

Lower Columbia River Channel Maintenance Plan PROJECT OVERVIEW

What is the Lower Columbia River Channel Maintenance Plan?

The Portland District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Ports of Longview, Kalama, Woodland, Vancouver, and Portland (Sponsor Ports) are developing a maintenance plan to ensure the 43-foot-deep Lower Columbia River Federal Navigation Channel continues to be operational for another 20 years.

The Corps and Sponsor Ports, with input from other stakeholders and the public, will determine the best plan for maintaining a reliable deep-draft navigation channel and the management of dredged material.

For more information, visit the project website at www.nwp.usace.army.mil/lcrchannelmaintenance/

What is channel maintenance?

The channel is maintained using a combination of dredging and hydraulic control works (pile dikes).

The channel area fills with 6 to 8 million cubic yards of sand annually that must be removed by dredging to provide service for deep-draft navigation. Sand deposits are constantly moving, so in order to maintain the 43-foot-deep and 600-foot-wide channel, the Corps dredges those sand deposits to a depth up to 5 feet and width up to 100 feet greater than the channel dimensions.

Why is a maintenance plan needed now?

Existing dredged material placement sites are filling up and space is needed for the material to be dredged each year. The maintenance plan development process may also identify ways to improve engineering and environmental stewardship practices and recognize opportunities to adapt to other changes over time.

What are the plan objectives?

The plan will be designed to enable efficient channel maintenance and management of dredged material, accounting for variability of the processes that move sand in the river.

The plan will identify:

- How much sand will need to be dredged and placed over the next 20 years
- How much space is left in current placement sites and where new sites will be needed for continued maintenance
- Opportunities to use dredged material beneficially to enhance the environment and community
- Measures to reduce the need to dredge
- Measures to reduce impacts on people and the environment
- Other actions needed to be able to implement the plan, such as improving current channel maintenance structures

How can I provide input into the process?

Please provide input in writing:

- Online: lcrchannelmaintenancecomments.com
- By email: ColumbiaNavChannel@usace.army.mil
- By mail: Attn: PM-E, PO Box 2946 Portland, OR 97208-2946
- In person: Input forms are available at this meeting

Will there be other opportunities for input?

Yes, after the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is developed, it will be available for public review and comment. The attached Environmental Impact Statement & Plan Process Overview handout details opportunities for input.

How can I offer my property or suggest a site for dredged material placement?

Please provide information about the site location in a scoping input form for evaluation by the Corps and Sponsor Ports.