



Striking a Balance Between Energy and the Environment in the Columbia River Basin

Short-Term Power Supply is Adequate; Avoiding an Energy Crisis Repeat is Region's Challenge for the Future



combination of increased power supplies and reduced demand for power means there is less than a 1 percent chance of power

shortages in the Pacific Northwest this year and in 2004, according to a Council analysis. But the probability of shortages begins to increase in 2005 and could rise significantly by the end of the decade if new power supplies do not keep up with increasing demand, according to the analysis.

Meanwhile, the Northwest appears to be headed for a dry year, and that could

reduce the region's hydropower generation this spring and summer. In January, the Northwest River Forecast Center, a division of the National Weather Service, predicted January-July Columbia River runoff would be 77.6 million acre-feet, or about 72 percent of normal. The same month, the Bonneville Power Administration predicted it would lose more than \$250 million in surplus power sales this spring if the runoff is as low as predicted. Electric utilities could face higher prices in the wholesale electricity market as low-cost hydropower is replaced by more expensive forms of generation.

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Amendments to Fish and Wildlife Program Propose to Change River and Dam Operations

The Council is proposing a coordinated plan for river and dam operations in the Columbia River Basin in order to improve the balance of water uses for the benefit of fish and wildlife from the headwaters of the basin to the ocean. The Council's proposals would slightly reduce flows in the spring and summer while lengthening the period of summer flow augmentation through the end of September, and provide more stable summer outflows from the reservoirs.

The Council believes these changes, proposed as amendments to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, would benefit resident fish that live in upper Columbia Basin storage reservoirs and in the rivers downstream of the storage dams while not adversely impacting salmon and steelhead in the lower Columbia and

Snake rivers. The Council also believes the changes would provide greater flexibility to generate hydropower, particularly during the winter.

In its 2000 Fish and Wildlife Program, the Council committed to developing the plan and said it would include standards for hydrosystem coordination, such as flow regimes, spill, reservoir elevations and water retention time, and also recommendations for passage modifications at the dams and operational requirements to protect mainstem spawning and rearing areas. The Council invited recommendations for the mainstem operations plan in 2001, conducted a public comment period on the recommendations, and then prepared draft

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Council Decisions

Comments on Standard Market Design

November 2002

The Council commented that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's proposed Standard Market Design Rule for wholesale power markets was "seriously flawed and not an appropriate

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Fish and Wildlife Project Deferrals, Spending Policy Changes Will Help Bonneville Through Financial Crisis, Council Says

By deferring some work to future years and changing certain spending policies, the Bonneville Power Administration could help relieve its financial crisis and comply with a fish and wildlife spending limit imposed by its administrator for 2003, the Council recommended in February. But the Council also cautioned Bonneville that further reductions in spending could jeopardize the agency's ability to meet its legal requirements and also slow progress toward fish and wildlife recovery.

A letter and accompanying documentation are posted on the Council's website, www.nwcouncil.org.

In December 2002, Bonneville Administrator Steve Wright capped direct expenses for the Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program at \$139 million in 2003 without any provision for costs that carry forward from previous years, which this year amount to about \$40 million. Thus, Bonneville had planned to spend up to about \$180 million this year. Wright asked the Council to recommend ways to reduce or defer spending to fit within the \$139 million cap, and to do so by February 21. The Council met the deadline.

"While it is difficult to defer this important work, we understand that it is necessary to help Bonneville through a difficult time," Council Chair Judi Danielson said. "But we also understand that the burden of these expenditures falls on ratepayers, who already have experienced two rate increases in response to Bonneville's financial crisis and may get another one later this year. We try to balance this financial burden by including projects in our fish and wildlife program that are scientifically sound and cost-efficient."

The fish and wildlife program is implemented through projects that are proposed to the Council, reviewed by the region's state, federal and tribal fish and

wildlife managers and a panel of independent scientists, and then recommended by the Council to Bonneville. Most of the projects are implemented over periods of years and have budgets for each year. Bonneville contracts with project sponsors to carry out the work. Immediate spending cuts or deferrals, which Bonneville

"While it is difficult to defer this important work, we understand that it is necessary to help Bonneville through a difficult time."

Council Chair Judi Danielson

requested, would undermine the regional effort, the Council commented in its letter to Wright:

"Based upon the budget figures developed by Bonneville, we were not convinced that an immediate rush to project contract modifications and terminations was necessary to meet your Fiscal Year 2003 spending objective," the Council wrote. The Council said its goal is to preserve the integrity of the program and the decisions and priorities established by the Council and the region's fish and wildlife agencies and Indian tribes.

The Council took a cash management approach to meeting the \$139 million spending target, fine-tuning specific spending forecasts and confirming spending targets for individual projects with their sponsors. This would yield savings by extending

some project budgets into future years and eliminating funding for projects that were not authorized by the Council. In addition, the Council recommended that work performed in 2002, but not paid for, should not be counted against the 2003 budget. The Council also suggested that Bonneville consider reducing the overhead costs of its Fish and Wildlife Division, which are paid from the program budget.

Two important policy recommendations also will affect whether Bonneville can meet its \$139 million target, the Council commented. First, Bonneville should use its capital borrowing authority to purchase land and land easements for fish and wildlife habitat that have been approved by the Council, and that also respond to requirements of the Biological Opinion. These amount to about \$20 million. Second, there needs to be resolution for about \$40 million in project costs that were carried forward from the last six-year rate period, which ended in 2001, to the current period. Bonneville could cut this amount in half by using its borrowing authority for the land purchases, the Council noted, and the remainder could be carried forward into future years. The Council also commented on Bonneville's recent announcement that it would change its accounting practices. The Council believes the changes could leave some projects stranded without funding.

Wright asked the Council to recommend ways to reduce fish and wildlife spending below \$139 million in future years, but the Council said that "may jeopardize [Bonneville's] ability to meet legal requirements under the 2000 Biological Opinion and the Northwest Power Act." Spending reductions in 2003 will impact fish and wildlife restoration efforts, the Council said, adding: "We are concerned that deeper and sustained cuts in the out-years may have serious impacts that could retard the progress we have been making." ■

Energy Conservation Made Big Gains in 2001

According to a survey conducted by the Northwest Power Planning Council, with assistance from the Bonneville Power Administration and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, the Pacific Northwest achieved a record level of conservation savings during 2001.

For that year, the region's electric utilities and Bonneville spent a total of \$150 million on new energy conservation activities and achieved energy savings of about 150 megawatts. An equivalent amount of electricity would power close to 87,000 Northwest homes. It was the largest annual development of conservation since 1993, when the region acquired 136 megawatts.

"Clearly, during the energy crisis of 2000 and 2001, when wholesale electricity prices rose to an extent we'd never seen before, utilities realized that energy conservation reduces their demand for power and can reduce the amount they have to buy on the market," Council member Larry Cassidy said. Not only did the region develop a record amount of conservation in 2001, it was acquired at a cost of about 1 cent per kilowatt-hour, which is less than one-third the cost of purchasing power from new power plants.

The 1980 Northwest Power Act requires the Council to give priority to conservation as a resource, and to work to implement its development. Ever since its first power plan in 1983, the Council has encouraged conservation through mechanisms like the model conservation standards that require building codes throughout the Northwest, and more recently, through the adoption of energy efficient technologies and practices. Initial efforts in the early 1980s saw more than

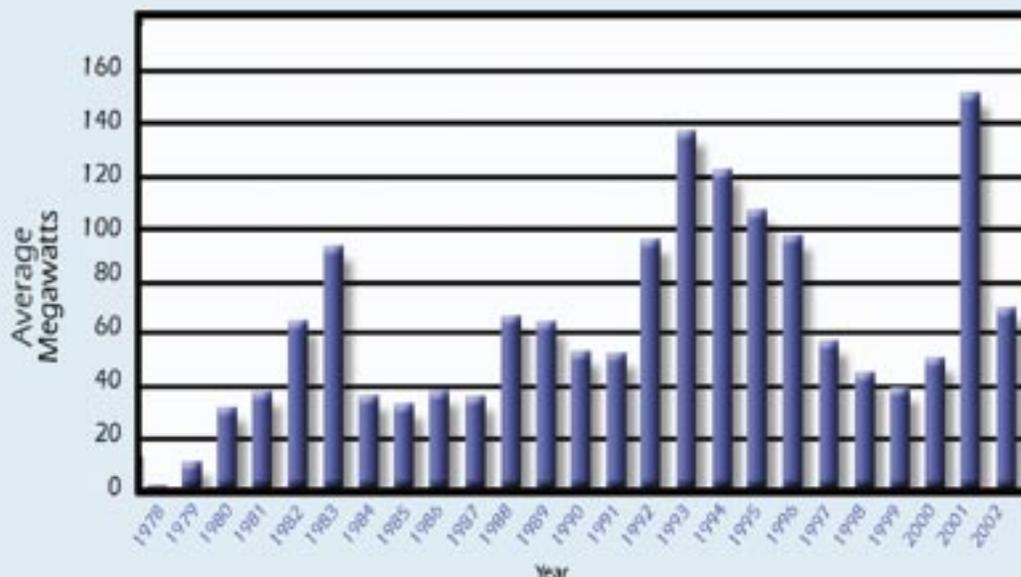
80 percent of conservation acquired in the residential sector. By the late 1990s, almost two-thirds of conservation came from commercial and industrial sectors.

According to the Council's current analyses, the potential for continued efficiency improvements remains high in the three main sectors of electricity consumption: residential, industrial, and commercial. In the residential sector, most of the conservation potential is in appliances such as water heaters, improved building codes, and in new home construction. In the industrial sector, there is a great deal of potential in plant-specific process changes, such as improved-efficiency motors, lights, and compressors. And in the commercial sector, the Council sees continued potential in building climate controls, lighting, and plug-in devices—all of which could be addressed through incentive programs by utilities. The commercial sector represents some of the greatest opportunities for improved efficiency in electricity use.

Energy conservation investments for 2002 are still being tallied, but for those utilities that have reported, the survey estimates acquisition of about 68 megawatts. If the 68 megawatts estimate for 2002 proves accurate, the region will have developed more than 1,560 megawatts of energy conservation since 1978, when regional investments began. The 1,560 megawatts total does not include energy-use efficiencies that have resulted from improvements in energy codes and federal standards for electric appliances and equipment.

The Council believes that a sustained commitment to conservation is an important goal in light of the region's recent energy crisis, and as a region heavily dependent on a precipitation-fed hydrosystem. By making long-term, consistent investments in conservation and other demand-side resources, we can reduce our overall demand for power, and lessen the impact of future periods of reduced supply and volatile prices. ■

Annual Incremental Savings from Pacific Northwest Utility Conservation Programs 1978-2002



Council Makes Recommendations on Bonneville's Future

In 2002, Northwest utilities, public interest groups and the Power Planning Council developed proposals to change the role of the Bonneville Power Administration in regional power supply after 2006, when the current five-year rate period expires.

The proposals responded to two key issues — Bonneville's purchases of wholesale power to meet the demand of its customers and the future of the aluminum industry in the Northwest. Currently, Bonneville is obligated by contracts to sell more power than can be generated by the Federal Columbia River Power System. During the energy crisis of 2001, Bonneville spent more than \$2 billion on power purchases — about 20 times the normal amount. Those extraordinary expenditures continue to adversely affect Bonneville's financial condition.

Bonneville is reviewing the proposals and will offer its own proposal this summer.

Here are some of the key points of the Council's proposal:

Power Sales Contracts

- Bonneville should sell the majority of its power through "slice-of-the-system" contracts in which customers who wish to participate would receive a share, or "slice," of the federal system output and would be responsible for making up any shortfalls. As well, if a utility's share yields more power than the utility needs, the utility would be free to sell the excess. Bonneville would still offer its traditional full-requirements contracts to those customers that want them. Slice contracts would 1) ensure clear responsibility for meeting electricity load growth; 2) lessen Bonneville's impacts on the power market; and 3) also reduce

Bonneville is considering proposals to change its role in power supply after 2006 and will offer its own proposal later this year.

Bonneville's financial risk by reducing its market exposure. However, adequate steps should be taken to assure the ability of slice customers to handle risks of the variable hydropower system and the volatile power market. As well, Bonneville should continue to offer its traditional, full-requirements contracts to customers that want them, with the understanding that these customers will pay the cost of new resources if Bonneville has to buy power on their behalf.

Direct-service Industries

- Bonneville should supply 600 megawatts to the aluminum industry. The companies would be responsible for acquiring any additional power. The load should be interruptible, and compensation should be provided to aluminum workers when the smelter load is interrupted. The Council does not favor 20-year power contracts for the DSIs. Instead, the decision to operate should be left to individual companies based on power prices and the world aluminum market.

Energy Conservation

- Any proposal to change Bonneville's future role must include a realistic approach to accomplishing the goal in the Northwest Power Act that Bonneville acquire all cost-effective conservation to meet future demand for power. Bonneville should rely on the Council's planning process to identify conservation potential, provide increased and stabilized funding for conservation, use proven conservation delivery mechanisms, and reinforce the region's ability to identify and analyze conservation techniques.

Renewable resources

- The Council supports some level of investment in above-market cost renewable resources in the future, provided the investments are supported by analysis that shows benefits to the region by doing so. The Council does not support meeting all of the region's future load growth with these resources.

Fish and Wildlife

- The Council believes there should be no impact on the Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, regardless of any change in Bonneville's role in the regional power supply. The program is funded by Bonneville. The Council also assumes that the dynamics of fish and wildlife decision making will change as the number of slice customers increases because more customers will perceive they have a direct stake in the outcome of those expenditures, but that the responsibility for decisions will remain with the federal agencies. ■

Short-Term Power Supply is Adequate; Avoiding an Energy Crisis Repeat is Region's Challenge for the Future (continued from front page)

Ironically, the Northwest was in a somewhat similar situation three years ago, in the winter of 2000/2001, when drought and California's dysfunctional electricity market prompted a West Coast crisis that pushed wholesale prices to 10 and 20 times normal. What's different today is that the electricity supply is much improved as the result of a rapid response by power plant developers to the high prices.

Since January 2000 approximately 450 megawatts of wind power, 2,600 megawatts of natural gas-fired power plants, and 200 megawatts of energy conservation have been added to the Northwest power supply. Collectively, that 3,250 megawatts is enough to supply more than 2.5 million homes. Construction has been suspended on three other plants totaling almost 1,200 megawatts, but these could be completed relatively quickly when needed.

Wholesale prices are lower today, primarily as a result of the increased supply, but also because the region's demand for power remains below pre-2000 levels, particularly among heavy industries such as aluminum plants. Despite reduced demand and low wholesale prices, consumers continue to pay for the high wholesale prices of 2001 through rate increases that were imposed by utilities and Bonneville in response to their exposure to the high market prices.

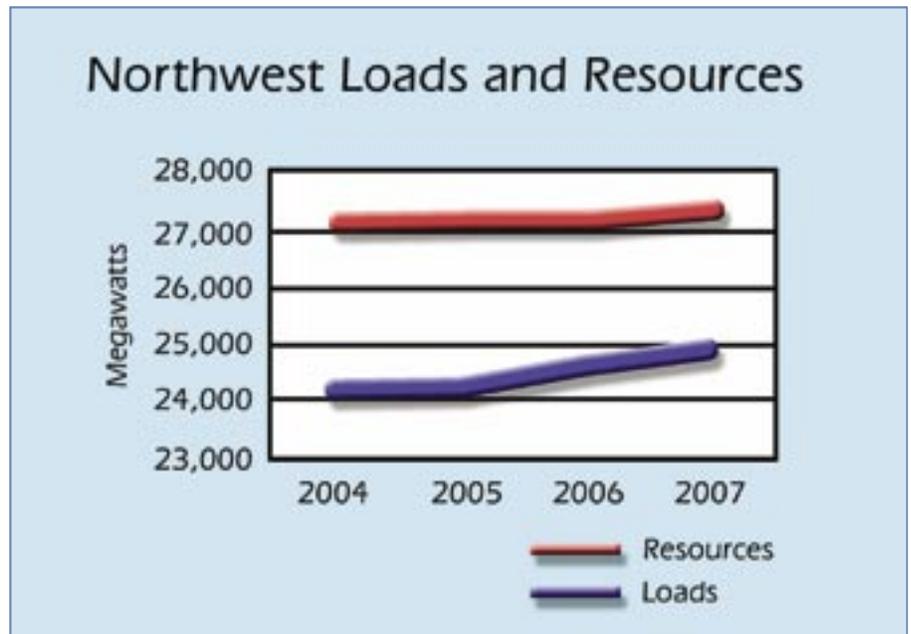
The challenge today is to prepare for the next time the region finds its major source of electricity — hydropower — diminished by the variability of weather. As well, the region's utilities need to ensure that the supply of power from other sources, both generation and conservation,

remains adequate even in the face of low market prices that discourage new investments. To that end, in January the Council convened a meeting of Northwest utilities and utility regulators to begin discussing how to ensure a reliable, affordable and adequate power supply in the future.

"The experiences of 2000 and 2001 are still fresh in our minds," said Dick Watson, director of the Council's Power Division, in opening the January 27 meeting in Portland. "Unusual runoff in 2000, followed by the drought of 2001, set the stage for problems. California contributed, but overall we were not ready to handle the problems. Prices stimulated a surge in investment, and as a result our reserve margin is much healthier today. But that investment now has dropped off. Most of us think we don't

have an adequacy problem for the next two years, but these conditions are precisely the ones that led to the 2000 and 2001 experience. So we have an opportunity to address these issues."

Watson said the Council is studying how to provide incentives for new power resource development in a wholesale power market dominated by price competition. He said a related issue is the resurgence of interest by utilities and state utility regulators in integrated resource planning. The Council will address these issues, and others related to ensuring a reliable, affordable power supply in the future, in the next version of its Northwest Power Plan. The Council updates the plan every five years and expects to complete the latest revision this summer. ■



Amendments to Fish and Wildlife Program Propose to Change River and Dam Operations (continued from front page)

amendments and sought public comment on them through February 7 of this year. More than 170 comments were received. Following a review of the comments and after making any changes in response to them, the Council planned to vote on a final version of the amendments in March.

Here is a synopsis of the key recommendations in the draft amendments:

Juvenile and Adult Fish Passage:

- Accept juvenile fish transportation as a transitional strategy and endorse the “spread-the-risk” strategy (barging fish when inriver migration conditions are poor, leaving them in the river to migrate when conditions are good).
- Continue to study fish transportation and evaluate the survival benefits of transportation from McNary Dam, and also study delayed mortality of transported fish.
- Support ongoing tests of surface bypass systems.
- Improve overall effectiveness of adult fish passage.

Spill:

- Accept spill as an effective inriver passage route.
- Accept specific survival rates in the 2000 NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion for inriver passage of juvenile salmon and steelhead at each dam. Adopt these as interim rates for non-listed species.
- Manage spill according to the most biologically effective level at each dam.
- Evaluate costs and effectiveness of spillway passage at each dam.

- Consult with agencies, tribes and the Independent Scientific Advisory Board, which advises both NOAA Fisheries and the Council, to determine optimal passage strategies, including the most biologically effective level of spill at the lowest cost, for each dam.

The Council believes these changes would benefit resident fish while not adversely impacting salmon and steelhead.

Water Management:

- Balance the needs of anadromous species with those of resident fish species, and the needs of migrating fish with those of spawning and rearing fish.
- Reject the spring and summer flow targets in the NOAA Fisheries 2000 Biological Opinion due to lack of evidence that they are related to survival within the range of the agency’s control, given reservoir and other hydrosystem constraints.
- Protect habitat conditions for salmon spawning and rearing in the Hanford Reach area of the Columbia River, on an equal basis as managing water to support the migration of Endangered Species Act-listed species.

River Operations:

- As a policy, balance upriver and downriver hydrosystem operations to benefit species basinwide.
- Spring river operations:
 - Refill upriver storage reservoirs by the end of June; eliminate April 10 refill requirement in the NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion. This would reduce flows no more than 2.34 percent at McNary Dam and no more than 0.35 percent at Lower Granite Dam.
- Summer river operations:
 - Limit drawdowns at Hungry Horse and Libby reservoirs to 10 feet (except in drought years) and release the water over three months – July through September — compared to 20-foot drafts and two-month water releases stipulated in the NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion. This would result in a 10 percent flow reduction at McNary Dam in July and August and a 20 percent increase in September, compared to flows under the Biological Opinion.
 - Release water from Dworshak Reservoir in September for temperature control and flow augmentation in the lower Snake River.
 - Fill Lake Roosevelt to elevation 1,290 feet (full pool) by the end of June, and then draft evenly to elevation 1,283 feet by the end of August. Hold at 1,283 feet from September through December to maximize water retention times in the reservoir and protect kokanee access and spawning in the tributaries and shoreline. ■



Success Stories – The Hood River

The Hood River Fish Habitat Project

The Hood River Fish Habitat Project is part of a cooperative effort to improve habitat conditions for fish in the Hood River subbasin. It is implemented jointly by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Hood River subbasin is located on the northern border in the central part of the state. The area supports a wide range of land uses such as orchard farms, pastures, forest, as well as growing residential development. At the same time, many streams within the subbasin are designated as essential habitat for steelhead trout, listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Besides steelhead, coho salmon and resident trout are also targeted stocks of fish that would benefit from the project.

Some of the conditions identified as limiting fish production in the subbasin include the lack of instream habitat to support historic population levels of anadromous fish; degraded water quality, including a higher than preferred range in temperature in summer and early fall; low summer/fall instream flows; and increased sediment and turbidity. And at the top of the list is fish passage. “There are three major irrigation districts in the Hood River subbasin, and adult and juvenile passage is the number one problem for these fish,” according to Mick Jennings the program’s manager. Passage barriers affect fish both upstream and downstream. The upstream migration of salmon, steelhead, and resident trout is blocked or impeded at numerous locations by diversion dams and other structures, preventing fish from reaching their historic spawning and rearing areas. Downstream migrating salmon become diverted into irrigation canals and ditches because of the lack of screens, or inadequately screened water diversions.

Since 1999, the program has completed a number of projects to address these limiting factors, including: the construction of a diversion and screen at the Phoenix Pharms recreational fish facility, that



“There are three major irrigation districts in the Hood River subbasin, and adult and juvenile passage is the number one problem for these fish.”

Mick Jennings, program manager

replaces and modifies several culverts to meet both upstream and downstream passage requirements; and an ongoing fencing project that will fence stream riparian from livestock. Thus far, several miles have been completed, including a wetland area. The fencing will enhance water quality, stabilize streambanks, and reduce sediment from bank erosion. The Hood River Watershed Group and Soil and Water Conservation

District will plant native woody species to speed the recovery of newly fenced riparian areas, and develop and implement a volunteer-based water quality monitoring plan, assisted by the Department of Environmental Quality. They will also promote best management practices to agricultural and residential landowners.

Perhaps most important was the construction and installation of a new fish screen and bypass system on the mainstem Hood River. The Farmers Irrigation District Fish Screen Replacement Project replaced two obsolete and non-compliant screens with a system that meets or exceeds state and federal fish protection standards. This summer, work will begin to replace insufficient culverts with structures that will enable fish to pass year-round on Evans Creek and Baldwin Creek.

Council Changes Name to Emphasize Conservation

In January, the Northwest Power Planning Council voted to change its name to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council to emphasize the conservation aspect of its energy and fish and wildlife responsibilities. The timetable for implementing the name change is still under consideration, and for the time being the Council will continue to operate under its existing name.

"The old name didn't depict what we do or what we are about," then Chairman Larry Cassidy said.

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Larry Cassidy, Council Member

The 1980 Power Act is the federal law that authorized the four Northwest states to create the Council. In the Act, the legal name of the agency is "Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Council." While "conservation" in the Power Act specifically refers to energy conservation, the concept of conserving natural resources is embodied in the Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program in terms of enhancing, or conserving, fish and wildlife of the Columbia River Basin that have been affected by hydropower dams. ■

Artificial Production Update

The Council Completes the First Round of Workshops

The Northwest Power Planning Council's review of artificial production facilities and programs in the Columbia River Basin is mid-way through its process, having completed the first round of workshops to engage the basin's hatchery operators, habitat managers, and harvest managers in the effort to gather information on their work. About 80 percent of the data has been acquired, and the process continues collecting information from agencies and managers.

The Artificial Production Review and Evaluation (APRE) is evaluating the purposes of anadromous and resident fish programs in the basin with the goal of improving their operations. The review is the next phase of the Council's 1999 Artificial Production Review, a report that outlined recommendations to reform hatchery practices.

An initial set of reports is scheduled to come out in May 2003 and will include information about the purposes and objectives of about 250 hatchery programs for both anadromous and resident fish. The reports will also have information on their operations, as well as a benefit/risk analysis for each program and comments by managers. The review has been working in collaboration with NOAA Fisheries in its development of draft Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans, and expects to complete 120 draft HGMPs that will be used by NOAA Fisheries and the

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assess the effects of artificial production programs on listed species.

Assessing their progress, Project Manager Bruce Suzumoto says "We're moving ahead pretty well, and we've had good cooperation from the agencies and tribes involved." Noting the important role the information will play in directing fish and wildlife funding to projects throughout the basin, Suzumoto adds, "We want to work with the subbasin planning process to make it a useful document for subbasin planners."

A final report, with findings and conclusions about each program and provincial and basinwide summaries, is expected to be completed by the end of June 2003, with its submittal to Congress likely to occur in July. ■



Council Decisions

(continued from front page)

policy for the Northwest.” According to the Council’s comments, the proposal raises concerns about 1) the transfer of oversight authority from Northwest states to Washington D.C.; 2) the potential loss of transmission rights by Northwest electricity consumers; 3) the security of existing transmission contract rights; and 4) incompatibility with the characteristics and requirements of the region’s coordinated hydropower system. In short, the Council commented, FERC’s proposal adds an additional layer of concern and uncertainty to a wholesale electricity market that is greatly in need of stability and predictability. The Council urged FERC to reject the Standard Market Design policy as it existed in November and to work with the Northwest and other regions of the country to develop approaches that are more compatible with the region’s unique characteristics.

Fish and Wildlife Program Budget

December 2002

The Council agreed to help the Bonneville Power Administration manage its fish and wildlife expenditures in 2003 to \$139 million at the request of Bonneville Administrator Steve Wright. Wright set the spending cap in response to the agency’s financial crisis, which resulted from high power purchase costs in 2001 and a corresponding decline in the agency’s cash reserves.

(See related story on page 2)

Future of the Bonneville Power Administration

December 2002

The Council approved recommendations to the Bonneville Power Administration on the agency’s future role in supplying power to the region, endorsing the concept of subscribing most of the output of the Federal Columbia River Power System to customers who would receive a guaranteed percentage of the system output, as opposed to a precise amount of power. This would reduce the amount of power Bonneville buys on the price-volatile wholesale market to meet its customers’ demand.

(See related story on page 4)

Subbasin Planning Contracts

January 2003

The Council authorized two contracts for subbasin planning in the Intermountain Province, which includes northeastern Washington and part of northern Idaho. There are five subbasins in the province. GEI Consultants will develop the workplan for subbasin planning in

the province while the Ferry Conservation District and its subcontractors will fill specific information gaps and assist GEI in completing the technical assessment and inventory. The Council also approved contracts to complete subbasin planning for the Lower Columbia Mainstem and Columbia Estuary Subbasin; the Walla Walla Subbasin and the Umatilla/Willow Subbasin.

Ice Harbor Dam Fish Passage

January 2003

The Council endorsed a proposal by the Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, and Bureau of Reclamation to accelerate the first year of testing, design, and engineering of a removable spillway weir system at Ice Harbor Dam to improve juvenile fish passage survival, with the provision that all information collected during the pre-construction biological evaluations be thoroughly reviewed and discussed in the Regional Forum process before a decision is made to build the removable spillway weir.



Council Elects Officers for 2003; Welcomes New Oregon Members

Judi Danielson, an Idaho member of the Council from Boise, was elected Council chair in January for 2003. She served as the Council's vice chair in 2002. Tom Karier of Spokane, who chaired the Council's Power Committee in 2002, was elected vice chair for 2003.

"The Council and the region face many difficult challenges in enhancing fisheries, protecting wildlife, and ensuring a viable power supply from federal hydroelectric facilities," said Danielson upon her election. "As chair, I intend to lead the Council in the spirit of fairness, cooperation, and openness as well as fiscal responsibility."

Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne appointed Danielson to the Council in 2001. She served three full terms in the Idaho Senate, most recently as Senate Majority Caucus Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee. Karier was appointed to the Council in 1998

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*Judi Danielson
Council Chair*

by Washington Governor Gary Locke. Prior to serving on the Council, Dr. Karier was an associate dean at Eastern Washington University and a professor of economics.

The Council also has two new members. Both were appointed in 2002 by then-Governor John Kitzhaber of Oregon. Gene Derfler of Salem resigned his position as president of the Oregon Senate to accept the appointment to the Council, which he joined in November. Melinda Eden of Milton-Freewater, who served on Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission for six years, joined the Council in January 2003.

Danielson appointed Idaho member Jim Kempton to head the Council's Power Committee and Montana member Ed Bartlett to chair the Council's Fish and Wildlife Committee. Each committee has four members, one from each state represented on the Council. ■



Judi Danielson, Council Chair



Tom Karier, Council Vice Chair

Calendar

Calendar of Council Meetings and Other Events

April	8-10	Northwest Power Planning Council Meeting — Portland, Oregon
April	21-23	Lake Roosevelt Forum annual conference, “Research & Action in the Upper Columbia and Lake Roosevelt,” Doubletree Hotel, Spokane.
May	6-7	Northwest Power Planning Council Meeting — Walla Walla, Washington
June	3-4	Hydropower and Fish Survival Tools: A Forum on Better Results - Wenatchee, WA, contact Amie Thorson, Chelan PUD, 509-663-8121.

Winter Subbasin Planning Update

The Northwest Power Planning Council’s subbasin planning process reached a milestone in November with the first subbasin plan submitted to the Council by the Clearwater River subbasin.

In subbasin planning, local groups are formed within a particular geographic area—with participation from a broad range of entities—to develop plans that help identify and prioritize the greatest needs for fish and wildlife recovery within a watershed.

The Clearwater plan was developed by the Clearwater Policy Advisory Committee, which includes representatives of Idaho County, Potlatch Corporation, Nez Perce National Forest, the Nez

Perce Tribe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Association of Conservation Districts, Clearwater National Forest, and NOAA Fisheries.

The Independent Science Review Panel is expected to complete their report sometime in early February. Eventually, after the Council’s own review and public comment process, the plan will be adopted into the Council’s Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

Continuing efforts to coordinate subbasin planning with the work of its regional partners, Council staff is currently reviewing a draft letter by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that is expected to clarify its relationship to subbasin planning, and how

the service views its participation in the process. And in a recent meeting with Council staff in January, federal and state agency representatives, including NOAA Fisheries’ Regional Administrator Bob Lohn, expressed their strong endorsement of subbasin planning, and their belief that the process will lead to plans that can have tremendous relevance and impact for Endangered Species Act purposes.

The subbasin planning schedule now requires that all plans be submitted by May 2004. Other schedule changes include the completion of the Independent Science Review Panel’s report prior to a plan’s submittal so groups will have an opportunity to respond to any comments by the ISRP before submitting their plan. ■

Subbasins with Approved Workplans

Idaho

Clearwater
Coeur d’Alene
Kootenai
Pend Oreille
Spokane

Montana

Flathead
Kootenai

Oregon

Columbia Estuary
Columbia Gorge

Deschutes
Hood
Imnaha
Lower Columbia Mainstem
Lower Snake Mainstem
Umatilla
Walla Walla

Washington

Asotin
Columbia Estuary
Columbia Gorge
Cowlitz
Elochman

Grays
Kalama
Lewis
Little White Salmon
Lower Columbia Mainstem
Lower Snake Mainstem
Pend Oreille
San Poil
Spokane
Tucannon
Upper Columbia Mainstem
Walla Walla
Washougal
Wind

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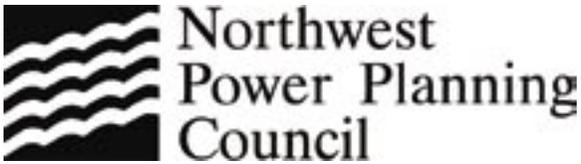
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