

# journal

October 2007

[www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/Journal](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/Journal)

## Biological assessment released

BPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation have released a biological assessment and set of proposed actions to support a trend to recovery of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin. A biological assessment is a document that a federal agency must produce to assess its potential impacts on a species (or its habitat) listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The report just released is based on a comprehensive analysis of the listed stocks in the Columbia River Basin and the factors that affect their survival and recovery.

To convey the importance of these plans for the Federal Columbia River Power System, the three agencies recently released materials that explain more about their proposed expanded actions. The materials include an interview with BPA Administrator Steve Wright and Witt Anderson, chief of planning and environmental resources, Northwest Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Wright and Anderson responded to questions about the importance of the biological assessment and how the plan differs from previous plans.

To listen to the full nine minute interview segment with both executives or to read the transcript, visit [www.salmonrecovery.gov/](http://www.salmonrecovery.gov/). You will also find the technical documents and an overview that describes the history and development of the documents.

## October is Energy Awareness Month

This is a good time to evaluate your energy use and find ways to make your home more efficient. Here are some easy ways to help the environment and save some money, too.

- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120° F
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows that leak air
- Check for and close any open fireplace dampers

For more tips, visit [www.energysavers.gov/](http://www.energysavers.gov/).

## Reliability redispatch pilot ends

BPA's congestion management reliability redispatch pilot ended on Sept. 30. The pilot, which started June 26, was implemented to test a new strategy to help address congestion on the transmission system. The test focused on transmission affecting five transmission paths on the BPA grid – three on the I-5 corridor and two in central Washington.

During the pilot, BPA tested an information system that determines if and when specific generators need to move their output based on the effectiveness of relieving congestion and the bid price for moving them. This was tested both in the absence of congestion and when the operating transmission capacity of a transmission path was exceeded. When the OTC of a transmission path was exceeded, BPA also refused new hourly reservations on the congested path until the system was sufficiently stable. Preliminary results are encouraging.

BPA is currently developing an analysis of the pilot to establish exactly how well it worked and determine where more work needs to be done. A customer meeting to discuss the results and next steps will be held Oct. 16. See calendar of events for meeting information. The analysis will be posted to BPA's Congestion Management Web site at [www.transmission.bpa.gov/business/CongestionManagement/default.cfm](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/business/CongestionManagement/default.cfm) when it is available.

## BPA working to protect salmon habitat

BPA is proposing to fund the purchase of 200 acres of land in North Central Washington to protect habitat for endangered salmon and steelhead along Omak Creek in Okanogan County. The acquisition would be owned and managed by the Colville Tribes and is expected to be finalized this fall. For more information, see BPA's Web site at [www.efw.bpa.gov](http://www.efw.bpa.gov).

## BPA to acquire land for conservation

BPA just completed the purchase of a conservation easement and is currently working on another acquisition that would serve to protect wildlife as well as their habitat and water quality. BPA has a responsibility under the Northwest Power Act to mitigate wildlife habitat losses due to the construction and operation of the federal hydroelectric facilities.



Under the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Plan, BPA funds the Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation Program, which is tasked with the acquisition and restoration of key habitats within the larger Pend Oreille watershed. Recently, BPA purchased an 87-acre parcel of land along the St. Joe River in Benewah County, Idaho. The land will be owned and managed by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe for the purpose of wildlife mitigation.

BPA is also proposing to fund the purchase of a 1,466-acre conservation easement on the Zena Timber property in Polk County, Ore. The property comprises oak woodlands, upland prairies and various other habitats. These landscapes are home to multiple wildlife species as well as various rare, threatened and endangered plant species. BPA expects to finalize the easement in fall 2007. For more information visit [www.efw.bpa.gov](http://www.efw.bpa.gov).

### Kids learn about salmon habitats

One of the best ways to teach students about healthy salmon habitats is to show them firsthand. That's why biologists at the Bonneville Power Administration spearheaded the Kids in the Creek program in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The nationally award winning program, which took place Sept. 20 and 21, was part of the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival.

About 500 students, teachers and parents followed biologists into Icicle Creek, a tributary of the Wenatchee River, to turn over stones in the water and peek around plants for insects. What they found

helped the children learn how to tell if the stream was healthy or polluted, and what those results mean for salmon. Results indicated that Icicle Creek is a healthy waterway for salmon.

"BPA supports the Kids in the Creek program because we believe that salmon are important to everyone in the Northwest," says Randy Ridenhour, BPA Tribal Affairs liaison and Kids in the Creek coordinator. "It's everyone's responsibility to ensure that the salmon thrive in our environment, and this program creates that kind of awareness in kids at an early age. It's our hope they will carry the message back to the classroom, their families and beyond."



Dave Kaplowe, BPA fish biologist and project manager, teaches students how to determine water quality based on the type of insects they find.

## publicinvolvement

## updates and notices

### NEW PROJECTS

#### Chehalis-Centralia Transmission Line Rebuild – Lewis County, Wash.

BPA is proposing to rebuild a portion of its 69-kV transmission line to a 115-kV design to address increased industrial loads and other load growth in the area. The line extends from the Chehalis Substation about 15 miles north to the Centralia Substation. The portion to be rebuilt under this project would include only the first 12 miles from Chehalis to Ford's Prairie Tap. Proposed activities include upgrading segments of existing access roads, removing and replacing existing structures and installing new conductor (wires). A minor reroute of less than one mile will likely be needed near Fords Prairie Substation to accommodate planned Port of Centralia developments. BPA will conduct field surveys and an environmental review in 2007 and 2008. Once the environmental review is complete, BPA will decide whether and how to proceed with the project. If BPA decides to proceed, construction would likely begin in spring 2008 with scheduled completion November 2008.

#### Reardan Twin Buttes wind energy project interconnection – Lincoln County, Wash.

BPA has been asked by Energy Northwest to interconnect 75 MW of power to be generated by the proposed Reardan Twin Buttes Wind Energy Project into the FCRTS. Energy

Northwest has obtained a Conditional Use Permit from Lincoln County for the proposed wind project. BPA proposes to build a new substation, the Riffe Road Substation, and interconnect the wind project. BPA is accepting comments on its proposal for interconnection through Nov. 2. A tiered ROD would be prepared for this project if the decision to integrate the project is consistent with BPA's Business Plan ROD, August 1995 and Business Plan EIS, June 1995. (See close of comment)

### FISH AND WILDLIFE – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

#### Chief Joseph Hatchery Program – Okanogan County, Wash.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council recommended that BPA study a program sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to assist in conservation and recovery of summer/fall chinook salmon in the Okanogan subbasin and the Columbia River below Chief Joseph Dam. This program would include a new hatchery near the base of Chief Joseph Dam and acclimation ponds throughout the Okanogan River subbasin. The use of the proposed facilities to reintroduce spring chinook salmon to historical habitats in the Okanogan subbasin is also being considered. The program would augment the ceremonial and subsistence harvest of salmon for the Colville Tribe. This program would be designed

to have no effect on the operational flexibility of Chief Joseph Dam. Comments on the draft EIS were accepted through June 18. Public meetings were held in Okanogan and Bridgeport, Wash. A final EIS is planned for this month and a ROD is expected by Dec. 31, 2007. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Chief\\_Joseph/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Chief_Joseph/).

#### **Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project – Klickitat County, Wash.**

BPA is preparing an EIS for the proposed Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project. The project addresses the modification and upgrade to the existing fishway in order to meet state and federal fish passage standards. The project would also facilitate the collection of valuable biological information. The draft EIS is being finalized with a scheduled release in October 2007. A public meeting to take comments will follow. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Lyle\\_Falls/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Lyle_Falls/).

#### **Northeast Oregon Hatchery Program, Grande Ronde-Imnaha Spring Chinook Hatchery Project – Wallowa County, Ore.**

BPA has conducted value engineering, land acquisition and final design according to the initial ROD signed March 11, 2005. A ROD authorizing construction is planned for winter 2007/08. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Grand\\_Ronde/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grand_Ronde/).

### **POWER – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW**

#### **Regional Dialogue Policy Implementation – Regionwide**

BPA released the Long-Term Regional Dialogue final policy and ROD on July 19. Implementation workshops are being held through November. September workshops will cover products, high water marks and Tier 1 rate design. More information on the workshops and the Regional Dialogue Policy Implementation calendar is available on [www.bpa.gov/power/pl/regionaldialogue/implementation/](http://www.bpa.gov/power/pl/regionaldialogue/implementation/).

### **TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW**

#### **Albeni Falls-Sand Creek Transmission Line Project – Bonner County, Idaho**

BPA is proposing to replace poles on a section of the Albeni Falls-Sand Creek transmission line in northern Idaho and perform other upgrades to improve the reliability of the line. Approximately 340 wood poles would be replaced along about 25 miles of the existing transmission line. The project area is on an existing right-of-way from the Albeni Falls Dam to one mile north of BPA's Sandpoint Substation. In addition, 17 miles of the line would be reconducted to a larger conductor. Although construction would not begin until 2008 or 2009, BPA employees or contractors will be in the area through the summer performing various activities in support of the project, such as surveying for cultural resources and noxious weeds as well as reviewing the area for dangerous trees. An informational open house was held Aug. 16. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/).

#### **Caribou-Lower Valley Project (includes Hooper Springs Substation) – Caribou County, Idaho**

BPA is proposing to build, own, operate and maintain the new Hooper Springs 138/115-kV substation near a proposed PacifiCorp substation near Soda Springs, Idaho. BPA would connect to PacifiCorp's new substation (Threemile Knoll) to improve service to Lower Valley Energy. Lower Valley Energy would construct, own and operate a new 20-mile double-circuit 115-kV transmission line from BPA's new substation to a tap on

the Lower Valley Energy transmission system between Lanes Creek and Valley Substations. BPA is proposing to help fund this transmission line with a third-party financing arrangement. Lower Valley Energy is working to acquire all rights-of-way for the 115-kV line. BPA will host a public scoping meeting on Nov. 1 to discuss the proposed projects. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Caribou/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Caribou/). (See calendar of events)

#### **Cascade Wind Interconnection Project – Wasco County, Ore.**

BPA has been asked by UPC Oregon Wind, LLC to interconnect up to 50-MW of electricity generated from UPC's proposed Cascade Wind Project. UPC would independently build, own and operate the wind project and its associated facilities. The Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council has siting and approval jurisdiction over the proposed wind project. If UPC's project is approved, BPA proposes to construct a new switchyard and tap beneath BPA's existing Hood River-The Dalles 115-kV transmission line. Comments were accepted through Aug. 10, 2007. BPA is preparing an environmental review. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/default.cfm?page=cascade](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/default.cfm?page=cascade).

#### **Columbia-Ellensburg Transmission Line Upgrade – Kittitas County, Wash.**

BPA's Columbia-Ellensburg 115-kV transmission line needs upgrades to address line overloads in the area. The portion of line that needs to be upgraded extends from the Ellensburg Substation about 10 miles north to the Schultz Substation and then approximately four miles east toward the Columbia Substation. All existing wood poles and associated hardware would be replaced. Most new poles would be located in or as close to existing holes as possible. A portion of the existing conductor may be replaced to meet current industry standards. Three switches would also be replaced. Some existing access roads may need improvements and additional access routes may need to be purchased. BPA will conduct environmental field surveys to complete the environmental review. If BPA decides to proceed with the project, construction would likely begin in spring 2008 with a scheduled completion date of June 2009.

#### **LaPine Substation – Deschutes County, Ore.**

BPA proposes building a 140-foot communications tower at its LaPine Substation located near Finley Butte, Ore. The current structures are approximately 70 feet tall. This tower is part of a larger BPA project to replace outdated communications equipment with more reliable technology. No trees will be removed or topped, now or in the future. A lower tower height would require trimming or cutting a substantial number of trees since the terrain is relatively flat at the substation. The project site is about 2.6 miles east of Finley Butte and southeast of the town of LaPine, Ore. The Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District is preparing a categorical exclusion. This notice is being re-issued to clarify that this tower will be used exclusively by BPA and the public comment period had been extended. Public comments were accepted through July 11, 2007. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.bpa.gov/corporate/public\\_affairs/comment.cfm](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/comment.cfm).

#### **Libby (Flathead Electric Cooperative)-to-Troy Section of the Libby-to-Bonniers Ferry 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild – Lincoln County, Mont.**

BPA is proposing to rebuild a 17-mile section of the Libby-to-Bonniers Ferry 115-kV transmission line to improve reliability and meet future load growth in Lincoln County, Mont. BPA issued a draft EIS on July 20 and held a public meeting Aug. 15. Comments were accepted through Sept. 4. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/).

### **McNary-Badger Canyon Transmission Line Rebuild – Benton County, Wash.**

BPA is proposing to rebuild its McNary-Badger Canyon 115-kV transmission line outside of Kennewick, Wash. The line extends 18.3 miles from the river crossing north of McNary Substation northeast and then west toward Badger Canyon. The line was built in 1949 and many of the wood poles and cross arms are in need of replacement. In addition, BPA was requested by Energy Northwest to interconnect 32 MW from the Nine Canyon wind farm near Kennewick, Wash., to the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. BPA needs to upgrade the McNary-Badger Canyon transmission line to provide the wind farm adequate transmission capacity and prevent overload on the line. Construction activities would include adding a new transformer at the Nine Canyon Tap, replacing most of the wood poles with new wood poles that are five to 10 feet taller than the originals and replacing the wire. BPA will conduct an environmental review in fall 2007. Depending on the environmental review, and if BPA decides to proceed with the project, construction could begin in spring 2008.

### **Olympic Peninsula Reinforcement Project – Thurston and Mason Counties, Wash.**

BPA is proposing to remove a 14.5 mile portion of an existing 115-kV transmission line between Olympia and Shelton Substations and replace it with a double-circuit 230-kV line and add equipment at the two substations. This would improve voltage stability during winter-peak load conditions on the Olympic Peninsula. BPA expects to release a preliminary EA later this month. If BPA decides to proceed with this project, construction could begin in late 2007, assuming a finding of no significant impact could be made. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/).

### **Palisades-Goshen Transmission Line Rebuild – Bonneville and Bingham Counties, Idaho**

The Palisades-Goshen 115-kV transmission line was built in 1949. The line extends from Palisades Dam in eastern Idaho approximately 52 miles west to BPA's Goshen Substation south of Idaho Falls, Idaho. The majority of the wood poles and cross arms are in need of replacement. BPA proposes to rebuild this line due to its age and deteriorated condition to ensure safe and reliable transmission service. BPA held public meetings in Shelley and Irwin, Idaho. Field work has begun and BPA expects to issue an EA in early 2008. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/).

### **Port Angeles/Juan de Fuca Transmission Project – Port Angeles, Wash.**

Sea Breeze Olympic Converter LP has requested interconnection of a 550-MW transmission cable to the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. The cable would run from Vancouver Island, B.C., across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Port Angeles, Wash. The draft EIS was released for review March 9. An open house and public hearing were held April 10 and comments were accepted through April 24. BPA expects to issue the final EIS later this month. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/).

### **Summer Falls/Main Canal Interconnection Project – Grant and Douglas Counties, Wash.**

BPA proposed to interconnect 122 MW of generation from Summer Falls and Main Canal hydropower projects to the federal transmission grid. The proposal included construction

of a new 230-kV substation (Pinto Ridge) in Grant County, and a new communications site (Banks Lake) in Douglas County. It also included construction of six miles of new 115-kV transmission line between Main Canal and the new Pinto Ridge Substation, three miles of new 115-kV transmission line between Summer Falls and Pinto Ridge and a new 115-kV substation adjacent to the proposed substation. Seattle City Light and Tacoma Power requested the interconnection, but are currently evaluating other alternative actions. This project is on hold. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/).

## **TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

### **Klondike III/Biglow Canyon Wind Integration Project – Sherman County, Ore.**

BPA will interconnect the Klondike III and Biglow Canyon wind projects in Sherman County, Ore. The ROD was signed Oct. 25, 2006. BPA energized facilities and began operating on Oct. 1. The Klondike III wind project began operating on Oct. 1 and Biglow Canyon will begin operation later this month. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/).

### **Rock Creek Substation – Klickitat County, Wash.**

Construction on the Rock Creek Substation was completed in July. The White Creek wind project was interconnected and energized in August and the Goodnoe Hills wind project will be integrated and energized this month. Additional work will be done to interconnect the Windy Point wind project in 2008. For more information, see BPA's Web site: [www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Wind/).

### **Ross-Woodland Tap Transmission Line Upgrade – Clark County, Wash.**

BPA will upgrade a portion of its Ross-Lexington No. 1 230-kV transmission line which extends from the Ross Substation in Vancouver, Wash., approximately 20 miles north to the Woodland Tap. Construction began Sept. 25, 2007 and is scheduled to be completed later this month.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

To view BPA's Public Involvement calendar, visit this link: [www.bpa.gov/corporate/public\\_affairs/Calendar/](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/Calendar/).

### **Caribou-Lower Valley Project public meeting**

Nov. 1, 5 to 8 p.m., Soda Springs Ranger District, 410 Hooper Ave., Soda Springs, Idaho

### **Congestion Management regional customer meeting**

Oct. 16, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Holiday Inn Airport Way, 8439 N.E. Columbia Blvd., Portland, Ore.

## **CLOSE OF COMMENT**

Nov. 6 - Reardan Twin Buttes Wind Energy Project Interconnection

**The Journal is a monthly publication of the Bonneville Power Administration. If you have questions or comments, or you want to be added to the mailing list for any project, call toll free (800) 622-4519.**

To order copies of documents, call: (800) 622-4520 or (503) 230-7334. Written comments may be sent to: BPA, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR 97293-4428. E-mail address: [comment@BPA.gov](mailto:comment@BPA.gov). BPA home page: [www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov). For details on BPA environmental reviews listed above, including site maps and documents issued to date, see [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/nepadocs.aspx](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/nepadocs.aspx). Process Abbreviations: EA-Environmental Assessment, EIS-Environmental Impact Statement, ESA-Endangered Species Act, FONSI-Finding of No Significant Impact, NOI-Notice of Intent, ROD-Record of Decision.

