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A PUBLICATION FROM THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

Journal

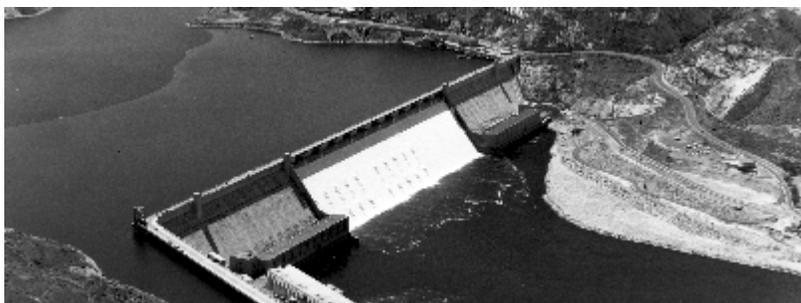
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Wildlife mitigation program final EIS due in mid-March

BPA will issue the final environmental impact statement for its Wildlife Mitigation Program in mid-March. Future wildlife mitigation actions are expected to include land acquisition and management, water rights acquisition and management, habitat restoration and improvement, installation of watering devices, and riparian fencing. BPA needs to ensure that these BPA-funded projects are planned and managed with appropriate consistency across projects, jurisdictions and ecosystems, as well as across time. The EIS evaluates the potential standards and guidelines for planning and implementing wildlife mitigation projects throughout the Columbia River Basin. BPA held public meetings throughout the region and considered all comments when preparing the final EIS. A record of decision is expected in April. The 1980 Northwest Power Act designated BPA responsible for mitigating the loss of wildlife habitat caused by the development of the Federal Columbia River Power System. BPA funds projects consistent with those recommended by the Northwest Power Planning Council. The projects are submitted to the council from tribes, state agencies, property owners, private conservation groups and other federal agencies.

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BPA establishes energy efficiency advisory committee

BPA's Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee held its first meeting on Feb. 26. The EEAC is composed of 22 members: nine representing private sector energy efficiency businesses; two from federal agencies; four from the utility community; two from public interest, conservation and environmental groups; three from state governments; one congressional staff person; and one Northwest Power Planning Council member. The advisory committee will provide insights and ideas about how BPA can best work with all relevant parties to help expand the energy efficiency marketplace in the Pacific Northwest. It is intended to be a forum for offering advice to BPA and to provide guidance regarding the complete range of BPA's energy efficiency activities. The EEAC will meet every two to three months to share ideas and discuss issues. The initial meeting focused on developing a charter for the committee and reviewing BPA's activities in three major functional areas of legacy conservation programs, market transformation support and market development initiatives. A summary of the meeting will be available in mid-March by calling BPA's document request line listed on the back page. The next EEAC meeting is scheduled for Apr. 23.

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Almost 60aMW of conservation savings achieved in 1996

BPA's recently released Conservation Resource Energy Data, also known as the red book, shows conservation savings from 1982-96 of almost 640 average megawatts. Savings in 1996 are about 60 average megawatts. Over 80 percent of the savings in the last 15 years have come from direct conservation acquisition programs and the Conservation Modernization program in aluminum smelters.

Other savings have come from more energy-efficient building codes in Washington and Oregon. BPA has taken an active role in promoting the adoption of these new building codes. The red book is now available by calling BPA's document request line listed on the back page.

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Subscription process discussions begin

BPA and the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee will hold a public meeting in Portland, Ore., on March 11 to begin discussions of federal power subscriptions effective after 2001. BPA and PNUCC are holding the meeting to present an overview of the process and its tentative schedule. PNUCC's membership includes BPA preference customers, investor-owned utilities and direct-service industries. BPA will also seek input on the principles of the subscription process and environmental concerns. The subscription process was recommended in the final report of the Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System. The Comprehensive Review final report recommends BPA offer five- to 20-year power contracts to customers. (See [calendar](#).)

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BPA holds retail wheeling meetings

BPA held two public workgroup meetings in Portland to discuss retail wheeling issues for pilot projects. A technical issues meeting was held on Feb. 25 and a policy issues meeting was held on Feb. 26. Meeting results were unavailable at press time. The meetings were scheduled in response to a public scoping meeting held on Feb. 4.

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U.S. House holds hearing

BPA is invited to participate at a hearing on March 4 in Washington, D.C. The Subcommittee on Water and Power of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources will hear testimony on the power marketing administrations' portion of the president's 1998 proposed budget that pertain to the subcommittee's jurisdiction. Representative John Doolittle of California chairs the subcommittee.

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Net pen salmon return from the sea

Preliminary research findings show that coho salmon released from lower Columbia River net pens are showing strong overall survival rates. The BPA-funded ongoing study finds that the three percent survival rate for these coho is higher than the traditional hatchery runs. The total survival rate for all Columbia River coho salmon in 1996 was less than one percent, including all traditional hatchery and net pen production. The returning fish were reared and released just 18 months ago from four net pen sites near the mouth of the Columbia. These sites are Youngs Bay, Tongue Point and Blind Slough in Oregon and Deep River in Washington. Returning net pen coho salmon from BPA-funded programs

represented 42 percent of the 1996 commercial harvest from the lower Columbia River. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Clatsop Economic Development Council manage the lower Columbia River net pen program in Oregon and Washington. ODFW and WDFW are conducting feasibility studies on proposed new net pen sites in both states.

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Senate committee to hold energy workshops

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold energy workshops in Washington, D.C. The committee is chaired by Senator Frank Murkowski from Alaska. The workshops will cover issues relating to energy deregulation. On March 6 the topic will be “What Are the Issues of Competition?” The workshop on March 13 is on “The Role of Public Power in a Competitive Market” and March 20 will be on “Is Federal Legislation Necessary?”

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Cold, dry weather results in below average precipitation in February

Colder than normal temperatures ranged across the Columbia River Basin into mid-February. Less than normal precipitation fell during that time and streamflows at The Dalles, Ore., continued to recede from previous high levels. Streamflows above The Dalles Dam from Feb. 1-18 were 72 percent of average. But streamflows from Oct. 1 to Feb. 18 were 136 percent of average. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is operating the Federal Columbia River Power System for flood control because of high snowpack levels. Federal reservoirs have been drafted to 33 percent full in anticipation of spring snowmelt. Last year at this time reservoirs were 61 percent full.

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Uses of the Columbia River system

There are eight primary uses of the Columbia River system - flood control, fish migration, fish and wildlife habitat, navigation, irrigation, electric power generation, recreation, and water supply and quality. Daily operation of the hydro system is based on meeting all these often conflicting objectives all the time. Non-power requirements are met first. Electric power generation takes place within their constraints. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation operate and maintain the dams. BPA markets the electric power from the federal dams.

Flood control — Controlling flood waters was one of the original purposes for many of the dams on the Columbia. Flood control is the top priority during high water years such as this one.

Fish migration — Federal dams in the lower Columbia and Snake rivers have fish ladders and other facilities to help anadromous fish migrate up and down the river. Fish hatcheries are also an important part of the river system.

Fish and wildlife habitat — State and federal laws require protection of the habitat of fish and wildlife

in the Columbia Basin. The region has spent millions of dollars restoring fish runs and is considering programs to reestablish wetlands and control erosion on streambanks.

Navigation — The Columbia and Snake rivers can be navigated as far upstream as Lewiston, Idaho, 465 miles from the Pacific Ocean. Four dams on the mainstem of the Columbia River - Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day and McNary - have navigation locks through which boats and barges can pass. Locks at Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite dams accommodate river traffic on the lower Snake River.

Irrigation — Six percent of the Columbia Basin's water is diverted for agriculture. Growers in arid parts of eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon and southern Idaho depend on this water to produce crops.

Electric power generation — The hydroelectric dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers produce an average of 18,500 megawatts of electricity annually. The transmission grid in the Northwest is interconnected with Canada to the north, with California to the south and with Utah and states to the east.

Recreation — The rivers in the Columbia Basin attract boaters, sport anglers, swimmers and campers throughout the year. The wind in the Columbia River Gorge has made the area a world-class destination for wind-surfers.

Water supply and quality — The Columbia River system supplies water to numerous municipalities and industries. These withdrawals are considered in system operations.

The Spokane Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Lake Roosevelt Development Association and BPA will present a display on the multiple uses of Lake Roosevelt and Grand Coulee Dam at the Big Horn Sport and Recreation Show in Spokane, Wash., on March 20-23. Grand Coulee, the largest dam on the Columbia River, forms a reservoir - Lake Roosevelt - extending 151 miles to the Canadian border, with 600 miles of shoreline, an 82,000 acre surface area and over 5 million acre feet of active storage capacity. The water in Lake Roosevelt provides irrigation, flood control, power generation and recreation.

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Public Involvement

Billy Shaw Dam and Reservoir Resident Fish Project EA. Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Nevada — Partial mitigation for the loss of anadromous fish. The final EA/FONSI is available. Call for a copy.

BPA/Lower Valley Transmission Project. Idaho and Wyoming — To resolve a voltage stability problem in the Jackson and Afton, Wyo. areas; new 115-kV line proposed on existing right-of-way where possible. The draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Columbia Windfarm #1. The final EIS has been completed. The ROD is on hold.

Four Mile Hill Geothermal Project EIS (Glass Mountain). Northern California -- A geothermal power plant and 30 miles of new transmission line have been proposed on Forest Service lands in the

Klamath and Modoc Forests. The Forest Service has the lead; BPA is a cooperating agency. The draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Grand Ronde River Spring Chinook Project. Oregon — Captive broodstock program. The preliminary EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Kootenai River White Sturgeon Conservation Aquaculture Project. Northern Idaho, Montana and Canada — Captive broodstock program. A final EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Methow Valley Irrigation District EA. Northern Washington — A proposal to convert the open canal irrigation system to pressurized pipes and wells. An EA is being prepared. Call to be added to the mailing list.

Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery EIS. Idaho — Supplementation of anadromous salmonids. The draft EIS is being prepared. Call to be added to the mail list.

Northwest Regional Power Facility. Washington — To construct a combustion turbine near Creston. The final EIS (#2887) is available. Call for a copy.

Upper Snake River Fish Culture Facility. Idaho — BPA plans to purchase a tribal hatchery for domestic rainbow trout and develop an experimental hatchery for Yellowstone cutthroat and redband trout. A preliminary EA is being prepared.

Watershed Management Program. Region-wide — Guidelines for funding watershed improvement projects. The draft EIS (#2945) is available. Call to receive a copy. See Calendar of Events and Close of Comment.

Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS. Region-wide — Guidelines for funding wildlife mitigation projects. The final EIS will be available in late March. Call to receive a copy. (See story)

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Programmatic EIS. Washington — The Bureau of Reclamation is taking the lead on this project. BPA is a cooperating agency. A draft programmatic EIS is expected in March. Delayed schedule due to reexamination of river flows and hydrology issues in overall implementation of the EIS. For further information or to be put on the mailing list, contact John Tiedeman, BOR, at (509) 575-5848 ext. 238.

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Calendar of Events

Watershed Management Program Draft EIS:

March 3, Holiday Inn Express, Spokane, Wash.

March 4, BPA Regional Office, Kalispell, Mont.

March 5, Value Inn, Missoula, Mont.

March 6, County Commissioners Room Annex #2, Salmon, Idaho

March 11, City Hall, Libby, Mont.

All meeting will be held from 4-7 p.m.

Federal Power Subscription:

March 11, Jantzen Beach Red Lion, Portland, Ore., 9 a.m.-12 noon. (The meeting may go into the afternoon.)

Retail Wheeling: **March 12**, Rates Hearing Room, Lloyd Center, Portland, Ore., 9 a.m.-12 noon. (The meeting May go into the afternoon.)

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Close of Comment

Watershed Management Program Draft EIS: **March 25**

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Acronyms:

EA: Environmental Assessment

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement

FONSI: Finding of No Significant Impact

NOI: Notice of Intent

ROD: Record of Decision

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The *Journal* is available on the Intranet at <http://www.bpa.gov/Corporate/KC/home/journal/>.

We welcome all comments from you at Journal-ACS, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, OR 97208-3621 or enballa@bpa.gov.

For More Information or To Get Involved:

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