

## STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN

# SOCKEYE SURPRISE

## HUGE RETURN FROM THE OCEAN THRILLS MANAGERS, FISHERS

**A** record run of sockeye salmon in the Columbia and Snake rivers this year has fishers and fish biologists jubilant but also curious and cautious. Why so many fish this year as opposed to others? What will next year bring?

Annual returns of adult sockeye to the Columbia River Basin are notoriously variable, but the numbers in recent years seem to be increasing at the salmon equivalent of light speed: 24,376 fish counted in 2007 crossing Bonneville Dam, the first place fish can be counted as they return to spawn from the Pacific Ocean. Then 213,607 in 2008, practically a 10-fold leap in one year, then 177,823 in 2009, followed by nearly 386,500 through mid-August 2010, the most counted at Bonneville since the dam was completed in 1938 and annual counting began.

Returns in the Snake River are on a similar track. At Lower Granite Dam, the last dam sockeye cross on their way to spawn in the lakes of central Idaho, 52 were counted in 2007, followed by 909 in 2008, 1,219 in 2009,



with a combination of hatchery production and habitat improvements. Funding from Bonneville supported the hatchery, plus local restoration of streams and installation of fish-passage systems to help salmon and steelhead travel through downstream hydroelectric dams.

and more than 2,100 through mid-August 2010.

The resurgence of Snake River sockeye, an endangered species, is particularly heartening. A number of entities, including the state of Idaho, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Bonneville Power Administration, and others, have been working for some 20 years to rebuild the sockeye population

Only four years ago, when just three sockeye completed the 900-mile journey from the ocean to spawn in the mountain lakes of central Idaho, the Council's Independent Scientific Review Panel recommended ending the sockeye program. But the Council, Bonneville, and others stuck with the fish, backing the hatchery program. The Council concluded the investment was worthwhile despite the risk.

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## SOCKEYE SURPRISE HUGE RETURN FROM THE OCEAN THRILLS MANAGERS, FISHERS

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James Risch, then-governor of Idaho, backed the continued investment, and Bonneville continued and even expanded funding to raise and release more sockeye to rebuild the species.

No one claims the program is solely responsible for the sockeye gains in Idaho, but the program clearly is helping put more fish back into the rivers and lakes and, with help from improved downstream passage, spring spill over dams when juvenile fish are migrating to the ocean, and favorable ocean conditions, more fish are returning to spawn.

A total of 650 sockeye returned to Redfish Lake in central Idaho to spawn

“No one alive today has ever seen our people fishing at OK Falls, and I was there yesterday and saw Pentiction Band members there, Osoyoos Band members there, and members from the other reserves fishing there.”

*Clarence Louie  
Osoyoos Band Chief*

in 2008, 833 in 2009, and the estimate for 2010 was 1,400 or more. If that proves true, it will be the most since 1956.

Meanwhile, the huge sockeye return to the upper Columbia River, which is split between fish that return to the Wenatchee River and Lake Wenatchee and those that return to the Okanogan River and its headwater lakes in British Columbia, is skewed heavily in favor of Okanogan fish. The Okanogan River (spelled Okanagan in British Columbia) is a tributary of the Columbia that flows south from British Columbia into Washington and joins the Columbia just downstream of Chief Joseph Dam.

At the time this edition of Council Quarterly was published, in September, final statistics had not been compiled but it appeared 90 percent of the sockeye were Okanogan fish. The reason for the 10/90 split is not clear, but the Wenatchee run was one of only two Northwest sockeye runs to do poorly this year. The other was the run into Lake Washington. There, while the run of about 150,000 fish beat the forecast of 120,000, the spawning escapement goal for that run is about 350,000 fish.

Bill Tweit, Columbia River policy lead for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, said several developments probably have contributed to the record sockeye runs this year and the strong runs of recent years. He noted that the three mid-Columbia public utility districts, Douglas, Chelan, and Grant, have adopted performance measures for survival of sockeye through their dams and have been working aggressively to achieve those measures for a decade through a combination of spill to assist juvenile fish in the downriver passage and construction of passage facilities for juvenile and adult fish.

“Even though they have not uniformly achieved the measures, they

(Continued on next page)



A long journey from the ocean to the Okanogan River and Redfish Lake for sockeye salmon.





Council Member Bill Booth, Idaho, releasing an adult sockeye salmon into Redfish Lake in August.

have made significant progress,” Tweit said. “Undoubtedly those improvements played a role in these excellent returns.”

As well, there have been major improvements in the Okanogan watershed including removal of blockages in salmon-bearing streams and improving water management. The Colville Confederated Tribes have been working with the Okanogan Nation Alliance in British Columbia, where the sockeye spawn in headwaters lakes of the Okanogan River, on habitat and fish-production improvements. Favorable ocean conditions also contributed to the sockeye success of recent years. But the poor return to the Wenatchee River is puzzling.

“We do not have a solid explanation for why the Wenatchee did so poorly while the Okanogan is seeing phenomenal returns, but clearly most of the disparity must lie in the freshwa-

(Continued on next page)

## Notes From the Chair



This year has been an amazing one for salmon returns, and the record sockeye runs are especially encouraging. It’s our lead story and outlines the progress to improve their numbers. While it’s hard to point to any one factor in this, it’s clear that the combined efforts on many fronts, from improved passage and water management to better ocean conditions, have all contributed to their resurgence.

In the energy field, technology advancements in both lighting and heating and cooling systems will play key roles in helping the region meet its energy efficiency targets, and both are explored in this issue.

Bill Drummond, manager of Western Montana Electric Generating and Transmission Cooperative, gives the energy perspective of smaller, rural utilities. It’s a thoughtful and timely interview, reminding us of the region’s diversity, the challenges that come with different circumstances and needs, but also of the rare ability of Northwesterners to work together to solve common problems and achieve mutual goals.

A handwritten signature in white ink on a blue background, appearing to read "Bill Drummond".



ter conditions,” Tweit said.

Meanwhile, the Colville Confederated Tribes are enjoying the bounty of the Okanogan run. Colville Fish and Wildlife Manager Joe Peone said tribal fishers anticipated harvesting 16,000 to 20,000 sockeye, up from the 2009 best-ever harvest of about 16,000. The tribe also harvests comparatively small numbers of hatchery summer Chinook in the same fishery.

In British Columbia, the huge run is good news. The Okanogan Nation Alliance includes seven First Nations and the Colville Tribes in Washington, all of whom have fished for salmon in the river for thousands of years.

The estimated sockeye return of 120,000 to 140,000 fish to British Columbia is one of the largest since 1938, said Howie Wright, Okanogan Nation Alliance fisheries program manager. Wright told the Penticton Western News in July that originally the Alliance predicted a smaller run this year, but favorable ocean conditions probably contributed to the big return. The run was so big — more than twice the number required to meet spawning objectives and harvest for First Nations — that the Canadian federal fisheries agency opened a recreational fishing season in Osoyoos Lake in August.

Penticton Indian Band Chief Jonathan Kruger told the Penticton newspaper, “Okanogan Nation sockeye are an integral and vital part of our collective aboriginal title and rights, and I am certain this year’s fishery will have a profound impact for the Okanogan Nation. Okanogan Nation fishers will finally be able to have a substantial fishery that



*From left, Dale Clark, Andrew Wynecoop, Birdy Nelson, and Esteban Cruz admire a box full of sockeye on the Colville Confederated Tribes’ purse seine boat, which is being used to test selective harvest of upper Columbia salmon.*

contributes to the nation’s food, social, and ceremonial fish harvest.” Osoyoos Band Chief Clarence Louie said it would be the first time in decades that his people would be able to fish at Okanogan Falls, which once was their primary fishing grounds. The fishing season runs from July through mid-September.

“Now they are able to go to Okanogan Falls for the first time since the ‘30s. It’s great to see,” Louie told the newspaper. “No one alive today has ever seen our people fishing at OK Falls, and I was there yesterday and saw Penticton Band members there, Osoyoos Band members there, and members from the other reserves fishing there.”



## NORTHWEST Q&A: BILL DRUMMOND, MANAGER, WESTERN MONTANA ELECTRIC GENERATING AND TRANSMISSION COOPERATIVE

*Bill Drummond is the manager of Western Montana Electric Generating and Transmission Cooperative in Missoula, Montana. Western Montana G&T provides power planning and representation for its seven members: six rural cooperatives and one tribal utility. Western Montana G&T's members serve over 100,000 electric consumers. Drummond is responsible for power and transmission contract negotiation and administration, policy analysis, and lobbying. He also provides consulting services to publicly owned utilities.*

*Prior to joining Western Montana G&T, Drummond was the manager of the Public Power Council in Portland, Oregon. Drummond has degrees in forestry from the University of Montana and in economics from the University of Arizona.*



**Q** How would you describe Western Montana G&T's membership?

Western Montana Electric Generating and Transmission Cooperative (WMG&T) is composed of five rural electric cooperatives, a tribal contractor to the federal government, and one associate cooperative member. These utilities serve over 100,000 consumer/owners in western Montana and obtain the vast majority of their power from the Bonneville Power Administration. The majority of their load is residential, farm, ranch, and some small commercial. Only two members have any industrial load.

There is a fair amount of diversity within the WMG&T membership. One member has less than 2 members per mile of line while another has over 13.

One member has significant irrigation load, but little commercial and no industrial. Another member has seen a significant increase in load from serving wind farms, while another member has lost 75 percent of its industrial load over the last 15 years.

All WMG&T members have developed strong energy efficiency programs, which is something their consumer/owners have come to expect from them. My members have examined many different resources, but will be relying on Bonneville's short-term Tier 2 product over the next few years. Beyond the near-term, WMG&T members have a strong incentive to take equity positions in future resources to prevent over-reliance on market purchases.

**Q** What are some challenges that your members face and how are they dealing with them?

With the advent of tiered rates next year, Bonneville customers will

regularly have to decide where their power, beyond Bonneville Tier 1 resources, will come from. My members have investigated new resources for many years, so the process is not new to them, but there is a different urgency now about those decisions.

My members have relied exclusively on power purchases from Bonneville and other sources. This has historically been a successful strategy. However, as loads grow, relying on market purchases gets more risky over time. The danger is having a large percentage of your load served by market purchases and then hitting a period of extreme market volatility like 2000 – 2003. The challenge, therefore, is to invest and build equity in higher-cost resources in today's environment of low market prices.

Second, economic conditions have been very challenging over the past decade. Since I returned to Montana, at least six sawmills in the territories of my members have closed. Only two of my members now have industrial customers. This loss of industrial base and family wage jobs has been hard on the communities and the tax base. Service industry jobs have generally filled the employment void, but at a different wage level. My members have worked to keep their power rates low and have been active in their local economic development agencies to address these circumstances.

**Q** The Council's energy planning addresses the region as a whole, but are there issues unique to your members?

The Sixth Power Plan is an excellent map, but a map is not the territory. For any utility, including Bonneville, to blindly follow the plan is tantamount

*(Continued on next page.)*



to driving down the freeway staring only at the map without bothering to look out the windshield; it will not end well.

As relatively small, rural, and primarily residential utilities, there are issues unique to us. For example, achieving energy efficiency can be especially challenging. When you have to drive 75 miles to perform a single energy audit, you have no industrial and few commercial customers, or you have limited staff resources, the cost-effectiveness of energy efficiency can be challenging. That is why the increased emphasis on small and rural utility energy efficiency efforts in the Sixth Power Plan, at Bonneville, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, and the Regional Technical Forum is so important to us.

Building equity in resources is something not included in the plan, but which is important to my members. Likewise, there are potential local generating resources that my members may pursue that are not specifically in the plan. Finally, local transmission constraints limit the availability of generating resources.

The Sixth Power Plan does not contain the granularity to deal with these local issues. The plan is a good map for the region's electricity future, but the utilities inhabit the territory.

**Q** Do you see these issues changing over the next several years? Are there new issues emerging?

The price of Tier 2 power will continue to provide a very clear signal about the value of the Tier 1 resource base and investments in energy efficiency. Combined with the forthcoming changes in Bonneville's efficiency programs, I'm confident we'll resolve the energy efficiency acquisition issues for smaller, rural systems. I also think

"The true value of the Council's power plan is that it sets a regional benchmark against which all individual utility plans can be compared, and it quantifies the cost of not working together."

*Bill Drummond  
Manager, W M G & T*

we'll acquire local resources and build equity in resources over time.

Transmission is more problematic, in part because until a steady stream of revenue is available to pay for upgrades and new construction, there will be little incentive to make those investments. There has to be a strong business case for new transmission investment, one not likely supported by intermittent generation with a 30 percent capacity factor.

Longer term, I'm concerned about the dissemination of new technologies in rural areas. With little load growth, few housing starts, and low customer density, it can be very hard to justify large system investments in new technologies like smart grid – however that term ultimately gets defined.

**Q** You've been active in working to update the Council's Regional Technical Forum. What is the proper role for the RTF and how do you see it working with the region's utilities?

Given the resources they've had to work with, the RTF has done an excellent job providing unbiased technical analysis of savings from different

energy efficiency measures. There also is no question that the workload of the RTF will increase. However, while the RTF has recently made some changes in their operations, it's still not clear that the current structure and business practices are sustainable given the additional workload that will be placed on it.

Defining the future role of the RTF is one of the major challenges for the RTF Review Committee that has just been formed, because it was clear from the Northwest Energy Efficiency Taskforce report that there is no common regional vision for the RTF. We also lack agreement about who constitutes a stakeholder in the organization. Once these two issues are resolved, the appropriate governance structure can be developed. While I anticipate the RTF will remain under the auspices of the Council, we have to make certain that the entities that fund the RTF get what they need from the RTF, while maintaining the RTF's analytical independence. The trick will be to take those things that the RTF has done well and build on them and recommend changes to aspects that could use improvement.

**Q** As a four-state entity, the Council approaches energy planning from a regional rather than an individual perspective. What value does this regional perspective provide for small, rural utilities?

The true value of the Council's power plan is that it sets a regional benchmark against which all individual utility plans can be compared, and it quantifies the cost of not working together. As I mentioned earlier, it can't replace utility planning, and individual utility resource choices will inevitably differ from those contained in the Council's plan, but it stands as a

benchmark against which all others are examined.

The power industry has a tendency to adopt a “flavor of the month” approach to new resources. In my career, I’ve seen utilities veer from temporary addictions to nuclear, coal, market purchases, combustion turbines, and now wind; each being the next great resource. The Council’s plans have forced us to momentarily consider our addiction to whichever “resource of the month” is in favor in the light of all potential resources, including efficiency. While I’ve disagreed with some of the resource portfolios adopted over the years, I do believe that all Northwest residents have benefited from the Council’s planning process.

Additionally, the structure of the Council itself means that states serving large populations of rural and smaller-utility residents have an equal voice with more populated, urban states. This has proven especially useful in guaranteeing that the concerns of the rural areas of the region are considered and addressed.

**Q** Where would you like to see the region and your members over the next 10-15 years?


Regionally, I’d like to see resolution of the Gordian Knot that currently bedevils the construction of new transmission. There is no doubt that additional transmission investment is necessary; the challenge is figuring out how to pay for it. Until we can negotiate long-term contracts that will guarantee the repayment of transmission investments, few projects will get built and we will potentially build more generation than would otherwise be necessary.

“There is no doubt that additional transmission investment is necessary; the challenge is figuring out how to pay for it.”

*Bill Drummond  
Manager, W M G & T*

I would also like to see more joint investment by public power and the investor-owned utilities in transmission, generation, and energy efficiency. I think the largely failed experiment in retail deregulation caused our interests to diverge more than necessary.

For my members, we will continue to work closely with other Bonneville customers to ensure that the Federal Columbia River Power System continues to be a reliable and cost-effective base load resource. A positive resolution of the ongoing Bi Op litigation is a very important step. We need to get out of the courtroom and focus on the prudent management of the substantial investment that Bonneville customers are making to fulfill their stewardship obligations. I’m confident that my members will husband the low-cost Tier 1 resources they will be purchasing from Bonneville by continuing to invest in energy efficiency; the Tier 2 alternatives will certainly provide a direct price signal for that. Second, I would like to see a substantial portion of their Tier 2 requirements that are not served by increased efficiency come from resources they are purchasing and building equity in. I want to make certain that new technologies

are embraced and deployed in their territories just as they will be in urban areas. Finally, I would like to see my members maintain the close relationship they have enjoyed with their consumer/owners since they were formed. This has been, and will continue to be, among their greatest strengths. 

## Energy Efficiency Tip

Fall is a good time to weather-strip and caulk around windows and door frames that leak air. It’s an inexpensive fix to make your home more energy-efficient.



## BrainPower

# FUTURE ENERGY SAVINGS SHOULD COME FROM INNOVATIONS IN LIGHTING AND HEATING & COOLING SYSTEMS

One of the ways we expect to meet our future energy needs is through improved efficiency, and a linchpin to achieving this is innovative lighting. For over a century, Thomas Edison's incandescent light bulb has been the dominant lighting product. In recent years though, compact fluorescent bulbs have become popular and now, with a new generation of lighting technology at hand, the end may be in sight for this 19th century invention.

The Council's most recent power plan identified lighting as a major new source of efficiency savings "...recent advances in solid-state lighting — light-emitting diodes (LED) and organic light-emitting diodes (OLED) — appear to offer significant opportunities for savings in televisions and some lighting applications."

The demand for consumer electronics — from televisions to computers — is booming. It's one of the fastest growing segments of electricity use in the region. And the trend is toward both more televisions per household and televisions with larger screens, which increases energy consumption. According to the Council's analysis, if this continues, by 2015 over 90 percent of the televisions sold will have screen sizes bigger than 32 inches.

To meet this demand, transitioning from plasma and liquid crystal display (LCD) screens to LED and OLED screens is essential. LED televisions already on the market consume 40 percent less energy than LCD models, and they produce a higher quality picture to boot.

The Council determined that over 800 average megawatts of savings could come from the fast-growing consumer electronics sector. Savings come from more efficient televisions, set top boxes, desktop computers, and monitors primarily in homes, but also in businesses.

Globally, the push has been to move beyond the incandescent bulb. A number of countries, including



Australia, the European Union, and the United States, have passed laws restricting the sale of incandescent light bulbs. Alternatives like compact fluorescent and halogen lights are currently available, but it might not be too long before we see LED and OLED lights for home use, too.

And there are researchers who think the energy-efficient incandescent bulb could be a future contender. So who knows? The only sure thing is that the race is on to make, or re-make, the 21st century light bulb.


## Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning

According to the Council's calculations, about 2,600 average megawatts of efficiency savings are available in the residential building and appliances

sector. Most of the savings come from improvements in water-heating efficiency and heating, ventilating, and air conditioning.

The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, with the support of the Bonneville Power Administration and other utilities, and in cooperation with the Energy Trust of Oregon, launched a regionwide market transformation program to encourage the installation of ductless heat pumps. These systems are more efficient and can be more easily installed in homes with electric heating systems. Popular worldwide, they've only recently made their way to the U.S. market. This technology has the potential to reduce regional space heating use by about 200 average megawatts.

Heat pump water heaters are also becoming more available. Three major U.S. water heater manufacturers began producing products in 2009. The products are still relatively new so initial market penetration rates will be modest, but by 2030, heat pump water heaters could reduce regional electric water heating use by over 490 average megawatts.

The third largest increase in residential sector savings came from the lower costs of high-efficiency heat pumps for space heating, whose costs have come down. Almost 375 average megawatts of savings could come from converting new and existing single family and manufactured homes with electric forced-air furnaces to high performance heat pumps. The potential savings of this upgrade are 100 average megawatts. 



# AWARD HONORS COUNCIL'S SIXTH POWER PLAN

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) named the Northwest Power and Conservation Council one of its three national Champions of Energy Efficiency for 2010 in an award announced in August.

According to ACEEE, the awards recognize leadership and accomplishment in the energy-efficiency field. Winners are selected based on demonstrated excellence in program implementation, research and development, energy policy, or private-sector initiatives.

The winners were nominated by their peers and selected by a committee of the ACEEE board of directors from more than 40 nominations



**Ralph Cavanagh, Natural Resources Defense Council Energy Program Director presents the 2010 Champion of Energy Efficiency Award to Council Chair Bruce Measure at the September Council Meeting in Bend, Oregon.**

nationwide. Selection criteria were based on each nominee's impact, innovation, and leadership in the energy-efficiency field.

In addition to the Council, the 2010 winners included Jeff Genzer of Washington, D.C., general coun-

sel for the National Association of State Energy Officials, for his work on energy-efficiency policies and programs, and the Wal-Mart Corporation for its leadership on energy efficiency in its stores and for encouraging its customers to use energy-saving products.

More information on the Champions of Energy Efficiency awards is at the ACEEE's website, [www.aceee.org](http://www.aceee.org). The American Council

for an Energy-Efficient Economy is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency as a means of promoting economic prosperity, energy security, and environmental protection. [CQ](#)

## Quarterly Quote

"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;

John Keats  
Ode to Autumn

# COUNCIL DECISIONS

April 2010

## Council revises charter of the Independent Economic Advisory Board

The Independent Economic Analysis Board, formed by the Council in 1996, is a panel of eight economists who previously provided economic analysis of fish and wildlife activities to the Council. The revised charter expands the panel's activities to potentially include economic analysis of power issues or other areas of Council statutory authority.

May 2010

## Public comment on the Council budget

The Council released its proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2011 for public comment. The draft budget was posted on the Council's website, [www.nwcouncil.org](http://www.nwcouncil.org), with comment instructions. In 2008, the Council entered into an agreement with the Bonneville Power Administration to hold the Council budget at reduced levels for the fiscal years 2010-2012 Bonneville rate case period. The projected revised budget for Fiscal Year 2011 is \$9,891,000, and the proposed Fiscal Year 2012 budget is \$10,114,000. These levels are below the agreed-upon ceiling amounts and also lower than the amounts allowed by the Northwest Power Act. The Council adopted the budget in July.

## Fast-track fish and wildlife projects recommended for funding

The Council approved nine projects identified by a workgroup of state, federal and tribal entities to protect Endangered Species Act-listed salmon and steelhead. The projects are planned in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, and sponsors include

the state fish and wildlife departments and the Yakama and Nez Perce tribes. A list of the projects is in a Council staff memo at: <http://bit.ly/a5Y5RO>.

## Chief Joseph Hatchery approved for construction

The Council approved the final design and plan for the Chief Joseph Hatchery, which will be built by the Colville Confederated Tribes at a site just downstream of Chief Joseph Dam. A Council staff memo about the hatchery project is at: <http://bit.ly/a5Y5RO>.

June 2010

## Additional funding for habitat improvements to benefit listed species in Idaho

The Council approved a funding increase of \$295,000 for a project sponsored by the Nez Perce Tribe to restore fish habitat in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River in Central Idaho. The additional funding will be used to expand the project into Big Creek. The main focus of the project is to address identified habitat factors that limit the productivity of threatened Snake River spring/summer Chinook and steelhead. The Bonneville Power Administration, which funds the project, is committed under the 2008 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion to improve habitat function by 1 percent for the Big Creek Chinook population and 2 percent for the Lower Middle Fork Salmon River mainstem steelhead population.

July 2010

## Research projects focus on non-native fish diet and steelhead spawning success

The Council approved a research project to explore key uncertainties regarding the food habits of non-native fish in the lower Columbia River that prey on salmon and steelhead during the late summer and fall months. In addition, the project aims to evaluate the effectiveness of removing smallmouth bass for predation control. The project budget for 2010 and 2011 is \$350,000. The Council also approved a project to evaluate the reproductive success of naturally spawning hatchery- and natural-origin steelhead in the Methow River Basin in north-central Washington over two generations. The project budget for fiscal years 2010 through 2013 is \$937,645 with an expected annual average of \$237,281.

August 2010


## Council recommends \$15.8 million for Willamette Valley fish and wildlife habitat acquisitions


The Council recommended two wildlife projects in the Willamette River Basin of Oregon for funding by the Bonneville Power Administration. Together, the projects total about \$15.8 million. In one project, The Nature Conservancy requested \$11,065,105 to acquire a 1,271 acre parcel that includes six miles of river frontage at the confluence of the Middle and Coast Forks of the Willamette River, located near Springfield in the southern part of the Willamette Valley. Bonneville would hold a conservation easement on the property. The parcel contains three miles of streams and more than 500 acres of adjoining upland prairie



and oak habitat. The site supports 25 terrestrial and aquatic focal species, including ESA-listed spring Chinook, Oregon chub and bull trout. In the other acquisition, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife requested \$4,750,000 to acquire a conservation easement on 1,310 acres of native conifer woodlands, upland prairie, oak savanna, oak woodlands, grasslands, and wet prairies located outside the town of Lafayette in the northern Willamette Valley. The conservation easement is on property owned by Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey near Lafayette, Oregon. The abbey is located within a priority conservation area for oak woodlands and contains high-quality native upland prairie habitat and oak woodlands, both identified as rare plant communities in the Willamette Valley and identified in the Oregon Wildlife Conservation Strategy adopted by ODFW.

### **Council contributes to pilot program to test balancing services with demand response**

The Council approved a \$25,000 contribution to a \$1 million, jointly funded project conducted by Ecofys, US, Inc., the Bonneville Power Administration and a number of others to test and demonstrate the rapid development and deployment of controllable loads to provide both balancing services in the Bonneville balancing area and localized benefits to Bonneville's load-serving utilities. The other participants include Lower Valley Energy, EnerNoc, Steffes Corporation, Spirae, Dr. Hashem Nehrir of Montana State University, Shuai Lu of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Renewable Northwest Project, Iberdrola Renewables, and Horizon Energy. 



# History Now

**American shad are the signature fish of the modern Columbia River at least in terms of numbers. Salmon and steelhead once were among the most prolific fish in the river, but their numbers declined over time from annual runs of at least 10 million to 1-3 million or so today, in a good year. Shad, by comparison routinely average that many, and in some years the number counted at Bonneville Dam is as high as 4-5 million.**

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To learn more about Columbia River history, visit the Council's Columbia River History Project website, [www.nwcouncil.org/history](http://www.nwcouncil.org/history).



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is produced four times a year by  
 the Public Affairs Division  
 of the Northwest Power and  
 Conservation Council



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 15% post-consumer



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