



"The Voice of Oregon's Wheat Producers Since 1926"



OREGON WHEAT GROWERS LEAGUE

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The Oregon Wheat Growers League represents nearly 2000 farms and farmers that grow wheat in Oregon, one of Oregon's largest and most valuable crops. Wheat accounts for several hundred million dollars in direct output, double that in total economic contribution, and supports well over 5500 total jobs in Oregon. We depend on the Columbia and Snake River dams to provide affordable transportation of our inputs and outputs, flood control, irrigation, low cost hydropower, reduced carbon emissions and support for infrastructure in our communities.

Oregon Wheat Depends on the Columbia and Snake River Dams

Oregon's wheat growers and rural communities, along with other PNW states, collectively depend on the broad range of direct and indirect benefits provided by the Columbia-Snake River dams for transportation, power, flood control, irrigation, recreation, and infrastructure.

We are very appreciative of the support of our Congressional delegation for the work by the Corps of Engineers to repair the Bonneville Dam lock last fall. We count on your continued support and full funding for the COE's programs to maintain the dams, locks, and river channels.

We are exceptionally concerned by the continuing efforts by extreme special interest groups to force removal of the four dams on the Lower Snake River. Loss of these four facilities will cause irreparable damage to the PNW economy, including Oregon's wheat growers:

- Transportation and storage expense are likely to increase 50% to 100% for grain suppliers and shippers. These costs could increase by up to \$0.80 per bushel with barging on the Snake River removed as a transportation option. Rail and trucking costs will be driven sharply higher for Oregon producers and major traffic impacts will be suffered by communities in the Columbia River Gorge. Costs will increase for both upriver and downriver shipping.
- Carbon emissions equivalent to the cumulative emissions generated by a Boardman coal-fired power plant every 5-6 years would result. Breaching the Snake River dams would cause diesel fuel consumption to increase by nearly 5 million gallons per year as barges are replaced by much less efficient truck-to-rail shipments. At least 201 additional unit trains and 23.8 million miles in additional trucking activity would be required annually.
- Highway, rail and grain elevator networks would need over \$1.6 billion in capital investment. This will impact funds available for other infrastructure projects.
- The loss of hydropower generation will reduce the baseload power available to balance the power provided by variable generation sources like wind and solar.
- The flood control capability of the CSR system will be diminished, increasing the risk of flooding to Oregon communities all the way to the mouth of the Columbia River.

We call on our Congressional delegation to oppose further efforts to remove the Snake River dams.