COLUMBIA BASIN DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 4

Since 1964, we have supported the Columbia Basin Project and its future development. We protect its water rights and educate the public on the renewable resource and multiple-purpose benefits of the project.

Columbia Basin Hydropower Bill Allows Private Investment

Mike Schwisow, CBDL Government Relations Director

The Washington Legislature, during the 2017 Session, passed and Governor Inslee signed SB 5261, a bill requested by the Washington State Water Resources Association. The bill was sponsored by Senator Judy Warnick, R-13 of Moses Lake. A House companion measure, HB 1578 sponsored by Rep. Tom Dent, R-13 of Moses Lake was also passed through both the House and Senate.

The bill allows irrigation districts to enter into contracts or agreements with private commercial or industrial entities that construct or operate electric power generation or transmission facilities or acquire electric power for their own use or resale. It also provides limitations on an irrigation district's liability when entering into contracts or agreements with investor-owned utilities or private commercial or industrial entities. The bill was requested to promote further development of hydropower generation on irrigation district facilities. The particular focus was on a number of projects currently in development by Columbia Basin Hydropower.

The three Columbia Basin Project irrigation districts created the Grand Coulee Project Hydroelectric Authority (GCPHA) as a separate legal entity in 1982 to develop, operate and maintain hydroelectric generating facilities on the irrigation systems of the Columbia Basin Project. In 2015, the GCPHA changed its name to Columbia Basin Hydropower (CBHP) to



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better represent the nature of its function and responsibilities. The Districts currently own seven hydroelectric generating facilities. CBHP operates and maintains five of those facilities with the generation purchased by the City of Seattle and the City of Tacoma. Two of the facilities are operated and maintained by Grant County PUD. Revenue from power generation is shared by the three Districts on a proportional basis and is used to support District maintenance and operations responsibilities.

CBHP currently holds Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) permits and is in the preliminary development stage for five new, small generating facilities and a grid scale 500 megawatts hydroelectric pumped storage facility located near Grand Coulee Dam. Studies are underway to evaluate the economic feasibility of these new projects and having the new authority to include private sector participation broadens the options that may be considered.

The Banks Lake Pumped Storage Project (FERC No. P-14329) is a pumped storage project rated at up to 500 megawatts. The project would utilize two existing reservoirs-Banks Lake and Lake Roosevelt-to provide a new source of carbon-free capacity and ancillary services to the Pacific Northwest power grid. The project would be located on the west side of Lake Roosevelt just upstream of Grand Coulee Dam and near the Bureau of Reclamation's existing Keys pump-generation plant.

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From the Chair Kevin Lyle

The Columbia Basin Development League is consistently advocating on behalf of the Columbia Basin Project stakeholders, YOU. Whenever possible, the League provides information, support, resources, and testimony to policymakers, stakeholders, and the media to promote an environment



From left to right: Orman Johnson, Kevin Lyle, and Matt Hawley in DC.

UPCOMING EVENTS Priv

CBDL Board Meeting Wednesday, June 14 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM ATEC, Big Bend Community College Moses Lake, WA

CBDL Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 20 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM ATEC, Big Bend Community College Moses Lake, WA

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The Banks Lake project would provide up to 500 megawatts of energy and capacity to help offset retiring coal-fired generation and provide utilities with the flexibility to better integrate increasing amounts of intermittent generation coming online in the Pacific Northwest, while protecting the reliability of the region's bulk power system. Due to its location and design, the project also has several unique characteristics that provide additional value beyond that of a typical pumped storage facility, including the ability to conduct energy shifting operations across a weekly timeframe and generate up to 500 megawatts of electricity for 70 continuous hours. The project could be integrated into existing regional hydro coordination operations, and provide an additional source of water that could be released into Lake Roosevelt during periods of high regional electricity demand, creating additional sustained peak-

invested in and supportive of CBP continued development and infrastructure re-investment. Throughout this month's newsletter, learn about practical ways this plays out whether in a meeting with the Warden City Council or in the halls of our nation's capital.

The following pages also include a primer on irrigation in Eastern Washington by Jed Crowther, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District's Development Coordinator and an article from the Spokesman Review on potato farming in the CBP.

The League is also knee deep in outreach efforts including fundraising for the Columbia Basin Project film, a website overhaul, and the launch of a Facebook page. Read on for the film update and find us on Facebook to like and share our page!



/ColumbiaBasinDevelopmentLeague/

Columbia Basin Hydropower Bill Allows Private Investment Continued from page 2

ing benefits at multiple downstream dams.

Columbia Basin Project (CBP) irrigators would also benefit by having a backup means for lifting irrigation water up to Banks Lake and additional revenue which could be used by the Districts to address infrastructure investment needs.

It is expected that the CBP could generate as many as 2,600 jobs during construction and 100 jobs once it is in operation. The Project faces a complex permitting and environmental review process but could be in service as early as 2025.

KEY FACTS: Columbia Basin Hydropower

Headquartered in Ephrata, WA Number of Employees: 25 Number of Generating Plants: 7

- Main Canal Headworks
- Summer Falls
- RussellD. Smith (PEC22.7)
- Eltopia Branch Canal4.6 (EBe)
- Potholes East Canal 66.0 (PEe)
- OPEC Headworks
- Quincy Chute

Total Gen Capacity: 150 megawatts 2014 Net Generation: 550 gigawatt hours Proposed Small Hydro Facilities:

- PE46A Wasteway
- PE16.4 Wasteway
- PE1973 Mesa Check
- Scooteney Inlet
- Pinto Dam

Proposed Pumped Storage Facility:

Banks Lake (North Dam)

BANKS LAKE PUMPED STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- 500 megawatt generating capacity
- TURBINE TYPE: Two 250 megawatt adjustable speed pump-generating units
- MAXIMUM TURBINE FIOW: 25,000 cubic feet per second
- POWERHOUSE: Located on the west side of Lake Roosevelt upstream of Grand Coulee Dam, near the Bureau of Reclamation's existing Keys Plant
- 769,600 megawatt hours annual generation
- PROJECTED IN SERVICE DATE: 2025

League Calls Federal Policymakers to Fulfill Their Role as CBP Partners

In late April, a group of League representatives traveled to Washington DC to meet with policymakers, giving a voice on the national level to the concerns and issues addressing Columbia Basin Project (CBP) stakeholders. The group included Kevin Lyle, League Chair; Orman Johnson, League Vice Chair, Matt Hawley, Board Member; Tom Tebb, Director of the Office of the Columbia River; Mike Schwisow, Director of Government Relations; and Vicky Scharlau, Executive Director.



From left to right: Vicky Scharlau, Kevin Lyle, Orman Johnson, Mike Schwisow, Matt Hawley, and Tom Tebb.

The League met with key policymakers and staff from the Subcommittee on Water, Power, & Oceans; Office of Congressman Dan Newhouse; Office of Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers; Office of Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal; Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget; Senate Water and Power Subcommittee; Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development; Office of the Secretary of the Interior; and the Office of Senator Patty Murray.

League Calls Federal Policymakers to Fulfill Their League Equips Area Leaders Role as CBP Partners Continued from page 3

Throughout the meetings, the League provided materials, information, and updates while expressing strong support for funding to complete the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program. The League called for policy makers to champion funding for important infrastructure projects that are "shovel ready" and will benefit the economy. They encouraged collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation to identify opportunities for funding through the process of creating an infrastructure package.

During meetings with Jason Herbert, Legislative Director for Congressman Dan Newhouse, the League had the opportunity to address potential negative impacts of the acreage limitation rule under the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (RRA) that could prohibit full participation in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP). Under the RRA, landowners within the OGWRP area could potentially be eligible for surface water access only on their first 960 acres, regardless of whether they own a larger acreage. The League requested the development of a targeted legislative solution including the inclusion of language in an appropriations bill or other legislative vehicle that would exempt land from the acreage limitation provision of the RRA to ensure full participation.



From left to right: Orman Johnson, Jason Herbert, Legislative Director for Congressman Dan Newhouse, Mike Schwisow, Vicky Scharlau, and Matt Hawley.

After the trip, the League sent follow up letters to the Washington Delegation emphasizing the need for a targeted legislative solution to RRA as well as the need to prioritize funding for important infrastructure projects. The League also extended personal invitations to the Washington delegation and their staff to meet with League staff and tour the Columbia Basin Project, especially the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program during the August 2017 congressional recess.

The League works to raise awareness of the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) through efforts like presentations that promote CBP visibility and help stakeholders understand their role in CBP advocacy. By illustrating underlying challenges, delivering evidence-based, solution-oriented messages and updates to target audiences, and listening to feedback, the League engages stakeholders in issues that impact them and empowers stakeholders to make informed decisions in support of efforts directly benefiting them. In this way, the League creates an environment conducive to implementing policy changes in support of the CBP.

To maximize resources, the League specifically targets audiences for presentations who may be asked to play a role in project funding, such as local government, to leverage the power of networking with those who are in a position to share information with others that the League may not be able to reach on its own.

On May 9, League Executive Committee Member Dale Pomeroy, Director of Government Affairs, Mike Schwisow, and Program Manager Sara Higgins spent the day visiting some key groups. The first meeting was with Grant County Commissioners. The next meeting was with the Grant County Economic Development Council including their Executive Director Linda Martin and their executive committee. The third meeting of the day was with the Port of Moses Lake where the group met with Jeff Bishop, Executive Director; Richard Hanover, Director of Facilities and Operations; Milton Miller, Manager, Engineering Service and Industrial Wastewater; and Kim Derolio, Director of Finance. The group ended the day by meeting with Warden City Council members.





At all of the meetings, the League representatives provided handouts and gave an update on the Columbia Basin Project including current developments related to the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program. In addition to providing information, the group listened to stakeholder ideas and feedback while providing factual information to correct common misconceptions. Through these outreach presentations, the League is able to build and maintain relationships with stakeholders and connect with the pulse of the CBP community.

CBDL Membership Online

The League's website offers the choice to pay membership online. New members can also sign up at the site. Offering the ability to sign up online is just another way we are trying to better serve our members.

Go to **WWW.cbdl.org** for more information.

League Provides Written Testimony on Federal Investment in Water to House Subcommittee





Chairman Mike Simpson.

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

Early this month, the League contributed testimony on the Bureau of Reclamation's budget for fiscal year 2018 to the US House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, led by Chairman Mike Simpson (ID) and Ranking Member Marcy Kaptur (OH). The testimony encouraged Congress to recognize the importance of investing in the Columbia Basin Project and the critical water infrastructure needed. The League emphasized that completion of the CBP would create jobs in both the near and long term, increase agricultural production, and fulfill a federal commitment-- decades in the making--by providing improved access to a critical resource, water.

Throughout the testimony, the League addressed current challenges of the Odessa Aquifer depletion and how Washington State, Reclamation, the Department of Ecology, and landowners are all heavily invested in securing a solution through East Low Canal expansion. The League encouraged the federal government to fulfill their role as a partner and to invest in the nation's water infrastructure by providing additional funding. The League asked specifically for a \$25 million federal investment to protect \$840 million in annual economic activity including \$630 million in regional associated sales and \$211 million in regional income.

Pie Chart for Irrigation in Eastern Washington

Jed Crowther, Development Coordinator, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District

Think of the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) with 1,029,000 acres as a pie—and the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP) as one slice.

A good pie follows a recipe, with special ingredients and proportions. Each ingredient serves a specific purpose—to add substance and value.

The recipe of the CBP and OGWRP is to provide reliable irrigation water. The ingredients are: farms, families, communities, irrigation, and funding. The proportions rely on the aim to blend federal, state, and local resources.

Like a well-crafted pie, the OGWRP strives to merge each element fairly. Legislative support, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) resolve, and landowner commitment drives the design and construction process.

Since 2012, the OGWRP obtained \$28 million in State funds for canal work and nearly \$17 million by District bonds and long-term repayment contracts.

This financial foundation led to significant infrastructure improvement; including siphons, gates, canal widening, and lateral delivery systems.

State funding for OGWRP is administered by the Office of Columbia River of the Department of Ecology-for environmental and economic benefit.

The intent of the program is to reduce depletion of the Odessa aquifer and provide a reliable, long-term replacement irrigation source by the CBP.

The OGWRP has its own specific criteria and certain restrictive limitations; which may involve district inclusions, land reclassification, and water rights.

These important features add another level of complexity and challenge; although parameters are outlined, which allow effective implementation.

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) administers the use of federally-owned project facilities; together with the "hands-on" operation and maintenance performed by the three Columbia Basin Irrigation Districts. Infrastructure design and construction must meet USBR review standards.

To "add-to-the-mix", a greater challenge is to make expansion affordable. By working together, and to leverage progress already made, supplemental federal funding may help to buffer the impact of large capital investment.

One approach is to take into account the actual construction cost savings. By the data, ECBID has proven efficiency of \$32.5 million vs initial estimates. Collaborative work is underway to properly validate and justify the cost ratio.

Meanwhile, on a parallel course, design engineers and landowner groups are planning efficiently-to develop practical methods and realistic options. Our collective vision to unify efforts will advance and synchronize growth.

Solutions are not as "easy-as-pie" because massive investment is needed. But useful steps are "in-the-making" to move beyond "pie-in-the-sky" ideas and to make progress "one-piece-of-the-pie" at a time.

As a result, reliable irrigation water will foster growth and sustainability in Eastern Washington—an outcome that will be enjoyed for years to come. 5

Fundraising Campaign Kicked Off for Columbia Basin Project Film



Do you know the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) Story? The CBP mosaic starts with the people and players whose perseverance and commitment over the past 80 years has transformed an arid desert into a land flourishing with irrigated agriculture, hallmark power generation, and diverse recreational opportunities resulting in \$4 billion in annual economic activity. It continues with stories of the family farms and business owners who live and work in the CBP today and the three million visitors who recreate here annually. But, now, the CBP legacy and future is at risk.

The League is working with a film company to create a short documentary that shines a light on this story, leveraging the power of motion picture to connect to the hearts and minds of viewers, making the CBP a priority and encouraging the support necessary to mitigate risk.

Help us make history! Your contribution to this film will help us address current challenges and secure the future of those who live, work, and recreate within the CBP.

Check out more information on the film, our distribution plan, sponsorship opportunities, and more at www.cbdl.org. Join us in making history!

OUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better." – Harry S. Truman

Potato Farming in Washington Involves High-Stakes Investment Due to Competitive Market, Low Profit Margins

Eli Francovich, Excerpt from the Spokesman-Review, April 23, 2017



Rex Calloway looked west through the large windows of his 1950s-era farmhouse near Quincy and talked about the time, nearly 70 years ago, that his grandfather first arrived on this land.

Back then, the Columbia Basin was dry. A rugged landscape of sagebrush and rolling hills. Rattlesnakes. Scorching summer days. Cold nights. Quincy, the nearest town, was a speck, homesteaders and dry-land farmers eking out an existence on an average of 6 to 8 inches of rain a year.

"A huge leap of faith," Calloway called his grandfather's decision to move from Oklahoma.

But things were changing and Calloway's grandfather, who was 60 years old at the time, knew it.

"Water was coming," Calloway said.

Roughly 100 miles to the northeast, the Grand Coulee Dam was rising. And with it, a massive federal irrigation project that would transform the basin into one of the nation's richest farming areas.

Now, 70 years later, the Columbia Basin is one of the premier potato-growing regions in the country. While Idaho produces more potatoes, Washington farmers claim efficiency, harvesting about 60,000 pounds of potatoes per acre.

Most of Calloway's 2,700-acre farm is dedicated to potatoes. When he's not growing potatoes he plants corn and wheat.

On a recent Friday morning, he is busy. It's the first day of planting season, and he's about two weeks behind schedule because of the unusually heavy spring rains.

"It's thrown a pretty big one (curveball) at us this spring," he said of the rain. 6

Potato Farming in Washington Involves High-Stakes Investment ... Continued from page 6

FROM SEED TO STORAGE

Calloway is just one piece of a statewide industry with a worldwide reach.

As big as that industry is, it's not an easy way to make a living. Shrinking profit margins in an increasingly competitive international market make potatoes a high-stakes investment with plenty of risk and little room for error.

And with that competition and specialization comes new demands. Farmers are increasingly expected to be business managers, chemists, mechanics and salesman, in addition to farmers – belying the romantic, pastoral image many nonfarmers may have of agriculture.

"Farming is difficult. This is not easy. This is not easy," said Calloway, a third-generation farmer. "By God, if your heart is not in this, it will take you down so fast."

A MASSIVE STATE INDUSTRY

In an unassuming Moses Lake office, Chris Voigt and Ryan Holterhoff oversee the Washington State Potato Commission. Baskets of sample potatoes sit in the entryway. Washington state potato souvenirs line the walls.

Voigt is the executive director of the potato commission, which helps fund potato-related research, works to develop export markets and advocates for farmers at the state and national levels.

Potatoes are worth \$7.4 billion to the state's economy each year, Voigt said. Although there are only 250 potato growers, the crop creates 36,000 jobs throughout Washington.

Those numbers contribute to the potato's status as the leading vegetable crop in the United States, representing about 15 percent of all farm vegetables sold, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. Washington accounts for 23 percent of the national industry.

Read the full article at: http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/apr/23/a-year-in-the-fields-washington-potato-farmers/

Scenes from Around the Project



East Columbia Basin Irrigation District's EL 47.5 pump station construction progress.

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