress to do it. But I will tell you that I am hardheaded enough to try."

## **'Roll On, Columbia'**

When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt looked for public works projects for his New Deal, the mighty Columbia River was too good to pass up.

The river rumbles more than 1,200 miles from the Canadian Rockies to the Pacific Ocean, crossing seven states and a Canadian province. It is the fourth-largest river system in North America, draining an area the size of France.

Roosevelt's Public Works Administration quickly set to work on building a major dam near the mouth of the Columbia, and Bonneville Dam — technically the second built on the river — came online in 1938, to much fanfare.

"This Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River ... when fully completed ... will produce 580,000 horsepower of electricity," Roosevelt said at its dedication in September 1937. He added that such projects "will give us more wealth, better living and greater happiness for our children."

Next came the masterpiece: Grand Coulee.

Completed in 1941 in the northeast corner of Washington, Grand Coulee is 550 feet tall and nearly a mile long. One of the largest structures America has ever built, it is roughly the size of the Golden Gate Bridge filled in with concrete.

The legendary folk singer Woody Guthrie, commissioned by the government, immortalized the project in his 1941 "Roll On, Columbia."

"And on up the river is Grand Coulee Dam / The mightiest thing ever built by a man / To run the great factories and water the land / So roll on, Columbia, roll on."

Updated in 1974 to produce more hydropower, the dam now has the capacity to pump 6,800 megawatts, making it the country's most productive hydropower station.

Roosevelt's administration and others treated the whole basin like a big construction site. The idea was to build the dams, then provide their electricity at cost, a massively federally subsidized regime that critics today would undoubtedly equate to socialism.

In 1937, Congress established the Bonneville Power Administration to sell the power from its namesake dam and others. Some of the first sales went to aluminum maker Alcoa in 1939 to aid the war effort.

More than 400 dams were eventually built. BPA ended up with 31 under its marketing purview, along with the regional transmission system and a lone nuclear plant in Hanford, Wash.

## **'We just went too far'**

As Grand Coulee and the other dams ushered in the hydropower era, they quickly had an impact on fish runs that historically returned millions of salmon and steelhead.

Commercial fishing had already significantly harmed regional fish populations, but three dams in particular effectively cut off thousands of miles of their historical spawning grounds.

To the north, Grand Coulee blocked the fish from the upper Columbia River and Kettle Falls 100 miles upstream, the system's second-most important hatching grounds.

To the south, Idaho Power Co.'s Hells Canyon Dam, completed in 1967, cut off migration into most of the Snake River in southern Idaho.

And in the middle, Dworshak Dam, completed in 1973 and operated by the Army Corps of Engineers, created a 717-foot wall in front of the north fork of the Clearwater River, a tributary of the Snake.

Agencies sought to mitigate the effects of these dams with hatcheries and other elaborate programs for barging and trucking juvenile fish around the dams. But ultimately, more than 55% of historic spawning habitat in the basin was permanently blocked.

And the impacts on the fish were severe.

By 1991, the Snake River sockeye salmon was listed as endangered. A dozen more runs of salmon and steelhead would follow for the basin.

Those dams' impassability led conservationists to focus on four other dams on the Lower Snake River in eastern Washington: Ice Harbor (completed in 1961), Lower Monumental (1969), Little Goose (1970) and Lower Granite (1975).

They were among the last dams built in the system, and they sit square in the middle of it, below Grand Coulee far to the north, above Hells Canyon to the south and right before an adult fish migrating upstream would hit Dworshak.

To many activists, they are critical to the survival of fish. Those four dams sit in front of some of the best salmon and steelhead spawning habitat in the Lower 48.

Tear them down, and the migration corridor to those areas of Idaho becomes much more manageable: Instead of having to go over, through and around eight dams, the fish would have to navigate only four.

"There was probably a balance point where we could have had some reasonable fish populations and reasonable level of development. We went beyond that point," the Fish Passage Center's DeHart said.

"These populations now can't take that much life cycle stress. We just went too far. We went beyond the point of balance."

The science is complex, but it boils down to this: When juvenile fish leave the spawning grounds, they must navigate the eight dams before reaching the ocean — the four on the Lower Snake River and four on the Columbia River.

Dams create slack pools where there was once a strong current pushing juveniles to the ocean mostly tail first. The reservoirs allow temperatures to rise to potentially lethal levels and create easy hunting for predators.

That adds weeks to what should be a short migration and delays the fish's physiological transition from fresh water to salt water. Many die in the ocean and don't return as adults in a phenomenon called "latent" or "delayed" mortality that is only now being studied in earnest.

It is not unusual to lose 50% of a juvenile run through the eight dams in a normal year. Losses can be upward of 85%. And when they return as adults to spawn, the fish must get up and over the eight dams again.

"These fish are threatened and on the verge of extinction because there are too many stresses on their life cycle," DeHart said.

Other tributaries of the Columbia, like the Yakima, Deschutes and John Day rivers, have much better survival rates. Fish from those rivers navigate fewer dams on their way to the ocean and back — two for the Deschutes, three for the John Day and four for the Yakima.

Proponents of the system say tearing down the dams won't guarantee the fish will recover. Other factors, such as a warming ocean and predators, could prove just as harmful to the species' long-term survival.

NOAA Fisheries, the federal science agency that oversees the program, says breaching the dams won't solve the problem.

Ritchie Graves, who leads NOAA's Columbia Hydropower Branch, said breaching the dams "might improve" direct juvenile survival by 10% to 15%.

"That represents a small improvement," he said, "but certainly not the sort of magnitude that you would need to push some of the species to the delisting criteria."

But conservationists have challenged the management of the Lower Snake River dams in court. They've won — five times.

Most recently, Judge Michael Simon of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon delivered a 149-page tongue-lashing in May 2016, ordering the agencies to start a new environmental review that includes consideration of breaching the four dams.

The agencies had "ignored" earlier rulings that said the system "literally cries out for a major overhaul," he wrote, and "instead continued to focus on essentially the same approach to saving the listed species — minimizing hydro mitigation efforts and maximizing habitat restoration."

He added, "Despite billions of dollars spent on these efforts, the listed species continue to be in a perilous state."

**'Whoops'**

In his speech, Simpson outlined cascading problems and an opportunity to try to solve them in far-reaching legislation.

And in some respects, that shouldn't be new to the region. It's had to do it before.

When the last hydropower dams were completed in the mid-1970s, concerns quickly arose that demand for electricity in the region would outpace supply. There would need to be more power plants built and brought online.

That led to disputes over the allocations of hydropower, and a rush by what was then the Washington Public Power Supply System to build five nuclear plants.

Those forecasts turned out to be inaccurate — wildly so.

By the late 1970s, it became clear that that much power wasn't needed.

The Washington Public Power Supply System ultimately defaulted on \$2.25 billion in municipal bonds, the largest public default in the country's history. And the region soon began sounding out the utility's acronym: WPPSS became "Whoops."

That crisis — along with the declining fish runs, particularly in the Snake River — led to landmark legislation. In 1980, Congress passed and President Carter signed the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act.

The law created the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, an independent entity charged with doing two jobs: making sure there's a reliable regional power supply and mitigating the effects of the dams on fish and other wildlife.

It also had a major consequence for BPA: It put the agency on the hook for the fish program — including recovery costs, studies and litigation.

Simpson, in his speech, questioned whether the framework for BPA laid out in the nearly 40-year-old law still makes sense. And he doubted whether there is the political appetite now to simply bail out the utility.

"It's time that we relook at the Northwest Power Planning Act and write a new Northwest Power Planning Act," he said.

"Either we can do it, or it will be done for us."

From: SCHROETTIG Matthew

Sent: Tue Sep 03 16:36:52 2019

To: Ball, Crystal A (BPA) - DIR-7

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Is Bonneville going broke?

Importance: Normal

J

**From:** ACKERMAN Susan <Susan.Ackerman@EWEB.ORG>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2019 3:38 PM

**To:** SCHROETTIG Matthew <Matthew.Schroettig@EWEB.ORG>; MCCANN Mike <Mike.MCCANN@eweb.org>; 250Section <250Section@eweb.org>

**Subject:** RE: Is Bonneville going broke?

Agree that is a risk, Matt. And, it's eye rolls, not eye roles. J

**From:** SCHROETTIG Matthew

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2019 3:30 PM

**To:** ACKERMAN Susan <[Susan.Ackerman@EWEB.ORG](mailto:Susan.Ackerman@EWEB.ORG)>; MCCANN Mike <[Mike.MCCANN@eweb.org](mailto:Mike.MCCANN@eweb.org)>; 250Section <[250Section@eweb.org](mailto:250Section@eweb.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Is Bonneville going broke?

Agreed. With one addition – there is a valuable nugget at the end, where Simpson says: "It's time that we relook at the Northwest Power Planning Act and write a new Northwest Power Planning Act."

We've heard that much of the historic regional reticence around making, or even suggesting any changes to the Act have to do with the risks of opening it up in the first place. And while this piece strikes me as equal parts (1) an unrepentant misrepresentation of economic and market data, and (2) a homage to Simpson and his "nearly religious" reverie for fish... for me it also serves to highlight that risk, and to justify our historic fears.

**From:** ACKERMAN Susan <[Susan.Ackerman@EWEB.ORG](mailto:Susan.Ackerman@EWEB.ORG)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2019 3:12 PM  
**To:** MCCANN Mike <[Mike.MCCANN@eweb.org](mailto:Mike.MCCANN@eweb.org)>; 250Section <[250Section@eweb.org](mailto:250Section@eweb.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Is Bonneville going broke?

No emoji's for eye roles on the MS format.

**From:** MCCANN Mike  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2019 3:03 PM  
**To:** 250Section <[250Section@eweb.org](mailto:250Section@eweb.org)>; ACKERMAN Susan <[Susan.Ackerman@EWEB.ORG](mailto:Susan.Ackerman@EWEB.ORG)>  
**Subject:** Is Bonneville going broke?

## ENERGY TRANSITIONS

# Hydropower giant Bonneville Power is going broke

[Jeremy P. Jacobs](#), E&E News reporter Published: Tuesday, September 3, 2019

[1942 photo of Grand Coulee Dam \(before forebay construction\). Photo credit: Library of Congress/Farm Security Administration/U.S. Bureau of Reclamation](#)

Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in 1942. The Bureau of Reclamation facility electrified the Pacific Northwest and remains one of the most productive hydropower plants in the world. Library of Congress/Farm Security Administration/U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

LEWISTON, Idaho — Nearly a century ago, America embarked on a great social experiment in the Pacific Northwest, charging up the Columbia River and erecting dams.

It worked. Construction jobs pulled the country out of the Great Depression. Cheap electricity spurred the growth of cities like Seattle, Portland and Boise. And hydropower fueled the military effort to defeat the spread of fascism in World War II.

Now the system is buckling.

The Bonneville Power Administration, the independent federal agency that sells the electricity produced by the dams, is careening toward a financial cliff. BPA is \$15 billion in debt, facing a rapidly changing energy market increasingly dominated by wind and solar and a desperate need to maintain aging infrastructure that's expected to cost \$300 million to maintain and upgrade by 2023.

"If this were a private company, you would be shorting BPA," said Tony Jones, an economist at consulting firm Rocky Mountain Econometrics. "If it was a private-sector company, it would restructure. Or this would be a good time to declare bankruptcy."

Hydropower no longer produces the region's cheapest electricity.

In the past, the utility relied heavily on selling surplus power at high rates to states including California, often referred to as the utility's ATM. But starting around 2008, California invested in wind and solar, and soon it no longer needed BPA's power. Bonneville was left with virtually no customers for its extra power.

As a result, BPA's rates have risen 30% since 2008. BPA currently charges its utility customers nearly \$36 per megawatt-hour. On the open market, they could buy electricity for \$22.

BPA has survived so far because it inked 20-year contracts with its utility customers in 2008, before California and others shifted to solar, wind and natural gas. But those agreements end in 2028, and if BPA doesn't come up with a plan, its customers will buy cheaper electricity elsewhere.

If even a few do that, BPA would likely have to raise rates even higher to cover costs, which could lead other customers to similarly head for the exits. And that, in turn, could force even higher rate increases.

The economic term for that cycle, Jones said, is a "death spiral."

That's only part of BPA's problems. In addition to facing market pressures, it pays for the largest endangered species recovery program in U.S. history.

To date, it has cost BPA nearly \$17 billion to mitigate the effects of its dams on threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead. Those costs translate into nearly a quarter of the rate BPA charges its power customers.

And that program is failing.

Fish runs continue to decline, and though proponents highlight fish passage improvements at dams, the program's primary success is that what were once some of the most prolific salmon and steelhead runs in North America haven't vanished yet.

"We are not recovering salmon," said Patrick Wilson, a professor of natural resource policy at the University of Idaho. "We are just preventing them from going extinct."

Most experts give them 10 years until extinction.

The Northwest's status quo is broken. And it will only get worse, threatening to create a regional economic crisis.

Climate change will bring harsher conditions for the fish, including warmer rivers and oceans, potentially deadly reservoir temperatures, and less usable habitat.

BPA, meanwhile, is approaching its federal borrowing limit and could reach that cap by 2023, raising questions about whether it can even afford the fish program in the future.

The utility knows this. BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer testified last year that it's been a "bloodbath" on the wholesale market as new wind and solar have driven prices down.

Yet no one had questioned BPA's role as a regional powerhouse. Until now.

In April, Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) delivered a speech that for the first time said changes are needed.

"BPA is in trouble," Simpson said at an Andrus Center for Public Policy at Boise State University forum.

And in a first for a lawmaker, Simpson also said the fish problems and the crisis facing BPA are connected and must be addressed together.

Simpson stopped short of saying dams should be breached. But he spoke about salmon in nearly religious terms.

Recalling seeing adult salmon return to Idaho — swimming 900 miles from the ocean, gaining 7,000 feet of elevation — to spawn and die, he said: "It was the end of a cycle. And the beginning of a new one. These are the most incredible creatures, I think, that God's created."

His speech sent a tsunami through the political, environmental and energy communities.

"For 50 years, the federal agencies in charge of managing the dams on the Columbia and Snake have successfully managed to keep all the congressional delegation in the four affected states marching in lockstep and parroting their messaging," said Steven Hawley, a journalist and author of the book "Recovering a Lost River." "Simpson is the first to be openly critical and question what's going on with the hydro system."

He added, "I'm sure it makes people in the agencies really nervous."

It has also invigorated conservationists. Outdoor outfitter Patagonia Inc. is getting involved, and local activists are going on the road to drum up support.

They estimate ratepayers have contributed some \$10 billion toward the flawed fish program.

"And you are getting no results," said Linwood Laughy, a Harvard-educated activist based in Moscow, Idaho. "Well, shit, how dumb are we?"

They point to a 2017 report from the Fish Passage Center — an independent research entity funded by BPA by law — that concluded removing four dams on the Lower Snake River, increasing spill over other dams, would lead to a fourfold increase in the number of fish.

Simpson's assault on these problems won't be easy.

Interests that rely on the dams have had decades to become entrenched, and Simpson will have to somehow make sure everyone wins to drum up political support. That includes one of the country's most productive wheat-growing regions. Those farms rely on barging their 2.2 million tons of product from ports including the one here in

Lewiston, Idaho, down the river to Portland for shipment overseas.

If they lose barging, they say, they'll be held hostage to rapidly escalating rail rates.

"If there is no longer a river system, somehow holding rail rates down while rail operates at a monopoly — there is nothing that holds that rate down," said Chris Peha of Northwest Grain Growers. "It's impossible to estimate a cost."

Many members of the Northwest's congressional delegation are dead set against removing dams, including Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R), whose eastern Washington district includes some of the ones on the Lower Snake River.

"For me, dam breaching is off the table," McMorris Rodgers said in an interview, adding that the hydropower system is "really at the foundation of our economy."

"Bottom line: Dams and fish coexist," she said.

But others wonder whether it's time for change. The current regime was established by 1980 legislation that arose following a similar set of problems.

Sometimes "a whole bunch of circumstances align, and then you get an opportunity to do something, to fix something," said Michele DeHart of the Fish Passage Center, who has studied the issue for decades. "We may be in one of those places. It takes a lot of courage."

That is exactly what Simpson is talking about. He is obsessed with the issue. The walls of a room in his congressional office are papered with maps, statistics, financial reports and everything else exploring the problem.

"Make no doubt about it: I want salmon back in Idaho in healthy and sustainable populations," he said. "Can this be done? I honestly don't know. I don't know if the willpower is there to do it. I don't know if the willpower is in Congress to do it. But I will tell you that I am hardheaded enough to try."

## **'Roll On, Columbia'**

When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt looked for public works projects for his New Deal, the mighty Columbia River was too good to pass up.

The river rumbles more than 1,200 miles from the Canadian Rockies to the Pacific Ocean, crossing seven states and a Canadian province. It is the fourth-largest river system in North America, draining an area the size of France.

Roosevelt's Public Works Administration quickly set to work on building a major dam near the mouth of the Columbia, and Bonneville Dam — technically the second built on the river — came online in 1938, to much fanfare.

"This Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River ... when fully completed ... will produce 580,000 horsepower of electricity," Roosevelt said at its dedication in September 1937. He added that such projects "will give us more wealth, better living and greater happiness for our children."

Next came the masterpiece: Grand Coulee.

Completed in 1941 in the northeast corner of Washington, Grand Coulee is 550 feet tall and nearly a mile long. One of the largest structures America has ever built, it is roughly the size of the Golden Gate Bridge filled in with concrete.

The legendary folk singer Woody Guthrie, commissioned by the government, immortalized the project in his 1941 "Roll On, Columbia."

"And on up the river is Grand Coulee Dam / The mightiest thing ever built by a man / To run the great factories and water the land / So roll on, Columbia, roll on."

Updated in 1974 to produce more hydropower, the dam now has the capacity to pump 6,800 megawatts, making it the country's most productive hydropower station.

Roosevelt's administration and others treated the whole basin like a big construction site. The idea was to build the dams, then provide their electricity at cost, a massively federally subsidized regime that critics today would

undoubtedly equate to socialism.

In 1937, Congress established the Bonneville Power Administration to sell the power from its namesake dam and others. Some of the first sales went to aluminum maker Alcoa in 1939 to aid the war effort.

More than 400 dams were eventually built. BPA ended up with 31 under its marketing purview, along with the regional transmission system and a lone nuclear plant in Hanford, Wash.

### **'We just went too far'**

As Grand Coulee and the other dams ushered in the hydropower era, they quickly had an impact on fish runs that historically returned millions of salmon and steelhead.

Commercial fishing had already significantly harmed regional fish populations, but three dams in particular effectively cut off thousands of miles of their historical spawning grounds.

To the north, Grand Coulee blocked the fish from the upper Columbia River and Kettle Falls 100 miles upstream, the system's second-most important hatching grounds.

To the south, Idaho Power Co.'s Hells Canyon Dam, completed in 1967, cut off migration into most of the Snake River in southern Idaho.

And in the middle, Dworshak Dam, completed in 1973 and operated by the Army Corps of Engineers, created a 717-foot wall in front of the north fork of the Clearwater River, a tributary of the Snake.

Agencies sought to mitigate the effects of these dams with hatcheries and other elaborate programs for barging and trucking juvenile fish around the dams. But ultimately, more than 55% of historic spawning habitat in the basin was permanently blocked.

And the impacts on the fish were severe.

By 1991, the Snake River sockeye salmon was listed as endangered. A dozen more runs of salmon and steelhead would follow for the basin.

Those dams' impassability led conservationists to focus on four other dams on the Lower Snake River in eastern Washington: Ice Harbor (completed in 1961), Lower Monumental (1969), Little Goose (1970) and Lower Granite (1975).

They were among the last dams built in the system, and they sit square in the middle of it, below Grand Coulee far to the north, above Hells Canyon to the south and right before an adult fish migrating upstream would hit Dworshak.

To many activists, they are critical to the survival of fish. Those four dams sit in front of some of the best salmon and steelhead spawning habitat in the Lower 48.

Tear them down, and the migration corridor to those areas of Idaho becomes much more manageable: Instead of having to go over, through and around eight dams, the fish would have to navigate only four.

"There was probably a balance point where we could have had some reasonable fish populations and reasonable level of development. We went beyond that point," the Fish Passage Center's DeHart said.

"These populations now can't take that much life cycle stress. We just went too far. We went beyond the point of balance."

The science is complex, but it boils down to this: When juvenile fish leave the spawning grounds, they must navigate the eight dams before reaching the ocean — the four on the Lower Snake River and four on the Columbia River.

Dams create slack pools where there was once a strong current pushing juveniles to the ocean mostly tail first. The reservoirs allow temperatures to rise to potentially lethal levels and create easy hunting for predators.

That adds weeks to what should be a short migration and delays the fish's physiological transition from fresh water to salt water. Many die in the ocean and don't return as adults in a phenomenon called "latent" or "delayed"

mortality that is only now being studied in earnest.

It is not unusual to lose 50% of a juvenile run through the eight dams in a normal year. Losses can be upward of 85%. And when they return as adults to spawn, the fish must get up and over the eight dams again.

"These fish are threatened and on the verge of extinction because there are too many stresses on their life cycle," DeHart said.

Other tributaries of the Columbia, like the Yakima, Deschutes and John Day rivers, have much better survival rates. Fish from those rivers navigate fewer dams on their way to the ocean and back — two for the Deschutes, three for the John Day and four for the Yakima.

Proponents of the system say tearing down the dams won't guarantee the fish will recover. Other factors, such as a warming ocean and predators, could prove just as harmful to the species' long-term survival.

NOAA Fisheries, the federal science agency that oversees the program, says breaching the dams won't solve the problem.

Ritchie Graves, who leads NOAA's Columbia Hydropower Branch, said breaching the dams "might improve" direct juvenile survival by 10% to 15%.

"That represents a small improvement," he said, "but certainly not the sort of magnitude that you would need to push some of the species to the delisting criteria."

But conservationists have challenged the management of the Lower Snake River dams in court. They've won — five times.

Most recently, Judge Michael Simon of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon delivered a 149-page tongue-lashing in May 2016, ordering the agencies to start a new environmental review that includes consideration of breaching the four dams.

The agencies had "ignored" earlier rulings that said the system "literally cries out for a major overhaul," he wrote, and "instead continued to focus on essentially the same approach to saving the listed species — minimizing hydro

mitigation efforts and maximizing habitat restoration."

He added, "Despite billions of dollars spent on these efforts, the listed species continue to be in a perilous state."

## **'Whoops'**

In his speech, Simpson outlined cascading problems and an opportunity to try to solve them in far-reaching legislation.

And in some respects, that shouldn't be new to the region. It's had to do it before.

When the last hydropower dams were completed in the mid-1970s, concerns quickly arose that demand for electricity in the region would outpace supply. There would need to be more power plants built and brought online.

That led to disputes over the allocations of hydropower, and a rush by what was then the Washington Public Power Supply System to build five nuclear plants.

Those forecasts turned out to be inaccurate — wildly so.

By the late 1970s, it became clear that that much power wasn't needed.

The Washington Public Power Supply System ultimately defaulted on \$2.25 billion in municipal bonds, the largest public default in the country's history. And the region soon began sounding out the utility's acronym: WPPSS became "Whoops."

That crisis — along with the declining fish runs, particularly in the Snake River — led to landmark legislation. In 1980, Congress passed and President Carter signed the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act.

The law created the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, an independent entity charged with doing two

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"It's time that we relook at the Northwest Power Planning Act and write a new Northwest Power Planning Act," he said.

"Either we can do it, or it will be done for us."

**From:** Todd,Wayne A (BPA) - PGA-6

**Sent:** Wed Sep 04 08:20:04 2019

**To:** 'rskordas@usbr.gov'; Tony Kirk (tony.r.kirk@usace.army.mil)

**Cc:** Summers, Joseph; Thoren, Scott D NWW; Worthington, Shawn M CIV USARMY CENWD (US)

**Subject:** FW: E&E: Hydropower giant Bonneville Power is going broke

**Importance:** Normal

Wanted to share this article with folks. I encourage you to distribute widely through the hydropower folks in your organization. While not completely accurate, it may represent one bookend of where Bonneville is at.

**From:** Wilson,David B (BPA) - DKP-7

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 03, 2019 11:53 AM

**To:** Warner,Joshua P (BPA) - DIR-7; ADL\_DIR\_ALL; James,Daniel M (BPA) - D-7; Mainzer,Elliot E (BPA) - A-7; Armentrout,Scott G (BPA) - E-4; Ball,Crystal A (BPA) - EW-4; Connolly,Kieran P (BPA) - PG-5; Hansen,Michael S (BPA) - DKP-7; Carnes,Karrie L (BPA) - DKE-7; Harris,Marcus A (BPA) - FA-2; Zelinsky,Benjamin D (BPA) - E-4; Todd,Wayne A (BPA) - PGA-6

**Subject:** RE: E&E: Hydropower giant Bonneville Power is going broke

I had a telephone conversation with Jeremy this morning. I told him in the nicest way possible that we are not impressed with his article. He assured me that this is a series and that the next two will be more balanced.

Dave

**David B. Wilson**

Communications | Media Relations | Policy

**Bonneville Power Administration**

[bpa.gov](http://bpa.gov) | P 503-230-5607 | C (b)(6)

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**From:** Warner, Joshua P (BPA) - DIR-7

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 03, 2019 11:35 AM

**To:** ADL\_DIR\_ALL; James, Daniel M (BPA) - D-7; Mainzer, Elliot E (BPA) - A-7; Armentrout, Scott G (BPA) - E-4; Ball, Crystal A (BPA) - EW-4; Connolly, Kieran P (BPA) - PG-5; Wilson, David B (BPA) - DKP-7; Hansen, Michael S (BPA) - DKP-7; Carnes, Karrie L (BPA) - DKE-7; Harris, Marcus A (BPA) - FA-2; Zelinsky, Benjamin D (BPA) - E-4; Todd, Wayne A (BPA) - PGA-6

**Subject:** E&E: Hydropower giant Bonneville Power is going broke

Just making sure everyone saw this. Tony Jones, Rep Simpson and Michelle DeHart are prominently interviewed.

Josh

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1061110823/search?keyword=bonneville>

## Hydropower giant Bonneville Power is going broke

[Jeremy P. Jacobs](#), E&E News reporter Published: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 1942 photo of Grand Coulee Dam (before forebay construction). Photo credit: Library of Congress/Farm Security Administration/U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

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## E&E SERIES

Bloodbath: Red ink pours over Northwest dams series logo

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That's only part of BPA's problems. In addition to facing market pressures, it pays for the largest endangered species recovery program in U.S. history.

To date, it has cost BPA nearly \$17 billion to mitigate the effects of its dams on threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead. Those costs translate into nearly a quarter of the rate BPA charges its power customers.

And that program is failing.

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The Northwest's status quo is broken. And it will only get worse, threatening to create a regional economic crisis.

Climate change will bring harsher conditions for the fish, including warmer rivers and oceans, potentially deadly reservoir temperatures, and less usable habitat.

BPA, meanwhile, is approaching its federal borrowing limit and could reach that cap by 2023, raising questions about whether it can even afford the fish program in the future.

The utility knows this. BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer testified last year that it's been a "bloodbath" on the wholesale market as new wind and solar have driven prices down.

Yet no one had questioned BPA's role as a regional powerhouse. Until now.

In April, Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) delivered a speech that for the first time said changes are needed.

Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho). Photo credit: Idaho Conservation League/Vimeo

Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) delivering a speech in April that called for reexamining the energy and fish programs in the Pacific Northwest. Idaho Conservation League/Vimeo

"BPA is in trouble," Simpson said at an Andrus Center for Public Policy at Boise State University forum.

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law — that concluded removing four dams on the Lower Snake River, increasing spill over other dams, would lead to a fourfold increase in the number of fish.

Simpson's assault on these problems won't be easy.

Interests that rely on the dams have had decades to become entrenched, and Simpson will have to somehow make sure everyone wins to drum up political support. That includes one of the country's most productive wheat-growing regions. Those farms rely on barging their 2.2 million tons of product from ports including the one here in Lewiston, Idaho, down the river to Portland for shipment overseas.

If they lose barging, they say, they'll be held hostage to rapidly escalating rail rates.

"If there is no longer a river system, somehow holding rail rates down while rail operates at a monopoly — there is nothing that holds that rate down," said Chris Peha of Northwest Grain Growers. "It's impossible to estimate a cost."

Many members of the Northwest's congressional delegation are dead set against removing dams, including Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R), whose eastern Washington district includes some of the ones on the Lower Snake River.

"For me, dam breaching is off the table," McMorris Rodgers said in an interview, adding that the hydropower system is "really at the foundation of our economy."

"Bottom line: Dams and fish coexist," she said.

But others wonder whether it's time for change. The current regime was established by 1980 legislation that arose following a similar set of problems.

Sometimes "a whole bunch of circumstances align, and then you get an opportunity to do something, to fix something," said Michele DeHart of the Fish Passage Center, who has studied the issue for decades. "We may be in one of those places. It takes a lot of courage."

That is exactly what Simpson is talking about. He is obsessed with the issue. The walls of a room in his

congressional office are papered with maps, statistics, financial reports and everything else exploring the problem.

"Make no doubt about it: I want salmon back in Idaho in healthy and sustainable populations," he said. "Can this be done? I honestly don't know. I don't know if the willpower is there to do it. I don't know if the willpower is in Congress to do it. But I will tell you that I am hardheaded enough to try."

## **'Roll On, Columbia'**

Spillway Gates Bonneville Dam. photo credit: U.S. Forest Service- Pacific Northwest Region/Wikipedia

A historic photo of the spillways at Bonneville Dam, one of the first built on the Columbia River. U.S. Forest Service- Pacific Northwest Region/Wikipedia

When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt looked for public works projects for his New Deal, the mighty Columbia River was too good to pass up.

The river rumbles more than 1,200 miles from the Canadian Rockies to the Pacific Ocean, crossing seven states and a Canadian province. It is the fourth-largest river system in North America, draining an area the size of France.

Roosevelt's Public Works Administration quickly set to work on building a major dam near the mouth of the Columbia, and Bonneville Dam — technically the second built on the river — came online in 1938, to much fanfare.

Map of dams around Lower Snake River. Map credit: Claudine Hellmuth/E&E News

Conservationists say four dams on the Lower Snake River are pivotal to the long-term survival of endangered salmon and steelhead. Claudine Hellmuth/E&E News

"This Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River ... when fully completed ... will produce 580,000 horsepower of electricity," Roosevelt said at its dedication in September 1937. He added that such projects "will give us more

wealth, better living and greater happiness for our children."

Next came the masterpiece: Grand Coulee.

Completed in 1941 in the northeast corner of Washington, Grand Coulee is 550 feet tall and nearly a mile long. One of the largest structures America has ever built, it is roughly the size of the Golden Gate Bridge filled in with concrete.

The legendary folk singer Woody Guthrie, commissioned by the government, immortalized the project in his 1941 "Roll On, Columbia."

"And on up the river is Grand Coulee Dam / The mightiest thing ever built by a man / To run the great factories and water the land / So roll on, Columbia, roll on."

Updated in 1974 to produce more hydropower, the dam now has the capacity to pump 6,800 megawatts, making it the country's most productive hydropower station.

Roosevelt's administration and others treated the whole basin like a big construction site. The idea was to build the dams, then provide their electricity at cost, a massively federally subsidized regime that critics today would undoubtedly equate to socialism.

In 1937, Congress established the Bonneville Power Administration to sell the power from its namesake dam and others. Some of the first sales went to aluminum maker Alcoa in 1939 to aid the war effort.

More than 400 dams were eventually built. BPA ended up with 31 under its marketing purview, along with the regional transmission system and a lone nuclear plant in Hanford, Wash.

### **'We just went too far'**

Lower Granite Dam. Photo credit: Jeremy P. Jacobs/E&E News

Lower Granite Dam is the first of eight dams that juvenile fish leaving the Lower Snake River must navigate on their migration to the ocean, and the last adults must clear on their return. Jeremy P. Jacobs/E&E News

As Grand Coulee and the other dams ushered in the hydropower era, they quickly had an impact on fish runs that historically returned millions of salmon and steelhead.

Commercial fishing had already significantly harmed regional fish populations, but three dams in particular effectively cut off thousands of miles of their historical spawning grounds.

To the north, Grand Coulee blocked the fish from the upper Columbia River and Kettle Falls 100 miles upstream, the system's second-most important hatching grounds.

To the south, Idaho Power Co.'s Hells Canyon Dam, completed in 1967, cut off migration into most of the Snake River in southern Idaho.

And in the middle, Dworshak Dam, completed in 1973 and operated by the Army Corps of Engineers, created a 717-foot wall in front of the north fork of the Clearwater River, a tributary of the Snake.

Agencies sought to mitigate the effects of these dams with hatcheries and other elaborate programs for barging and trucking juvenile fish around the dams. But ultimately, more than 55% of historic spawning habitat in the basin was permanently blocked.

And the impacts on the fish were severe.

By 1991, the Snake River sockeye salmon was listed as endangered. A dozen more runs of salmon and steelhead would follow for the basin.

Those dams' impassability led conservationists to focus on four other dams on the Lower Snake River in eastern Washington: Ice Harbor (completed in 1961), Lower Monumental (1969), Little Goose (1970) and Lower Granite (1975).

They were among the last dams built in the system, and they sit square in the middle of it, below Grand Coulee far

to the north, above Hells Canyon to the south and right before an adult fish migrating upstream would hit Dworshak.

To many activists, they are critical to the survival of fish. Those four dams sit in front of some of the best salmon and steelhead spawning habitat in the Lower 48.

Tear them down, and the migration corridor to those areas of Idaho becomes much more manageable: Instead of having to go over, through and around eight dams, the fish would have to navigate only four.

"There was probably a balance point where we could have had some reasonable fish populations and reasonable level of development. We went beyond that point," the Fish Passage Center's DeHart said.

"These populations now can't take that much life cycle stress. We just went too far. We went beyond the point of balance."

The science is complex, but it boils down to this: When juvenile fish leave the spawning grounds, they must navigate the eight dams before reaching the ocean — the four on the Lower Snake River and four on the Columbia River.

Dams create slack pools where there was once a strong current pushing juveniles to the ocean mostly tail first. The reservoirs allow temperatures to rise to potentially lethal levels and create easy hunting for predators.

That adds weeks to what should be a short migration and delays the fish's physiological transition from fresh water to salt water. Many die in the ocean and don't return as adults in a phenomenon called "latent" or "delayed" mortality that is only now being studied in earnest.

It is not unusual to lose 50% of a juvenile run through the eight dams in a normal year. Losses can be upward of 85%. And when they return as adults to spawn, the fish must get up and over the eight dams again.

"These fish are threatened and on the verge of extinction because there are too many stresses on their life cycle," DeHart said.

Other tributaries of the Columbia, like the Yakima, Deschutes and John Day rivers, have much better survival

rates. Fish from those rivers navigate fewer dams on their way to the ocean and back — two for the Deschutes, three for the John Day and four for the Yakima.

Proponents of the system say tearing down the dams won't guarantee the fish will recover. Other factors, such as a warming ocean and predators, could prove just as harmful to the species' long-term survival.

NOAA Fisheries, the federal science agency that oversees the program, says breaching the dams won't solve the problem.

Ritchie Graves, who leads NOAA's Columbia Hydropower Branch, said breaching the dams "might improve" direct juvenile survival by 10% to 15%.

"That represents a small improvement," he said, "but certainly not the sort of magnitude that you would need to push some of the species to the delisting criteria."

But conservationists have challenged the management of the Lower Snake River dams in court. They've won — five times.

Most recently, Judge Michael Simon of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon delivered a 149-page tongue-lashing in May 2016, ordering the agencies to start a new environmental review that includes consideration of breaching the four dams.

The agencies had "ignored" earlier rulings that said the system "literally cries out for a major overhaul," he wrote, and "instead continued to focus on essentially the same approach to saving the listed species — minimizing hydro mitigation efforts and maximizing habitat restoration."

He added, "Despite billions of dollars spent on these efforts, the listed species continue to be in a perilous state."

**'Whoops'**

Inside one of six electricity generating turbines in Lower Granite Dam. Photo credit: Jeremy P. Jacobs/E&E News

Inside one of six electricity-generating turbines in Lower Granite Dam. Jeremy P. Jacobs/E&E News

In his speech, Simpson outlined cascading problems and an opportunity to try to solve them in far-reaching legislation.

And in some respects, that shouldn't be new to the region. It's had to do it before.

When the last hydropower dams were completed in the mid-1970s, concerns quickly arose that demand for electricity in the region would outpace supply. There would need to be more power plants built and brought online.

That led to disputes over the allocations of hydropower, and a rush by what was then the Washington Public Power Supply System to build five nuclear plants.

Those forecasts turned out to be inaccurate — wildly so.

By the late 1970s, it became clear that that much power wasn't needed.

The Washington Public Power Supply System ultimately defaulted on \$2.25 billion in municipal bonds, the largest public default in the country's history. And the region soon began sounding out the utility's acronym: WPPSS became "Whoops."

That crisis — along with the declining fish runs, particularly in the Snake River — led to landmark legislation. In 1980, Congress passed and President Carter signed the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act.

The law created the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, an independent entity charged with doing two jobs: making sure there's a reliable regional power supply and mitigating the effects of the dams on fish and other wildlife.

It also had a major consequence for BPA: It put the agency on the hook for the fish program — including recovery costs, studies and litigation.

Simpson, in his speech, questioned whether the framework for BPA laid out in the nearly 40-year-old law still makes sense. And he doubted whether there is the political appetite now to simply bail out the utility.

"It's time that we relook at the Northwest Power Planning Act and write a new Northwest Power Planning Act," he said.

"Either we can do it, or it will be done for us."

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**Josh Warner**

Constituent Account Executive, Public Interest Organizations  
Bonneville Power Administration  
905 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97232  
(503) 230-5857  
[jpwarner@bpa.gov](mailto:jpwarner@bpa.gov)

From: Mainzer, Elliot E (BPA) - A-7

Sent: Thu Nov 14 04:58:08 2019

To: Roger Gray

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: CRSO EIS briefing w/Elliot Mainzer

Importance: Normal

This was extremely helpful and contributed greatly to what I thought was a productive meeting yesterday. I'll be interested in any feedback you get. Thank you.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On Nov 13, 2019 08:44, Roger Gray <rgray@pngcpower.com> wrote:  
Elliot

Sorry I cannot be there today for the CRSO briefing, but (b)(6)

(b)(6)

I thought I'd share with you some of the email traffic back and forth (see below). I tried my best to frame up the middle-road strategy as I understand it. Debra has some excellent talking points that I know she and you have spoken about. The issue as I see it is that anything short of "hell no...dont touch the Snake dams" is viewed as a surrender by some. I know you have explained your position to many folks many times, but it is very subtle when some people are looking for "hard-hitting". Hard-hitting did not work and in fact is losing. I am trying to bridge the "east and west side" perspectives too...not easy as we know!

Here are some of the "fears" I think you can help address and maybe resolve:

1. BPA has given up and wont defend the system. I think the rumor of no preferred alternative may have

reinforced this. Also, lack of hard-hitting equals surrender to some. Again, I am not saying this is right or factual, but it is part of the fear and narrative out there. Fear certainly is a bad thing!

2. BPA is just going to add more costs and is not fighting to get costs fixed. I think people see the internal cost contrls, but the PPC -led effort on 4h10c that was stopped fed an incorrect perception because people only saw the tactic and not the strategy.
3. Flex spill did not work as a strategy.
4. If we give up on the 4 snakes, then it is all over..domino theory.

The more you can explain your big picture strategy (reframing issues, building broader allies and support the better)

thx and good luck..wish I was there.  
Roger

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**From:** Ashley Slater <aslater@pngcpower.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 12:33 PM  
**To:** Roger Gray <rgray@pngcpower.com>  
**Subject:** RE: CRSO EIS briefing w/Elliot Mainzer

Good message. Got it.

**From:** Roger Gray <rgray@pngcpower.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 12:14 PM  
**To:** Scott Simms <:ssimms@ppcpdx.org>; Bryan Case <Bryan.case@fallriverelectric.com>  
**Cc:** Linden Barney <Linden.Barney@fallriverelectric.com>; Debra Smith <Debra.Smith@seattle.gov>; Mark Johnson <m.johnson@flathead.coop>; Travis "Bear" Prairie <bprairie@ifpower.org>; Irene Scruggs <iscruggs@ppcpdx.org>; Ashley Slater <aslater@pngcpower.com>; Roger Kline <roger-kline@nwascopud.org>;

John Francisco <Jfrancisco@nru-nw.com>

**Subject:** Re: CRSO EIS briefing w/Elliot Mainzer

Bryan, Scott et. al.

I took the liberty of adding Roger Kline (I think we nominated Debra, Roger Kline and I think Mark Johnson to take lead spokespersons role tomorrow) and Ashley Slater (who is attending for me as I had a long-standing appt that takes 6 months to re schedule) and John Francisco (Scott, John and I are trying to stay coordinated!)

I've had follow-up conversations with Bryan, Debra and Elliot since the calls last week. I sense things are coming together and certainly the frustration level and stakes are high.

BPA is trying to position itself carefully to both survive the almost certain legal (and political) attacks that will occur once the CRSO-EIS is released. BPA is also trying to build a coalition of stakeholders that can hopefully support something like flex-spill and ideally maybe even federal legislation by positioning the preferred alternative as a platform to work from. I think BPA might have sounded like they were not going to state a preferred alternative, but I am pretty sure they are. I don't think we'll see a hard -hitting "no dam removal ever...over my dead body" type message from BPA. This may come off as "not defending the dams", but it is not. Neither is it a surrender of the dams. BPA is trying to position this strategically and carefully. I encouraged Elliot to explain this more tomorrow because it is nuanced.

I suspect those of us around the NW public power community have varying degrees of ability to be either hard-hitting or not-at-all hitting on this issue. A few of us spent over a year in dialog with folks like CRITFC, water

users, TU, SOWS, etc to see if there was any middle ground between "hell yes" and "hell no". That is the space BPA is trying to find. Whether it can be found or not; that is the big question. I can say from my perspective that the "legal fight to the death" was not working. We absolutely need to find something other than the court running this system and driving it in to the ground.

As Scott indicates (and I support) I think we need to rally with BPA (not carry their water for them but together if at all possible) and support the federal system with some common messages and perhaps emphasis on points near and dear to each of us...while keeping everyone informed. Personally, I think we need some simple messages that even our customers and members can rally around. Again, I appreciate that some of us can emphasize certain points easier than others.

For PNGC here is my current thinking:

1. BPA cost and cost competitiveness is a serious issue. While BPA is not going bankrupt its competitive situation is serious and too close to add cost. This is not us "whining" about cost. This is us trying to save this treasured power supply from being ruined economically before it is too late. Taking out snake river dams (a less expensive part of BPAs portfolio ) or adding more cost to BPA makes the problem even worse. BPA cannot afford to increase its cost without risking becoming uncompetitive. The uncertainty of cost and endless litigation is a major issue that needs to be solved now.
2. PNGC members are generally rural and often lower income than state and regional averages. Cost increases are not just like a latte a month. This is a social justice issue for lower income folks in rural and urban areas. Even NW IOUs benefit (residential exchange) from BPA and these are a credit on IOU customer bills too. BPA matters to the entire NW. Electricity is an essential service and every \$ matters because it means one less \$ for other essentials like food, housing and medical care....not lattes.
3. Recovery of salmon is important to everyone including the public power community. Public Power has a long history of spending billions on recovery. Some argue (the CRSO-EIS may show) that dam removal could have some marginal incremental benefit for fish. However, that benefit must be weighed against the certain human

toll and cost which includes:

- a. snake river dams provide critically important firm and flexible power that maintain reliability in the NW. Removing them will create serious reliability issues unless very expensive alternatives are built. And no, you cannot just replace them with wind and solar. No credible studies show that.
- b. the snake river dams are carbon free. Current technology to replace them is almost certain to be more expensive and will produce carbon.
- c. the snake river dams provide more than just power. They are part of a greater economy that relies on water/irrigation and transportation/navigation. This is about communities and people's jobs that are built on this economy...not lattes.
- d. The salmon challenge is serious and it is way bigger than dams alone. Dam removal is not the silver bullet. Any serious solutions must be comprehensive and likely will need to address all of the factors that impact salmon ranging from ocean conditions and harvest to habitat and local environmental factors and fishing.

My two cents. Good luck in the meeting tomorrow.

thx,, Roger

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**From:** Scott Simms <[ssimms@ppcpdx.org](mailto:ssimms@ppcpdx.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 11:18 AM

**To:** Bryan Case <[Bryan.case@fallriverelectric.com](mailto:Bryan.case@fallriverelectric.com)>

**Cc:** Linden Barney <[Linden.Barney@fallriverelectric.com](mailto:Linden.Barney@fallriverelectric.com)>; Roger Gray <[rgray@pngcpower.com](mailto:rgray@pngcpower.com)>; Debra Smith <[Debra.Smith@seattle.gov](mailto:Debra.Smith@seattle.gov)>; Mark Johnson <[m.johnson@flathead.coop](mailto:m.johnson@flathead.coop)>; Travis "Bear" Prairie <[bprairie@ifpower.org](mailto:bprairie@ifpower.org)>; Irene Scruggs <[iscruggs@ppcpdx.org](mailto:iscruggs@ppcpdx.org)>

**Subject:** RE: CRSO EIS briefing w/Elliot Mainzer

Bryan, et al –

Thanks a lot for taking the time to describe in more detail where Fall River is coming from. Since that call yesterday, we've had a lot of follow-on email and phone conversations with folks who were on the call, which is great, because it means people are engaged and are wanting to move the ball forward.

After the call ended, and with NRU and PNGC still in the room, we had a productive conversation about how to get public power positioned when the CRSO preferred alternative comes out so that we have a master game plan that keeps all of public power unified as the "hub," while also having various "spokes" connected to it. Specifically, PPC after many months of planning and deliberation, developed the cost/competitiveness strategy as one that aligns across all of our membership, and it focuses very succinctly on finding legislative and other solutions that help public power avoid exposure to more costs and immunizes us from future court orders. We believe this is an actionable, achievable strategy in the CRSO process.

Meanwhile, individual utilities and other associations will hopefully be oriented to speak very strongly on other connected matters: Dam removal and its impacts, the merits of hydro in a carbon-constrained world, resource adequacy, commerce impacts, etc. This is a game that our adversaries have perfected over time: alignment on the big picture, but individual wedges of ownership by certain interests around key issues that further drive home their point(s). We talked about NRU, PNGC, NW RiverPartners and others staking claim to various positions and then not only executing them in a coordinated manner, but keeping one another informed, as the CRSO process produces the draft EIS this coming February. The game plan is coming together as we continue to engage public power leaders in calls like the one we had yesterday and in meetings like the one slated for tomorrow.

I appreciate that even with a competing meeting that keeps you from joining us this Wednesday that we will be able to see you Thursday for our annual meeting. We can certainly talk more after the annual meeting too.

Thanks again for the note – and to all of you for the engagement and thoughts as we push forward.

Regards,

Scott

Scott Simms

Executive Director

Public Power Council

650 N.E. Holladay Street, #810

Portland, OR 97232

503-595-9770

[www.ppcpx.org](http://www.ppcpx.org)

**From:** Bryan Case <[Bryan.Case@fallriverelectric.com](mailto:Bryan.Case@fallriverelectric.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 10:36 AM  
**To:** Scott Simms <[ssimms@ppcpdx.org](mailto:ssimms@ppcpdx.org)>  
**Cc:** Linden Barney <[Linden.Barney@fallriverelectric.com](mailto:Linden.Barney@fallriverelectric.com)>; Roger Gray <[rgray@pngcpower.com](mailto:rgray@pngcpower.com)>; Debra Smith <[Debra.Smith@seattle.gov](mailto:Debra.Smith@seattle.gov)>; Mark Johnson <[m.johnson@flathead.coop](mailto:m.johnson@flathead.coop)>; Travis "Bear" Prairie <[bprairie@ifpower.org](mailto:bprairie@ifpower.org)>  
**Subject:** CRSO EIS briefing w/Elliot Mainzer

Scott,

I joined the conference call about ten minutes in and you had already started the conversation. I was quiet on the phone and was just listening to the nuanced approach in addressing the science and impacts of removing or not removing dams. That being said, I know Elliot is striving to thread the needle and is working towards a long term solution which appeals to a broad base of stakeholders and hopes to present solutions which speaks to reasonable thinkers in the environmental community and provide some protections to public power. Due to mounting pressure from the environmental extremists, which will ever be happy until all Columbia River dams are removed, I feel as public power we need to be resolute and adamant that dam removal will accelerate the demise of the very salmon the extremist are purporting to protect. It seems apparent that ocean conditions dictate salmon returns. Of all the options available to public power in the Northwest, the FCRPS is in balance the best generating option. Here a few points from Fall River's perspective and it sounds like they were in line in general with the conversation we had yesterday:

1. Worded differently, if dam removal is considered the alternative generation considered must be able to provide base load generation to ensure region reliability; be able to provide generation flexibility to support the large investments in intermittent renewable resources in the region; be carbon free or carbon neutral; and provide these attributes at a comparable cost to rate payers. If the above cannot be accomplished at similar costs, then a method to share those costs among the stakeholders (environmental groups, fish harvest groups, tax payers, etc.). This means viable generation and storage options be considered to provide for generation when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing, not wishes and pixie dust. In the Northwest we have periods, (days, weeks, and sometimes months with limited sunshine and wind) where storage or alternate base load generation will be required to meet the regions load demands. The list of requirements addresses power needs but falls severely short in considering the economies dependent upon the dams which include Tribe's who are dedicated and provide fish hatchery services, irrigators, barging and recreationist. There are likely others who would be negatively impacted as well.
2. Legislative remedies should be pursued with BPA and Public Power in a coordinated effort to establish EIS adequacy language combined with the biological opinion without a sunset. At times, I wonder if the Corp and Bureau could license each of the hydro facilities through FERC. Scary for some but at least we would know for the term of the license what the costs are to operate and then we could determine if from a business perspective it made sense to hold the FERC license or forfeit it.
3. I really would like BPA to be better at promoting and defending itself with a more aggressive stance. However, I understand the politics and optics but in being sensitive to all stake holders concerns, BPA appears to apathetic to impacts on the system and ultimately the costs the rate payers bear. I know Administrator Mainzer is aware and is pressing for Public Power behind the scenes. Taking the lead with public power playing a strong supporting roll. We will be cheerleaders or champions for BPA but it feels at times BPA sets back and expects public power to fight BPA's battles for it.

I hope these points are in line with PNGC and public power in general and my ramblings make sense. If I am off the mark please correct me and Roger can enlighten me if I'm off base as well. Thank you for coordinating these meetings and I admire the group's ability to come together on these important issues.

I have an all employee meeting on Wednesday and will not be able to make the CRSO EIS meeting but will arrive in Portland late that evening and will be present for the PPC meeting the next day.

Thank you,

Bryan L. Case

CEO/General Manager

Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative

**Office (208)652-7431**

**Cell (b)(6)**

***“Where Service Matters”***

FR LOGO- SMALLER

From: Johnson, Kimberly O (BPA) - PGAF-6

Sent: Mon Feb 03 13:57:11 2020

To: Scott Thoren (Scott.D.Thoren@usace.army.mil); jsummers@usbr.gov

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Latest Northwest Fishletter now available

Importance: Normal

Hi - Just FYI.

I think you'll find #3 below very interesting.

Kim

-----Original Message-----

From: NewsData LLC <dispatch@newsdata.com>

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 12:46 PM

To: Johnson, Kimberly O (BPA) - PGAF-6 <kojohnson@bpa.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Latest Northwest Fishletter now available

FISHWIRE ADVISORY: A new issue of NW Fishletter (No. 402-Feb. 3, 2020) is now online. Fishletter in Summary is a quick-read feature of this advisory notification. Subscribe/unsubscribe instructions are at the end of this message. Fishletter's full text is available at

<http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/>

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::NW FISHLETTER 402 IN SUMMARY::

[1] MARINE HEAT WAVES FORECAST AS OCEAN WARMING WORSENS Ocean temperatures were the warmest in recorded history in 2019, according to a study published in February's Advances in Atmospheric Sciences. ...more

<http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/1story.html>

[2] COURT TO EPA: TIME TO ADDRESS SNAKE, COLUMBIA TEMPS After years of delay, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has 30 days to develop and issue technical documents outlining the causes of high water temperatures in the lower Snake and Columbia

ivers, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/2story.html>

[3] NW RiverPartners: Lower Snake River Dam Study Dated Clean energy legislation and plans to retire more coal-fired power plants in the next 10 years have upended conclusions of the 2018 Lower Snake River Dam Replacement Study, according to an analysis by Energy GPS and commissioned by Northwest RiverPartners. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/3story.html>

[4] OPALCO Adopts Neutral Stance on Snake River Dams, Rescinds Support In a unanimous vote on Jan. 23, seven members of the Orcas Power & Light Co-op board rescinded a resolution the board adopted in September opposing removal of the four lower Snake River dams while supporting "effective" actions to restore salmon runs and save endangered southern resident orcas. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/4story.html>

[5] AFTER LONG DECLINE, WASHINGTON HATCHERIES RAMPING UP FOR ORCAS, FISHING Over the past 30 years, salmon production at hatcheries operated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has been cut nearly in half-from about 275 million releases in 1989 to a low of 145 million in 2017. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/5story.html>

[6] HIGHER SPRING SPILL ON TRACK AS WASHINGTON, OREGON ALLOW HIGHER TDG Washington and Oregon have both adopted revisions to their water quality standards that will allow operators of the eight lower dams on the Snake and Columbia rivers and five mid-Columbia dams to increase spill to create up to 125 percent total dissolved gas (TDG) saturation during the spring spill season. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/6story.html>

[7] NEW ICE HARBOR TURBINE BOOSTS EFFICIENCY, JUVENILE FISH PASSAGE Tests of a new turbine at Ice Harbor Dam show the new fixed-blade design is 4 percent more efficient than the prior version and improves survival rates of juvenile salmon that migrate downstream past the turbine, officials say. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/7story.html>

[8] GROUP PLANS TO SUE, CLAIMS NOAA ALLOWS OVERHARVEST OF CHINOOK The Wild Fish Conservancy filed notice on Jan. 9 it intends to sue the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Marine Fisheries Service for authorizing what it calls an overharvest of Chinook salmon in the southeast Alaska troll fishery. The group claims the NMFS-approved harvest threatens endangered southern resident killer whales and wild Chinook. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/8story.html>

[9] WASHINGTON'S SNAKE RIVER DAM REPORT GENERATES MIXED REACTIONS Reactions to Washington state's newly released draft report examining the positive and negative impacts of removing the four lower Snake River dams are as varied as the views represented in the report itself. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/9story.html>

[10] STUDY: LOSS OF SNAKE RIVER BARGES WOULD ADD CO2, COST \$2.3 BILLION Dismantling or breaching the four lower Snake River dams would add 1.2 million tons of CO2 and other harmful emissions annually to the atmosphere, and cost more than \$2.3 billion over the next 30 years, according to a study commissioned by the Pacific Northwest Waterway Association. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/10story.html>

[11] NEW HATCHERY TO DOUBLE CHINOOK RELEASES Construction began Jan. 10 on a new hatchery east of Milton-Freewater, Ore., that's expected to double the number of spring Chinook smolts released into the South Fork Walla Walla and Touchet rivers to 500,000 releases annually. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/11story.html>

[12] IDAHO POWER SEEKS DISMISSAL OF SUIT CHALLENGING HELLS CANYON WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION Idaho Power is asking an Oregon judge to dismiss a lawsuit in Multnomah County brought by two conservation groups challenging the issuance of a water quality certification for the utility's Hells Canyon Complex. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/12story.html>

[13] COUNCIL ADOPTS PART OF FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM ADDENDUM After 18 months of accepting recommendations, drafting new language, and receiving and reviewing public comments, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council adopted Part II of its 2020 Fish and Wildlife Program Addendum on Jan. 14. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/13story.html>

[14] COMPANY AGREES TO REDUCE POLLUTION, PAY FINE A Wenatchee-area fruit processing company has agreed to reduce the copper and zinc it discharges into the Wenatchee River and pay \$150,000 for projects that improve local water quality under a settlement agreement with Columbia Riverkeeper. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/14story.html>

[15] BRIEF MENTIONS: NEWS ROUNDUP

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPPCC) on Jan. 14 elected Richard Devlin, of Oregon, to be the Council's new chair in 2020, replacing Jennifer Anders, who chaired the Council through 2019. ...more <http://grok.newsdata.com/fishletter/402/15story.html>

FishWire is a NewsData LLC fish & wildlife news service reporting on salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest. It previews each issue of NW Fishletter and is a feature of FishWEB, a public service guide to NW salmon recovery. NewsData LLC is a subsidiary of Pioneer Utility Resources.

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<https://grok.newsdata.com/services/dispatchit.php?CompanyID=bpa6793>

From: Johnson, Kimberly O (BPA) - PGAF-6

Sent: Wed Feb 19 13:11:19 2020

To: jsummers@usbr.gov; Scott Thoren (Scott.D.Thoren@usace.army.mil)

Subject: FW: Press Statement: NWRP Reacts to Oregon Gov. Brown's Letter on LSRD

Importance: Normal

Attachments: 02.11.20 Gov Brown Letter to Inslee \_Orca restoration.pdf; 2020-02-17 NWRP Response to Gov Brown Letter to Gov Inslee.pdf

Just FYI – in case you haven't seen these.

Kim

**From:** Johnson, Kimberly O (BPA) - PGAF-6

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 2:16 PM

**To:** ADL\_PGA\_ALL <ADL\_PGA\_ALL@BPASite1.bpa.gov>

**Subject:** FW: Press Statement: NWRP Reacts to Oregon Gov. Brown's Letter on LSRD

Hi – Just FYI

Here's the Governor Brown letter to Governor Inslee and the Northwest River Partners response.

Kim

**From:** Kurt Miller <[kurt@nwriverpartners.org](mailto:kurt@nwriverpartners.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2020 10:17 AM

**To:** Kurt Miller <[kurt@nwriverpartners.org](mailto:kurt@nwriverpartners.org)>

**Cc:** Austin Rohr <[austin@nwriverpartners.org](mailto:austin@nwriverpartners.org)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Press Statement: NWRP Reacts to Oregon Gov. Brown's Letter on LSRD

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## **PRESS STATEMENT**

Feb 17, 2020

Vancouver, WA

**Response to Letter from Governor Brown on the Lower Snake River Dams**

*By Kurt Miller, Executive Director, Northwest RiverPartners*

Northwest RiverPartners (NWRP) and its members advocate for a clean energy future that embraces the preservation of fish & wildlife and doesn't leave vulnerable communities behind.

Our organization supports the lower Snake River dams (LSRD) because of the large amount of carbon-free, affordable electricity they produce as well as the economic base these dams provide for Northwest agricultural workers.

While we appreciate the intention behind Governor Brown's letter, and we support her near-term practical suggestions for increased fish hatchery production, we are disappointed by her advocacy for breaching the LSRD as a long-term solution.

We believe that the many billions of dollars it would take to breach the dams and replace their capabilities would be much more effectively spent on cleaning up the Puget Sound, where the Southern Resident orcas spend most of their lives.

It is well documented that the Puget Sound suffers from high levels of toxicity which affect both Pacific Salmon and orcas. Salmon in the Puget Sound have been found with measurable levels of antidepressants, nicotine, herbicides, and even cocaine in their systems. Because orcas eat large amounts of salmon, these toxins become concentrated in their fat. These substances may be passed along to orca calves through their mothers' milk.

It will take massive investments and the whole region pulling together to repair the Puget Sound and its tributaries so that the area is suitable for healthy salmon and orca populations.

### **NEPA Process**

We respect the Governor's ability to offer an opinion on the LSRD, but it is important to note that the federal National Environmental Policy Act governs the operations of the federal dams.

The NEPA process takes a holistic approach, examining fish and wildlife, socioeconomic aspects, power supply, and irrigation and barging. We are confident that this comprehensive examination will find that the best course for the Northwest is to keep the lower Snake River dams in place. The NEPA Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the LSRD is scheduled to be released to the Federal Register on 2/28/20.

### **Northwest Energy Shortage**

As Gov. Brown has stated, it is imperative that we preserve our hydropower system to help achieve our long-term climate goals and safely add intermittent renewables, such as wind and solar power, to the grid.

However, what is conspicuously missing from the Governor's comments is the dire situation the Northwest currently faces due to the very real possibility of a regional energy shortage.

Northwest utilities are shutting down thousands of megawatts of coal generation plants to help fight climate change. Most energy forecasters are now predicting the possibility of an [energy shortage or even region-wide](#)

[blackouts](#). Breaching the LSRD--which can generate enough carbon-free energy each year to power a city the size of Seattle--would greatly increase the risk to the Northwest.

Contrary to dated reports, the capabilities of these dams cannot be easily or inexpensively replaced. A recent analysis showed that the energy costs, alone, for LSRD replacement would be [close to \\$1 billion annually](#). It would also require new long-distance transmission lines to be constructed and the installation of untested amounts of utility-scale batteries.

At a time when the region is very concerned about equitable energy solutions, this kind of cost increase would be particularly punishing to vulnerable communities across the Northwest.

## **Salmon**

We collectively share the responsibility to preserve endangered salmon and look to decarbonize our economy in responsible ways. NWRP embraces science-based efforts to that end.

Recent science has questioned the potential benefit of breaching the LSRD for salmon recovery. The NOAA Fisheries Science Center recently published a peer-reviewed study[\[1\]](#) that brings into serious question the benefit that increased spill levels or dam breaching would mean for Snake River salmon.

Additionally, researchers have noted a near synchronous decline in worldwide salmon populations, likely related to climate change and its effect on the oceans. Our oceans are sick with excess heat and carbon, resulting in acidification and the loss of prey critical to salmon.

Given this trend, it seems very unlikely that we can restore healthy Snake River salmon populations until our oceans return to a healthy state. This is a key reason we believe it is wrong to remove the LSRD, which can displace as much carbon as two Boardman coal plants running 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

If we truly want to save salmon, we need to protect our oceans from excessive heat and carbon. If we genuinely want our clean energy future to include everyone, we need it to be affordable. To do both, the Northwest needs the lower Snake River dams.

### **About Northwest RiverPartners**

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[1] [“Associations among Fish Length, Dam Passage History, and Survival to Adulthood in Two At-Risk Species of Pacific Salmon”](#), Transactions of the American Fisheries Society



KATE BROWN  
Governor

February 11, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Governor, State of Washington  
416 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

I am writing to thank you for your leadership and initiative to restore health to our iconic orcas, and to share with you my perspective on long-term and interim steps necessary to support that effort. The imperilment of Southern Resident Killer Whales is a tragedy shared by all of us in the Pacific Northwest, and Oregon stands with you to boldly address those factors contributing to their demise.

Among the three primary threats (i.e., toxins, noise and lack of food), Oregon's primary opportunity is to enhance the availability of salmon to foraging orcas. The recent draft report from your task force *Lower Snake River Dams Engagement Report* provides a good context for sharing my perspective on long-term and interim steps to enhance the availability of salmon to foraging orcas. Importantly, this can be done while preserving the foundation of the low cost, carbon-free hydropower system that has helped fuel Oregon's economy for the last century, and will help us to integrate more wind and solar to achieve our long-term climate goals.

As you know, Oregon is actively engaged in a long-standing effort to recover salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin as a vital part of our ecological, cultural and economic heritage and prosperity. The science is clear that removing the earthen portions of the four lower Snake River dams is the most certain and robust solution to Snake River salmon and steelhead recovery. No other action has the potential to improve overall survival two-to three-fold and simultaneously address both the orca and salmon recovery dilemma while providing certainty in the legal challenge that has complicated operations for decades. This option would likely provide a dramatic increase in salmon available for orca forage, particularly during the late winter when vulnerable gestating orcas may be foraging off the mouth of the Columbia River. This option reduces direct and delayed mortality of wild and hatchery salmon associated with dam and reservoir passage and provides the most resilience to climate change (e.g., reduced thermal loading in the lower Snake and Columbia rivers and better access to and from the alpine headwaters most resilient to shrinking snowpacks).

I believe restoring the lower Snake River must be a key presumption of our long-term solution for salmon and orca recovery, but much must be done before this is accomplished in order to help minimize and mitigate for potential harm to other vital sectors. Among other

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considerations, this includes an affordable, nimble and reliable power system that can help us to integrate renewables to meet our climate goals; continued water supplies for agriculture and municipalities; and efficient and affordable ways to get commodities to market. As identified in your draft report, collaborative, solution-based discussions among stakeholders are needed to facilitate these transitions. Oregon stands ready to be an effective leader and partner in these efforts.

In the interim, I believe there are two important actions that we can take together to address immediate needs of orcas and salmon. First, the Flexible Spill and Power Agreement that we both signed can provide the foundation for an effective bridge to a long-term solution for salmon that also preserves the hydropower system as an important tool in meeting our carbon objectives.

Hopefully we can work together to improve on that agreement, which will enhance survival of juvenile wild and hatchery salmon which translate into additional orca forage only two years later. Second, Oregon has capacity to increase interim hatchery production of salmon important for orca forage. This increased production must be focused in areas with low ecological risk to existing wild salmon populations, such as lower Columbia River off-channel areas and other areas outside the range of historical natural production areas. In recognition of this urgent need for orca forage, Oregon already has fish in the queue that could be available to orcas as soon as 2021. I would like to partner with you to help ensure this initiative is fully funded and sustainable during the necessary interim period while long-term solutions are addressed.

Thank you again for your leadership on orca recovery and for facilitating the thoughtful collaborations that will help secure solutions.

Sincerely,



Governor Kate Brown

KB;jm,kl

## PRESS STATEMENT

Feb 17, 2020  
Vancouver, WA

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