



## *Unique partnership will support fish and wildlife, new renewable energy resources*

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
WEDNESDAY, June 24, 1998**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Ralph Cavanagh, Natural Resources Defense Council 415-777-0220;  
Rachel Shimshak, Renewable NW Project 503-223-4544;  
Nancy Hirsch, Northwest Energy Coalition 206-621-0094;  
[Crystal Ball](#), BPA 503-230-5133

---

[Click here for other BPA news releases](#)

---

**PORTLAND, Ore.** - Leading environmental groups have teamed up to form a unique foundation with powerful new incentives to improve the environment of the Pacific Northwest.

“Those forming the new Bonneville Environmental Foundation all have the common goal of enhancing fish runs and wildlife habitat in the Northwest while investing in clean energy,” said U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield (retired) at a reception held today. Sen. Hatfield will be the foundation’s president.

The Renewable Northwest Project, the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#) and the [Northwest Energy Coalition](#) unveiled the new Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Here's more about how it will work.

These three environmental groups have agreed to endorse select, environmentally preferred resources. The Bonneville Power Administration plans to market the power to purchasers who agree to pay an environmental premium. The premium is an amount above BPA's basic cost of power. A portion of this premium will help support the foundation.

“The foundation is a powerful new concept, and we support it,” said Deputy Administrator Jack Robertson. “We continue to work out the legal and other details of the agreement.”

Robertson explained that the foundation provides a means for the region to improve conditions for fish and wildlife and stimulate investments in new renewable resources.

Funds to support the foundation’s activities may also come from individuals, corporations, utilities, public and private institutions, tribes and others. The money raised will compliment funds already available from government and other sources.

“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.”

Sara Patton of the NW Energy Coalition said, “The Bonneville Environmental Foundation is an excellent new tool to help build a clean, affordable energy future with wild salmon in abundance.”

Emerald People's Utility District, located near Eugene, has expressed its intent to make the first purchase of power from resources endorsed by the environmental groups. Those resources are the Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project and the Idaho Falls Hydroelectric Project. About 20 average megawatts are currently available. Power from new wind and geothermal projects will also go into the resource pool.

Projects receiving funding from the foundation are to be consistent with BPA’s mission, its trust responsibilities with the Northwest tribes, and the Northwest Power Planning Council’s fish and wildlife plan.

###

---