

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

June 2025 open house engagement summary

Updated: July 27, 2025

Overview

Between June 23-25, 2025, The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) hosted three open houses in Colfax, Pasco, and Clarkston, Washington to inform communities of the study and provide an update on Phase 2 Total Logistic Cost (TLC) modeling. This document provides a summary of the structure, participation, and feedback received at the open houses.

Structure

Two technical team staff and three outreach staff attended the events and shared general information about the study and the current results from the TLC modeling and gathered feedback on the model results and existing conditions. Each open house was hosted in a public forum venue

Materials

The open house information was presented in English and Spanish. A factsheet, FAQ, and timeline were shared with participants as they arrived. The study team shared study information and modeling results on display boards and were available to provide study information and answer questions. Participants were encouraged to leave feedback via comment forms at a comment station. Approximately 130 people visited the open house, 52 responded to feedback questions, and two responded to demographic and public involvement surveys.

Open house materials included:

- Twelve display boards with information about the study, analysis of existing conditions, and TLC modeling results for scenarios 1, 2, 5, and 6.
- A study factsheet in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- An FAQ in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- An overview of the study schedule
- A comment form

Notifications

To notify communities of the open houses, WSDOT sent postcards, issued a news release, posted on social media, updated the study website, and shared information with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

Notification channels are summarized below and detailed in the appendix.

- Postcard mailing to over 19,000 homes targeting areas with low or no internet access.
- News release to area media outlets which resulted in 11 news stories.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

- GovDelivery email with updates on the study to 380 subscribers.
- Social media post on WSDOT Facebook with 325,860 impressions.
- Twitter posts with 7,054 views.

Open house participation

Approximately 130 people attended the three open houses, with 126 signing in. The table below shows a breakdown of attendees by location, grouped into four categories: public sector, private sector, advocacy/nonprofit/CBO/other, and general public/unknown:

Location	Public sector	Private sector	Advocacy/Nonprofit/CBO/Other	General Public / Unknown	Total
Colfax	8	6	2	18	34
Pasco	7	2	10	25	44
Clarkston	9	2	2	35	48
				Total	126

Audience demographics and background

Only two participants submitted responses to the demographic survey that was included in the comment form. There were six partial responses. This low response rate does not allow the study team to meaningfully summarize participant demographics. The lower response rate for the June open houses could be the result of several factors:

- Survey fatigue
- Limited visibility
- Limited access to smartphones or internet to complete the survey on-site
- Reluctance to take the survey home and submit it later
- Time constraints during the event
- Low interest in the survey topic
- Lack of clarity about the purpose of the survey and how the input would be used
- Other reasons

The study team will consider these factors in planning future engagement efforts to improve participation and better understand audience demographics.

Feedback summary

Participants were given the option to submit feedback by comment forms at the open houses or to submit the comment form via email to a team member. 53 participants submitted comments that provided insights into the proposed mitigation scenarios and their potential impacts. Comment forms included several questions, each of which are listed below with summaries of responses and selected example comments. As this study focuses on the transportation

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

impacts of removing the dams, and WSDOT remains neutral regarding the removal, comments supporting or opposing dam removal will not impact the outcomes of this study.

Question: “Are the proposed mitigation scenarios reasonable? Why or why not?”

Response summary:

- About 34% of respondents (n=18) answered yes.
- About 60% of respondents (n=32) answered no.
- About 6% of respondents (n=3) did not answer.

Example comments:

- *“Honestly don’t think in today’s regulatory environment that all the rail and road structure needed/proposed can ever be completed.”*
- *“While doable, the increase in cost to highway infrastructure should be avoided. WA state already is unwilling to maintain their roads. This will increase traffic, lower safety, and increase taxes with no improvement”*
- *“The cost to the farmers and companies that rely on barging would be too devastating to absorb and sustain”*
- *“The scenarios seem reasonable or well-conceived. I would like to see the analysis about transportation improvements for passengers”*

Question: “Do you have concerns about adding new shortline rail services?”

Response summary:

- About 62% of respondents (n=33) answered yes.
- About 27% of respondents (n=14) answered no.
- About 11% of respondents (n=6) did not answer.

Example comments:

- *“Too expensive”*
- *“The shortline services will allow for more flexibility for farmers and rail lines”*

Question: “What, if any, impacts do you expect on local communities from these proposed mitigation scenarios?”

Response summary:

- About 43% of respondents (n=23) mentioned traffic or congestion.
- About 34% of respondents (n=18) mentioned economic impacts or cost.
- About 13% of respondents (n=7) mentioned other impacts.
- About 6% of respondents (n=3) did not answer.
- About 4% of respondents (n=2) responded that the question was unclear.
- Answers were varied. Some cited increased traffic and congestion, others touched on economic impacts, while some cited improvements to access. Some excerpts can be found below:

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

Example comments:

- *“Increased traffic on roads, wear and tear, increased repair, increased cost to farmers and consumers”*
- *“Economic harm due to increased infrastructure cost and reduction in options for transporting food to market”*
- *“The increase in rail traffic may present noise issues that should be taken into consideration. Depending on the location of the lines the additional trains could divide communities”*

Question: “Do you have any concerns about congestion, safety impacts, or emissions impacts?”

Response summary:

- About 75% of respondents (n=40) answered yes.
- About 10% of respondents (n=5) answered no.
- About 15% of respondents (n=8) did not answer.
- The reasons were varied. Some excerpts can be found below:

Example comments:

- *“Too many trucks on small county roads”*
- *“Emissions will go up drastically and congestion will be a major problem”*
- *“I am far more concerned about the impacts of breaching”*

Question: “Do you have comments about how the proposed mitigation scenarios would impact the local agricultural industry?”

Response summary:

- Comments expressed concerns about cost, reliability and efficiency, irrigation impacts, and threats to small farms and rural communities.
- Comments about cost were most prevalent with about 59% of responses (n=26) citing concerns related to increased cost.

Example comments:

- *“Farmers are already running on very slim margins. Adding huge transportation costs from rail or trucking would be catastrophic.”*
- *“This land is not meant to be farmed the way it is now. We need to restore the ecological biological processes that support this region’s original foods.”*
- *“It will close down all the small towns”*
- *“The cost of doing business to the growers and logistics would charge so much that many may struggle to stay in business”*

Question: “Are there any mitigation scenarios that you would suggest that the study team consider for additional analysis”

Response summary:

- There were 30 responses total for this question
- Two comments cited Scenario 5 for the study team to consider for additional analysis.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

- However, about 50% of comments expressed to leave the dams in place (n=15).
- There were also comments and questions specific to the conduction of this study.

Example comments:

- *“Yes! Leave the dams in place”*
- *“Would it make sense to offer subsidies to farmers that might make some of the project improvements unnecessary”*
- *“I was surprised that the study focused so intensely on agriculture. Will tourism be included in the transportation study?”*
- *“Keeping the dams seems like the best mitigation. It keeps transportation costs competitive, keeps power/electricity costs lower using green energy, and provides safe roadways along the Snake River corridor”*
- *“Overall, this study is extremely short sighted in that it takes an act of congress to remove the LSRD, unnecessary expenditure of funds (taxpayers money) at the point in time.”*

Question: “Anything else you would like to share with the project team?”

Response summary:

- There were 38 comments shared
- 5 comments shared appreciation for the study team
- 7 comments were critiques against the study and its cost and effort, or suggestions to improve the study
- 7 comments were in disapproval of dam removal
- 1 comment was in support of dam removal
- 5 comments were questions requiring follow-up
- The remaining comments were either general remarks or not able to be interpreted/transcribed.

Example comments:

- *“Thank you for looking at potential impacts, this is a big endeavor and your team has a lot to consider”*
- *“This region already has issues with a lack of truck drivers, where do you think you will find this work force?”*
- *“Removing the Snake River dams is a terrible idea. Resources used to study the impacts could be much better used elsewhere”*
- *“I’ve not heard any community support to remove the dams. As the mayor of Pasco, I’ve been keyed in on this issue for years and the consistent message I hear is – do not remove the dams”*
- *“We were invited to join the CAC. We received the invitation – can you respond as to how the invites were sent out?”*

Question: “How did you hear about the open house? (Check all that apply)”

Response summary:

- Social media: 11
- Postcard: 9

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

- Local news: 8
- Study website: 3
- Flier: 2
- Other: 16
- Did not answer: 4

Question: “If you would like to be included on the project mailing list, please provide the following information”

Response summary:

- 36 signed up for the mailing list

Next steps

The study team will continue to involve the public throughout the duration of the study. The next engagement activity will be an online open house planned for fall 2025 where the study team will share updated study information.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

Appendix: Notifications

Postcard mailing

The study team sent 21,352 postcards on June 16 with information about the online open house to 19,762 residential homes and 1,590 businesses in the study area. The information on the postcard was provided in English and Spanish.

Learn about the Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

The Lower Snake River contains four dams that help move freight and goods across Washington State. There has been much interest in removing these dams for the benefit of native fish species.

WSDOT is studying the transportation needs, options and impacts of shifting the movement of goods from barge to primarily truck and rail. Come meet the project team and learn more at an upcoming in-person open house near you this summer:

June 23, 2025	June 24, 2025	June 25, 2025
5-8 P.M.	5-8 P.M.	5-8 P.M.
Whitman County Library	Mid-Columbia Libraries - Pasco	Clarkston High School Library
102 S. Main St.	1320 W Hopkins St.	401 Chestnut St.
Colfax, WA 99111	Pasco, WA 99301	Clarkston, WA 99403

Infórmese sobre el estudio de transporte de las presas en la parte baja del río Snake

En la parte baja del río Snake hay cuatro presas que ayudan a mover mercancías y bienes a través del estado de Washington. Ha habido mucho interés en eliminar estas presas por el bien de los peces autóctonos.

WSDOT está realizando un estudio de las necesidades, las opciones y los impactos que supondría cambiar el transporte de las mercancías de barcazas a principalmente camiones y ferrocarril. Venga a conocer al equipo del proyecto y a obtener más información en un evento abierto al público cerca de usted este verano:

23 de junio de 2025	24 de junio de 2025	25 de junio de 2025
5-8 P.M.	5-8 P.M.	5-8 P.M.
Whitman County Library	Mid-Columbia	Clarkston High School Library
102 S. Main St.	Libraries - Pasco	401 Chestnut St.
Colfax, WA 99111	1320 W Hopkins St.	Clarkston, WA 99403
	Pasco, WA 99301	



Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

Questions? | ¿Preguntas?

Jim.Mahugh@wsdot.wa.gov

360-705-7245

Mail Stop 47329

310 Maple Park Ave SE

Olympia, WA 98501-2348



Mail Stop 47329

310 Maple Park Ave SE

Olympia, WA 98501-2348

Americans with Disabilities Act Information: This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the Office of Equity and Civil Rights at wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA (4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

Title VI Notice to Public: It is the Washington State Department of Transportation's policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its programs and activities. Any person who believes his or her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR). For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact OECR's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7090.

Información sobre la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades: Puede solicitar este material en un formato alternativo enviando un correo electrónico a la Oficina de Equidad y Derechos Civiles a wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov o llamando al número gratuito 855-362-4ADA (4232). Las personas sordas o con dificultades auditivas pueden llamar al servicio de retransmisión del Estado de Washington al 711. Aviso al público sobre el Título VI: El Departamento de Transporte del Estado de Washington tiene como política garantizar que ninguna persona, por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional, según lo dispuesto en el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, sea excluida de participar en cualquiera de sus programas y actividades, se le nieguen los beneficios de los mismos o sea discriminada de cualquier otra forma. Toda persona que considere que se ha violado su protección en virtud del Título VI puede presentar una queja ante la Oficina de Equidad y Derechos Civiles (OECR) de WSDOT. Para obtener información adicional sobre los procedimientos de denuncia del Título VI y/o información sobre nuestras obligaciones de no discriminación, póngase en contacto con el Coordinador del Título VI de OECR llamando al (360) 705-7090.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

Social media

WSDOT shared announcements about the study open house via their Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Facebook

Posted on June 18: <https://www.facebook.com/WSDOT/posts/we-are-analyzing-how-freight-rail-and-barge-traffic-might-change-if-the-lower-sn/1167183988786634/>

- Impressions (views): **325,860**
- Reactions: **3,445**
- Comments: **939**
 - The comments were reviewed and were unusable for the purposes of this study as people were focused on whether or not the dams should be removed.
- Shares: **499**
- Link clicks: **528**

Twitter

Posted on June 18: <https://x.com/wsdot/status/1935480418171519114>

- Impressions (views): **7,054**
- Comments: **14**
- Retweets: **5**
- Likes: **8**
- Bookmark: **1**

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

 **WSDOT** 
★ Favorites · June 18 · 

We are analyzing how freight, rail, and barge traffic might change if the Lower Snake River Dams were removed. Join us for a community conversation at an in-person open house to ask the team questions and to learn about the current progress and next steps in the process.

- COLFAX: 5-8 p.m., Monday, June 23, Whitman County Library
- PASCO: 5-8 p.m., Tuesday, June 24, Mid-Columbia County Library - Pasco Branch
- CLARKSTON: 5-8 p.m., Wednesday, June 25, Clarkston High School Li... See more



910    939 comments 495 shares

 Like  Comment  Share

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

 Washington State DOT 
@wsdot

How might freight, rail, and barge traffic change if the Lower Snake River Dams were removed? Let's talk about it:

5-8 p.m.
-June 23, Whitman County Library
-June 24, Mid-Columbia County Library - Pasco
-June 25, Clarkston High School Library

Learn more: wsdot.wa.gov/construction-p...



4:31 PM · Jun 18, 2025 · 7,056 Views

14 5 8 1



Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

GovDelivery

Washington State Department of Transportation <wsdot@service.govdelivery.com>
To: danielruiz.contact@gmail.com

Wed, Jun 18, 2025 at 9:46 AM

Washington State Department of Transportation
Headquarters – 310 Maple Park Avenue - Olympia, WA 98504-7370 – 360-705-7000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 18, 2025

Contact: [Jim Mahugh](#), study lead, 360-705-7245

Public invited to give feedback at open house events for Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

Three June meetings take place in Colfax, Pasco and Clarkston

COLFAX – The Washington State Department of Transportation is hosting three in-person open houses in June to share more about the ongoing Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study.

WSDOT is in its second year of examining how the state's transportation system would need to change if dams are removed from the Lower Snake River. In 2023, the Washington State Legislature directed WSDOT to analyze the highway, road, freight and rail infrastructure on the river and how it would be affected if dams on the river are removed.

The first phase of the [Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study](#) began in April 2024. During this phase, WSDOT analyzed the movement of goods on barges, trucks and trains. Community members can read the December 2024 [status report](#) online to learn more.

Phase 2 of the study began in early 2025 and will continue through the end of the year. During this phase, WSDOT will create scenarios to help minimize possible transportation issues and conduct a safety analysis. This phase also includes a review of geological, geographical, rail, road and utility impacts from possible dam removals.



Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

A series of upcoming open house events in Colfax, Pasco and Clarkston will provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the study and share their ideas.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study in-person open houses

Colfax open house

When: 5 to 8 p.m., Monday, June 23

Where: Whitman County Library, 102 South Main St., Colfax, WA

Pasco open house

When: 5 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 24

Where: Mid-Columbia Libraries Pasco branch, [1320 West Hopkins St., Pasco, WA](#)

Clarkston open house

When: 5 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, June 25

Where: Clarkston High School Library, [401 Chestnut St., Clarkston, WA](#)

Details: All three are drop-in events without a formal presentation; the public is invited to attend when their schedule allows. Staff will be on hand to answer questions, share visual examples of the scenarios being considered and take comments throughout the events.

Hyperlinks within the release:

- Lower Snake River Dams: wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-studies/lower-snake-river-dams-transportation-study
- Status report: wsdot.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/Lower-Snake-River-Dams-Transportation-Study-Dec2024.pdf

###

WSDOT keeps people, businesses and the economy moving by operating and improving the state's transportation systems. To learn more about what we're doing, go to wsdot.wa.gov/about/news for pictures, videos, news and blogs. Real time traffic information is available at wsdot.com/traffic.

Americans with Disabilities Act Information

This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the Office of Equity and Civil Rights at wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA (4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

Title VI Notice to Public

It is the Washington State Department of Transportation's policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its programs and activities. Any person who believes his or her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR). For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact OECR's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7090.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

News articles

Eleven articles referring to the open house were published in the following local media sources:

- NBC Non-Stop Local Tri-Cities, Yakima
- ABC KYYL News, Spokane and Coeur D'Alene
- Nelly Broadcasting, LLC., Big Country News, Lewis-Clark Valley, Camas Prairie, Palouse, and Clearwater regions
- KAYU Fox Television, Fox 28, Spokane
- Everyone's Internet News Presswire
- Pacific Empire Radio Corporation (PERC), DailyFly
- ABC, Apple Valley News Now, Tri-Cities and Yakima
- InterTech Media LLC., KOZE Sports, LC Valley and Lewiston
- North Sound Media, Everett Post

Links and screenshots of the articles are provided below.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

1. https://www.nbcrightnow.com/news/lower-snake-river-dams-study-invites-public-feedback-at-open-houses/article_e89db025-719b-5cf3-aaee-0153322a7df0.html

NonStopLOCAL
Tri-Cities & Yakima

NEWS WEATHER TRAFFIC SWX SPORTS KINGO PROS KNDU PROS

73°

Not all free checking accounts are created equal. Insured by NCUA. [Get started](#)

Lower Snake River Dams study invites public feedback at open houses

NonStop Local Jun 18, 2025 Updated Jun 18, 2025



WSDOT

MORE INFORMATION

Pasco seeks community input for future parks

PASCO, Wash. – The City of Pasco is aiming to establish a new benchmark for its parks and is actively seeking community input to guide the process.

COLFAX, Wash. – The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is inviting the public to join a series of open houses in June to discuss the ongoing Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study.

These events will be held in Colfax, Pasco, and Clarkston, offering community members a chance to learn about potential impacts if the dams are removed.

Top Videos



Powered by [minute360](#)

The study, now in its second year, was initiated by the Washington State Legislature in 2023. It aims to analyze how the transportation system, including highways, roads, freight, and rail infrastructure, would change without the dams.

Get your back to school fit, without going far.

[Google shop](#)

Nearby, 0.3 mi

[Shop Now](#)

COLUMBIA ROOFING

WE TOP THEM ALL

509-412-1799

1904 N 4th Ave

Pasco WA 99301

Weather

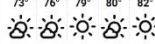
Currently in Kennewick

73° Sunny

73° / 51°

9 AM 10 AM 11 AM 12 PM 1 PM

73° 76° 79° 80° 82°



SWX Local Sports

Water Follies

Broadcasting LIVE

on July 26th-27th

SPONSORED BY

LEGENDS

CASINO & HOTEL

Sign Up For Newsletters

Breaking News from NBC Right Now

Get Tri-Cities Breaking News alerts from NBC Right Now.

NBC Right Now Daily Weather Updates

Get the daily weather forecast, as well as breaking weather alerts, from the NBC Right Now Weather Authority.

The open houses, scheduled for June 23 in Colfax, June 24 in Pasco, and June 25 in Clarkston, are designed as drop-in events. They will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Whitman County Library, Mid-Columbia Libraries Pasco branch, and Clarkston High School Library, respectively.

Community members are encouraged to participate and provide their feedback on the ongoing study.

For further details, [visit the WSDOT website](#)

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

2. https://www.kxly.com/news/wsdot-to-hold-open-houses-on-lower-snake-dam-transportation-study-in-eastern-washington-cities/article_e6ec455d-ee27-44c8-b3df-b90e7383d985.html

WSDOT to hold open houses on Lower Snake Dam transportation study in eastern Washington cities

Tori Luecking
Jun 18, 2025



COLFAX, Wash. — The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is hosting three in-person open houses in June to update the public on its ongoing study of transportation related to potential removal of dams on the Lower Snake River.

The study, directed by the Washington State Legislature in 2023, examines how highway, road, freight and rail infrastructure would be affected if the dams were removed.

The first phase, which began in April 2024, analyzed goods movement by barge, truck and train. The second phase, underway in 2025, focuses on creating scenarios to minimize transportation issues and conducting safety and impact analyses.

https://www.kxly.com/news/wsdot-to-hold-open-houses-on-lower-snake-dam-transportation-study-in-eastern-washington-cities/article_e6ec455d-ee27-44c8-b3df-b90e7383d985.html 1/2

7/22/25, 9:07 AM

WSDOT to hold open houses on Lower Snake Dam transportation study in eastern Washington cities | News | kxly.com

The open houses will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on June 23 in Colfax at the Whitman County Library, June 24 in Pasco at the Mid-Columbia Libraries Pasco branch and June 25 in Clarkston at the Clarkston High School Library.

These drop-in events will feature staff available to answer questions and gather public input.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

[illegible]

[HOME](#)
[ABOUT US](#)
[CONTACT US](#)
[ADVERTISE WITH US](#)
[SPECIALS](#)

Public invited to give feedback at open house events for Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

Source: KSNV Jan 31, 2022

WSDOT is in its second year of examining how the state's transportation system would need to change if dams are removed from the Lower Snake River. In 2023, the Washington State Legislature directed WSDOT to analyze the impacts that might be felt on infrastructure on the river and on roads to be affected as dams are removed.

The first phase of the Lower Snake River Dam Transportation Study began in April 2021. During this phase, WSDOT analyzed the movement of goods on barges, trucks and trains. Community members can read the December 2021 report online to learn more.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

5. <https://www.fox28spokane.com/lower-snake-river-dams-study-invites-public-feedback-at-open-houses/>

FOX 28

Search

PROGRAMS ▾NEWS ▾WEATHERDOUBLE \$ DEALSCONTESTS ▾COMMUNITY ▾HAPPY TALES ▾

**MAKE IT ICONIC**

Lower Snake River Dams study invites public feedback at open houses

by WSDOT | June 18, 2025 10:05 am





COLFAX, Wash. – The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is inviting the public to join a series of open houses in June to discuss the ongoing Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study.

These events will be held in Colfax, Pasco, and Clarkston, offering community members a chance to learn about potential impacts if the dams are removed.

View 3D Earth Maps

 (1) Earth 3D Map

OPEN

The study, now in its second year, was initiated by the Washington State Legislature in 2023. It aims to analyze how the transportation system, including highways, roads, freight, and rail infrastructure, would change without the dams.

The open houses, scheduled for June 23 in Colfax, June 24 in Pasco, and June 25 in Clarkston, are designed as drop-in events. They will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Whitman County Library, Mid-Columbia Libraries Pasco branch, and Clarkston High School Library, respectively.

Community members are encouraged to participate and provide their feedback on the ongoing study.

For further details, [visit the WSDOT website](#).

ADVERTISEMENT

**MAKE IT ICONIC**

ADVERTISEMENT

**MAKE IT ICONIC**

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

6. <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/824212852/public-invited-to-give-feedback-at-open-house-events-for-lower-snake-river-dams-transportation-study>

Questions? +1 (202) 335-3939 • [Pricing & Comparison Chart](#) • [Contact](#) • [Log In](#)

Everyone's Internet News Presswire™

[Submit Release](#)

About ▾Pricing ▾Distribution ▾Press Releases ▾Newswires ▾Knowledge Base ▾

News Search

There were 1,247 press releases posted in the last 24 hours and 406,705 in the last 365 days. [World Media Directory](#) • [RSS](#) • [Email Newsletters](#)

Public invited to give feedback at open house events for Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

NEWS PROVIDED BY
[Washington State Department of Transportation](#)
June 20, 2025, 23:33 GMT

[SHARE THIS ARTICLE](#)
    

Three June meetings take place in Colfax, Pasco and Clarkston

COLFAX – The Washington State Department of Transportation is hosting three in-person open houses in June to share more about the ongoing Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study.

WSDOT is in its second year of examining how the state's transportation system would need to change if dams are removed from the Lower Snake River. In 2023, the Washington State Legislature directed WSDOT to analyze the highway, road, freight and rail infrastructure on the river and how it would be affected if dams on the river are removed.

The first phase of the [Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study](#) began in April 2024. During this phase, WSDOT analyzed the movement of goods on barges, trucks and trains. Community members can read the December 2024 [status report \(PDF 5.9MB\)](#) online to learn more.

Phase 2 of the study began in early 2025 and will continue through the end of the year. During this phase, WSDOT will create scenarios to help minimize possible transportation issues and conduct a safety analysis. This phase also includes a review of geological, geographical, rail, road and utility impacts from possible dam removals.

A series of upcoming open house events in Colfax, Pasco and Clarkston will provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the study and share their ideas.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study in-person open houses

Colfax open house

When: 5 to 8 p.m., Monday, June 23

Where: Whitman County Library, 102 South Main St., Colfax, WA

Pasco open house

When: 5 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 24

Where: Mid-Columbia Libraries Pasco branch, 1320 West Hopkins St., Pasco, WA

Clarkston open house

When: 5 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, June 25

Where: Clarkston High School Library, 401 Chestnut St., Clarkston, WA

Details: All three are drop-in events without a formal presentation; the public is invited to attend when their schedule allows. Staff will be on hand to answer questions, share visual examples of the scenarios being considered and take comments throughout the events.

Legal Disclaimer:

EIN Presswire provides this news content "as is" without warranty of any kind. We do not accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy, content, images, videos, licenses, completeness, legality, or reliability of the information contained in this article. If you have any complaints or copyright issues related to this article, kindly contact the author above.

Author Contact

[email us here](#)

More From This Source

[Roundabout construction project coming to SR 26 near Othello](#)

[Southbound I-5 paving project in Everett set to begin](#)

[Repairs bring daytime closures of westbound US 12 Wishkah River Bridge in Aberdeen](#)

[View All Stories From This Source](#)

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

7. <https://www.dailyfly.com/2025/06/20/wsdot-seeks-public-input-on-lower-snake-river-dams-transportation-study/>

 **DAILYFLY**

News ▾ | Lewiston Food Truck Night | Events & Contests ▾ | Lewiston's Hot August Nights

TRENDING ▸ Idaho Fish and Game Encourages Anglers to Take On the Western Native Trout Challenge

Release Stress • Reclaim Strength
Certified Hypnotherapy
For Trauma, Anxiety & Habit Change
Ember Swearingen, C.Ht.
Certified Hypnotherapist
[Book a Free Consult](#)

WSDOT Seeks Public Input on Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

June 20, 2025 | Local News



WSDOT

CLARKSTON, WA — The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is inviting the public to attend a series of open house events this month to provide feedback on the ongoing Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study.

The study, now in its second year, is evaluating how Washington's transportation system—specifically freight, rail, road, and utility infrastructure—might need to adapt if the Lower Snake River dams are removed. Phase 1, which began in April 2024, focused on analyzing the movement of goods by barge, truck, and train. A status report on that phase was published in December 2024.

Phase 2, which began earlier this year, includes the development of transportation scenarios, safety analysis, and a review of impacts to the region's geography, geology, and infrastructure.

ADVERTISING



Here's What a 1-Day Walk-in Shower Should...
HomeBuddy - Sponsored [Learn more](#)

WSDOT will host three open house events to inform the public and collect comments:

- **Colfax:** Monday, June 23, 5–8 p.m. at Whitman County Library, 102 South Main St.
- **Pasco:** Tuesday, June 24, 5–8 p.m. at Mid-Columbia Libraries Pasco Branch, 1320 West Hopkins St.
- **Clarkston:** Wednesday, June 25, 5–8 p.m. at Clarkston High School Library, 401 Chestnut St.

Each event will be drop-in style with no formal presentation. Staff will be present to answer questions, discuss possible scenarios, and gather public feedback.

More details and documents related to the study are available on [WSDOT's website](#).

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

8. https://www.applevalleynewsnow.com/news/wsdot-studies-transportation-impact-of-potential-lower-snake-river-dam-removal/article_59fff2f9-c4df-4c98-a10f-41402776f46c.html



The screenshot shows a news article on the Apple Valley News Now website. The article is titled "WSDOT studies transportation impact of potential Lower Snake River dam removal" and is dated June 26, 2023. The main image shows a large dam structure with water flowing over it. The article text discusses the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) study on the transportation impact of potential Lower Snake River dam removal. It mentions that WSDOT is conducting a multi-year study and that the study is currently in the public input phase. The article also includes a section titled "The Brief" which summarizes the key points of the study. On the right side of the article, there is a "MOST POPULAR" section with a list of five articles, and a "LATEST NEWS" section with a list of three articles. At the bottom of the article, there is a "TOP VIDEOS" section with a list of three videos.

WSDOT studies transportation impact of potential Lower Snake River dam removal

Sen Harrison, Apple Valley News Now | Jun 26, 2023 | Updated Jul 6, 2023

The Brief

- WSDOT is conducting a multi-year study on how transportation infrastructure would adapt if the Lower Snake River dams are removed.
- About 70% of eastern Washington wheat currently moves by barge, which would be eliminated without the dams.
- Public input sessions are being held through the end of 2024, with final recommendations expected in 2026.

WSDOT warns public not to fall for scam links about unpaid tolls

The department warns the public to know that toll messages about unpaid tolls are a scam.

Part of Pease Opens Bidding for \$6 Million Rail Expansion Project

Most Popular

- Senators' health officials warn: Partners after each causing parasite outbreak in Colorado River
- Child killed, 4 children injured in rollover crash west of Elmhurst
- Kenosha forward policy sparks community outrage after fourth of July
- Kenosha man arrested after allegedly forcing woman into car
- Community raising money for local CHD student impacted by Covid-19

From Our Partners

Here's How Big Joe Blain's Social Security Check Is — To the Dollar

ABC's Terry Moran is requested following his social media posts

Build better index products

Latest News

Lawless thunderstorms possible Tuesday, forecast turns dry past that

Kenosha man arrested after allegedly forcing woman into car

Public Budget Partners with United Way for Community Foundation Tonight

Gardner-Cornell proposes plan to build "world's best forecasting system"

Five destroy five homes and food pantry in Elmhurst

Top Videos

From Our Partners

Here's How Big Joe Blain's Social Security Check Is — To the Dollar

ABC's Terry Moran is requested following his social media posts

Environment

Snake River Palouse Tribes' 2nd Annual Healing Ceremonies

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

Articles published post-open house

9. https://www.thecentersquare.com/washington/article_48844ff0-1ea7-498a-b5d7-2c6b63415dd1.html

https://www.thecentersquare.com/washington/article_48844ff0-1ea7-498a-b5d7-2c6b63415dd1.html

Locals remain skeptical of on-hold plan to breach lower Snake River dams

Sue Lani Madsen | The Center Square contributor
Jun 25, 2025



The Ice Harbor Dam on the Snake River in Washington. Courtesy: U.S. Department of Energy, Flickr

(The Center Square) – For three decades, politics in the 5th Congressional District have been shaped by the many “what if” questions about removing four dams on the Lower Snake River. The Washington State Department of Transportation is the latest agency to jump into the Lower Snake River dam breaching debate at a time when federal agencies are getting out of the water.



The administration of President Donald Trump recently took action to halt efforts that could have led to the breaching of the lower Snake River dams in southeastern Washington.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

A June 12 **Executive Order** signed by President Trump directed all affected federal agencies to withdraw from a Memorandum of Understanding filed on Dec. 14, 2023, in the Columbia River System litigation, National Wildlife Federation v. National Marine Fisheries Service.

Leaks, Clogs,
Plumbing Cha
We Handle It A

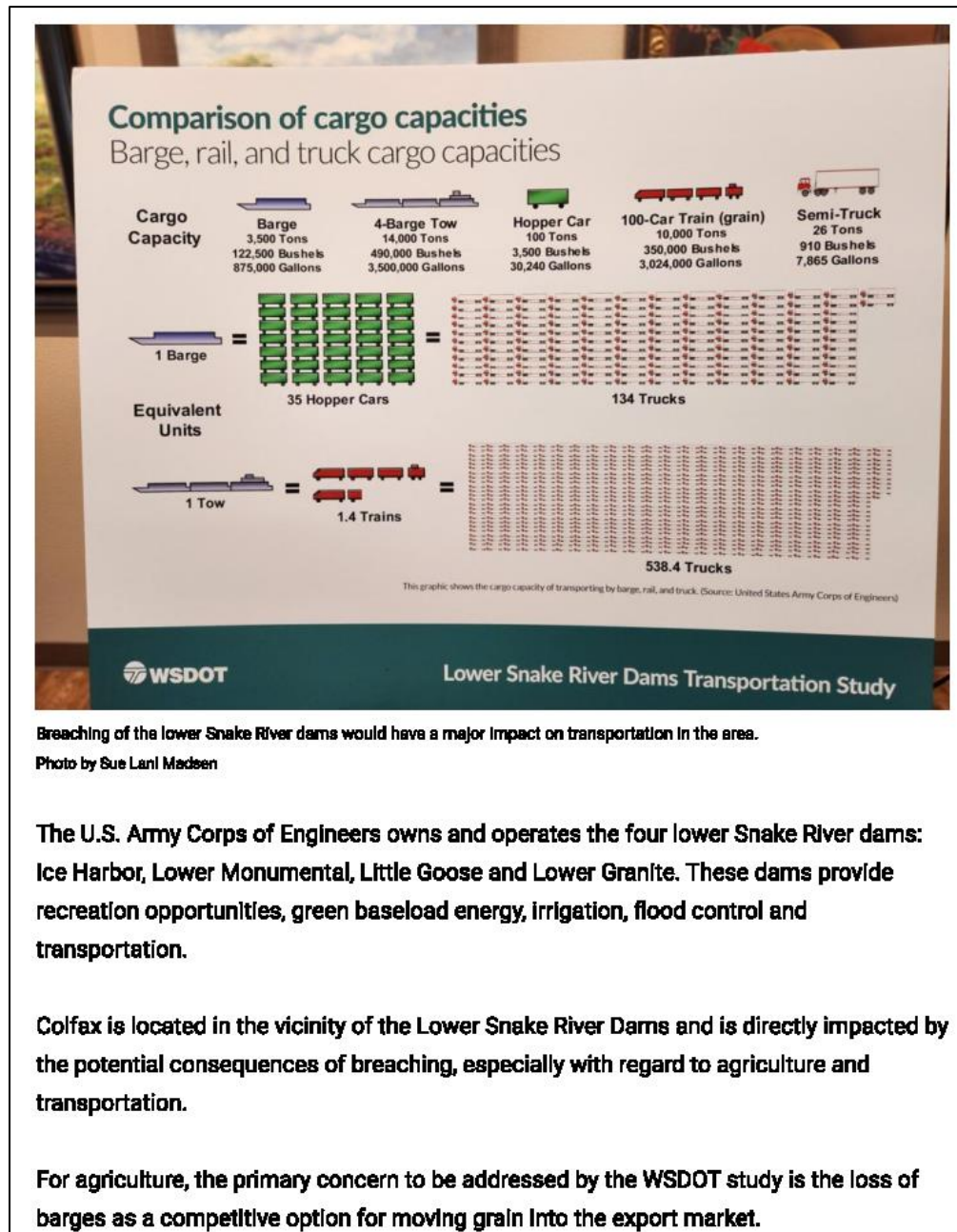
The Trump administration justified this by prioritizing energy reliability and cost, stating that the previous policy focused too much on climate change and fish populations at the expense of national energy needs.

The **Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study**, initiated by the Washington State Legislature, aims to analyze how transportation systems – including highways, roads, freight and rail infrastructure – would change if the four lower Snake River dams were removed

The Legislature included the WSDOT study in the 2025-27 transportation budget.

Six scenarios were displayed for public comment at a Monday open house in Colfax at the Whitman County Library. Based on stakeholder input, WSDOT may develop additional scenarios.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study



Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

Rep. Joe Schmick, R-Colfax, recalled an experience as a farmer when he served on the Washington Barley Commission in the 1990s.

"We took a tour up in northern Montana where freight prices doubled after the rail service pulled out, because then there was only one show in town, and that was truck," he explained. "For the growers, that is always nagging at the back of my mind. Once you have a captive market, freight prices will go up. Having both rail and barge keeps everyone in check."

Several attendees at the open house were disappointed at the lack of detail on the cost of implementing the changes, especially the cost of upgrading existing local roads to handle trucks.

Whitman County Commissioner Art Swannack and others pointed out that some roads proposed to handle increasing truck traffic if the dams are breached are gravel or lack substructure for heavy loads.

Scenarios include both trucking and rail shipment as alternatives to barges.

Jim Mahugh, an engineer with WSDOT, said secondary impacts are not included in the transportation study.

"Take the barges out, and all costs go up," he said.

According to Army Corps of Engineers data, it would require 1.4 unit trains of one hundred cars each, or 538 trucks, to replace one four-barge tow to ship 490,000 bushels of grain.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

Dan Hart, general manager of **Almota Elevator Co.**, a grain handling and storage organization in Colfax, described the scenarios as simplistic.

"There are truck and driver shortages now," he said. "Where are all these trucks and drivers supposed to come from?"

Shipping costs for alternatives to barges are based on typical diesel truck load capacity rather than the reduced payloads under current electric vehicle truck technology.

Mahugh said the process is in Phase 2 of developing the scenarios and has not yet addressed costs.

"We are not at that point in the study now," he explained.

Cost impacts include investment in new and existing infrastructure for roads and short-line rail operations.

When asked about energy, flood control and recreation impacts, Mahugh described himself as "just a road and rail guy."

He said the state **Recreation and Conservation Office** is studying the recreation impacts of dam breaching, including the impact of canceling the inland cruises currently plying the Snake River to the Port of Lewiston. He was uncertain which office was studying irrigation and power impacts.

The project website to submit comments and receive updates on the study can be found at: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-studies/lower-snake-river-dams-transportation-study>.

Corrections and Clarifications

This story has been updated since initial publication to correct the number of trucks needed to replace one four-barge tow to ship 490,000 bushels of grain.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

10. <https://www.koze.com/2025/06/25/wsdot-engineer-gets-an-earful-about-dam-removal-transportation-study/>

KOZE
SPORTS
950 AM • 95.5 FM
CLICK TO LISTEN LIVE!

KRLC
89.1 FM • 1350 AM

THE RIVER
105.1

Z-ROCK
CLICK TO LISTEN LIVE

CANYON COUNTRY
106.9

[LC VALLEY NEWS](#) [HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [PODCASTS](#) [REQUESTS](#)

[AM 950 PROGRAMMING](#) [JOBS](#) [Z-ROCK CONCERT CONNECTION](#)

[LHS SPORTS](#) [WHO IN THE ROCK](#) [COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT](#)

[PICK OF THE LITTER](#)

WSDOT Engineer Gets An Earful About Dam-Removal Transportation Study

June 23, 2025 Idaho, LC Valley, Lewiston, News, Washington



It was not intended to be a chance to give your opinion on dam removal, but many local residents used it that way. A Washington Department of Transportation engineer fielded questions for three hours tonight about what happens to transportation if the dams are removed. It was largely about how goods like grain would be shipped to the ocean without the barge traffic we have now that brings costs way down compared to train or truck.

Local resident Rick Hanks stopped by to see, among other things, how much the study itself cost. The answer is roughly \$4million. He says he's done the research and the best way to save the fish that are the dams' sticking point, is to do what we do now. That's barge them upriver past the dams.

"Use barges. Save the fish, save the dams, save our electricity, save global warming. The benefits are so huge. And then to waste \$4million on this study? For what?"

Lori Sanders came from Benton County to tonight's meeting to see where things stand with the study. She's a member of the Benton County PUD board, but she was just giving her personal opinion when she spoke with us. She says she's disappointed in the fact that the study is lacking information. She says it doesn't include supposed earth-destroying facts.

"The state claims we are in a climate crisis. We're all going to die if we don't do something. So it strikes me as odd, as they do not have in the model, the carbon emissions from the diesel trains. I just find that kind of stunning."

Even though President Trump shut down the idea of breaching the dams for now, this study was created at the state level and will continue.

Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study

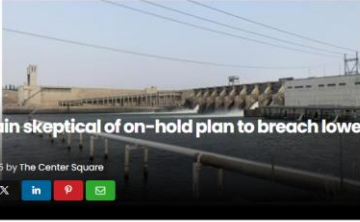
11. <https://www.everettpost.com/state-news/locals-remain-skeptical-of-on-hold-plan-to-breach-lower-snake-river-dams>

Advertisement With Us Submit News / Press Releases

Everett Post

JOIN **ec** CONNECT **ec** GROW **ec**
EVERETT CHAMBER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EVERETT
2025

The Center Square News



Locals remain skeptical of on-hold plan to breach lower Snake River dams

Wed, June 26, 2025 by The Center Square

SHARE NOW     

Home > State News > Locals remain skeptical of on-hold plan to breach lower Snake River dams

(The Center Square) – For three decades, politics in the 5th Congressional District have been shaped by the many “what if” questions about removing four dams on the Lower Snake River. The Washington State Department of Transportation is the latest agency to jump into the Lower Snake River dam breaching debate at a time when federal agencies are getting out of the water.

The administration of President Donald Trump recently took action to halt efforts that could have led to the breaching of the lower Snake River dams in southeastern Washington.

A June 12 **Executive Order** signed by President Trump directed all affected federal agencies to withdraw from a Memorandum of Understanding filed on Dec. 14, 2023, in the Columbia River System litigation, National Wildlife Federation v. National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Trump administration justified this by prioritizing energy reliability and cost, stating that the previous policy focused too much on climate change and fish populations at the expense of national energy needs.

The **Lower Snake River Dams Transportation Study**, initiated by the Washington State Legislature, aims to analyze how transportation systems – including highways, roads, freight and rail infrastructure – would change if the four lower Snake River dams were removed.

The Legislature included the WSDOT study in the 2025-27 transportation budget.

Six scenarios were displayed for public comment at a Monday open house in Colfax at the Whitman County Library. Based on stakeholder input, WSDOT may develop additional scenarios.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns and operates the four lower Snake River dams: Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite. These dams provide recreation opportunities, green baseload energy, irrigation, flood control and transportation.

Colfax is located in the vicinity of the Lower Snake River Dams and is directly impacted by the potential consequences of breaching, especially with regard to agriculture and transportation.

For agriculture, the primary concern to be addressed by the WSDOT study is the loss of barges as a competitive option for moving grain into the export market.

Rep. Joe Schmick, R-Colfax, recalled an experience as a farmer when he served on the Washington Barley Commission in the 1990s.

“We took a tour up in northern Montana where freight prices doubled after the rail service pulled out, because then there was only one show in town, and that was truck,” he explained. “For the growers, that is always nagging at the back of my mind. Once you have a captive market, freight prices will go up. Having both rail and barge keeps everyone in check.”

Several attendees at the open house were disappointed at the lack of detail on the cost of implementing the changes, especially the cost of upgrading existing local roads to handle trucks.

Whitman County Commissioner Art Swannack and others pointed out that some roads proposed to handle increasing truck traffic if the dams are breached are gravel or lack substructure for heavy loads.

Scenarios include both trucking and rail shipment as alternatives to barges.

Jim Mahugh, an engineer with WSDOT, said secondary impacts are not included in the transportation study.

“Take the barges out, and all costs go up,” he said.

According to Army Corps of Engineers data, it would require 1.4 unit trains of one hundred cars each, or 53 trucks, to replace one four-barge tow to ship 490,000 bushels of grain.

Dan Hart, general manager of **Almota Elevator Co.**, a grain handling and storage organization in Colfax, described the scenarios as simplistic.

“There are truck and driver shortages now,” he said. “Where are all these trucks and drivers supposed to come from?”

Shipping costs for alternatives to barges are based on typical diesel truck load capacity rather than the reduced payloads under current electric vehicle truck technology.

Mahugh said the process is in Phase 2 of developing the scenarios and has not yet addressed costs.

“We are not at that point in the study now,” he explained.

Cost impacts include investment in new and existing infrastructure for roads and short-line rail operations.

When asked about energy, flood control and recreation impacts, Mahugh described himself as “just a road and rail guy.”

He said the state **Recreation and Conservation Office** is studying the recreation impacts of dam breaching, including the impact of canceling the inland cruises currently plying the Snake River to the Port of Lewiston. He was uncertain which office was studying irrigation and power impacts.

The project website to submit comments and receive updates on the study can be found at:
<https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-studies/lower-snake-river-dams-transportation-study>.

Original Author: Sue Lani Madsen | The Center Square contributor