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***NEWS RELEASE:
MEDIA ALERT:
U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield to launch new environmental foundation***

Joint News Release: Natural Resources Defense Council
Renewable NW Project
Northwest Energy Coalition
and the Bonneville Power Administration

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
TUESDAY, June 23, 1998**

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What:

Leading environmental groups have teamed up for the first time ever to form a foundation with unique new opportunities to improve the environment.

Who:

U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield will join the Renewable NW Project, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the NW Energy Coalition in making the announcement to the press.

When:

Wednesday, June 24, 1998 at 9:30 a.m.

Where:

World Forestry Center, Cheatham Hall, 4033 S.W. Canyon Road, Portland, Ore.

BPA Deputy Administrator Jack Robertson explained that the foundation gives BPA another opportunity to use revenues from the sale of environmentally superior power to improve conditions for fish and wildlife and stimulate investments in new renewable resources.

“It’s a first of its kind,” Robertson said. “Our environmental partners are endorsing clean, renewable resources that BPA will market. The environmental groups will also ask for contributions to a trust fund, which will be used to support fish and wildlife programs and promote renewable resources.”

The foundation will seek contributions from individuals, corporations, utilities, public and private institutions, tribes and others to help pay for development of new non-hydro renewable energy resources and for fish and wildlife habitat improvements. The money they raise will supplement funding from government sources, and will not diminish or substitute for any of BPA's environmental obligations.

"This foundation is a creative way to increase investments in clean power and habitat restoration in the Northwest," said Rachel Shimshak, director of the Renewable Northwest Project. "The results of this hard work will benefit the economy and the environment and it will enhance our quality of life."

Ralph Cavanagh of the Natural Resources Defense Council added, "This initiative gives us all the chance to vote with our electricity bills for cleaner energy sources."

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