



# Journal

March 2011

## Wind power sets new record

Wind generation on BPA's system surpassed a new milestone Feb. 22, reaching a new all-time peak of 3,006 megawatts, producing enough electricity to serve a city three times the size of Seattle for an hour.

The growth of Northwest wind power continues to exceed expectations of just a few short years ago. More than 1,500 megawatts have been added in the last two years. Because BPA owns and operates three-quarters of the Northwest's high-voltage transmission, the agency is playing a vital role in facilitating the development of this renewable energy.

BPA expects to have between 5,000 and 6,000 megawatts of this clean, emission-free, renewable resource connected to its system by 2013, several years ahead of earlier estimates.

The number of wind generation sites contributing to this record now total 35. These wind farms include more than 2,100 turbines primarily located east of the Columbia River Gorge. Even though most of the Northwest's wind power is owned by private developers, they rely on BPA's extensive transmission grid to move that power.

To accommodate 6,000 megawatts or more of wind, BPA is expanding and reinforcing the transmission system to support wind integration. The agency is exploring additional measures to balance wind more effectively and is developing partnerships with other utilities and the wind community to expand wind integration even further.

BPA also is developing a state of the art wind speed and wind generation forecasting system. The new system will forecast more accurately up to three days in advance rather than the previous forecast service that could only provide information one hour ahead. This information will put BPA in a position to make better, more cost-effective system management decisions.

## BPA prepares for too much power

When nature supplies your fuel, you don't mind a little rough weather. But in the Northwest, with its wealth of renewable water and wind power, nature occasionally provides too much fuel. BPA has long handled seasonal surges in river flows and the hydroelectricity that comes

with them by using its transmission system to get the power to consumers.

Now, as renewable energy expands in our region, BPA is learning how to handle the coupling of too much water and wind. Too much generation can be a problem because power systems rely on a constant balance between power demand and power generation. If one exceeds the other, the lights can go out.

The agency is proposing a new policy called environmental redispatch, which would allow BPA to substitute free hydropower for other energy when necessary to avoid harm to endangered species.

To control generation, BPA can hold water in reservoirs. When those fill, the agency can work with dam operators to spill water over spillways rather than through turbines. But too much spill can harm fish. BPA can take many steps to reduce spill.

Displacing non-hydro generation with renewable federal hydropower would be BPA's last resort to maximize hydro generation, reduce spill to protect fish, and allow generators to continue serving their customers.

BPA will accept comments on the proposal through March 11. To learn more, visit our Columbia River High Water Management website.

## BPA donates ATVs to rescue teams

Search and rescue crews in Washington's Skamania County are better equipped to save lives in the rugged terrain of the Columbia River Gorge. BPA recently donated six surplus all-terrain vehicles to Skamania County Sheriff deputies and to the county's Emergency Medical Services.

## Watch us work

**RECORD NUMBERS OF SNAKE RIVER CHINOOK SALMON RETURNED TO IDAHO'S CLEARWATER BASIN THIS YEAR.** They are spawning in record numbers too. Watch a video at [www.bpa.gov/go/news](http://www.bpa.gov/go/news), or visit our **Facebook** page and **YouTube** channel to learn more.





Skamania County's Emergency Medical Services will use these ATVs, recently donated by BPA, to rescue people who become lost or injured in the mountains.

Skamania County emergency crews cover a 2,400-square-mile area, most of which is in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Each year, county deputies rescue dozens of people who become lost or hurt in the mountains.

Undersheriff Dave Cox says with shrinking county budgets, there is no way his office could afford to buy ATVs. "To come into a windfall for something like this is a real blessing," says Cox. The ATVs will not only be used for search and rescue, but also for criminal investigations. "Marijuana eradication, remote drug labs, things like that," Cox explains. "It's going to be nice to have those vehicles available."

BPA had been using the ATVs to repair transmission lines in remote areas and is replacing them with new ones. The agency could have sold the Polaris 4 x 4s and 6 x 6s — which are all in good shape — for an estimated \$5,000 each. But in this case, the agency determined it was best for the region to donate the vehicles.

"Money from selling the vehicles pales in comparison to helping a local jurisdiction save lives," says Ulrik Larsen from BPA's Property Disposal Office.

While several jurisdictions asked for the ATVs, BPA donated them to organizations with the greatest need.

## Salmon return to historic wetland

Thanks to a habitat restoration project funded by BPA, large numbers of salmon may soon make their way into a tidal wetland that's been closed to migrating fish on the Columbia River for decades.

Since the 1890s, railroad tracks and a highway (now U.S. 101) have disconnected the river and tides from this 96-acre wetland near Chinook, Wash.

But in February, construction crews installed an enormous new culvert with a natural stream bottom that connects the river to the wetland. This project will allow Columbia

River tides to flow into the marsh for the first time in more than 100 years.

BPA partnered on this restoration effort with environmental experts from the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce along with several other agencies. BPA is providing project oversight plus a large portion of the \$1.2 million needed for construction.

Fisheries biologists have determined that shallow tidal wetlands are vital to the survival of juvenile salmon. This type of habitat provides a transition zone where the juveniles' bodies change from being fresh water fish to ones that can live in the ocean's salt water. Tidal wetlands also offer the young fish a refuge from predators. The juvenile salmon will spend as long as 60 days resting and foraging in such wetlands as they prepare for their long ocean migrations.

Ecologists say the re-opening of this habitat is important to Columbia River fisheries because close to 65 percent of the river's historic estuary wetlands no longer exist.

Later this spring, the project team will return to the site to evaluate how many young salmon are using the tidal marsh.

This is one of many projects BPA is funding to enhance salmon habitat throughout the Columbia River Basin.

## Bodi named VP Environment, Fish and Wildlife

Lorri Bodi has been named BPA's vice president for Environment, Fish and Wildlife. Bodi has served as acting vice president for Environment, Fish and Wildlife since June 2010.

Bodi came to BPA as a senior policy advisor in 1998 and has helped shape BPA's plans for mitigating the impacts of the hydro system on salmon and steelhead. She has supported BPA's emphasis on biological performance standards and the importance of working in partnership with states, tribes and other federal agencies. Bodi was a lead negotiator for the historic Columbia Basin Fish Accords, which she will continue to implement in her new position.

Before coming to BPA, Bodi served as co-director of the American Rivers Northwest office and as an attorney for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, where she worked closely with utilities and river users and spearheaded several major settlements, including the original Vernita Bar Agreements.

"It is truly a privilege to be overseeing BPA's environmental stewardship team," said Bodi. "We implement the nation's largest fish and wildlife program, manage pollution control and clean up, preserve cultural resources and conduct extensive environmental analyses. The region's water, fish, land and air all benefit from the work we do and the partnerships we have forged."

## AGENCY PROJECTS

### Environmental redispatch draft ROD [Regionwide]

BPA released a draft ROD in February on its approach to address overgeneration using environmental redispatch. The agency will accept comments through March 11. BPA hosted a public workshop Feb. 25 to review the actions it is planning or considering to help manage and mitigate high streamflow events. The workshop also gave stakeholders a chance to share input and feedback on the draft ROD. Also in February, BPA released an analysis a peer-reviewed analysis of the financial impact of future overgeneration events. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/corporate/AgencyTopics/ColumbiaRiverHighWaterMgmt/](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/AgencyTopics/ColumbiaRiverHighWaterMgmt/).

### Debt Optimization Program [Regionwide]

Nearly a year ago, BPA formally closed out the Debt Optimization Program with the understanding that additional public meetings would be held only if BPA resumes refundings for the purpose of debt optimization. BPA informed customers and interested parties in February that there have been no changes to the program or plans for additional transactions, and no meetings will be held this year. For more, go to [www.bpa.gov/corporate/Finance/Debt\\_Management/presentations/](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/Finance/Debt_Management/presentations/).

### Energy Efficiency Post-2011 Phase 2 Implementation Proposal [Regionwide]

Five workgroups provided recommendations to BPA on the implementation of energy efficiency programs during Phase 2 of the Post-2011 public process. BPA considered these recommendations and in January released a proposal for public comment and held a series of public meetings. BPA expects to release a response to public comments this month, thereby closing out the Post-2011 public process. Accompanying the response will be the final Post-2011 Energy Efficiency Implementation Program, which will contain the Post-2011 energy efficiency implementation details. The Implementation Manual will be updated accordingly on April 1 to allow six months notice before those details take effect Oct 1. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/post-2011/](http://www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/post-2011/).

## FISH AND WILDLIFE — PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

### Yakama Nation — Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Project [Chelan and Okanogan Counties, Wash.]

For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Mid-Columbia\\_Coho\\_Restoration\\_Project/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Mid-Columbia_Coho_Restoration_Project/).

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

For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Grande\\_Ronde/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Grande_Ronde/).

### Klickitat Hatchery Program [Klickitat and Yakima counties, Wash.]

For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Klickitat\\_Hatchery\\_Program/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Klickitat_Hatchery_Program/).

## POWER — PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

### DSI Lookback Payments [Regionwide]

BPA issued a final ROD addressing legal issues relating to the potential for “lookback” payments to or from direct-service industry customers. The decision is that no parties — BPA or the DSI — are owed payments. The final ROD is posted at [www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/RODS/2011/](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/RODS/2011/).

### Port Townsend draft power sales contract [Regionwide]

BPA accepted public comment through Feb. 23 on a draft power sales contract for Port Townsend Paper Corporation. BPA has a block power sales contract with Port Townsend that expires in May 2011. The new contract would provide 20.5 average megawatts of firm power to the paper plant from June 1, 2011, through Aug. 31, 2013. The power would be priced at the Industrial Firm Power rate that will be in effect in the FY 2012–13 rate period. The draft contract is a short-term contract intended to allow the company to operate while BPA awaits additional clarity from the courts on the scope of the contracts it can provide the direct-service industries. For more information go to [www.bpa.gov/power/pl/regionaldialogue/implementation/documents/DSI.SHTML](http://www.bpa.gov/power/pl/regionaldialogue/implementation/documents/DSI.SHTML).

## TRANSMISSION — PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

### Transmission tariff [Regionwide]

BPA submitted a filing with FERC asking for a final ruling on BPA's Open Access Transmission Tariff compliance filing, without requesting a conference. Beginning March 4, BPA will host a series of workshops focusing on transmission tariff and reciprocity issues. Previously, FERC ruled that BPA could not obtain reciprocity for its OATT unless the agency makes certain additions and appropriately clarifies other provisions. A FERC ruling providing reciprocity would mean that BPA's OATT substantially conforms with or is superior to FERC's pro forma OATT. For details, see the fact sheet at [www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/Reciprocity\\_Report\\_--\\_Feb\\_16\\_2011--FINAL.pdf](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/Reciprocity_Report_--_Feb_16_2011--FINAL.pdf).

### I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project [Oregon and Washington]

BPA is proposing a new 500-kilovolt transmission line from a new substation near Castle Rock, Wash., to a new substation near BPA's Troutdale Substation, Troutdale, Ore. BPA sought analysis of measures that might allow us to delay construction of the project. Although no decision to postpone has been made, these measures will undergo further study and results will be shared later this year. A draft EIS is scheduled for fall 2011 followed by a formal comment period. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/go/i5](http://www.bpa.gov/go/i5).

### Creston-Bell Transmission Line Rebuild [Lincoln and Spokane counties, Wash.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild approximately 54 miles of a 115-kilovolt wood pole transmission line. The agency expects to hold a public meeting March 31 to accept public comment and answer questions about the proposal. Check the BPA event calendar for details: [www.bpa.gov/corporate/public\\_affairs/calendar/](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/calendar/).

### Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project [Wasco County, Ore., and Klickitat County, Wash.]

BPA is proposing a new 500-kilovolt transmission line between BPA's existing Big Eddy Substation in The Dalles, Ore., and a new substation (Knight) under an existing BPA line near Goldendale, Wash. The final EIS is expected in early summer, followed by ROD in late summer. For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Big\\_Eddy-Knight/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Big_Eddy-Knight/).

### Albany-Eugene Transmission Line Rebuild [Lane and Linn counties, Ore.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild approximately 32 miles of a 115-kilovolt wood pole transmission line. A draft EIS is expected in summer 2011. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/go/albany-eugene](http://www.bpa.gov/go/albany-eugene).

## Central Ferry-Lower Monumental Transmission Line Project [Garfield, Columbia and Walla Walla counties, Wash.]

BPA is proposing a new 500-kilovolt transmission line between the new BPA Central Ferry Substation in Garfield County and BPA's Lower Monumental Substation in Walla Walla County, Wash. BPA released a final EIS in February 2011. A ROD is expected this month. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/go/centralferrylomo](http://www.bpa.gov/go/centralferrylomo).

## Hooper Springs Transmission Project [Caribou County, Idaho]

BPA is proposing a new 115-kilovolt transmission line and a new 138/115-kV substation, called Hooper Springs Substation, in Caribou County, Idaho. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/go/hoopersprings](http://www.bpa.gov/go/hoopersprings).

## Walla Walla-Tucannon River Transmission Line Rebuild [Walla Walla and Columbia counties, Wash.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild the 47-mile Walla Walla-Tucannon River 115-kilovolt transmission line. The agency will produce a preliminary EA this spring. For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Walla\\_Walla-Tucannon\\_River\\_Rebuild/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Walla_Walla-Tucannon_River_Rebuild/).

## Bandon-Rogue No.1 Transmission Line Rebuild [Coos and Curry counties, Ore.]

BPA is proposing to rebuild the 115-kilovolt wood-pole Bandon-Rogue line. The agency released a preliminary EA in February for public review and comment through March 11. BPA will produce a final EA in spring 2011. For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Bandon-Rogue\\_Rebuild/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Bandon-Rogue_Rebuild/).

## Grand Coulee Dam Line Replacement [Okanogan, Grant and Douglas counties, Wash.]

The Bureau of Reclamation asked BPA to construct six new 500-kilovolt overhead transmission lines at Grand Coulee Dam to replace aging underground lines between the dam's third powerhouse and the 500-kV spreading yard. An EA is expected in early spring 2011. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/go/coulee/](http://www.bpa.gov/go/coulee/).

## Juniper Canyon II Wind Interconnection Project [Klickitat County, Wash.]

Iberdrola Renewables, Inc., asked BPA to interconnect up to 101 megawatts from the proposed Juniper Canyon II Wind Project. To interconnect the project, BPA would build a new substation, the Wood Creek Substation, along an existing BPA transmission line near Roosevelt, Wash. BPA will complete a ROD this winter. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/go/junipercanyonII](http://www.bpa.gov/go/junipercanyonII).

## Radar Ridge Wind Project Interconnection [Pacific County, Wash.]

For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Radar\\_Ridge\\_Wind\\_Project/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Radar_Ridge_Wind_Project/).

## Whistling Ridge Energy Project [Skamania County, Wash.]

For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/go/whistling](http://www.bpa.gov/go/whistling).

## Horn Butte Wind Project [Gilliam and Morrow counties, Ore.]

For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Horn\\_Butte\\_Wind\\_Project/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Horn_Butte_Wind_Project/).

## Antelope Mountain Communication Project [Deschutes County, Ore.]

For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/corporate/public\\_affairs/docs/2010/](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/docs/2010/).

## Transmission Services Facility Project [Vancouver, Wash.]

For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/pdf/Transmission\\_Services\\_September\\_2009.pdf](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/pdf/Transmission_Services_September_2009.pdf).

## FISH AND WILDLIFE – PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

### Chief Joseph Hatchery Program [Okanogan County, Wash.]

For information, go to [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.]

For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Lyle\\_Falls/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Lyle_Falls/).

## TRANSMISSION – PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

### Juniper Canyon I Wind Interconnection Project [Klickitat County, Wash.]

For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Juniper\\_Canyon\\_Wind/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Juniper_Canyon_Wind/).

### Albeni Falls-Sand Creek Transmission Line Project [Bonner County, Idaho]

For information, go to [www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/default.cfm?page=albe](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/default.cfm?page=albe).

### McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project [Sherman and Umatilla counties, Ore., Klickitat and Benton counties, Wash.]

For information, go to [www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/).

### Leaning Juniper II-Jones Canyon Substation Expansion Wind Interconnection Project [Gilliam County, Ore.]

For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Leaning\\_Juniper/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Leaning_Juniper/).

### Palisades-Goshen Transmission Line Reconstruction [Bonneville and Bingham counties, Idaho]

For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Palisades/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Palisades/).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To view BPA's public involvement calendar, go to [www.bpa.gov/go/calendar](http://www.bpa.gov/go/calendar). For Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, please call toll free 800-622-4519.

### Transmission tariff customer workshops

BPA Rates Hearing Room, 905 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.

- March 4 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- March 8 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- March 24 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## CLOSE OF COMMENT

- March 11 — Environmental redispach draft ROD
- March 11 — Bandon-Rogue transmission line rebuild
- March 15 — REP-12 Rate Proceeding

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.

