

[in the news](#)[home](#) [site search](#) [org chart](#) [contact us](#) [web comments](#)

## August Declared Columbia and Snake River Power System Month

### State of Idaho Honors BPA Anniversary

#### Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, August 15, 1997

PR 36 97

---

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheryl Welch, BPA, (208) 334-1937

---

**BOISE, Idaho - In honor of the 60th anniversary of the creation of the Bonneville Power Administration, Idaho Governor Batt has declared August 1997 to be Federal Columbia and Snake River Power System Month. In an official proclamation (attached), the governor called BPA and the federal power system a fundamental engine of economic development in Idaho and encouraged all citizens to join in this observance.**

Since 1937, BPA has provided low-cost power to every corner of the state, the proclamation said. BPA, a federal power marketing agency, has directly served 14 rural electric cooperatives, nine municipal electric utilities and three Investor Own Utilities in Idaho. Energy conservation achieved through the BPA has saved more than 600 average megawatts of electricity, enough power to serve Ada county or more than 300,000 homes.

The governor's proclamation concludes by recognizing BPA's accomplishments of the last 60 years in developing and protecting the Columbia and Snake river system for the benefits of the public. As BPA adapts to the changing needs of the region, the experiences of the past should guide the management of the river system for the next 60 years.

BPA is one of the key managers of the Columbia and Snake river federal power system, said BPA Administrator Randy Hardy. Preserving and balancing the rivers and their uses are among our top priorities and responsibilities.

Congress created BPA in 1937 to deliver and sell the power from Bonneville Dam. In the next three decades, Congress authorized BPA to market power from more federal dams on the Columbia and its tributaries to the people of the Northwest. Today about half of the power consumed in the Northwest is supplied through BPA and comes from 29 federal hydroelectric plants and one non-federal nuclear plant.

###

