

# Journal

July 2011

## Most NW wind energy continues uninterrupted

Wind energy projects in the BPA system have curtailed 6.7 percent of their scheduled output since BPA began intermittent limits on coal, natural gas and other thermal and wind generation to help manage an oversupply of electricity during the highest Columbia River runoff in more than a decade.

BPA's interim environmental redispatch policy typically affected wind generation at night and on weekends when power demand dropped, according to an initial review of the first several weeks with the policy in place. The policy first took effect May 18 and continued as high water drove hydroelectric generation at Columbia River dams.

Most thermal generation in BPA's system has remained off-line in recent weeks. The Energy Information Administration recently reported that the Northwest this year has burned 68 percent less natural gas to generate electricity than last year.

Some increases in power demand, improved cooperation among utilities and other steps by BPA have helped mitigate the impact on wind generation in recent weeks. The curtailments will likely continue to decline as runoff eases, so the share of wind energy affected will be further reduced when considered over a full year.

Real-time data on generation in BPA's system and daily updates on environmental redispatch are available at [www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov).

## Agencies, tribe propose fish agreement

The Kalispel tribe and three federal agencies — BPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation — are proposing a 10-year Memorandum of Agreement to benefit Endangered Species Act listed and non-listed fish and wildlife. This agreement would add to the list of Columbia Basin tribes and states that are working to improve habitat and strengthen fish stocks in the Columbia River Basin.

The proposed agreement provides approximately \$39 million in BPA funding for the tribe to carry out habitat acquisitions, habitat restoration, predator management and operational solutions to address impacts of Albeni Falls Dam on bull trout and other aquatic species of the Pend Oreille River. It also addresses the agencies' legal mandates for operation of the federal hydro system for fish and wildlife.

BPA will accept comments on the proposal through Aug. 1. For more information, go to [www.salmonrecovery.gov](http://www.salmonrecovery.gov).

## Steelhead return to Washington creek

A spring-fed creek, once choked with reed canary grass and rusted-out cars, today flows clear and cold and is home to newly hatched steelhead fry.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation spearheaded restoration of Russell Spring Creek in the

## Watch us work

**FIND OUT WHAT WE'RE UP TO.** Last month, we showed you how:

- BPA is funding fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects that support hundreds of jobs and boost the Pacific Northwest economy. In 2010, BPA spent more than \$97 million on habitat restoration, supporting an estimated 1,700 jobs.
- Innovative software is helping BPA structural engineers build new transmission towers that do more with less.
- BPA is advancing a transmission technique for wind energy.
- You can help keep quagga mussels out of Northwest rivers. This invasive species could devastate our ecosystems, fisheries and hydroelectric systems.

**TO WATCH** these and other videos, go to [www.bpa.gov/go/news](http://www.bpa.gov/go/news). You can also visit our **Facebook** page and **YouTube** channel.



Tucannon subbasin in southeast Washington. BPA funded the project under the Columbia Basin Fish Accords.

The creek, once prime steelhead and spring chinook habitat, had fallen into decline and neglect. In 2010, the Umatilla tribes removed the debris and modified a culvert that blocked the stream channel, improving passage and increasing the flow seven-fold. Logs added to the stream channel encouraged the natural meanders that provide quiet spots for young salmon to rest and hide from predators.

In late 2010, adult steelhead made their way up the Russell Spring Creek from the Tucannon River for the first time in decades, digging nests (known as redds) in the gravel banks. The fry hatched this year in early June.

## **Got questions about the new BPA, BC Hydro agreement? Call us**

BPA is available to answer your questions about a proposed new long-term agreement between BPA and BC Hydro for further coordination of reservoir operations on the Columbia River in Canada for mutual benefits. BPA held four public meetings around the region in May and June to discuss it.

If negotiations are successful, the new agreement could be complete in August or early fall. It would be implemented in fall 2011 and continue through Sept. 15, 2024.

The agreement, called a non-treaty storage agreement, would allow BPA and BC Hydro to coordinate operations of reservoir storage in addition to that operated under terms of the 1964 Columbia River Treaty. Absent an agreement, BPA and BC Hydro have no ability to regulate flows from Canada into the United States beyond what is provided under the existing Columbia River Treaty.

The proposed agreement would give BPA additional flexibility to shape flows from Canada into the United States to improve power generation and shape flows for fisheries. Water beyond what is needed in the spring for listed fish stocks could be shaped into the late summer, increasing flows when Columbia River flows are low.

This flow shaping would provide economic value for Northwest ratepayers and benefit threatened and endangered fish. In the driest water conditions, the proposed terms would allow BPA to release up to 500,000 acre-feet of water in the spring to supplement flows provided under the treaty. The proposed agreement would increase opportunities to reduce flows and thus reduce spill during periods when dissolved gas levels caused by spill exceed state standards. It would also shape flows for power and non-power benefits in the fall and winter.

For additional information, call 1-800-622-4519 before July 31. Information is also available at [www.bpa.gov/go/ntsa](http://www.bpa.gov/go/ntsa).

## **BPA accelerates EE funding**

Northwest public utilities saved more energy last year than ever before, freeing up enough electricity to power 65,700 more homes by not using it in the first place. BPA is building on that success by dedicating \$35 million this year to public utility energy efficiency programs that was originally scheduled to be delivered in the coming years.

The funding will flow to BPA's partner utilities for energy efficient projects and technologies that range from retrofitting neighborhood grocery store shelves with power-saving LED lighting to upgrading old and inefficient irrigation pumps. Energy efficiency is the cleanest and most affordable source of new electricity, which also saves power customers money. Last year's record achievement reduced Northwest power bills by more than \$57 million. More rapidly funding these efforts now will be less expensive than it would be in the future, which will produce savings for BPA and its customers.

Last year's savings of nearly 90 average megawatts was the most ever by BPA's utility customers, beating BPA's goal for the year of 80 aMW at less cost than expected. It came as the Northwest already leads the nation in energy efficiency, supplying 12 percent of its electricity needs in 2009 through energy savings compared to just 1 percent for the United States overall. This year, the accelerated funding will assist BPA's utility customers to exceed the agency's current 99-aMW target.

## **BPA connects more renewable power**

Crews in Southeast Washington are building one of the largest substations in BPA's system to boost energy from new wind turbines so it can flow to consumers across the West.

BPA is building the Central Ferry Substation to feed electricity from Puget Sound Energy's new Lower Snake River Wind Project into the agency's transmission system. Energy from the wind turbines will enter the new substation at 230-kilovolts. BPA's equipment will step up the energy to 500-kilovolts and then loop it into nearby high-voltage transmission lines.

Phase one of the wind project should be complete by the end of this year and will add up to 343 megawatts of renewable wind energy to the more than 3,500 MW already connected to BPA's grid. The project could one day generate more than 1,250 megawatts.

BPA started the \$100 million substation project in July 2010 and is on schedule to complete the project in November 2011.

BPA expects that more than 7,000 MW of wind generation could connect to its system as early as 2013. BPA's Wind Integration Team is working to adapt the power grid to this new variable, carbon-free energy source.

# Public Involvement [Updates & Notices]

## AGENCY PROJECTS

### Quarterly Business Review [Regionwide]

BPA will hold its Quarterly Business Review Aug. 2. To receive information via email about upcoming Finance public processes such as the Quarterly Business Review, Integrated Program Review and Access to Capital, contact Stephanie Adams at [saadams@bpa.gov](mailto:saadams@bpa.gov) or 503-230-4671. About a week before the meeting, an agenda and meeting materials will be posted at [www.bpa.gov/corporate/Finance/financialOverview/index.cfm](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/Finance/financialOverview/index.cfm). [SEE CALENDAR]

### Strategic capital discussions [Regionwide]

BPA will host a series of meetings in September to discuss long-term capital investments and the capital needed to fund those investments. All interested parties are invited to participate to help BPA formulate a long-term direction that will ensure the agency's continued access to U.S. Treasury borrowing authority. If no action is taken, BPA anticipates its access to borrowing from the Treasury — its primary source of capital funding — could be exhausted as early as FY 2016. More information is available at [www.bpa.gov/corporate/Finance/Debt\\_Management/presentations/access-to-capital.cfm](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/Finance/Debt_Management/presentations/access-to-capital.cfm). Additional information will be released mid summer. If you have questions, contact Analysis and Requirements Manager Mary Hawken at 503-230-3421 or your Account Executive.

### BP-12 and REP-12 [Regionwide]

BPA released draft records of decision on the 2012 rate case (BP-12) and the 2012 Residential Exchange Program Settlement Agreement proceeding (REP-12) June 14. The decisions in the draft RODs are not final. The administrator will announce his final decisions in the final RODs expected July 25. Only parties to the rate case may comment on these draft RODs. Those parties have until June 24 to file their briefs on exceptions in both proceedings. For the REP-12 proceeding, the Administrator will consider the parties' briefs on exceptions and make a final decision to execute the Settlement or not with the publication of the REP-12 Final ROD July 25. The BP-12 draft ROD is at [www.bpa.gov/corporate/ratecase/2012/](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/ratecase/2012/) and the REP-12 draft ROD is at [www.bpa.gov/corporate/ratecase/2012/rep-12.cfm](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/ratecase/2012/rep-12.cfm).

### Environmental Redispatch [Regionwide]

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted BPA's request to extend until July 19 the comment period on a complaint filed by interested parties in the Northwest. BPA has worked closely with stakeholders during the high runoff period to share operational information and explore long-term solutions to temporary power oversupply. The agency will host at least two more conference calls July 1 and July 8, from 1 to 2 p.m., to update interested parties on system conditions and recent developments. On July 8 the agency will assess with participants whether future weekly conference calls are appropriate. Check the BPA event calendar at [www.bpa.gov/go/calendar](http://www.bpa.gov/go/calendar) for phone bridge information. BPA posts a daily Environmental Redispatch update at <http://info.bpa.gov/afterhours.aspx>. For more information, go to [www.bpa.gov/corporate/AgencyTopics/ColumbiaRiverHighWaterMgmt/](http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/AgencyTopics/ColumbiaRiverHighWaterMgmt/).

## FISH AND WILDLIFE — PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

### Kalispel Memorandum of Understanding [Pend Oreille County, Wash.]

BPA is accepting comments through Aug. 1 on a proposal to enter into a 10-year funding commitment with the Kalispel Tribe for fish and wildlife mitigation projects. For information, go to [www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Kalispel\\_MOA/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Kalispel_MOA/).

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

BPA released a draft EIS in June and is accepting comments through Aug. 8. The agency will hold public meetings in July. For information, go to [www.bpa.gov/go/midcolumbiacoho](http://www.bpa.gov/go/midcolumbiacoho). [SEE CALENDAR]

### Springfield Sockeye Hatchery Project [Bingham County, Idaho]

BPA is preparing a Supplement Analysis and will accept comments through July 14 on the proposed Springfield Sockeye Hatchery Project. This is part of Phase 2 of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Snake River Sockeye Captive Brood Program. The purpose is to develop the Springfield Hatchery to increase production of Snake River sockeye smolts, resulting in adult returns that would provide sufficient broodstock to meet re-colonization goals at Redfish, Petit, and Alturas lakes. For information, go to [http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Springfield\\_Sockeye\\_Hatchery/](http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Springfield_Sockeye_Hatchery/).

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

BPA is planning to release a Draft EIS in late July 2011 and will hold a public meeting in August in Lyle, Wash., date to be determined. 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/).

### 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/).

## TRANSMISSION — PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

### Regional Transmission Expansion [Regionwide]

BPA will host a public meeting July 20 to discuss redesign of the Network Open Season process as well as Generator Interconnection queue and finance policy reform. [SEE CALENDAR]

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

BPA will release a final EIS in mid July, followed by a ROD in late summer. 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. 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/).

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

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

### 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. 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 115-kilovolt wood pole transmission line. For information, go to [http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Creston\\_Bell/](http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Creston_Bell/).

### **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).

### **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).

### **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/junipercanyonll](http://www.bpa.gov/go/junipercanyonll).

### **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, Washington]**

BPA and Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council are planning to release a final EIS this summer 2011. 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**

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

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/).

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

BPA released a FONSI in May and decided to proceed with the project. Construction started in May and will be complete in fall or winter 2011.

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/).

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

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

### **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.

### **Yakama Nation Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Project public meetings:**

- **July 13**, 5:30 to 8 p.m., Chelan Fire District 3 Community Center, 228 Chumstick Highway, Leavenworth, Wash.
- **July 14**, 5:30 to 8 p.m., Methow Valley Community Center, 201 South Methow Valley Highway, Twisp, Wash.

### **Regional Transmission Expansion public meeting:**

- **July 20**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., BPA Rates Hearing Room, 911 N.E. 11th Ave, Portland, Ore.

### **Quarterly Business Review:**

- **Aug. 2**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., BPA Rates Hearing Room, 911 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland, Ore.

## **CLOSE OF COMMENT**

- **July 14**, Springfield Hatchery Project
- **Aug. 1**, Kalispel MOA
- **Aug. 8**, Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Project

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.

