

# LIFESTYLES

WEEKEND, APRIL 18-19, 2015

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AP Photo/Elaine Thompson  
A U.S. flag flies near the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in Washington state, with Lake Roosevelt shown at left. May 26, 2000.

## Our glorious Columbia



AP photo by Elaine Thompson  
Circular irrigated fields line the Columbia River on the Oregon-Washington border near Umatilla. Congressional delegations from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana are demanding that the Obama administration begin negotiations with Canada to update a landmark treaty that governs the operation of dams — such as the McNary dam shown in this photo — on the Columbia, which is North America's fourth-largest river. July 11, 2006

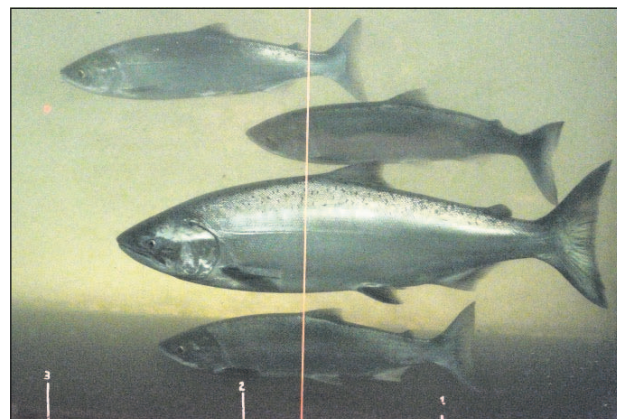
Many lay claim to the Columbia River. Its basin stretches across seven states, one Canadian province and through 13 Indian reservations. At its peak, 116,688,000 gallons of water are poured every minute from the mouth of the river near Astoria into the Pacific Ocean.

It's literally a lifeline for many farmers who withdraw about 1.5 trillion gallons each growing season for their crops. This helps grow billions of dollars worth of produce in the northwest, many of which are then barged down the river itself to foreign markets.

It's also life for 58 species of fish — 32 which are native and 26 introduced — from salmon and sturgeon to catfish and perch. Indigenous people have used the river and its tributaries as a source of food for centuries and both recreational anglers and commercial fishermen tap into its bounty.

There are 14 dams with the capacity to produce around 23,000 megawatts of energy. Five of these churn on the Oregon/Washington border and are owned by the Army Corps of Engineers, providing an ever-renewing source of electricity to millions of people.

This crossroad of ecology, commerce and recreation can be a tricky path to navigate. But the river will flow on, providing the backbone of life in the Pacific Northwest.



AP photo by Rick Bowmer  
A chinook salmon, second from the bottom, swims with sockeye salmon at the Bonneville Dam fish-counting window near North Bonneville, Wash., on the Columbia River. June 27, 2012



AP photo by Rick Bowmer  
The Columbia River flows near the John Day Dam, east of The Dalles. June 3, 2011



AP Photo/Don Ryan  
A bicyclist glides past a background scene of puffy clouds and blue sky reflected in silky smooth Columbia River waters in Portland. March 7, 2013.



AP Photo/Don Ryan  
The Columbia River flows past the Vista House on Crown Point, at right near, Corbett. March 7, 2012.



AP photo by Rick Bowmer  
Water flows through the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River near Cascade Locks. June 3, 2011

"Green Douglas firs where the waters cut through,  
Down her wild mountains and canyons she flew.  
Canadian Northwest to the ocean so blue,  
Roll on, Columbia, roll on."

— Woody Guthrie, "Roll on Columbia"