

Mike Milburn
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

September 9 & 10, 2025

Graduate by Hilton Hotel and via Webinar
66 East 6th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

This is a summary of the Council's September 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/calendar/council-meeting-2025-09-09/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

September 9, 2025

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Charles F. Sams III was not in attendance. The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 14-16 in Tamarack, Idaho, and via webinar.

Report from the Executive Director and State Updates

Executive Director Peter Cogswell reflected on his family history in Eugene, OR, spoke about the Finn Rock and Quartz Creek field trip on September 8th, briefly recapped the Congressional tour, and shared updates, including a presentation to PNCG and upcoming Council performance reviews. Member Purce shared his concern about wildfires in the northwest, as well as his interest in gaining more insight into data centers and their usage of energy and water. Member Grob shared that Chair Milburn will be the guest speaker at the Montana Electrical Co-op Association. Chair Milburn highlighted that Member Sams is absent from the meeting as he is in Washington D.C receiving the Lone Sailor Award. Member Hoffmann also acknowledged Member Sams and his contribution to the United States.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Dr. Debbie Colbert, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Director

Member Hoffmann introduced Dr. Debbie Colbert, Director of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to brief the Council on her tenure with ODFW and share the challenges and status of fish and wildlife management in Oregon. Dr. Colbert shared an overview of ODFW's work to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19592/2025_09_1.pdf.

2. Restoring Ecosystem Processes and Fluvial Functions at Meaningful Scales in the Upper Willamette Basin, including the McKenzie River

Fish and Wildlife Policy Analyst Rudy Salakory introduced Joe Moll, Executive Director, McKenzie River Trust and Susan Fricke, Water Resources Supervisor at the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), to provide the Council with an informative overview of the work supported by the Council and Bonneville Power Administration on the McKenzie River and its tributaries over the past 20 years; efforts implemented from the mouth to the headwaters of the McKenzie River. Moll and Fricke discussed the evolution of increasingly complex, large-scale land protection and habitat restoration initiatives, as well as the successful partnerships that have made this work possible.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19594/2025_09_2.pdf.

3. Power Plan Update

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light provided an update on the Power Plan timeline and next steps in the scenario and analytical modeling phase.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19595/2025_09_3.pdf.

4. Finalizing Scope of the New Resource and Transmission Risk Scenario

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light presented an update on the New Resource and Transmission Risk Scenario being developed for the Ninth Power Plan, which will examine uncertainty around the future availability and cost of new resource additions and transmission. She reviewed the six sensitivities that the Council had previously agreed to model during the

February 2025 meeting. Director Light shared further details on the proposed sensitivities and sought general support from members on the overall scope of the analysis.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19597/2025_09_4.pdf.

5. 2024 Regional Conservation Progress (RCP) Results

Regional Technical Forum Manager Laura Thomas presented the 2024 RCP survey results tracking the region's progress toward the energy efficiency goals outlined in the Council's 2021 Power Plan. She explained that the RCP, conducted annually by the Regional Technical Forum on behalf of the Council, collects data on energy efficiency savings and expenditures across the region. Thomas shared that the 2024 report marks the third year and halfway point of the six-year action plan, which set a goal of acquiring 750 to 1,000 aMW of cost-effective conservation by 2027. She noted that the report includes data from Bonneville and its customers, the investor-owned utilities in the region, the Energy Trust of Oregon, and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), and helps track how well the region is meeting both savings targets and broader conservation program goals.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19596/2025_09_5.pdf.

6. Council Work Session for the Fish and Wildlife Program Amendments

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 address recommendations into and draft various sections of the Fish and Wildlife Program. Topics were shared draft amendments Council members for consideration and feedback, with the opportunity to revisit those topics at future meetings. Director O'Toole also shared the 2026 Program outline.

b. Draft language for amendments

Director O'Toole provided context and suggestions for developing draft amendments. Council Members, General Counsel John Shurts, and staff discussed the following topics: the Program vision and science principles, goals and objectives, wildlife, predator management, non-native and invasive species, ocean, and artificial production.

Briefing memo available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19585/2025_09_6.pdf.

Chair Milburn adjourned the work session at 3:55 p.m. Pacific Time.

September 10, 2025

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, and Ed Schriever, were in attendance in person. Charles F. Sams III was not in attendance. The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 14-16, in Tamarack, Idaho, and via webinar.

Member Hoffmann read Member Sams' Lone Sailor Award acceptance speech.

Council Meeting Agenda Items, Continued

7. Council Business

Motion to Approve Summary of the August 2025 Council Meeting

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

Member Hoffmann seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the August 2025 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19591/2025_09_7minutes.pdf.

Motion to Authorize Contract for Load Forecast Support (Itron)

Member Purce moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Itron, Inc, in an amount not to exceed \$25,377 to provide continued load forecasting support in FY 2026, as presented by staff.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Decision Memorandum available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19588/2025_09_7itron.pdf.

Motion to Authorize Contract for Genesys Licensing and Support (PSR)

Member Purce moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with PSR Energy Solutions and Consulting Ltd in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 for continued licensing and support for the GENESYS model, as presented by staff.

Member Grob seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Decision Memorandum available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19589/2025_09_7psr.pdf.

Motion to Authorize Contract for Resource Adequacy Modeling Support (Shearer)

Member Purce that the Council authorize staff to contract with Gwendolyn Shearer in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for continued support for the development, testing and running of the GENESYS model to analyze resource adequacy, as presented by staff.

Member Grob seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Decision Memorandum available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19586/2025_09_7gwen.pdf.

Motion to Authorize Contract for Advisory Committee Minutes (Milshtein)

Member Purce moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Amy Milshtein in an amount not to exceed \$30,900 to produce advisory committee minutes during FY 2026, as presented by staff.

Member Hoffmann seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.
Motion was approved.

Decision Memorandum available at
https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19590/2025_09_7milshtein.pdf.

Motion to Authorize Contract for Fish and Wildlife Program Data Tracking (QW)

Member Purce moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with QW Consulting, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$95,150 for continued assistance in enhancing and maintaining the functionality of the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program Tracker: Resource Tools and Maps, as presented by staff.

Member Hoffmann seconded.
No discussion.
Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.
Motion was approved.

Decision Memorandum available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19593/2025_09_7qw.pdf.

Motion to Authorize Contract for Government Affairs Services (Bluestone)

Member Purce moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Bluestone Strategies in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 to continue to secure government affairs consulting services during FY 2026, as presented by staff.

Member Hoffmann seconded.
No discussion.
Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.
Motion was approved.

Decision Memorandum available at Decision Memorandum available at
https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19593/2025_09_7qw.pdf.

Council Work Session for the Fish and Wildlife Program Amendments continued

The work session reconvened at 8:43 a.m. Discussion continued on draft amendments. Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole and staff re-introduced the work session, discussing the following topics: wildlife, predator management, non-native and invasive species, ocean, and

artificial production. Feedback from today's discussion will be incorporated into draft amendments which will be discussed at a future meeting.

Briefing memo available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19585/2025_09_6.pdf.

Public comments

Mark Robinowitz of Peak Choice provided public comment.

Craig Patterson provided public comment.

Scott Levy of Bluefish provided public comment.

Sue Libby of Great Old Broads for Wilderness provided written public comment.

Chair Milburn adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m. Pacific Time.