

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

February 3, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Maureen Hess and Patty O'Toole

SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process update

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Maureen Hess

Summary: Staff will provide a brief update on the current stage of the amendment process, highlighting the public review process and timelines.

Relevance: Per the Northwest Power Act, the Council must call for recommendations to amend the Fish and Wildlife Program prior to updating its Power Plan. The recommendation period closed on May 19, and the comment period on the recommendations closed on July 3. The draft Program is under public review through March 2, 2026.

Workplan: This work addresses a primary responsibility under the Northwest Power Act and tasks A. 4, 5, and 6 of the 2025 Fish and Wildlife Division Work Plan under the Program Policy and Planning function.

Background: The Council voted to release a draft of the 2026 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program at the December Council meeting. The public comment period began on December 17, 2025, and continues through **March 2, 2026**. At the February Council meeting, staff will review the amendment process timeline and share information regarding the public review process and public hearing schedule.

More info: Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program amendment [webpage](#)

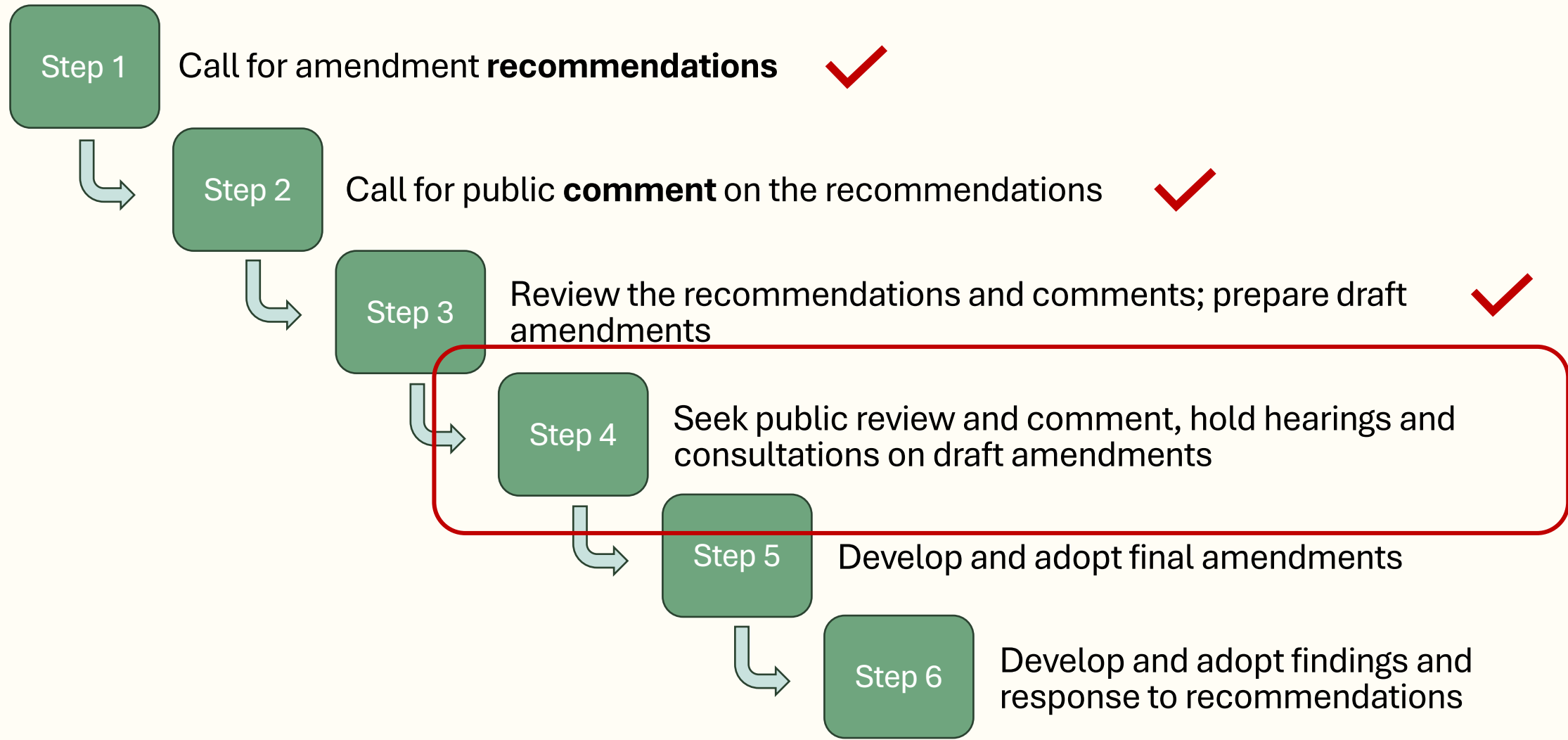
Draft 2026 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Process

Council meeting
February 10, 2026



Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

Overview of Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment steps



Public Comment Period – key elements

- Collect written comment through website, email
- Public hearings - collect oral comment
- Consultations with individual entities – collect oral comment, discussion
- Personal discussions, members and staff – all entered into the administrative record


Comment period ends March 2, 2026



Where to find information and submit comments on the draft Program



Details at
nwcouncil.org/amend

**Northwest Power and Conservation Council**

CONTACT

Enter your keywords

SEARCH

ABOUT


NEWS

FISH AND WILDLIFE

POWER PLANNING

MEETINGS

REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

**Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program**

The Council requests public comment on its Draft 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program.

About the amendment process

The Council amends its Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program every five years based largely on recommendations from the federal and state fish and wildlife agencies and the region's Indian tribes. Other federal and state agencies, the Bonneville utility customers and other regional utilities, other river users, local governments, and the general public may also submit program amendment recommendations that the Council must consider.

In 2025, the Council requested [recommendations](#) in its [January solicitation](#), and [comments](#) on those recommendations in its [May solicitation](#). Since July, the Council has been working to develop a draft amended Fish and Wildlife Program based on the recommendations and comments. [Search all Council meetings](#) to see amendment work sessions.

Estimated timeline (click for detail):

Accept recommendations	Public comment on recs	Prepare draft amendments	Public comment & hearings	Develop final amendments	Develop findings, finalize draft power plan
------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	---

Comment on the Draft Program

The [Draft 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program](#) has been released for public comment through **March 2, 2026**. Read the [letter from Chair Mike Milburn](#) inviting public comment.

Attend a hearing! Public hearings will take place throughout the region in January and February:

- Tuesday, January 13 ([Portland](#))
- Thursday, January 29 ([Kalispell](#) and [Lewiston](#))
- Tuesday, February 3 ([Spokane](#))
- Wednesday, February 4 ([Yakima](#))
- Thursday, February 12 ([Boise](#) and [Bend](#))
- Tuesday, February 17 ([Seattle](#))
- Tuesday, February 24 ([webinar](#))

Submit an online comment! Whether or not you can attend a hearing, you can also use our online form to submit comments.

SUBMIT A COMMENT

More resources

Public Hearing Schedule

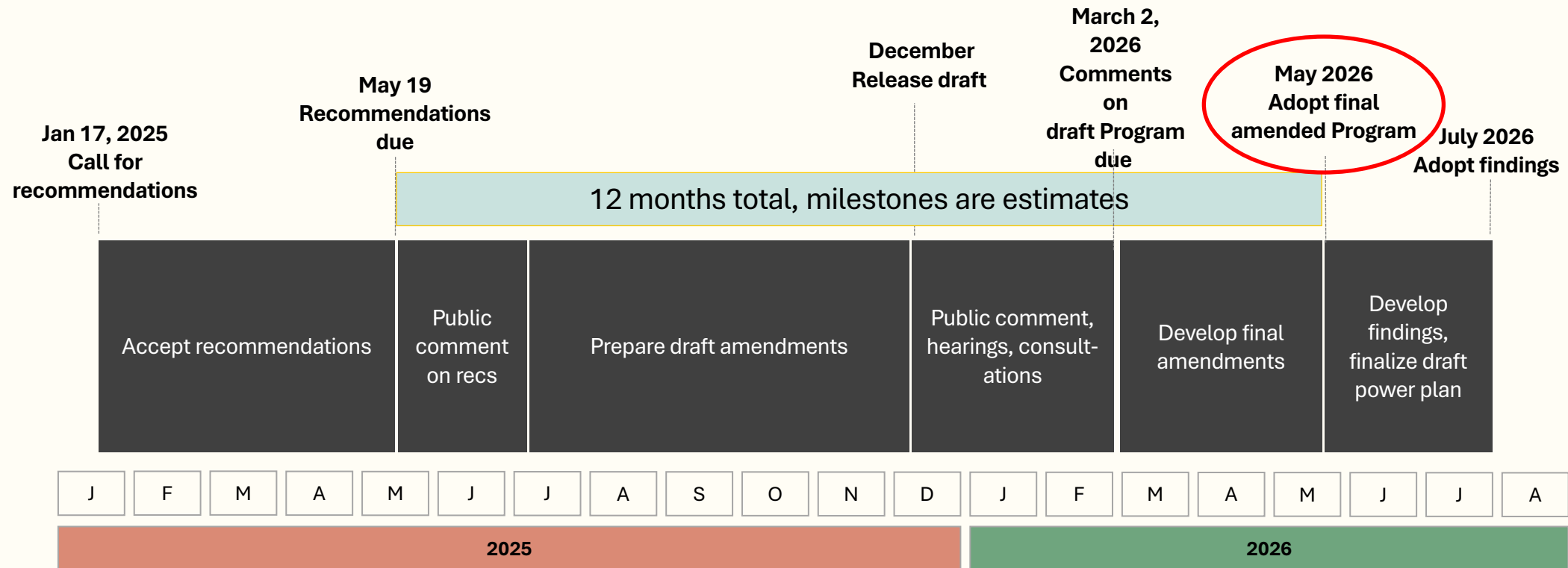
Completed

JAN 13 4-6pm	Portland, OR Council office
JAN 29 4-6pm	Kalispell, MT Red Lion
JAN 29 4-6pm	Lewiston, ID Nez Perce Courthouse
FEB 3 4:30-6:30pm	Spokane, WA City Hall Council Chambers
FEB 4 4:30-6:30pm	Yakima, WA Convention Center

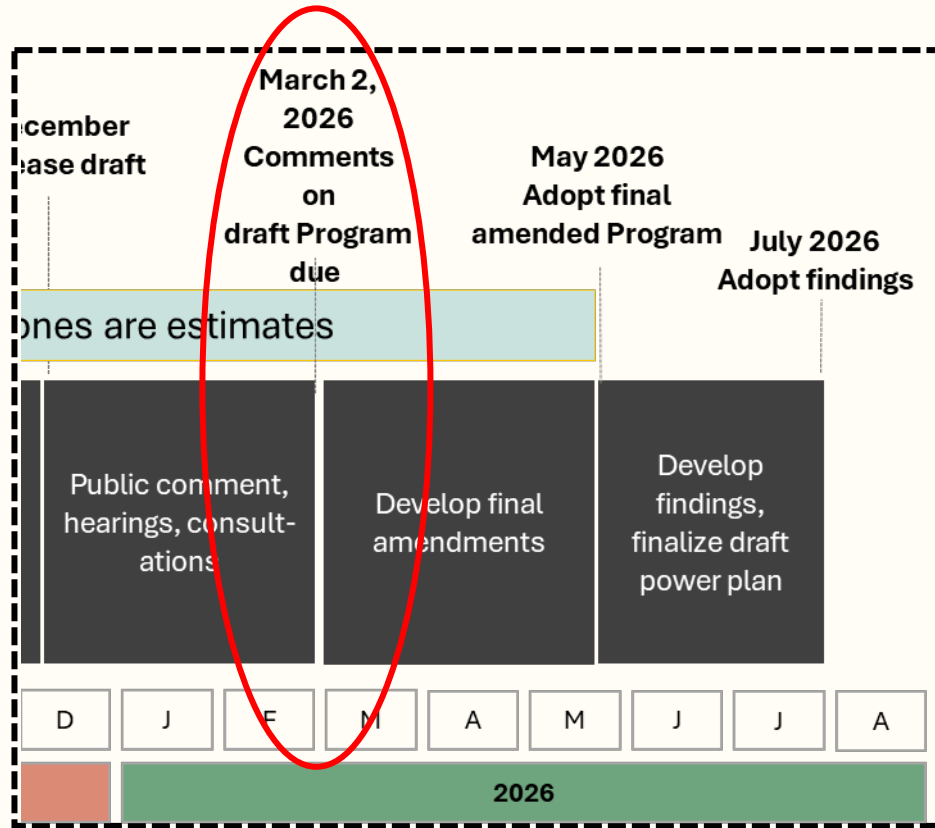
Upcoming

FEB 12 4-6pm	Boise, ID IDFG Headquarters
FEB 12 4-6pm	Bend, OR OSU Cascades
FEB 17 4:30-6:30pm	Seattle, WA Seattle University
FEB 24 3:30-5:30pm	Online (webinar)

Estimated timeline for Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Process



What to expect at the March Council meeting



- Staff to provide high level summary of comments received:
 - Comment period ends: March 2, 2026
 - Council meeting: March 10-12, 2026
- Post-March meeting:
 - Detailed summary of comments on draft Program
 - Begin incorporating draft amendments as tracked-changes in draft Program



Questions?