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Chair
Montana

Doug Grob
Montana

Jeffery C. Allen
Idaho

Ed Schriever
Idaho



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Thomas L (Les) Purce
Vice Chair
Washington

KC Golden
Washington

Margaret Hoffmann
Oregon

Charles F. Sams III
Oregon

Council Meeting Summary

August 12 & 13, 2025

**Council Central Office and via Webinar
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204**

This is a summary of the Council's August 2025 public meeting and the actions the Council decided upon. The meeting agenda and presentation materials for each agenda item during the meeting are posted at <https://www.nwcouncil.org/meeting/council-meeting-2025-08-12/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

August 12, 2025

The Fish and Wildlife Committee met in a closed session at 8:30 a.m. Pacific Time.

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Charles F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever, were in attendance in person. Doug Grob attended virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 9 & 10, 2025, in Eugene, Oregon, and via webinar.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Council Work Session for the Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment

a. Amendment process check-in

Fish and Wildlife Director Patty O'Toole provided a check-in on the amendment schedule for the next several months. Staff are working by topic to incorporate recommendations into existing

Program content. Topics will be presented as drafts to Council members for consideration and feedback, with the opportunity to revisit those topics at future meetings.

a. Program organization update

Biologist for Program Performance Kris Homel reviewed the outline from the 2014/2020 Program and walked through a proposed content-neutral reorganization for the next Program, including an explanation of how it will reduce redundancies and improve flow.

b. Draft amendments

Director O'Toole provided context and suggestions for developing draft amendments. Council Members and staff discussed the following topics: protected areas and standards for non-federal hydroelectric project licensing, wildlife mitigation, and habitat restoration and protection. General Counsel John Shurts presented draft amendments to Protected Areas, and standards for non-federal hydrometric project licensing. The work session was paused for lunch and continued in the afternoon.

Briefing memo available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19519/2025_8_1.pdf.

2. Avian Predation on Salmon and Steelhead in the Columbia River Basin – Annual report update on lessons learned, successes, emerging issues, challenges, and potential next steps:

Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist Kate Self introduced Scientist Allen Evans, Real Time Research; Avian Biologist/Avian Predation Coordinator James Lawonn, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Informal Columbia Basin Avian Predation Workgroup Facilitator/Chair and Assistant Professor Dr. Rachael Orben, Oregon State University. Evans provided a brief history of the avian predation RM&E that Oregon State University, Real Time Research, and U.S. Geological Survey have conducted and summarized the implementation of three avian predation management plans. Lawonn reported on the work of the informal Columbia Basin Avian Predation Workgroup, including emerging issues, challenges, and some potential next management steps.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19523/2025_08_2.pdf.

Council Work Session for the Fish and Wildlife Program Amendments continued

The work session reconvened at ??? pm. Discussion continued on draft amendments. Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O’Toole re-introduced the work session. Biologist for Program Performance Kris Homel presented an overview of wildlife mitigation in the Fish and Wildlife Program, along with considerations for rewriting the strategy based on current implementation. Feedback from today’s discussion will be incorporated into draft amendments which will be discussed at a future meeting. Next, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Specialist Heather Hendrixson reviewed initial suggestions for draft amendments for habitat restoration and protection. Director O’Toole closed the work session with review of a draft schedule for the next two months of amendment work

Chair Milburn adjourned the work session at 4:34 p.m. Pacific Time.

August 13, 2025

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Charles F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Doug Grob joined remotely. The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 9 & 10, 2025, in Eugene, Oregon, and via webinar.

Report from the Executive Director

Executive Director Peter Cogswell reflected on his first month with the Council, speaking to the support and training he received. Additionally, Cogswell provided an update on several administrative items.

Council Meeting Agenda Items, Continued

3. Power Plan Update

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light introduced the Ninth Power Plan webpage and provided an update on the Power Plan timeline and the work to come in the scenario modeling phase.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19518/2025_08_3.pdf.

4. Proposed Changing Hydro Operations Scenario

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light presented a proposed scope for the Changing Hydro Operations Scenario to be included in the Ninth Power Plan. Light outlined four proposed sensitivities: (1) current operations based on the 2020 CRSO EIS preferred alternative, (2) sensitivity modeling the 2023 RCBA operations, (3) limited daily flexibility sensitivity, and (4)

Minimum Operating Pool and spill operations as recommended by some of the states and tribes Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist Kate Self, Power System Analyst Dor Hirsh Bar Gai, and General Counsel John Shurts provided context and details throughout. The Council members gave a general head nod in support of the proposed approach and Director Light ended by outlining some next steps.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19520/2025_08_4.pdf.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Public Affairs Committee Chair Chuck Sams reported on the July 21, 2025 meeting of the Public Affairs Committee. Items discussed included recent media coverage, planning for the Congressional tour, the draft 2024 Annual Report to Congress, and website traffic.

5. Emerging Technology in Ninth Plan Energy Efficiency Supply Curves

Manager of Power Planning Resources Kevin Smit, and Senior Resources Analyst Christian Douglass presented on the emerging energy efficiency technologies that will be included in the Ninth Power Plan supply curves. Smit and Douglass walked through the specific proxy technologies to be included, discussed total emerging tech potential by sector, updates and changes following the release of the original draft supply curves in June, and final draft supply curves.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19521/2025_08_5.pdf.

6. Council Business

Motion to Approve Summary of the July 2025 Council Meeting

Member Purce moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice Chair the official summary of the July 2025 Council Meeting held in Portland, OR, and via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Hoffman seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the July 2025 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19522/2025_08_6.pdf.

Motion to Approve Release of Draft Annual Report for Public Review and Comment

Member Purce moved that the Council approve the release of the draft annual report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2024 for public review and comment for a period of 90 days, as presented by staff.

Member Schriever seconded.

Discussion – Member Allen inquired about 90 days being the standard period for comment. John Shurts confirmed that 90 days is correct.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The draft annual report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2024 is available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19526/2025_08_6b.pdf.

Public comments

Scott Simms, CEO of the Public Power Council, emphasized the importance of relying on science and analytics to inform future fish and wildlife investments, encouraged understanding the ‘real impacts’ on fish and wildlife and power resources in considering the future of performance goals, and expressed PPC’s commitment to using partnerships in the region to figure out what’s next following the withdrawal of the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement (RCBA).

Liz Hamilton, Executive Director at NW Sport Fishing Association, shared her concerns about the RCBA ending. She offered forward-looking suggestions aimed at the need to prioritize water travel time for migrating fish and highlighted the importance of ensuring a reliable water supply for both farmers and hatcheries.

Chair Milburn adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m. Pacific Time.