



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

## Council Responds to Governors' Recommendations Regarding Fish, Wildlife and BPA



In June the governors of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington issued a set of recommendations for protecting Columbia River fish and wildlife and preserving the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System. The recommendations included some specific assignments for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. Here is a brief look at the assignments and the Council's initial responses:

*Recommendation: Reinitiate the regional dialogue on how the Bonneville Power Administration should market federal power after 2006*

The regional dialogue got underway last year (see summer 2002 Council Quarterly for additional background information at [www.nwcouncil.org](http://www.nwcouncil.org)) but then lost momentum as Bonneville focused its attention on issues surrounding the Safety Net Cost Recovery Adjustment Clause (SNCRAC) and potential rate increases. To reinitiate the dialogue, the Council is consulting with different interests and working with Bonneville to develop a plan for moving forward. Some of the key questions are:

- Is there a critical mass of customers who would be willing to exchange current contracts, most of which expire in 2011, for new 20-year contracts and under what conditions? (Long-term contracts would provide Bonneville with more stability by reducing its customers' ability to jump on and off the system in response to market prices.)
- If new contracts are not possible prior to 2011, what are the alternatives

for "locking in" key components of a long-term agreement prior to 2011?

- In particular, how can certainty for Bonneville's customers and independent developers be provided prior to 2011 with regard to a significantly more limited role for Bonneville in power resource acquisition (i.e., new sources of electricity)? This is critical because resource acquisition decisions will have to be made well before 2011.
- What are the "critical path" issues that must be resolved to achieve a long-term solution, and what alternatives should be addressed in the reinitiated regional dialogue on Bonneville's future? At a very minimum, the Council believes these issues include:
  - A clear definition of a limited role for Bonneville in resource acquisition that reduces uncertainty for developers and customers and limits Bonneville's financial risk exposure;
  - An ongoing and effective mechanism to monitor Bonneville's internal operating costs;
  - A durable and equitable resolution to the controversy over the level of benefits for residential and small farm customers of the region's investor-owned utilities;
  - An approach to Bonneville's service to direct-service industries (large industrial customers that purchase power directly from

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## Council Decisions

### Subbasin Planning Contracts

April, 2003

The Council authorized Executive Director Steve Crow to negotiate subbasin planning contracts in the following subbasins of the Columbia River: Willamette, Fifteenmile Creek, and the Burnt and Powder river subbasins. All of the plans are scheduled for completion by May 28, 2004.

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## Strong Columbia River Salmon Runs Predicted for Summer and Fall

The summer chinook run in the Columbia River continued the trend of impressive salmon and steelhead returns in 2003. The return was strong enough to permit Columbia River Indian tribes to sell chinook in the tribal fishing area between Bonneville and McNary dams. The three-day commercial season in July was the first since 1965.

Favorable conditions in the Pacific Ocean, where Columbia River salmon and steelhead spend most of their lives, primarily are responsible for the improved survival and large run sizes, according to the Oregon and Washington departments of fish and wildlife. Improved freshwater conditions in spawning and rearing habitat also likely played a role for naturally spawning fish.

In July, the Oregon and Washington fish and wildlife departments boosted their earlier run-size forecast by 38 percent, from 87,600 to 120,000 fish. If the estimate proves accurate when the run ends in August, it would be the second-largest summer chinook run in the Columbia since 1957. The 2003 count of summer chinook


jacks — immature fish whose run size is considered an indicator of next year's run — are nearly triple the number in 2002, and this predicts an even larger summer chinook run in 2004.

The fall chinook run also is expected to be strong this year. The July prediction of 595,200 fish is below the near-record return of 733,100 fish in 2002, but would still be the fourth-largest return since 1948, according to the departments. The Hanford Reach component, which numbered 276,900 fish in 2002, is expected to number 258,400 in 2003. Both returns are well above the recent five-year average of 194,700 fish.

According to the departments, the run of Bonneville pool hatchery chinook, known as tules, is expected to number 101,900 fish, compared to 160,800 in 2002 (that was the largest tule return since 1976 and the fifth-largest on record). The recent 10-year average for this run is 75,300 fish. The lower Columbia wild fall chinook run, a listed species, is expected to total about

23,400, which would be similar to the 2002 run (24,900).

The projected Columbia River coho return is 429,000. While that would be the smallest coho return since 1998, it also would be more than three times the average of 131,000 fish during the poor return-years of 1993-1998, according to the departments' report. The summer steelhead return is predicted to number 360,900 fish at Bonneville Dam, which would be smaller than the 2002 return of 478,000 but still the fourth-largest on record.

The impressive summer chinook run and the optimistic predictions for the fall runs follow on a so-so 2003 Columbia River spring chinook run of 196,000 fish. That is about half of the record 2001 run and about two-thirds of the 2002 run. However, the jack count in 2003 was high, signaling the possibility of a large spring chinook run in 2004. 



The Northwest Power Planning Council has changed its name to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. Our new name emphasizes the Council's mission to successfully balance the region's energy needs with fish and wildlife resources in the Columbia River Basin.

In the 1980 Northwest Power Act (Public Law 96-501), the Council's official name is the "*Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Council*." Conservation is a key aspect of the federal law that authorized Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to create the Council — conservation in terms of energy, but also in conserving our natural resources. And we're pleased to inform you that it is now part of our public name. For the latest news on the Council's work, go to: [www.nwcouncil.org](http://www.nwcouncil.org).

# Council Responds to Governors' Recommendations

(continued from front page)

- Bonneville) that is financially sustainable and equitable for all customer groups;
- A clear definition of Bonneville's participation in the development of conservation and renewable energy resources that takes advantage of its unique capabilities in these areas.

*Recommendation: Develop a new agreement with Bonneville to ensure stable fish and wildlife funding*

The Council is working with Bonneville to re-establish a fish and wildlife budget agreement that will ensure a stable and predictable level of funding for fish and wildlife projects through 2006. The Council expects to have a near-term agreement in place by September. Funding commitments for requirements identified in subbasin plans, and a broader set of management principles for funding, will need to be developed for the next rate period, which will be for the years 2007-2011.

*Recommendation: Subbasin plans should guide federal Endangered Species Act recovery actions*

The Council's subbasin planning process will help ensure the governors' recommendations are achieved, particularly the

recommendation to coordinate Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery planning and develop strategies to implement the Council's fish and wildlife program. The Council formed an executive-level Regional Coordination Group to monitor the integration of subbasin plans with ESA recovery planning, including defining the off-site mitigation component (i.e., projects that mitigate for damage inflicted by the hydro-system but are not located in close proximity to the dams) of the hydrosystem biological opinions. NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confirm that they will place a high reliance on subbasin plans for their recovery planning for listed salmon and steelhead, bull trout and the continued integration of recovery plan implementation for Kootenai River white sturgeon.


*Recommendation: Improve monitoring and evaluation of fish and wildlife expenditures*

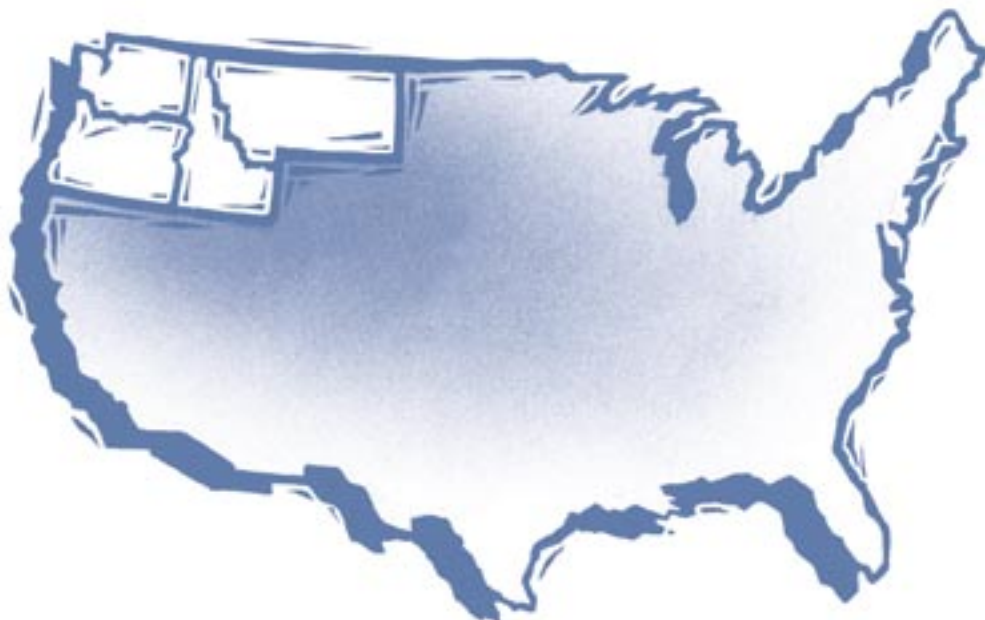
The Council's staff is helping to create an integrated monitoring approach among state, federal and tribal agencies to measure the effectiveness of fish and wildlife investments and to track the status of populations. The guiding principle is that the federal efforts should complement state and tribal monitoring and evaluation programs where they exist and not duplicate regional efforts.

*Recommendation: Implement the mainstem amendments*

In June, the Council amended its Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program with recommendations for mainstem dam operations. The Council is developing a work plan to focus implementation of the amendments.

*Recommendation: Bonneville, in consultation with the Council and independent experts, should establish priorities for Bonneville's operations that focus on areas most critical to its mission and bring greatest benefit to the Northwest*

Bonneville is initiating a process to establish priorities within its operations and focus resources accordingly. Bonneville plans to hire an outside consultant to assist in the process, and the Council is focused on how best to provide the external validation requested by the governors. 



# Applying Conservation and Renewable Resources Principles in Walla Walla

During a recent meeting in Walla Walla, Washington, Council members and staff had the opportunity to tour two businesses that represent successful efforts to diversify the area's resource-based economy while employing environmentally sustaining technologies. The following two stories highlight these enterprises.

## High Tech Irrigation in the Walla Walla Valley

The Walla Walla Valley in southeastern Washington State has become known, both nationally and internationally, as a region that produces noteworthy wines. In a span of some 20 years, the reputation of the valley as a wine-producing region has grown to rival the Napa Valley, California, in quality, if not in quantity. After California, Washington is the largest wine producer in the nation. But it's the style of their wines that has caught the attention of wine critics; they laud Walla Walla's Bordeaux varietal wines and blends, especially Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah.

Tucked in a corner of the state on the eastern side of the Cascade Mountains where rainfall is low, the valley's long warm days during the growing season, coupled with chilly nights, helps to create the right conditions for growing outstanding grapes. This environment and the careful management of water, a scarce resource in the arid valley, have helped to establish a growing community of vintners. Although the Walla Walla wine region includes land in both Washington and Oregon, all Walla Walla wineries are located in Washington. As of spring 2003, there were 40 wineries with the Walla Walla Valley appellation.


Contributing to their success has been a commitment to environmentally friendly agricultural practices that respect the unique qualities of the region and try to preserve the fertility and health of the soil. Illustrating this is the irrigation system used by many of the vineyards in the valley.

At Walla Walla's Pepper Bridge Winery, a drip irrigation system is designed to provide the exact amount of water needed by the grapes at any particular time of the day. A weather system records temperature

and humidity information, as well as wind and sun energy units around the clock, and the data is downloaded to a computer that provides a continuous graph of the actual moisture level versus the target moisture level to vineyard managers. Grapes as a crop have relatively modest water requirements, and the drip system of irrigation is a highly efficient method of getting the right amount of water where it's needed, reducing waste water and runoff.

The winery's water comes from two sources, a deep basalt well that is drilled through over 1,100 feet of hard rock, and from the Cottonwood Creek when it is flowing. Water is distributed from a surge pond to the grapes through drip lines that can also spread fertilization along with the

water. All grapes are grown on split canopy trellises where the vines are trained both up and down off the cordon, or grape-bearing wire. With the exception of five acres of Merlot, which is on the Scott-Henry trellis system, all grapes are on the Smart-Dyson trellis system. The soils of the vineyard are Walla Walla Silt Loam, which is a wind-blown glacial loess that is young and full of minerals. The silt loam contains one-third sand and is very free draining.

So far, the commitment to growing quality grapes while maintaining the health of the environment has proven successful. In a recent tasting this past spring by Japanese wine experts of three of the world's best known Cabernet blends, a Walla Walla Valley wine came in first. 



Right to Left: Council Senior Counsel Bill Hannaford; Pepper Bridge Owner and General Manager Norm McKibbon; Council Vice Chair Tom Karier

# Wind is the fastest growing renewable energy resource in the world.

## Harvesting Wind Energy

As you drive to or from Walla Walla, Washington on Highway 12, you can see them in the distance, aligned along hilly ridges spanning the horizon, graceful and kinetic. As you get closer, they take on an otherworldly, even whimsical, aspect. Quiet and sleek, with a faintly space-agey appearance, they're an unexpected presence amidst an otherwise quiet landscape of countryside and farmland.

"They" are 454 wind towers that cover 70 square miles along the Washington and Oregon border, the largest individually owned wind power electricity generating facility in the United States. Developed, owned, and operated by FPL Energy, the Stateline Energy Center has the capacity to generate 300 megawatts of electricity—enough to power about 70,000 homes.

The towers are 242 feet high (tower plus blade length) and they weigh about 75 tons each. The turbines are manufactured in Denmark by Vestas, and can produce electricity at wind speeds as low as 9 mph, they reach their peak of production at 33 mph, and shut down at constant wind speeds of 56 mph or gusts of 62 mph. Each of the turbines is strategically positioned to take full advantage of the abundant wind that blows in a prevailing pattern from the southwest. The facility has a completely computerized turbine control and data collection system.

Along with conservation, the Northwest Power Act makes the development of renewable energy sources, like wind, a priority for the Pacific Northwest. Renewable resources are energy sources that are continually being replaced. Sources like wind, along with the sun, biomass, water and geothermal are valuable because they are usually less polluting than fossil fuel systems, they offer diversity and flexibility, and they help ensure the long-term sustainability of the power system.

Wind is the fastest growing renewable energy resource in the world. Globally, installed capacity exceeds 24,000 megawatts. Although the U.S. is behind other



Oregon Council Member Gene Derfler at Stateline Energy Center.


nations in developing wind energy, interest in renewables continues to grow. A recent report by the Washington Public Interest Research Group estimated that 1,700 megawatts of electricity could come from wind power by 2020. The Council estimates that 2,000 to 3,000 megawatts of wind power could be developed in the next 20 years in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, although it's unclear how much of that potential is cost-effective.

A robust market for this "green" power has developed in recent years, driven by retail green power options, utility efforts to diversify and "green up" resource portfolios, green power acquisition mandates imposed by public utility commissions as a condition of utility acquisitions, and system benefits funds established in conjunction with industry restructuring. Equally important, for wind development, the federal production tax incentive has, for the most part, been maintained.

Wind farms, in addition to their environmental and system benefits, can be quickly built, in comparison to traditional power plants. The Stateline Energy Center

began construction in March 2001 and was completed just 10 months later. An average of 150 workers were involved over the course of the construction of the project. Now, the facility is operated by a team of just under 25 full-time employees.

FPL Energy leases the land from farm owners, who continue to use their property to raise crops and graze cattle. On a recent tour of the wind farm by Council members, a small group of cows ambled peacefully past the turbines during the FPL Energy representative's presentation. The turbines take up one-half of one percent of the land associated with the wind farm.

Prior to selecting sites for the placement of turbines, the company conducts a range of environmental studies that include evaluation of the turbines' impact on birds and mammals. The company also identifies important cultural features and resources. Wildlife monitoring continues after the turbines are built. 

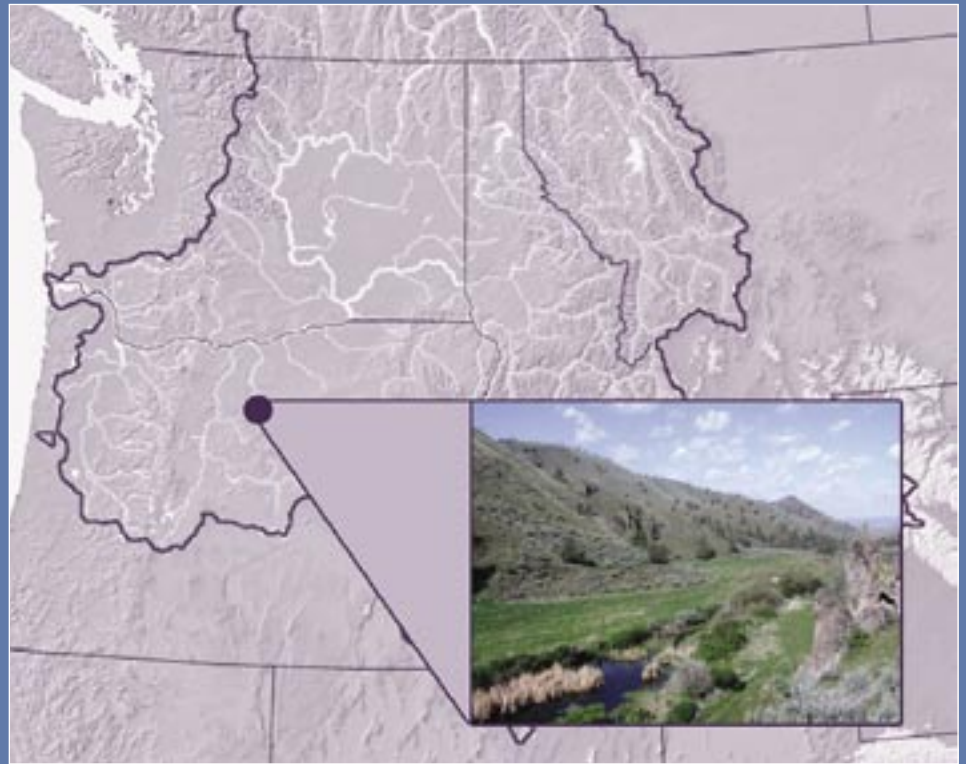
# Success Stories — Pine Creek Ranch

## Tribes are Restoring Fish and Wildlife Habitat on Former Oregon Cattle Ranch

**P**ine Creek Ranch in north Central Oregon is being transformed steadily from cattle ranch to wildlife habitat.

Through the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, the 35,000-acre ranch was acquired in 1999 and 2001 as partial mitigation for the impacts of hydropower dams on fish and wildlife. Today the ranch is managed by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, and the once-productive habitat is being restored.

Pine Creek flows into the John Day River near Clarno, Oregon. Pine Creek Ranch includes about 10 miles of steelhead spawning and resident trout habitat on Pine Creek. Pine Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for one of the few remaining native steelhead populations in the lower John Day River Basin. Wildlife observed on the ranch include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, Rocky Mountain elk, black bear, cougar, bobcat, mink, river otter and bighorn sheep. The ranch provides important wintering habitat for deer and elk.



Periods of uncontrolled cattle grazing, particularly along the stream banks, degraded habitat for fish and wildlife in and along Pine Creek by causing severe erosion. The erosion covered spawning gravels and decimated steelhead and trout populations, according to a 1987 report by the Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District. The loss of streamside vegetation and the trampled banks caused by cattle, combined

with flash floods caused by summer thunderstorms, resulted in deep downcutting at many places along Pine Creek — up to 10 feet in places.

Through its management of the ranch, the Warm Springs Tribes are improving habitat for fish and wildlife and also protecting the water, archeological and geological resources on the property. The tribes removed livestock from the damaged



A Pine Creek culvert that was contributing to erosion.



The same area after removing the culvert and rebuilding the creek channel.



Pine Creek in 1990, damaged by livestock overgrazing.

Pine Creek in 2003, after livestock were removed and vegetation grew back.

streamside areas and are working to control noxious weeds and juniper trees, which consume groundwater year-round.

The tribes’ work follows on work already accomplished by the Conservation District. In 1987, the Governor’s Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) funded the district to carry out a two-phase restoration project that included grazing plans, removal of juniper trees, fence construction, construction of rock structures to control erosion, willow planting along the stream banks and irrigation management.

Two examples of the restoration work are shown on the opposite page. The culvert on Pine Creek, photographed in February 2002, was a fish passage barrier and contributed to bank erosion. It was removed and replaced with three rock weirs and juniper rootwads to prevent further erosion. The culvert removal was a cooperative project between the Conservation District and the tribes, with design funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and construction funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bonneville Power Administration, which funds the Council’s fish and wildlife program.

The two photos above, taken from the same location on Pine Creek in 1990 and 2003, show what can happen when cattle are removed and streambanks — the riparian area — are allowed to revegetate naturally. The photo on the left was taken in 1990 by Oregon Trout and provided

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“This is natural growth and recovery after removal of livestock. We have seen extensive growth of riparian vegetation.”


*Mark Berry, habitat manager  
Confederated Tribes of the  
Warm Springs Reservation*

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to OWEB to demonstrate that grazing management practices needed to change. Year-round cattle grazing was negating the benefits of an earlier habitat restoration project undertaken by the Conservation District. A subsequent management change led to better grazing practices — cattle were kept away from the creek — and allowed riparian vegetation to recover. The photo on the right shows the same location in 2003.

“This is natural growth and recovery after removal of livestock. We have seen extensive growth of riparian vegetation,” said Mark Berry, the tribes’ habitat manager at Pine Creek Ranch.

Habitat restoration is a slow process, particularly in an arid area like north Central Oregon. While riparian areas can revegetate quickly once the damaging impacts are corrected, other elements of habitat recovery, such as improving the water table by removing junipers and noxious weeds that soak up groundwater, will take much longer, Berry said. The tribes expect fish and wildlife populations to rebound over time, but it is too soon — most of the work has been accomplished since 1999 — to see specific population increases, Berry said.

Over the long-term, the ranch has potential to serve as a model for watershed recovery and wildlife habitat management in the lower John Day Basin. 

# Federal Agencies Reject Summer Flow Changes

Federal agencies that implement the Endangered Species Act for salmon and steelhead rejected for this season a summer operations plan for Libby and Hungry Horse dams in Montana that would have meant higher reservoir levels behind the dams and slightly reduced flows downstream. The proposal also called for reduced summer water spills at some dams in the lower Columbia River Basin. The agencies likely will assess implementation of the operations again for next summer.

The Montana proposal was based on the Council's June amendments to its Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. The amendments, which pertain to dam operations in the Columbia and Snake river mainstems, call for experiments to test operations (and their impacts on both resident and anadromous fish), including stable outflows from Libby and Hungry Horse dams in the summer months.

The Montana proposal initially was rejected by the Technical Management Team (TMT), which cited potential impacts on Columbia River salmon for its decision. It is comprised of technical representatives of federal and state river operations and fish and wildlife agencies.

The TMT is the technical arm of the in-season decisionmaking process and oversees river and dam operations from about mid-April through the end of the summer, which is the period of time when juvenile salmon and steelhead migrate to the ocean and adult salmon return to spawn. The purpose of the TMT oversight is to ensure river and dam operations are consistent with biological opinions issued by NOAA Fisheries for salmon and steelhead and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Kootenai River white sturgeon and bull trout.

A policy-level group, the Implementation Team (IT), oversees the TMT. The Montana proposal was sent to IT after it was rejected by TMT. The IT also rejected Montana's proposal, again citing potential impacts to Columbia River salmon stocks. At the request of Montana Governor Judy Martz, executives of NOAA Fisheries, Bonneville and the Corps of Engineers, along with state representatives, then met in early August to discuss Montana's request. The executives also rejected the proposal, saying there was not enough time to implement the operations

The proposal called for reduced drafts out of Libby and Hungry Horse with more stable outflows below the facilities.

this year and citing the current lawsuit over the NOAA Fisheries 2000 Biological Opinion. However, the federal executives agreed to consider the operations for 2004 and also discussed the need to look at operations such as reduced water spills if they are the most efficient way to operate the system.

"We are disappointed that the region missed an opportunity in 2003 to save a significant amount of ratepayer money, hold anadromous fish harmless, and protect endangered and threatened resident fish," Montana Council Member John Hines said. "We are hopeful, and take agencies at their word, that these actions will be discussed and that the appropriate mechanisms will be in place for spill and flow tests to be implemented in 2004."

Montana asked the TMT, IT, and the federal executives to begin the experiment in the Council's amended program this summer. The proposal called for reduced drafts out of Libby and Hungry Horse with more stable outflows below the facilities. Montana maintained that a more stable Kootenai River level would benefit Kootenai River white sturgeon, an endangered species, and bull trout, a threatened species.


The NOAA Fisheries biological opinion would lower the level of Lake Koocanusa behind Libby Dam by 20 feet by the end of August; the Council's experiment, and Montana's proposal for 2003 operations, would lower the reservoir 10 feet. Montana also proposed to reduce July and August water spills at lower Columbia dams stating all the current evidence shows that this would not harm salmon and would make the system more efficient. Reduced flows from Montana could mean lost hydropower income for the Bonneville Power Administration, but reduced spills at the lower Columbia dams would provide more water for hydropower generation.

An analysis by the Council staff showed this combination would make virtually no difference to Bonneville's hydropower income.

The same analysis also showed that summer spill primarily benefits Hanford Reach fall chinook, which are not a listed species. That is because most of the endangered fall chinook, which spawn in the Snake River, are transported downriver in barges during the summer. Eliminating summer spill would reduce the number of adult Hanford Reach fish returning to spawn by about 3,800. That is a small number compared to the recent 10-year average of about 80,000 fish, and far below the big runs of the last several years. In 2002, for example, the run was estimated at 276,900 fish; a similar run size (258,400 fish) is expected this year. The Council staff also estimated that summer spill will cost Bonneville \$90 million to \$100 million this year; ending spill by August would save about \$40 million.

While the impact on federally protected Snake River fall chinook may be low, the federal agency executives also took other factors into consideration. In particular, the executives noted that significant changes to summer operations might run afoul of U.S. District Court Judge James Redden who recently ruled that the 2000 Biological Opinion was insufficient and remanded it back to NOAA Fisheries to be re-written. In addition, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission identified 10 other salmon stocks that might be affected by curtailing spill during the second half of August.

Finally, as part of the proposal, Montana asked for a review of the decisionmaking process and pointed out that the federal executives should convene more regularly. Montana argued that the IT, which is supposed to be a policy-level group, consists of more technical representatives, which is the traditional composition of TMT.

"The process is clearly flawed right now," Montana Council Member Ed Bartlett said. "At a minimum, we need to ensure that the states' and tribes' policy representatives are more involved in in-season management. I would also like to see the Council play a bigger role in the process, as called for in our mainstem amendments." 



# Council Decisions

(continued from front page)

## Funding of Monitoring and Evaluation Projects

April, 2003

The Council approved expedited funding for three new fish and wildlife monitoring and evaluation projects. The projects address requirements of the 2000 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion that must be underway prior to a regulatory check-in by NOAA Fisheries in September 2003. The projects were recommended as fundable by the Independent Scientific Review Panel.

## Recommendations to Congress on Fiscal Year 2004 Federal Agency Budgets

April, 2003

The Council has an interest in the annual operating budgets of several federal agencies that undertake fish and wildlife enhancement activities in the region. The Council comments annually on its priorities for the federal agency work. At its April 21 meeting, the Council approved a letter to Northwest members of Congress with the following comments on federal agency budgets:

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:** The Council's priorities for the Corps include the Columbia River Fish Mitigation Program, Chief Joseph Dam gas abatement, Willamette River temperature control, Lower Columbia River Ecosystem Restoration and the Walla Walla River watershed enhancement project. The administration requested \$125.1 million, of which \$95 million is for the fish mitigation program, which includes juvenile fish bypass systems at the dams; adult fish ladders; spillway deflectors to reduce gas supersatu-

ration; extended length screens; gas abatement research; PIT tag detectors; surface bypass studies; turbine survival studies; and other activities.

**Bureau of Reclamation:** The Council supports the Bush administration's request for \$19 million for the Columbia River Salmon Recovery Project, which addresses implementation of reasonable and prudent alternatives in the NOAA Fisheries' and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2000 Biological Opinions pertaining to the Federal Columbia River Power System.

**NOAA Fisheries:** The Council supports the administration's request for a total of \$39.7 million for Columbia River Basin activities for NOAA Fisheries for Fiscal Year 2004, as well as the \$90 million requested for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** The service is requesting a total of \$10.306 million for Columbia River Basin activities in Fiscal Year 2004. While the Council supported this request, it also urged Congress to include at least \$4 million for irrigation diversion screens in the service's construction account.

## Subbasin Planning Workplans

June, 2003

The Council approved subbasin planning contracts with the following entities: Palouse Subbasin, Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District; Owyhee Subbasin, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes; Columbia Gorge Subbasin, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Clearwater Subbasin, contract amendment with the Nez Perce Tribe; Washington Level II subbasin planning statewide project manager; Oregon subbasin planning coordination, Cogan Owens Cogan; Montana subbasin planning technical support (develop monitoring and evaluation protocol for

resident salmonid fish), Montana State University; regional technical support for subbasin planning, Mobrاند Biometrics, Inc., an amendment to an existing contract (continue to provide technical support in the development of out-of-subbasin effects parameter estimates and maintain the Internet version of the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment model), regional technical support for subbasin planning, contract for services (facilitation, coordination, oversight of assessment analytical tools necessary to complete the scientifically based assessment for subbasin planners).

## Mid-Columbia Habitat Conservation Plans

June, 2003

The Council voted to send a letter of endorsement to the Chelan and Douglas public utility districts in Washington for their salmon and steelhead agreements regarding the operation of Wells, Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams. The agreements, in the form of habitat conservation plans, commit the utilities to a program that aims to have no net impact from dam operations on mid-Columbia salmon and steelhead runs.

## Subbasin Planning Contracts

July, 2003

The Council approved a statement of work, schedule and budget for the Idaho Level II Subbasin Planning Contract. Level II is the statewide coordination of subbasin planning. The Idaho contract includes 1) a coordinator position, 2) travel costs for the Idaho Level II Subbasin Planning Steering Committee and 3) the Intermountain Province coordinator's funding.

# Summer Subbasin Planning Update

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's subbasin planning process continues to make progress in the development of local fish and wildlife recovery plans throughout the Columbia River Basin.

The Council recommends funding for fish and wildlife projects to the Bonneville Power Administration, and its review and selection process will rely on subbasin plans to help identify and prioritize the greatest needs for fish and wildlife in a particular geographic area.

At its meeting on July 22, the Regional Coordination Group for subbasin planning discussed a variety of issues related to greater coordination between federal agencies and statewide efforts on recovery planning.

The Council is currently administering or negotiating 77 contracts for subbasin planning and will be providing more of a support and tracking role for subbasin planning groups. Over the next year, the Council will be tracking the progress of groups; providing technical data and support; planning and implementing the process for scientific review of subbasin plans; and continuing to work on achieving greater coordination between federal and statewide agencies.

Since April, several more subbasin workplans have been approved by the Council, and the Klickitat, White Salmon, Lower Middle Mainstem Columbia River, and Crab Creek subbasins are expected to be approved in either late July or August. Subbasins that will not be developing a

workplan within the current timeframe are the Blackfoot, Bitterroot, Clark Fork, and Sandy subbasins.

May 28, 2004 is the deadline for submitting final subbasin plans, and despite some concern on the part of statewide coordinators about meeting that deadline, there remains a strong commitment to try and reach that goal. Many subbasins are now focused on fulfilling the assessment portion of the planning process—a technical analysis to determine the biological potential of each subbasin and the opportunities for restoration—and the assessment work in many subbasins has proven slower than anticipated. [CQ](#)

## Subbasins with Approved Workplans

### Idaho

Boise  
Bruneau  
Clearwater  
Coeur d'Alene  
Kootenai  
Lower Mid-Snake Mainstem  
Owyhee  
Palouse  
Pend Oreille  
Salmon  
Snake Headwaters  
Spokane  
Upper Closed Basin  
Upper Mid-Snake Mainstem  
Upper Snake  
Weiser

### Montana

Flathead  
Kootenai  
  
Oregon  
Burnt  
Columbia Estuary  
Columbia Gorge  
Deschutes  
Fifteenmile Creek  
Grande Ronde  
Hood  
Imnaha  
John Day  
Lower Columbia Mainstem  
Lower Snake Mainstem  
Malheur  
Owyhee  
Powder

Snake Hells Canyon  
Umatilla  
Upper Mid-Snake Mainstem  
Walla Walla  
Willamette

### Washington

Asotin  
Columbia Estuary  
Columbia Gorge  
Cowlitz  
Elochman  
Entiat  
Grande Ronde  
Grays  
Kalama  
Lake Chelan  
Lewis  
Little White Salmon

Lower Columbia Mainstem  
Lower Snake Mainstem  
Methow  
Okanogan  
Palouse  
Pend Oreille  
San Poil  
Snake Hells Canyon  
Spokane  
Tucannon  
Upper Columbia Mainstem  
Upper Mid-Columbia Mainstem  
Walla Walla  
Washougal  
Wenatchee  
Wind  
Yakima


## In Memoriam: Julie Larson

Julie Larson, coordinator of the Yakima Basin Environmental Education Program, died in an auto accident in April. Julie had served as coordinator since the summer of 2000.

The education program, which seeks to acquaint teachers and students with natural resources in the basin, is funded through the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's fish and wildlife program with funding from the Bonneville Power Administration. The program is housed at the Bureau of Reclamation office in Yakima. A feature story on the program ran in the Council's Fall 2002 Quarterly.

Through Julie's tireless dedication, the program brought scientific expertise and resources to teachers and classrooms throughout the Yakima Basin. The program emphasizes an understanding of the watershed and salmon. A cornerstone of the program is the field experience where students and teachers go to the river to see salmon spawn and juvenile salmon migrate; visit wetlands; and conduct scientific experiments on water quality. During her tenure as program coordinator, Julie established partnerships between teachers and a wide range of state and federal agencies and private businesses that brought valuable teaching tools, information and

equipment directly to students. By the spring of 2003, over 30 classrooms had aquariums where students could observe salmon eggs incubate and hatch. For her work in environmental education, Julie was honored as "Educator of the Year," by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2003.

Known affectionately as the "salmon lady" by students throughout the Yakima Valley, Julie will be greatly missed by her many friends and colleagues, and especially by the students who, because of her commitment, discovered the river in their own backyard. 

## Calendar

### Calendar of Council Meetings and Other Events:

- August 28 Fish Passage Center Oversight Board meeting. Location to be determined. Contact the Center at 503-230-4099.
- September 9-12 Pacific Fisheries Management Council - Seattle. Contact the PFMC at 503-326-6352.
- September 9-11 **Northwest Power and Conservation Council meeting** - Spokane. Contact the Council at 503-222-5161, [www.nwcouncil.org](http://www.nwcouncil.org).
- September 23-25 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians annual conference - Wildhorse Resort, Pendleton, Oregon. Information at [www.atntribes.org](http://www.atntribes.org).
- October 14-15 **Northwest Power and Conservation Council meeting** - Missoula, Montana. Contact the Council at 503-222-5161, [www.nwcouncil.org](http://www.nwcouncil.org).
- November 3-7 Pacific Fisheries Management Council - San Diego, California. Contact Kerry or Carolyn at 503-326-6352.
- November 14 Salmon Crossroads Conference - Doubletree Hotel, Lloyd Center. Portland, Oregon. Details to be announced.
- November 18-20 **Northwest Power and Conservation Council meeting** - Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Contact the Council at 503-222-5161, [www.nwcouncil.org](http://www.nwcouncil.org).

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