

# COLUMBIA RIVER PORTS

LONGVIEW | KALAMA | WOODLAND | VANCOUVER | PORTLAND

January 2026

## Dredging the Lower Columbia River

### Ensure Safe Navigation and Keep Marine Commerce Flowing

**The Columbia River System moves over \$31 billion in cargo annually and supports more than 40,000 local jobs—from farmers and truck drivers to tugboat crews and Longshore workers.** In 2023 alone, deep-draft vessels on the Columbia River carried nearly 39 million tons of cargo valued at over \$25 billion. Maintaining this channel is not only an economic imperative but also a strategic investment in regional resilience, environmental efficiency, and workforce stability.

**Support Governor Ferguson’s proposed \$15 million for Columbia River dredging in 2025-2027 Supplemental Transportation Budget**

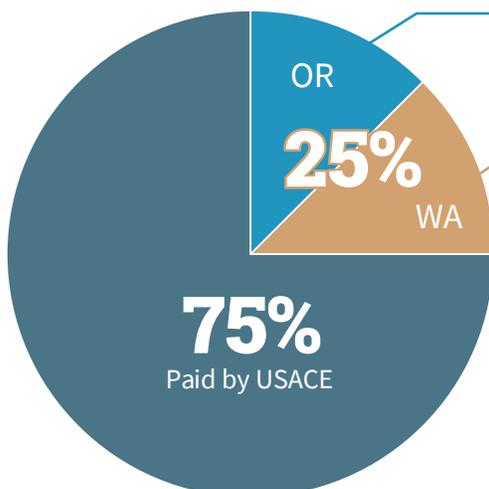
HB 2306 | SB 6005

The Sponsor Ports of Longview, Kalama, Woodland, Vancouver, and Portland are working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to develop a 20-year plan to maintain the Lower Columbia River Federal Navigation Channel at 43 feet. As part of the plan, the USACE intends to strategically utilize confined aquatic structures for in-water disposal and efficient maintenance of the waterway.

### Support the transportation budget to fund channel maintenance

**The total estimated cost to Washington and Oregon for maintenance under this 20-year plan is \$170 million, split 50/50 between the states: \$85 million for Washington and \$85 million for Oregon.** Governor Ferguson has included an initial investment of \$15 million in the proposed 2026-2028 transportation budget to maintain the federal navigation channel at 43 feet. This matches Oregon Governor Tina Kotek’s commitment of \$15 million from her 2025–2027 budget toward Oregon’s share.

### Construction costs associated with the channel are:



**Port of Portland is responsible for the Oregon half of the Sponsor Port share**

**Ports of Longview, Kalama and Vancouver are responsible for the other half**

**Costs to acquire placement sites are:**

**100% PAID BY THE WASHINGTON AND OREGON SPONSOR PORTS**

## ▶ The Columbia Snake River System is a regional and national economic powerhouse. It is:



**#1** in the US for wheat exports.



**#2** in the US for soybean exports.



**#2** in the US for corn exports.



A major gateway for new cars, trucks, minerals, and wood products.



A tourist attraction, carrying river cruises that support \$21 million in annual economic benefit in the Pacific Northwest.

## ▶ Community Support

Communities across Washington state support funding channel maintenance to ensure economic stability. The organizations below signed a letter urging Governor Ferguson include \$15 million in the state budget.

- American Waterways Operators
- Association of Washington Business
- Port of Longview
- City of Vancouver
- Columbia River Economic Development Association
- Columbia River Pilots
- Columbia River Steamship Operators
- Tidewater Barge Lines, Inc.
- Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
- Identity Clark County
- ILWU
- IUOE Local 701
- Maritime Fire and Safety Association
- Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
- Port of Benton
- Port of Clarkston
- Port of Kalama
- Port of Pasco
- Port of Ridgefield
- Port of Vancouver USA
- Port of Walla Walla
- Port of Whitman County
- Port of Woodland
- Shaver Transportation
- Southwest Washington Freight and Commerce Task Force
- Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council
- Columbia River Bar Pilots
- Cowlitz Economic Development Council
- Thompson Metal Fab
- United Grain Corporation
- Washington Association of Wheat Growers
- Washington Maritime Federation
- Washington Public Ports Association
- Washington Trucking Association

## Timeline

### 2021-2023

- Begin drafting EIS
- Virtual public open houses

### 2024-2026

- DEIS released for public comment
- Comments addressed, Record of Decision expected
- 20-year plan takes effect

### 2026-2027

- State funding needed
- Design for in-water structures begins
- Property acquisition

▶ For more information, visit [www.LCRports.com](http://www.LCRports.com) or contact:

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