

BPA NEWS

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BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
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Columbia River fall chinook salmon spawn in record numbers

Vantage, Wash.— Fall chinook salmon are returning to the Hanford Reach section of the Columbia River in record-setting numbers. Scientists estimate 200,000 chinook are spawning in the Hanford Reach, the most fish ever counted in this area since dams were constructed in the 1930s.

Overall, this year's fall chinook run on the Columbia and Snake rivers is the second best since counting began in 1938, with 1.2 million fish returning to the rivers and their tributaries.

Approximately 50,000 of the fall chinook are spawning in a one-mile section of the Hanford Reach called Vernita Bar. According to biologists, historically only a small number of salmon spawned at Vernita Bar because that stretch of the river was higher than historic flows.

Regional utilities began managing river flows in the 1980s to keep more salmon redds, or nests of eggs, underwater at Vernita Bar. Utilities such as Grant, Douglas and Chelan PUDs, and the Bonneville Power Administration worked to balance the needs of salmon with power production, flood control and other river uses. The result has been a significant increase in fish survival and much larger numbers of spawning salmon, benefiting their populations and the wider river ecosystem.

About BPA

The Bonneville Power Administration, headquartered in Portland, Ore., is a nonprofit federal power marketer that sells wholesale electricity from 31 federal dams and one nuclear plant to 142 Northwest electric utilities, serving millions of consumers and businesses in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, western Montana and parts of California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. BPA delivers power via more than 15,000 circuit miles of lines and 259 substations to 490 transmission customers. In all, BPA markets about a third of the electricity consumed in the Northwest and operates three-quarters of the region's high-voltage transmission grid. BPA also funds one of the largest fish and wildlife programs in the world, and, with its partners, pursues cost-effective energy savings and operational solutions that help maintain



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