

Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2002 11:33 AM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: I support the Public Interest Proposal!!!

I support the Public Interest Proposal for wild salmon and clean energy (included below) and I hope you will adopt this wonderful regime. Furthermore, I would love to have a program like Chelan County's SNAP program...use the money from green tags to go to people who are contributing energy to the grid at their homes through wind, solar, and other eco-friendly renewable ways!
~Corina Logan
Arlington, WA

The Public Interest Proposal

Overview

The objective of the Public Interest Proposal is to develop all cost-effective conservation and sufficient renewable resources necessary to ensure an adequate, efficient, economic and reliable power system for the region without relying on polluting new fossil fuel plants. To do so, this proposal establishes stewardship obligation levels for conservation savings, renewable resource development, and low-income weatherization based on the total electric load of the region. Each utility is then given its share of the target to meet, with Bonneville ensuring quality control.

Specific Points

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Resources

1. Increases in energy demand must be met with cost-effective energy efficiency and new, renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal and biomass resources.
2. BPA customers (the utilities) must meet conservation goals set by the Northwest Power Planning Council. We estimate this target as approximately 175 average megawatts per year.
3. BPA will provide quality control to ensure that the program is run efficiently and ultimately be the backstop in case a utility does not meet its conservation goal.
4. BPA will directly fund state and county community action agencies to weatherize all remaining unweatherized low-income homes by 2026.

Wild Salmon and Steelhead

1. BPA must meet its legal obligations for salmon recovery.
2. Any new contracts between the utilities and Bonneville must remove the economic and operational incentives to violate salmon restoration requirements.
3. The Northwest energy portfolio should be diversified with an increase in renewable resources in order to decrease the pressure on the Columbia and Snake Rivers to produce electricity.
4. Salmon restoration aspects of the new allocation agreement must be enforceable.
5. Tribes must have an equal voice with the federal government in decisions regarding salmon recovery and management.

The full text of the public interest proposal is in two parts on the Northwest Power Planning Council website. NRDC.pdf addresses electricity issues and SOS.pdf addresses salmon issues more specifically. These can be found at the following links:

<http://www.nwcouncil.org/energy/bparole/comments/nrdc.pdf>
<http://www.nwcouncil.org/energy/bparole/comments/sos.pdf>

Background - *Why is this important?*

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) supplies nearly half of all electricity to the Northwest with power generated by dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers. This makes BPA the largest power marketer in the region.

The Northwest Power Planning Council (NPCC) is currently preparing its fifth power plan and will recommend a course of action for BPA as the agency looks at signing 20-year power contracts (2006-2026) with Northwest utilities. These long-term deals will have a huge impact on how we meet the region's growing demand for electricity and could seal the fate of wild salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin.

BPA's able and legally mandated to deliver good things

The Bonneville Power Administration has a unique and historic role as a leader in promoting the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. Bonneville invested nearly \$200 million annually in world class conservation programs in the 1980s and early 1990s because the agency knew it was the right thing to do for the economy, ratepayers and environment. BPA gutted those investments in the mid-90s which cost the region hundreds of millions of dollars in added power costs when prices spiked last year. Bonneville has begun to rebuild these programs in recent years but has a long ways to go. Now the agency has another opportunity to lead the Northwest towards a clean energy future.

BPA also has a legal mandate to protect and restore endangered salmon in the Columbia and Snake Rivers, but hydropower operations have pushed salmon to the brink of extinction. Independent biologists agree that the only way to bring back healthy salmon runs on the Snake River is to remove four dams on the lower stretch of river, restoring 140 miles of critical spawning and migratory habitat. A recent report by the RAND Corporation, a nonpartisan think tank, clearly shows that we can save endangered salmon by removing the four lower Snake River dams and replacing the electricity with energy conservation and wind power, and create up to 15,000 jobs for the region in the process.