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BPA moves to protect fish

Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, Ore.

As of Friday afternoon, July 25, the Bonneville Power Administration had asked the Corps of Engineers to take two generator units at Bonneville Dam out of service, which will result in a loss of approximately 200 megawatts of power at least through August. The cutback is designed to facilitate work at the dam's second powerhouse where fish have been trapped because of problems in the fish passage system.

The power cutback also will reduce the amount of power that can be moved on the Intertie by up to 300 megawatts. The Intertie is the large transmission network that moves power to the Southwest. BPA expects to voluntarily lose just under a million dollars from sales on the Intertie, as well as approximately \$2 million from lost generation at the dam, according to Mark Maher, BPA's vice president of Power Generation and Supply.

"We will do all that we can to save adult fish during this emergency at the fish passage facility. BPA places the highest priority on getting adult salmon back up to their spawning beds. When we have a system failure such as this, we have to step up," said BPA Administrator Randy Hardy.

BPA is working with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest tribes and other fish interests in a coordinated effort to minimize the impacts to fish created by the fishway problem.

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