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NEWS

Biden administration issues report on “harms inflicted” by PNW dams on Native tribes

As part of the Biden administration’s settlement plan to restore salmon in the Columbia and Snake River system, the Department of the Interior on June 18 released a [report](#) documenting the “historic, ongoing and cumulative impacts” of federal dams on Columbia River Basin Tribes.

The report is being touted as “the first time that the U.S. government has comprehensively detailed the harms that federal dams have and continue to inflict on Tribes in the Pacific Northwest.”

The 73-page report outlines the impacts of 11 dams on eight of the basin’s Tribal Nations. Regarding the Lower Snake River dams, the document notes the Army Corps’ construction of the Ice Harbor Dam in 1961 and the completion of the Lower Monumental Dam, Little Goose Dam, and Lower Granite Dam over the following 14 years.

“Each of the lower Snake River dams, like the lower Columbia River dams, was constructed with fish passage facilities, while nevertheless inundating Chinook salmon spawning habitat,” the report states. “The dams also flooded historical Tribal housing, fishing, cultural, and burial sites. Construction of the dams coincided with ‘precipitous declines in abundance’ of spring/summer Chinook salmon in the Snake River’s largest tributary, the Salmon River, which previously supported one of the Basin’s largest returns of that species.”

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., called the administration's report a "sham" in a [written statement](#) published on June 18.

"This bad faith report is just the latest in a long list of examples that prove the Biden administration's goal has always been dam breaching," she said. "They continue to undermine the honest regional dialogue we need to determine the future of the Columbia River System with a politically-motivated report that — in their own words — 'is based on limited sources' and uses 'examples to support the conclusions.'"

Accompanying the report is the announcement of a [new task force](#) to coordinate salmon recovery efforts across federal agencies. The task force will be co-chaired by Acting Deputy Secretary of the Interior Laura Daniel-Davis, Deputy Secretary of Energy Dave Turk, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Janet Coit. Other agencies on the task force include the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, the Office of Management and Budget, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

NGFA will continue to monitor the results of the Biden administration's settlement deal and work with lawmakers and other stakeholders to maintain the critical waterways network in the Pacific Northwest.

Background: The Biden administration on Dec. 14, 2023, announced its \$1 billion plan with environmental groups, four tribal governments and the states of Washington and Oregon. The settlement proposes that the administration help fund and conduct studies on "how the transportation, irrigation, and recreation services provided by the four Lower Snake River dams could be replaced, to help inform Congress should it consider authorizing dam breach in the future."

NGFA has issued statements opposing any actions by federal or state governments that could result in breaching the Lower Snake River Dams, emphasizing the severe economic harm to the entire U.S. agricultural value chain. In written testimony submitted on Jan. 30, 2024, to the House Energy and Commerce Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee, NGFA expressed the concerns of the agricultural industry regarding the settlement deal.

The Columbia-Snake River System transports nearly 30 percent of U.S. grain and oilseed exports. The required infrastructure capacity to replace the dams simply does not exist, and it is highly unlikely that it could be created in an economically viable amount of time. Dam breaching would increase transportation and environmental costs in the U.S. by at least \$7.3 billion over 30 years, according to research from the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association.

USDA releases new climate plan

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and several other federal agencies announced on June 20 the release of an updated Climate Adaptation Plan.

USDA said its updated plans advance the Biden-Harris Administration's [National Climate Resilience Framework](#) and "help align climate resilience investments across the public and private sector through common principles and opportunities for action."

USDA released its initial Climate Adaptation Plan in 2021 and progress reports outlining advancements toward achieving its adaptation goals in 2022. USDA's [Climate Adaptation Plans for 2024 to 2027](#)

announced this week outlines actions USDA will take to access climate risks and integrate climate adaptation into its mission delivery via policies, programs, funding, facilities management, and procurement. Specifically, these actions are intended to advance USDA's efforts in:

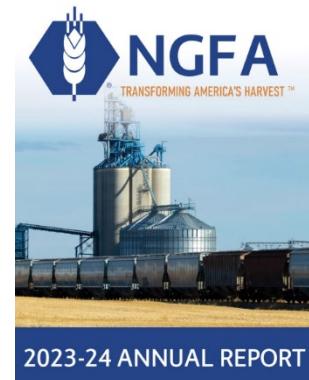
- Building resilience across landscapes with investments in soil and forest health;
- Increasing outreach and education to promote adoption and application of climate-smart adaptation strategies;
- Broadening access to and availability of climate data at regional and local scales for USDA Mission Areas, producers, land managers, and other stakeholders;
- Increasing support for research and development of climate-smart practices and technologies to inform USDA and help producers and land managers adapt to a changing climate; and
- Leveraging the USDA Climate Hubs as a framework to support USDA Mission Areas in delivering adaptation science, technology, and tools.

NGFA publishes 2023-24 Annual Report

NGFA recently published its [2023-24 Annual Report](#), which summarizes the initiatives undertaken by NGFA-member companies and staff throughout the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

This report covers the new fiscal year for NGFA, from April 1, 2023, to March 30, 2024, with leadership lists reflecting the elections held just before the 2024 annual convention.

Access the report [online](#) or with [this pdf](#).



EVENTS

RSVP for virtual meeting with NGFA staff

NGFA members are invited to a [virtual meeting](#) with NGFA Chief Economist and Treasurer **Max Fisher** and NGFA Senior Vice President of Safety and Regulatory **Jess McCluer** on Monday, **June 24 at 4 p.m. ET**.

Max and Jess will discuss the latest issues handled by their committees and other notable items for the NGFA. This is a casual meeting open to any topic of discussion. [Please RSVP to receive the meeting link information](#).

- Max serves as staff liaison for the NGFA's Business, Merchandising and Operations Committee; the Transportation and Logistics Committee; and the Risk Management Committee.
- Jess serves as staff liaison for the NGFA's Safety, Health and Environment Committee; the Grain Grades and Weights Committee; and the Trade and Crop Technology Committee.



NGFA President and CEO Mike Seyfert will host another virtual "Meet with Mike" in July. Stay tuned to NGFA communications for more details.

Recording available of NGFA's June 18 safety webinar

A recording of NGFA's most recent grain safety webinar on "Understanding Hazardous Atmospheres in Agriculture" with Joe Mlynek, founder of Progressive Safety Services, LLC, and partner at Safety Made Simple, is [available here](#).

During the webinar, Mlynek discussed hazardous environmental risks associated with agricultural confined spaces. Topics included exposure limits, symptoms, and safety protocols like air monitoring and ventilation.

Mlynek is hosting a series of grain safety webinars throughout 2024 as part of a new partnership with the NGFA. Another webinar on "Serious Injury and Fatalities (SIFs) in the Grain and Feed Industry" is scheduled for Nov. 14.

Mlynek is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and an Occupational Health and Safety Technician (OHST), as well as an active member of the NGFA, Grain Elevator and Processing Society, Ohio Risk Coordinators, National Fire Protection Association, and American Society of Safety Professionals.

DEGESCH workshop available before CONVEY'24

NGFA-member company DEGESCH will host a [pesticide state-certification workshop](#) on the afternoon of July 23 before the start of the CONVEY'24 conference in Omaha, Neb. The workshop is officially certified for 4 CEU credits in Kansas, Colorado, Ohio, Michigan, Texas, Indiana, and Oklahoma. Separate registration is required.

[CONVEY'24](#), an annual conference jointly hosted by NGFA, Grain Journal, and the Grain and Elevator Processing Society (GEAPS), is July 23-25 at the Omaha Hilton.

Each year, NGFA, GEAPS and Grain Journal present this unique opportunity for grain handling employees and leaders to gain practical knowledge and training on real-world compliance issues, best practices and emerging industry trends. This year's program explores the intersection of safety and new technology.

OSHA's Safe + Sound Week is Aug. 12-18

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is hosting its Safe + Sound Week on Aug. 12-18. Registration opens in July.

Safe + Sound Week is a nationwide event held each August. This year the event will provide resources for businesses on job hazard analysis. More than 3,900 participated in Safe + Sound Week in 2023.

"Successful safety and health programs can proactively identify and manage workplace hazards before they cause injury or illness, improving sustainability and the bottom line," OSHA noted. "Participating in Safe + Sound Week can help get your program started, energize an existing one, or provide a chance to recognize your safety successes."

OSHA's [Plan & Promote Your Participation](#) webpage includes activity ideas as well as graphics and other materials.



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SUPPLEMENTS

Register for July leadership training by TODAY

The deadline to register for the July 2024 leadership program hosted by People Spark Consulting is TODAY, June 21.

NGFA members receive a **bonus private coaching session** with their Leadership Transformation Program® registration. New cohorts begin monthly throughout 2024. [Click here for information!](#)

The investment for the 12-month People Spark Leadership Transformation Program® is \$2,500. Use reference code: NGFA



NGFA and People Spark Consulting have partnered to further the mission to provide education and training to members at all levels in the agriculture industry. The [People Spark Leadership Transformation Program®](#) is a year-long course that focuses on practical application of leadership skills and tools. It starts with an 8-week intensive training, followed by 10 months of ongoing support to reinforce and sustain the learned skills.

CISA reports on Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) cybersecurity intrusion

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) reported that its [Chemical Security Assessment Tool \(CSAT\)](#) was the target of a cybersecurity intrusion by a malicious actor from Jan. 23-24, 2024.

CISA notified potentially impacted individuals of the incident and has published on [cisa.gov/csat-notification](#) with updates. The agency is hosting two webinars for stakeholders during which the agency will review the information provided in the frequently asked questions. Both webinars will cover the same material.

- [Register for June 24, 2024, 2:30 p.m. ET Webinar](#)
- [Register for July 9, 2024, 2:30 p.m. ET Webinar](#)

Questions about this incident by chemical facilities or their third-party partners should be addressed to CISA Chemical Security at CFATS.Notifications@cisa.dhs.gov. Potentially impacted individuals should review the webpage for additional tools and resources.

Learn more about NGFA committees

NGFA has several resources related to its committees on [ngfa.org/committees](#), including a [new video](#) promoting the work of NGFA volunteer committee members.

Items on this page include:

- A video on [NGFA Committees: 'The Heart of the Association'](#).
- A [committee map](#).
- Links to each committee page with committee rosters.

Extra Supplements

NGFA in the news:

Feed & Grain: [Senator Boozman Unveils Farm Bill Framework with Key NGFA Priorities](#)

Grain Journal: [House Appropriations Bill Includes Reinstatement of NASS Reports](#)

Other news:

Hagstrom Report: [Stabenow, Thompson spar over CBO and farm bill](#)

Agri-Pulse: [Farm groups, oil industry challenge truck emission standards](#) (log in)

Reuters: [US farmers shun buyers, cling to unsold corn as prices slump](#)

Des Moines Register: [Seventh dairy is hit with bird flu, the Iowa ag department says](#)

POLITICO: [Bird flu's ag impact: What we know](#)

CNN: [A water war is looming between Mexico and the US. Neither side will win](#)

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