

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 **April 14 – 16, 2026** **Lodge at Whitefish Lake and via Webinar** **1380 Wisconsin Avenue** **Whitefish, MT 59937**

This is a summary of the Council's April 2026 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-2026-04-14/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

April 14, 2026

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. Mountain Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Chuck F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Member Margaret Hoffman attended virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 12 – 14, in Pendleton, OR, and via webinar.

Motion for Executive Session

Member Purce moved that the Council meet in Executive Session on the morning of April 15, 2026, to discuss matters pertaining to civil litigation.

Member Golden seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Executive director report and state updates

Executive Director Peter Cogswell expressed appreciation to the Montana team for their efforts with the Council meeting announced the upcoming virtual Council meetings on April 28 & 29. He thanked members, staff, and the region for their efforts during the Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process. He discussed progress on the Council budget. Lastly, he shared the passing of, and his appreciation for, past Oregon Council member Gene Derfler.

Council meeting agenda items

1. Montana co-Op presentation

Chair Milburn introduced Joe Kolman with Montana Electric Cooperative Association, Ron Catlett with Flathead Electric Co-Op, and Matt Quinn with Lincoln Electric Co-Op. They provided a presentation about current issues the electric cooperatives are facing in Montana and regionally.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19842/2026_04_1.pdf.

2. Briefing on salmon ocean ecology and the benefits of long-term data collection

Biologist for Program Performance Kris Homel introduced Brian Burke, Supervisory Research Fishery Biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NOAA). He presented on long-term research projects and concerns about funding cuts, as well as updates on ocean conditions and impacts to salmon and steelhead returns to the Columbia River.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19841/2026_04_2.pdf.

3. Briefing on Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead returns for 2025 and forecasts for 2026

Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist Kate Self introduced Stuart Ellis with Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), John Cassinelli with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), and Dr. Charlene Hurst with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to provide an overview of adult Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon and steelhead run returns for the Columbia River and expectations for the 2026 fisheries. The presentation included a retrospective review of the 2025 adult salmon and steelhead returns and an overview of non-treaty and treaty fishery frameworks

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19843/2026_04_3.pdf.

4. Council Work Session: Power Plan

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light started the session with an update on several elements of the draft Power Plan. The rest of the work session was focused on sharing results from the scenario modeling. This included the different regional resource buildouts across the sensitivities tested. Staff also provided context as to why the model selected different resources, and in different amounts, across the sensitivities.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19846/2026_04_4.pdf.

Member Milburn adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m. Mountain Time

April 15, 2026

The Council met in executive session to discuss matters pertaining to civil litigation.

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Mountain Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Chuck F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Member Margaret Hoffman attended virtually.

5. Council Work Session: Fish and Wildlife Program Amendments

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole and staff reviewed the amendment process and next steps and discussed with the members the comments received on the draft 2026 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program and proposed revisions.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19840/2026_04_5.pdf.

Member Milburn adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m. Mountain Time

April 16, 2026

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Mountain Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Chuck F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Member Margaret Hoffman attended virtually.

6. Council business

Motion to approve summary of March 2026 Council Meeting

Member Purce moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the March 2026 Council Meeting held in Portland, OR and via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Sams seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the March 2026 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19839/2026_04_6.pdf.

Public comment

McGregor Rhodes provided public comment.

Carole James with the National Organization to Save Flathead Lake provided public comment.

Bill Myers provided public comment.

Dr. Albert Olszewski, Former State Senator, Senate District 6, provided public comment.

Alex Joe provided public comment.

5. Fish and Wildlife Work Session continued

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole and staff continued discussing with members the comments received on the draft 2026 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program and proposed revisions.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19840/2026_04_5.pdf.

4. Power Plan Work Session Continued

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light and staff followed up from Tuesday's work session and discussed draft chapters 1 – 3 of the draft Ninth Power Plan.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19846/2026_04_4.pdf.

Chair Milburn adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m. Mountain Time.