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Public meeting set on plans to save endangered fish species Big turnout of Northwest citizens expected

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Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, Ore. – The first ocean-to-headwater analysis of actions to save endangered salmon, steelhead and resident fish in the Columbia River will get a public airing in Portland on Thursday, Feb. 3. This draft analysis, known as the All-H Paper, addresses factors that affect imperiled species: hatcheries, harvest, hydropower and habitat.

The Portland meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn at the Airport, with signup for public comment at noon and an overview presentation at 1 p.m., to be followed by questions and answers and a comment period. The agenda is repeated at 6:30 p.m. The Portland event is the first in a series of 13 public meetings scheduled in the four Northwest states and Alaska in February and March. A schedule is attached.

"The All-H Paper contains alternatives that the region can follow in implementing a plan to save weak stocks of fish," said Will Stelle, regional director of the National Marine Fisheries Service. "For the first time, federal agencies responsible for directing the recovery will have a unified plan. Because it will touch the lives of everyone in the region, we are seeking the advice of Northwest residents."

A draft Environmental Impact Statement authored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will also be on the meeting agenda. It focuses exclusively on options for saving juvenile salmon on the lower Snake River.

"Both of these documents reflect the stark realities of saving endangered stocks," said Brig. Gen. Carl Strock, commander of the Corps' Northwest Division. "The measures needed will be neither simple nor painless for many Northwest residents. We need to hear from everyone potentially affected by the proposed alternatives and tradeoffs."

The All-H Paper analyzes and proposes alternative approaches to improving habitat, harvest and the operations of dams and hatcheries. When it becomes final later this year, it will guide the actions of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bonneville Power Administration.

The four alternatives defined in the All-H Paper are:

1. Removal of the four lower Snake River dams (one of the options in the Corps' Lower Snake EIS) with little increased effort in other areas;
2. Harvest constraints along with existing hydro and habitat efforts;
3. Aggressive actions in all Hs without breaching the four lower Snake River dams;
4. Maximum protections in all Hs, including dam breaching.

The plan that emerges later this year will be one of the largest environmental improvement efforts in the world, costing Northwest electricity ratepayers more than \$400 million a year. Additional funding will come through the congressional appropriations process.

The format of the meetings will allow ample opportunity for public comment, with afternoon and evening sessions scheduled in Portland and many other locations. The meetings will follow an open-house format, with informative exhibits on each of the Hs and the alternatives contained in the All-H Paper and the Corps' draft EIS. Many experts will be on hand to answer questions and explain documents.

Oral comments will be recorded at the meeting. Written comments will be received at the meeting or by mail. The comment period closes March 17. The schedule for the Portland meeting at the Holiday Inn at the Airport follows:

Noon: Open House — *Columbia Conference Center-Willamette Center*

Noon: Sign-up for Afternoon Session of Public Comments—*Columbia Conference Center-Foyer (one person per sign-up)*

1 pm: Overview Presentation of Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish—

Columbia Conference Center-John Q. Hammons Hall

1:30-3 pm: *Questions and Answers — Columbia Conference Center-John Q. Hammons Hall*

3-5 pm: *Public Comment Session — Columbia Conference Center-John Q. Hammons Hall (3 minutes per person)*

6:30 pm: *Sign-Up for Evening Session of Public Comments — Columbia Conference Center-Foyer (one person per sign-up)*

6:30-7:30 pm: *Overview Presentation of Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish & Questions and Answers — Columbia Conference Center-John Q. Hammons Hall*

7:30 pm: *Public Comment Session — Columbia Conference Center-John Q. Hammons Hall (3 minutes per person)*

Please check the website for updates www.bpa.gov/federalcaucus or call 1-888-921-4886.

Any persons having special needs for any of the public meetings may contact Jessi Phelps at (509) 358-7421, or via email at federalcaucus@bpa.gov. There will also be a small space available at the information tables for public interest/citizen groups to share written materials. Contact Jessi Phelps at

the above number to reserve a space.

Public Meeting Schedule

<p>February 3, 2000</p> <p>Portland, Oregon</p> <p>Holiday Inn @ the Airport</p> <p>8439 NE Columbia Boulevard</p> <p><i>Columbia Conference Center-Willamette Room, John Q Hammons Hall, Foyer</i></p> <p>(503) 256-5000</p> <p>noon</p>	
<p>February 8, 2000</p> <p>Spokane, Washington</p> <p>DoubleTree Hotel</p> <p>322 N. Spokane Falls Court</p> <p><i>Grand Ballroom</i></p> <p>(509) 455-9600</p> <p>noon</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>February 10, 2000</p> <p>Lewiston, Idaho</p> <p>Williams Conference Center</p> <p>8th Avenue 6th Street</p> <p><i>Selway River Room & Snake River Room</i></p> <p>(208) 799-2357</p> <p>noon</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p>
<p>February 15, 2000</p> <p>Astoria, Oregon</p> <p>Clatsop County Fair Grounds</p> <p>92937 Walluski Loop</p> <p><i>Multi-Purpose Arena/Exhibit Hall</i></p> <p>(503) 325-4600</p> <p>5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>February 17, 2000</p> <p>Tri-Cities (Pasco), Washington</p> <p>DoubleTree Hotel</p> <p>2525 North 20th Avenue</p> <p><i>Medallion 1 & 2</i></p> <p>(509) 544-3934</p> <p>noon</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p>
<p>February 23, 2000</p> <p>Boise, Idaho</p> <p>Centre on the Grove</p>	<p>February 29, 2000</p> <p>Seattle, Washington</p> <p>Seattle Center</p>

<p>850 West Front Street <i>The Summit & Flying Hawk Eyrrie</i> (208) 336-8900 noon 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>200 Thomas Street <i>Seattle Center Pavilion</i> (206) 684-8582 noon 6:30 p.m.</p>
<p>March 1, 2000 Kalispell, Montana Outlaw Inn 1701 Highway 93 South <i>Winchester Room & Colt 44 Room</i> (406) 755-6100 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>March 2, 2000 Missoula, Montana DoubleTree Hotel 100 Madison <i>Blackfoot Room & Bitterroot Room</i> (406) 728-3100 6:00 p.m.</p>
<p>March 7, 2000 Idaho Falls, Idaho Shilo Inn 780 Lindsay Boulevard <i>Yellowstone Room & Grand Teton Room</i> (208) 523-0088 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>March 7, 2000 Sitka, Alaska Westmark Hotel 330 Seward Street <i>Conference Room 1 & Lobby</i> (907) 747-6241 5:00 p.m.</p>
<p>March 8, 2000 Twin Falls, Idaho Weston Plaza 1350 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. Blue Lakes, Shoshone, Pomerelle, Teton & Sawtooth Rooms (208) 733-0650 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>March 8, 2000 Juneau, Alaska Centennial Hall Convention Center 101 Egan Drive <i>Sheffield Ballroom 1, 2</i> (907) 586-0485 5:00 p.m.</p>

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