

## S 1394

### Columbia River Basin Restoration Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Environmental Protection

**Introduced:** May 20, 2015

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (May 20, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1394>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** Senate

## Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		May 20, 2015
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Oct 20, 2015

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 20, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 2848	Related bill	Sep 19, 2016: Held at the desk.
114 HR 2469	Identical bill	May 21, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

## **Columbia River Basin Restoration Act of 2015**

This bill amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act) to require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a Columbia River Basin Restoration Program to reduce toxic contamination and clean up contaminated sites. The program must be collaborative and stakeholder-based.

The EPA must: (1) assess trends in water quality and toxic contamination or toxics reduction; (2) collect, characterize and assess data on toxics and water quality to identify possible causes of environmental problems; (3) update the Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Plan (Action Plan) and the Estuary Partnership Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (Estuary Plan) and ensure that the plans form a coherent toxic contamination reduction strategy; and (4) provide technical assistance in implementing and updating the Action Plan.

The EPA must establish a Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Working Group to: (1) participate in developing updates to the Action Plan, (2) recommend and prioritize projects and actions for the Action Plan, and (3) review progress made.

The Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership has to perform those duties and fulfill those responsibilities of the Working Group relating to the Lower Columbia River Estuary.

The EPA must establish a Columbia River Basin toxics grant program to provide funding to develop or implement projects to implement the Action Plan and the Estuary Plan.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 20, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 20, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.