



Project Overview

LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER CHANNEL MAINTENANCE PLAN

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is developing a Channel Maintenance Plan to ensure that the 43-foot deep Lower Columbia River Federal Navigation Channel is maintained and operational for another 20 years. This Plan will look for opportunities to improve maintenance practices and identify adequate space to place dredged sediment material.



Corps policy requires maintenance to be accomplished in the least costly manner and consistent with sound engineering practices and environmental standards. The Corps will work with partners to use dredged material beneficially, as a valuable resource that contributes to sustainable water resource projects, environments and communities. The partnership of sponsors and stakeholders, and their input, is key to developing and implementing a dredged material management plan that ensures a reliable, deep-draft navigation channel.

Why now?

Existing placement sites for material dredged from the channel are nearing capacity, and space is needed for the estimated 6 to 8 million cubic yards of material dredged each year. Updating the plan also provides the opportunity to examine improved approaches to maintaining the channel.

Project sponsors

The ports of Longview, Kalama, Woodland and Vancouver in Washington and the Port of Portland in Oregon are the non-federal project sponsors working with the Corps and other Lower Columbia ports to maintain the region's trade gateway. These Sponsor Ports will share funding with the Corps for construction of new dredged material placement sites and obtain lands (or easements) and permits for these sites. The ports also will provide information to the public through their outreach tools.

Getting to a plan

In partnership with the Sponsor Ports and with input from other stakeholders and the public, the Corps will determine the best management plan for upland and in-water dredged material placement, evaluate ways to reduce dredging requirements and consider impacts to the natural resources of the lower Columbia River. The Corps and the Sponsor Ports will evaluate alternatives and environmental effects in a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) environmental impact statement and select the preferred management plan based on this analysis.

Stay informed, get involved

Collecting the right information at the right time is vital to developing this plan. The Corps and the Sponsor Ports will host public meetings and consultations with affected federal, state and local agencies, tribes, and interested groups and individuals to seek input and comments that help meet project goals. Information about public involvement opportunities will be announced to the local and regional news media, shared with organizations in the Lower Columbia River region and posted on www.nwp.usace.army.mil/LCRChannelMaintenance. You can also contact the Corps at 503-808-4510 or send an email to ColumbiaNavChannel@usace.army.mil.

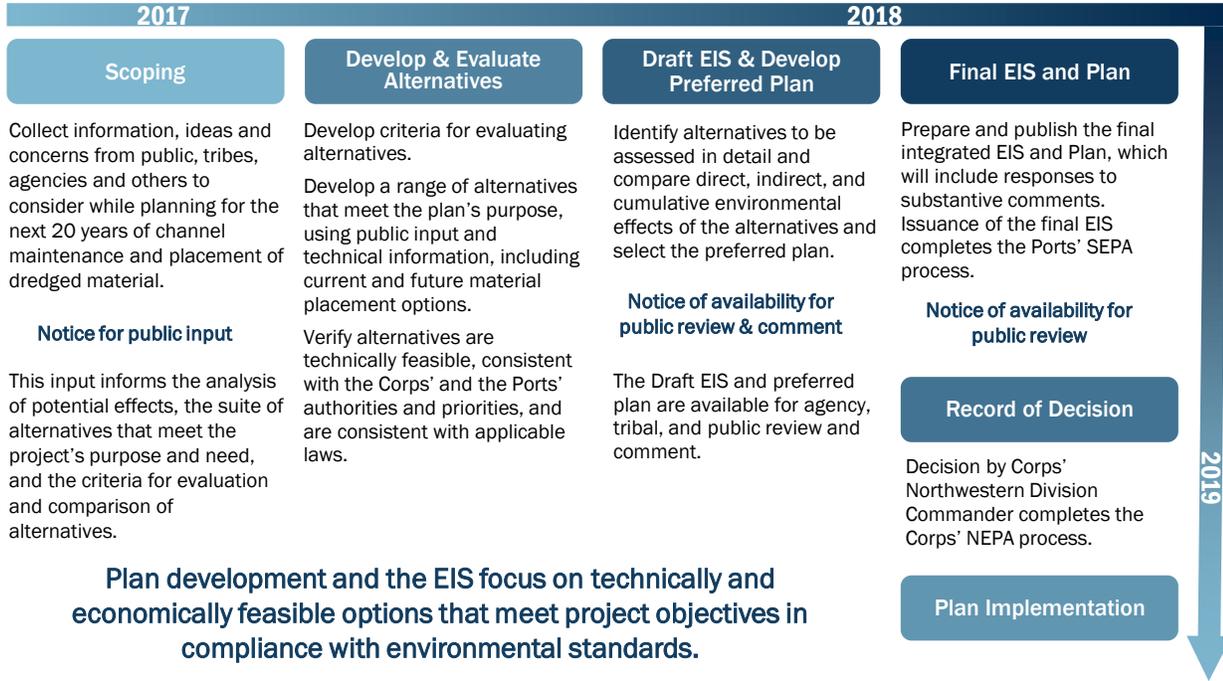
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – PORTLAND DISTRICT

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Lower Columbia River Federal Navigation Channel



Environmental Impact Statement & Plan Process Overview



US Army Corps of Engineers®
Portland District



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