



LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS

Maintaining Critical Infrastructure

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OVERVIEW

The NGFA opposes any actions by federal or state governments that could result in breaching the Lower Snake River dams (LSRD), an action which would cause widespread economic and environmental damage.

The Biden administration in December 2023 announced a \$1 billion plan with environmental groups, four tribal governments and the states of Washington and Oregon meant to address salmon declines in the Columbia-Snake River system. The settlement deal proposes that the administration help fund and conduct studies on how services provided by the four Lower Snake River dams could be replaced if they were breached.

Maintaining the LSRD:

- The Columbia-Snake River System is the third-largest grain export corridor in the world, transporting nearly 30 percent of U.S. grain and oilseed exports.
- The required infrastructure capacity to replace the dams simply does not exist, and it is highly unlikely that it could be created in an economically viable amount of time.
- Removing the dams will hurt producers and negatively impact the operations and livelihoods of NGFA members who have made investment decisions based on the ability to utilize barge transportation.

Dams and the Pacific Northwest

- In the PNW, a 4-barge tow transports the same amount as 140 rail cars and 538 semi-trucks.
- Dam breaching would increase transportation and environmental costs in the U.S. by at least \$7.3 billion over 30 years (*Pacific Northwest Waterways Association*).
- The existing highway and rail network would need a short-term capital investment of \$1.3 billion to handle the 4.2 million tons of annual shipments to and from the tri-state region (*Pacific Northwest Waterways Association*).



NGFA MEMBERS

- Handle U.S. grains and oilseeds in domestic and export markets.
- Encompass all sectors of the industry and represent small and large companies, privately owned businesses and cooperatives.
- Include country elevators, feed mills, export elevators, cash grain and feed merchandisers, commodity futures brokers and commission merchants, end users of grain and grain products, and allied industries.

NGFA MISSION

Advocate a global open market environment to efficiently produce and provide a safe, abundant, affordable, sustainable and wholesome supply of grain, oilseeds, feed and related products responsive to market demand.

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