



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

**Established to inform and advance
a regional vision for power and
fish and wildlife in the Columbia Basin**

REGIONAL POWER PLAN

The Council develops a 20-year plan, revised every five years, to ensure the Northwest has an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply.

Key components of the plan include:

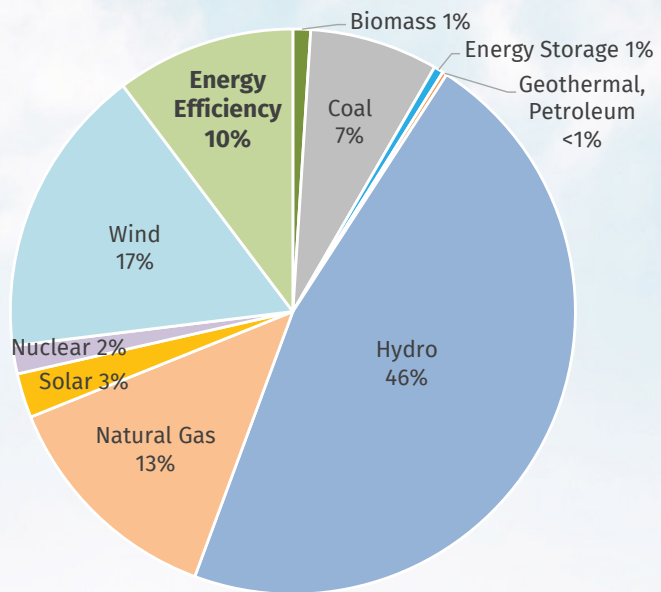
- Electricity demand forecast
- Electricity and fuel price forecasts
- Assessment of cost-effective energy efficiency
- Least-cost generating resources portfolio

Bonneville Power Administration must fund the Council's work and act consistently with the Council's plan when developing resources.

The Power Act directs the Council to prioritize cost-effective energy efficiency first, followed by cost-effective renewable resources.

Energy efficiency is one of the Northwest's largest resources, resulting in:

- 7,678 average megawatts saved, enough to power seven Seattle-sized cities
- Over \$5 million total annual savings on consumer electric bills
- 24 million tons of CO₂ avoided



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Council developed the previous plan as major shifts in the electricity industry were underway. Policies addressing climate change through clean energy and decarbonization goals contributed to changes in loads and resource options. The available energy system landscape shifted as the decreasing cost of wind and solar made renewables more competitive and utilities made plans to retire coal plants across the West.

Preparations are underway for the next power plan. While work is still in the scoping phase, potential challenges include increased load growth driven in part by data centers and electric vehicles; climate change and extreme weather events; transmission cost and availability; changes to clean energy and decarbonization policies; operational flexibility, and more.



COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM

The vision: A Columbia River ecosystem that sustains an abundant, productive, and diverse community of fish and wildlife.

The Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program represents a 40-year effort to protect from and mitigate for the effects of the hydropower system on salmon and other fish and wildlife in the basin. It is one of the largest mitigation efforts in the world, but significant challenges still remain.

The program incorporates a variety of strategies, including recommendations for dam operations that improve conditions for fish passage and survival, habitat mitigation, and hatcheries. Target species include salmon, steelhead, and resident fish such as sturgeon and bull trout.

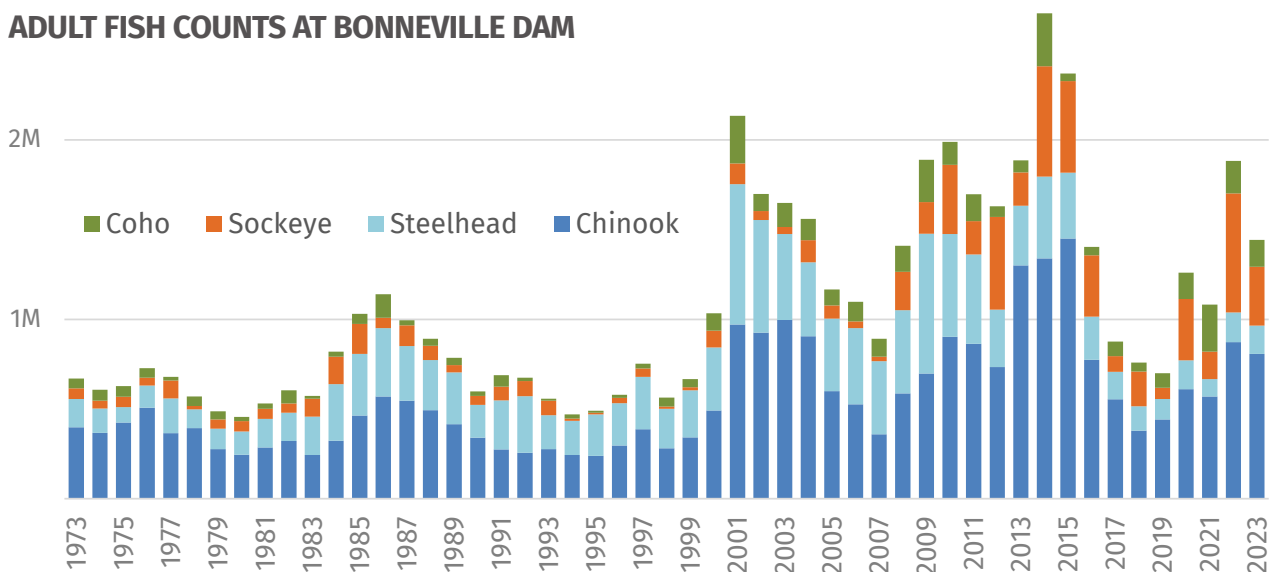
The Council updates the program every five years based on recommendations from state and federal agencies, tribes, and others. Relevant projects are reviewed by an independent scientific review panel.

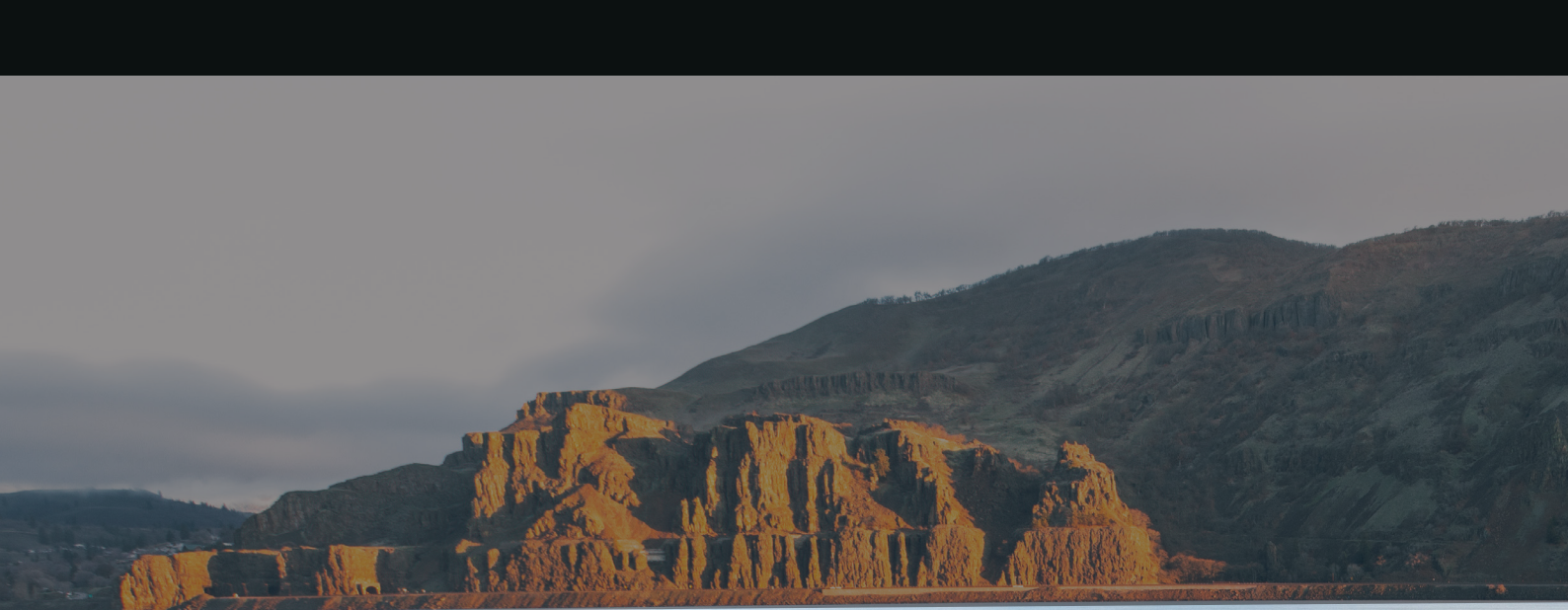
To date, the program has:

- Improved water management, flow, and passage to protect and increase survival at Columbia and Snake River dams
- Protected more than 300,000 acres of habitat through purchase or conservation easement*
- Improved over 760,000 acres of habitat through restoration actions**
- Protected 44,000 miles of Northwest rivers and streams

* 1992-2022 ** 2005-2021

ADULT FISH COUNTS AT BONNEVILLE DAM





In 1980, Congress passed the Northwest Power Act, authorizing the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to form the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, an interstate compact, giving the region a greater voice in how we plan our energy future and manage our natural resources in the Columbia River Basin.

The Act requires the Council to develop, with broad public participation, a regional power plan and a fish and wildlife program.

Central office:

851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100

Portland, Oregon

503-222-5161 / 800-452-5161

nwcouncil.org

Idaho Council members:

Jeffery Allen (Chair), Ed Schriever

Montana Council members:

Douglas Grob, Mike Milburn

Oregon Council members:

Ginny Burdick, Louis Pitt

Washington Council members:

KC Golden (Vice Chair),
Thomas (Les) Purce