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
October 14 & 15, 2026
Tamarack Resort and via Webinar
311 Village Drive
Donnelly, ID 83615

This is a summary of the Council's October 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-2026-10-14/. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

October 14, 2026

Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole provided a short update and reviewed the agenda and other topics relevant to the Fish and Wildlife Committee. Fish and Wildlife staff led a follow-up discussion from September's meeting on implementation of 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program. Staff also convened a regional panel of experts for a state-of-the-science presentation on walleye. The panel shared information on the ecological effects of non-native and invasive species, reviewed research regarding walleye in the Columbia River and Snake River basins, and discussed possible next steps for the region to understand address the impacts of walleye on salmon and steelhead.

Council meeting

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 1:17 p.m. Mountain Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Margaret Hoffmann, Chuck F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Members Doug Grob and Thomas L. (Les) Purce attended virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for November 17 & 18 in Portland, OR, and via webinar.

Member Allen welcomed everyone to Tamarack Resort.

Executive director report, Fish and Wildlife Committee report, and state updates

Executive Director Peter Cogswell shared his appreciation for the meeting planning and agenda. He thanked everyone who had provided comments on the draft Power Plan. Lastly, he thanked Council members and staff who represented the Council in Washington, DC in September.

Members Hoffmann and Sams expressed their appreciation for the meeting being hosted in Donnelly, ID. Member Sams further expressed his appreciation to Council members, staff, and Chris Huckleberry for the trip to Washington, DC. Member Golden shared his appreciation for being at Donnelly for the meeting and he seconded the appreciation Member Sams expressed for the time in Washington, DC. He also expressed his appreciation for the public hearings on the draft Ninth Power Plan. Chair Milburn continued to express appreciation for the success of the public hearings and for the time spent in Washington, DC. Member Schriever shared his gratitude for the trip to Washington, DC.

Member Schriever then provided an update from the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting that was held on the morning of October 14.

Council Meeting agenda items

1. **Welcome / opening remarks**

Fish and Wildlife Policy Advisor Windy Schoby introduced Emmit Taylor, Fisheries Watershed Director at Nez Perce Tribe, to provide welcoming remarks. Taylor talked about the history of the Nez Perce people and then spoke about what he sees as important next steps for the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and actions to be taken by BPA.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20048/2026_10_1.pdf.

2. **Council discussion and decision on the 2026 Lands Project Review**

Project Review and Implementation Manager Mark Fritsch, Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist Maureen Hess, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Specialist Heather Hendrixson, and Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair Schriever presented project implementation and policy issues as recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Committee on the 2026 Lands Project Review.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20045/2026_10_2.pdf.

Motion to approve 2026 Lands Project Review

Member Allen moved that the Council make the project and policy recommendations to Bonneville contained in the 2026 Lands Project Review document presented by staff and recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Committee [with changes made by the members at today's meeting].

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

3. **Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resource Management**

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Policy Advisor Windy Schoby introduced Jay Hesse, Director of Biological Services for the Nez Perce Tribe to highlight current Tribal fisheries and restoration efforts, concerns regarding the status and future of Snake River fish populations, and opportunities to strengthen regional collaboration. The discussion also identified near-term conservation actions and investments that can complement ongoing restoration efforts and advance shared fish and wildlife objectives.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20046/2026_10_3.pdf.

4. **Update on Genetic Tools – Parentage Based Tagging (PBT), Genetic Stock Identification (GSI), and the broader genetic monitoring network supported by the Fish and Wildlife Program**

Fish and Wildlife Policy Advisor Windy Schoby introduced Matt Campbell, Fisheries Genetics Program Coordinator at Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Dr. Shawn Narum, Chief Scientist at Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission; and Dr. Jon Hess, Senior Fishery Geneticist at Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. The panel provided an update on genetic monitoring tools and applications that provide critical information to support fisheries management and conservation in the Columbia River Basin. The presentation also highlighted how the region's investment in genetic monitoring has strengthened management by improving stock-specific and origin-specific (hatchery and natural) abundance estimates, enhancing evaluation of hatchery and natural origin fish populations, and providing information that can inform management decisions.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20049/2026_10_4.pdf.

5. **Council discussion and decision on the Regional Technical Forum 2027 Work Plan**

Regional Technical Forum Manager Laura Thomas requested Council approval of the 2027 RTF Work Plan and budget.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20051/2026_10_5.pdf.

Motion to approve Regional Technical Forum (RTF) Work Plan and budget

Member Allen moved that the Council approve the work plan for the Regional Technical Forum for 2027, including the budget of $2.4 million, as recommended by the RTF Policy Advisory Committee and presented by staff.

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

Chair Milburn adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m. Mountain Time.

October 15, 2026

Council meeting

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. Mountain Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Margaret Hoffmann, Chuck F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Members Doug Grob and Thomas L. (Les) Purce attended virtually.

6. **Grand Ronde Model Watershed presentation**

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Specialist, Heather Hendrixson introduced Jesse Steele, Executive Director of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, to provide an update and overview of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Umbrella Project.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20050/2026_10_6.pdf.

7. **Power Plan Update**

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light provided an update on the overall public comment process ending on October 16. Director Light walked through the proposed plan for working through comment at the November Council meeting.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20040/2026_10_7.pdf.

8. State of the Northwest economy

Senior Power Analyst Tomás Morrissey introduced Grant Forsyth, Chief Economist at Avista Corp to discuss general economic trends and indicators for the Northwest and US economies, and how those trends and indicators impact utilities.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20039/2026_10_8.pdf.

9. BPA contract decisions and resource development update

Energy Policy Advisor Nate Clayville introduced Jessica Matlock, President & CEO at PNGC Power to brief the Council on PNGC Power members' power supply decisions, including their approach to Bonneville Power Administration contracts and anticipated Tier 2 purchases. The presentation also discussed how these decisions fit into PNGC's broader strategy for meeting members' electricity needs and managing costs and reliability risks. Additionally, Matlock provided an update on PNGC's natural gas generation project and its anticipated role in the cooperative's resource portfolio.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20037/2026_10_9.pdf.

10. Resource planning and making growth pay for growth

Energy Policy Advisor Nate Clayville introduced Jared Ellsworth, Transmission, Distribution and Resource Planning Director at Idaho Power to present on how Idaho Power's resource plans are evolving to meet growing electricity demand while achieving its reliability requirements in a least-cost / least-risk manner. The presentation discussed the role of new natural gas generation in Idaho Power's resource strategy and the considerations driving those investments.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20038/2026_10_10.pdf.

11. Council Business

Motion to approve summary of the September 2026 Council Meeting

Member Allen moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the September 2026 Council Meeting held in Portland, Oregon, 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 September 2026 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20042/2026_10_11minutes.pdf.

Motion to approve the Council's Annual Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2025

Member Allen moved that the Council approve the Council's Annual Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2025, as presented by staff [with changes made by the members at today's meeting].

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

The decision memorandum is at
https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/20041/2026_10_11annualreport.pdf.

Public Comment

Courtney White with Clean Energy Opportunities for Idaho provided public comment.

Bob Ferguson provided public comment.

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