

RIVER COMMUNITIES UPDATE December 2013

THANK YOU

'Tis the season for giving thanks, and we want to thank you! It's a privilege to work every day standing up for the Columbia and our river communities. And, we could not do it without you. You've shared your time, financial resources, energy, and passion. You've braved the cold of the Columbia in waders to test water quality, packed agency hearings to stop fossil fuel export, and held house parties to get your friends and colleagues involved in our work. Your activism provides us with the political power we need to take on powerful polluters. Your financial support allows us to do important work preserving our special places. Your passion, friendship, and shared love for a clean Columbia river motivates us all year round.

Wishing you a merry holiday season & happy 2014,

The Columbia Riverkeeper Team



Hanford Cleanup Plans Fall Short

Last week, the U.S. Department of Energy (Energy) released two major decisions detailing how they will clean up Hanford. One dealt with the 56 million gallons of nuclear

waste stored in underground tanks. The other addressed the 40 square mile 300 Area, where uranium was processed, which abuts the Hanford Reach. Both plans fail to adequately protect human health and the environment.

[Read More About Energy's Plans](#)



Photo by US Department of Energy

No Dirty Oil Here!

In late October we stunned the opposition, turning out an [overwhelming number of Northwesterners against dirty oil](#) at the first major public hearing on the proposed Port of Vancouver oil terminal. With your support, we've continued to keep up the pressure. We submitted 636 signatures to our petition telling Governor Inslee and Washington state leaders why the Columbia deserves better. Also, check out our [letter](#) on the project's impacts to Columbia River communities, from the threat of oil spills to compromising salmon recovery efforts.



Photo by Trip Jennings

Haven't asked Governor Inslee & EFSEC to say NO to dirty oil? DO SO NOW! You have until **5PM TODAY (Dec 18)** to submit comments. [Click here to submit your comments now!](#)

Support "No LNG" Vote

Riverkeeper is standing in solidarity with Clatsop County. In October, the County voted 5-0 to deny Oregon LNG's pipeline. Oregon LNG fought tooth and nail to prevent the County's vote because they cannot operate an LNG terminal without a pipeline. When Oregon LNG lost, it filed a lawsuit. In recent weeks, we intervened in this lawsuit to help defend the County's right to say no to LNG. Culminating a multi-year legal battle, the County's vote sets the stage for the State of Oregon to reject LNG.



[Continue Reading](#)

Record Number of Fall Chinook Reach Hanford

This fall, the Columbia River hosted the strongest fall Chinook salmon run since 1938, when counting began at Bonneville Dam. More than 950,000 adult fall Chinook traversed the Bonneville Dam and more than 450,000 crossed McNary Dam into the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River.

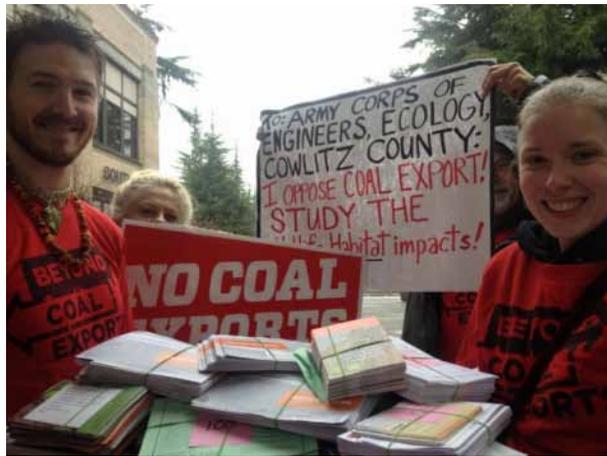
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Hanford Reach. Photo by PFLY.

200,000+ Comments on Coal Export Project

WOW! A Washington state record was set by you and tens of thousands of others concerned about coal export. Ambre Energy's proposed Millennium coal export terminal in Longview drew over 200,000 public comments during the 90-day scoping period. On the final day of the comment period, November 18, Northwest residents hand-delivered over 3,000 of those comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' office in Seattle.



Comments hand-delivered to the Seattle U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office. Photo by Power Past Coal.

[See photos & videos from the November 18 delivery to Army Corps](#)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MARY LOU SOSCIA
Portland, OR

Mary Lou Soscia spent her teenage years in Virginia Beach where her family home was located on the beautiful Lynnhaven River. It is here where she fell in love with rivers and water! In undergraduate and graduate school she studied rivers and environmental policy deciding to dedicate her career to protecting rivers, which she has done since 1978. Currently, Mary Lou works for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency leading efforts to reduce toxics in the Columbia River Basin. Mary Lou's career has also been dedicated to collaboration. She strongly believes that the challenges we face in protecting rivers and the incredibly important habitat that surrounds them requires people to come together to solve problems and lead decision makers.

[Read More About Mary Lou](#)



EVENT CALENDAR

NOW - DECEMBER 31

[Give! Guide](#)

Help us clean up the Columbia AND get yourself some river time! If you have yet to support Riverkeeper or want to make your year end gift, then there's a very sweet deal for you. Give \$100 or more and get a free guided kayak trip to Willamette Falls with eNRG Kayaking! Also, give just \$10 or more and you will get a free cup of coffee, scoop of ice cream, and other amazing prizes. [Donate to Riverkeeper today through Give! Guide!](#)

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