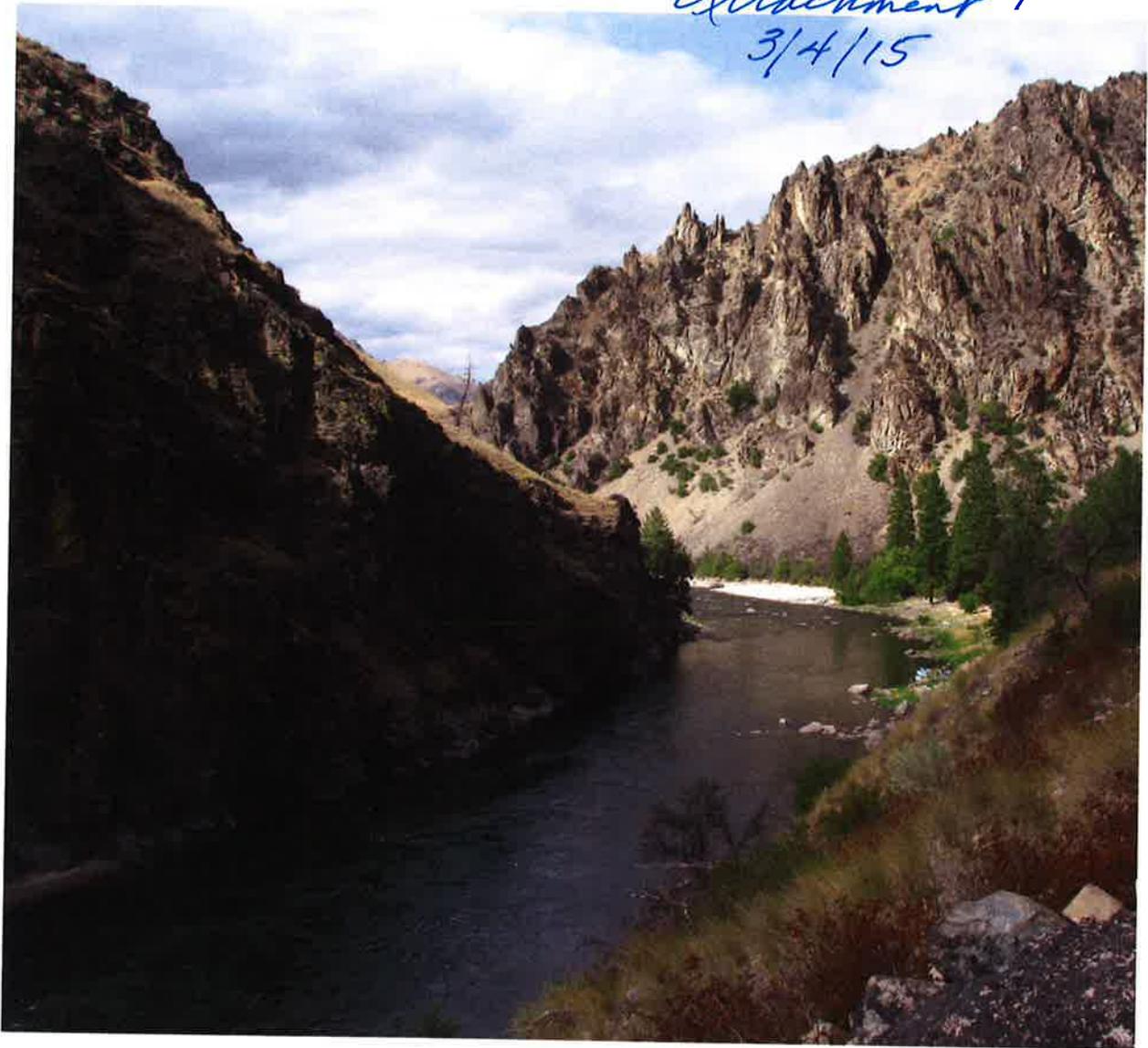


Attachment 1
3/4/15



The State of the Columbia River Basin



Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council
2014 IDAHO ANNUAL REPORT

To Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter, Senate President Brent Hill and
Speaker of the House Scott Bedke



Submitted to

Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter
Senate President Brent Hill and
Speaker of the House Scott Bedke

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The Northwest Power and Conservation Council was established pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-501) by the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The Act authorized the Council to serve as a comprehensive planning agency for energy policy and fish and wildlife policy in the Columbia River Basin and to inform the public about energy and fish and wildlife issues and involve the public in decision-making.

This annual report has been developed pursuant to Section 4(h)(12)(A) of the Northwest Power Act and Oregon Revised Statute 469.845. The Council's bylaws, which include its organizational structure, practices, and procedures, are available at www.nwcouncil.org/about/policies/bylaws.

Phil Rockefeller
Chair
Washington

Tom Karier
Washington

Henry Lorenzen
Oregon

Bill Bradbury
Oregon



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

W. Bill Booth
Vice Chair
Idaho

James Yost
Idaho

Pat Smith
Montana

Jennifer Anders
Montana

February 8, 2015

Dear Idaho Legislator:

This is the 2014 Idaho Annual Report for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. The Idaho Council Office is directed by Idaho Code, §61-1206, to prepare and submit an annual review report to the Governor and Legislature detailing the activities of the Council. This annual report will highlight developments and trends at the Columbia Basin and state levels.

The Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-501) authorized the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to establish the Council. The Council's has three responsibilities:

- 1) to assure the region an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable electric power supply;
- 2) to prepare a program to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife of the Columbia River Basin that have been affected by the construction and operation of hydropower dams; and
- 3) to inform the Pacific Northwest public about regional energy and fish and wildlife issues and involve the public in decision-making.

We hope you will find our report both concise and useful. As you review this information, please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely

W. Bill Booth
Vice Chair

James Yost
Council Member





Contents

06

The State of the Columbia River Basin in 2014

10

Electricity in Idaho

15

Idaho Fish and Wildlife

19

Council History



The State of the Columbia River Basin in 2014

The Columbia River is one of the great rivers of the world. Fourth-largest by volume in North America, the Columbia drains 259,000 square miles across portions of seven states and the Province of British Columbia, an area the size of France, and pours 192 million acre-feet of water into the Pacific Ocean on average every year. That's 57 cubic miles, or nearly half the volume of Lake Erie.

This wealth of water descends through the river's mostly deep and rocky canyon to the ocean at more than two feet per mile. The volume, geology, and descent make the Columbia one of the world's premier hydropower rivers, and the combination of clear, cold water, annual snowmelt-driven runoff, and broad geographic diversity of its many tributaries make the Columbia also one of the world's great salmon and steelhead rivers.

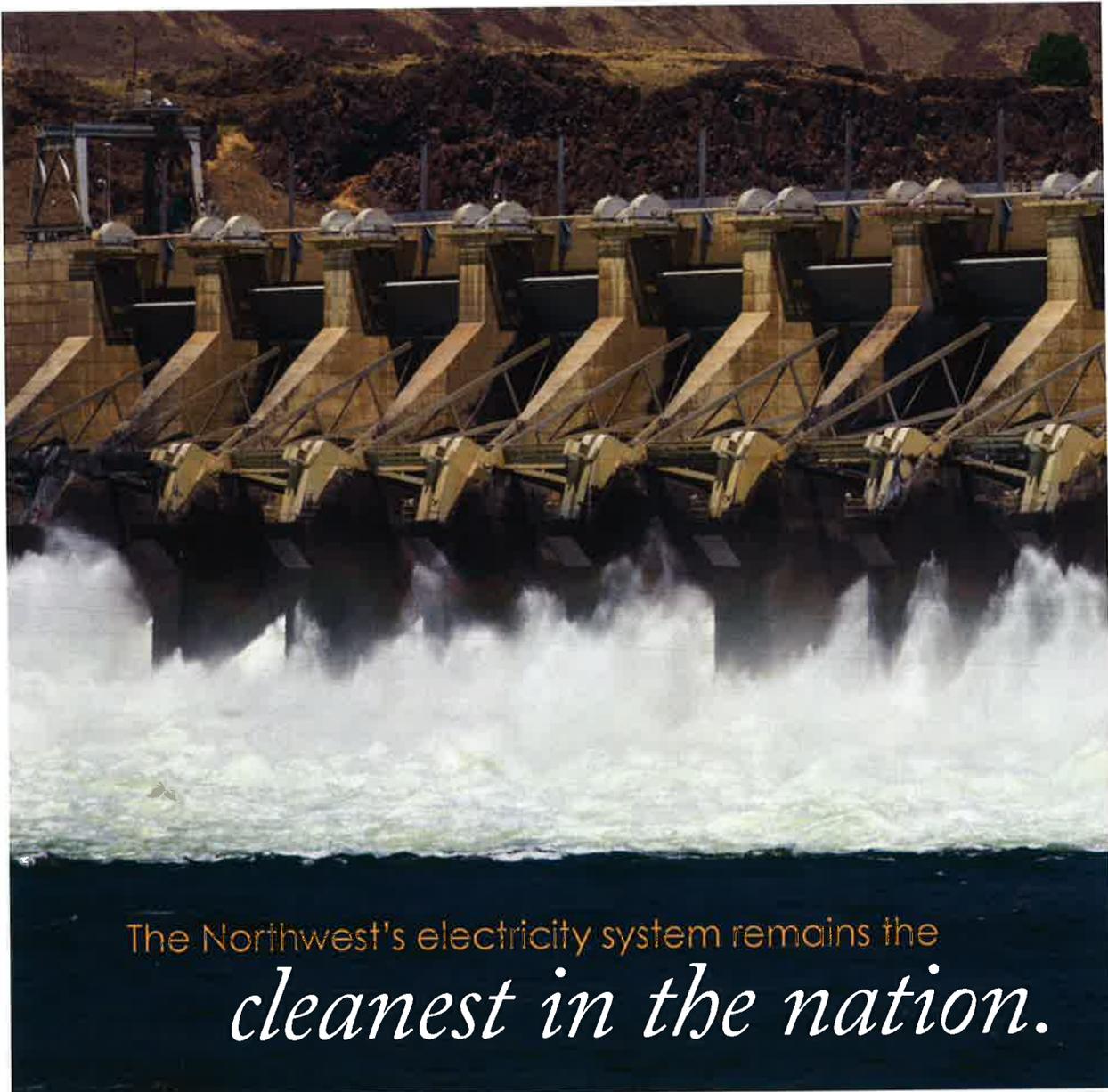
In all, 14 multipurpose hydroelectric dams span the Columbia River mainstem (11 in the United States), and many more are located on Columbia tributaries. In an average water year, dams in the American part of the Columbia River Basin provide more than 16,000 average megawatts of carbon-free, low-cost, renewable electricity to consumers in the Pacific Northwest states and as far south as Arizona and southern California. Expressed as power consumption, that's enough for about 13 cities the size of Seattle.

The Columbia is a unique river system, as habitat for fish and wildlife, as the largest single source of electricity for a region of 13.5 million people, and as a vital asset for the Pacific Northwest economy. Dams on the Columbia and its tributaries support commercial and recreational navigation as far as 450 miles inland from the ocean, irrigation of more than 3 million acres, and flood control for some 2 million people.

Energy

The Northwest's electricity system remains the cleanest in the nation. More than 70 percent of the region's energy supply, including energy efficiency, is carbon neutral, and the efficiency of electricity use continues to improve.

Not only does the Northwest lead the nation in hydropower, the Northwest also is a leader in reducing demand for electricity through improvements in energy efficiency. Congress declared energy efficiency the primary resource to meet new demand for power in the Northwest Power Act of 1980, the law that authorized the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to create the Power and Conservation Council. In Fiscal Year 2014, the region is on track to meet or beat the Council's energy efficiency goal



in its Sixth Northwest Power Plan (2010) to improve efficiency by saving 1,200 average megawatts in the five years between 2010 and 2014. Every year since 2005, the region has exceeded energy-efficiency targets in the Council's Fifth (2005) and Sixth Power Plans.

Energy efficiency is the second-largest energy resource in the Northwest. It now comprises about 17 percent of the region's electricity resources. The Council expects that percentage to increase over time.

Renewable resources, mainly wind power, comprise a small but growing part of the region's generating

resources. Wind power developed rapidly in the Northwest over the last 10 years and now totals about 9,000 megawatts of installed capacity. Of this amount, 80 percent (7,100 megawatts) is located in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. The remainder is primarily in Wyoming with small amounts in Utah and Nevada.

Northwest wind power capacity accounts for about 14 percent of the total regional power-generating capacity and about 8 percent of average annual electricity generation. About 2,100 megawatts of new wind power capacity came online in 2012 alone, but just 105 megawatts were added in 2013.

The recent rapid development of wind power pushed topics such as generating resource integration, power system flexibility, and marketing and scheduling practices to the forefront of conversations in the region

Energy efficiency is the second largest energy resource in the Northwest

about the future of the electricity supply. The Council is addressing these issues as it works on the Seventh Northwest Power Plan, which we expect to complete in late 2015.

Fish and wildlife

In 2014 the Council completed the latest revision of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, which the Council first developed in 1982 and revises every five years. The 2014 revision updates the existing program by focusing on reducing threats from invasive species, predators, and toxic substances; protecting 'strongholds' (areas of good habitat and the fish associated with them); enhancing conservation of wild fish; reviewing the feasibility of restoring salmon and steelhead into blocked areas, notably above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams; and repairing aging structures and equipment related to projects that implement the program.

The program is the largest regional effort of its kind in the nation, guiding more than \$250 million of Bonneville Power Administration expenditures annually to habitat improvements, hatchery operations, hydropower system fish-passage improvements, research, and related activities. Other costs related to implementation of the program, including forgone hydropower revenues and power purchases that result from spilling water over dams to assist juvenile salmon and steelhead passage, and fixed expenses related to capital investments, more than double

that amount. In Fiscal Year 2013, for example, the total of all costs Bonneville attributes to fish and wildlife was \$682.4 million.

Meanwhile, there is good news about most Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead runs.

Snake River fall Chinook salmon are making an amazing resurgence. The return of adult fish from the Pacific Ocean to Idaho rivers in 2013 was 75,846 fish. Of these, 20,222 were wild fish, a remarkable 26,000 percent increase from 1990, when just 78 wild fish were counted. The 2014 run of 60,686 fish was also far and above the ten year average return. 1990 was the year the Nez Perce Tribe and partners including the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, NOAA Fisheries, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and many others began an effort to rebuild the stock.

The 2014 sockeye run in the Columbia River was the largest since fish-counting began at the dam in 1938. The Bonneville Dam count totaled more than 614,000 fish. The previous record count at Bonneville was 516,000 in 2012. By far, the largest share of the Columbia Sockeye run originates in Lake Osoyoos on the Okanagan River in British Columbia. The smallest component of the region's sockeye returns to Idaho's Redfish Lake. An endangered species, the Snake River component exceeded 2,200 fish



The region's fishers witnessed great salmon returns in 2014.

at Lower Granite Dam this year, a number that rivaled the big return of 2010 but otherwise has not been seen since the dam was completed in 1975. In 1990, the count was zero and for many years the count was fewer than 100 fish.

NOAA Fisheries reported to the Council in 2014 that survival of juvenile spring/summer Chinook salmon through the hydrosystem in 2013 in the Columbia and Snake rivers was above average, and survival of juvenile steelhead was about equal to the long-term average. As well, travel times for juvenile fish migrating through the eight dams and reservoirs on the Columbia/Snake hydrosystem improved over the period prior to 2005. NOAA scientists attribute the decreased travel time primarily to increased water spills and installation of new surface-passage structures at dams.

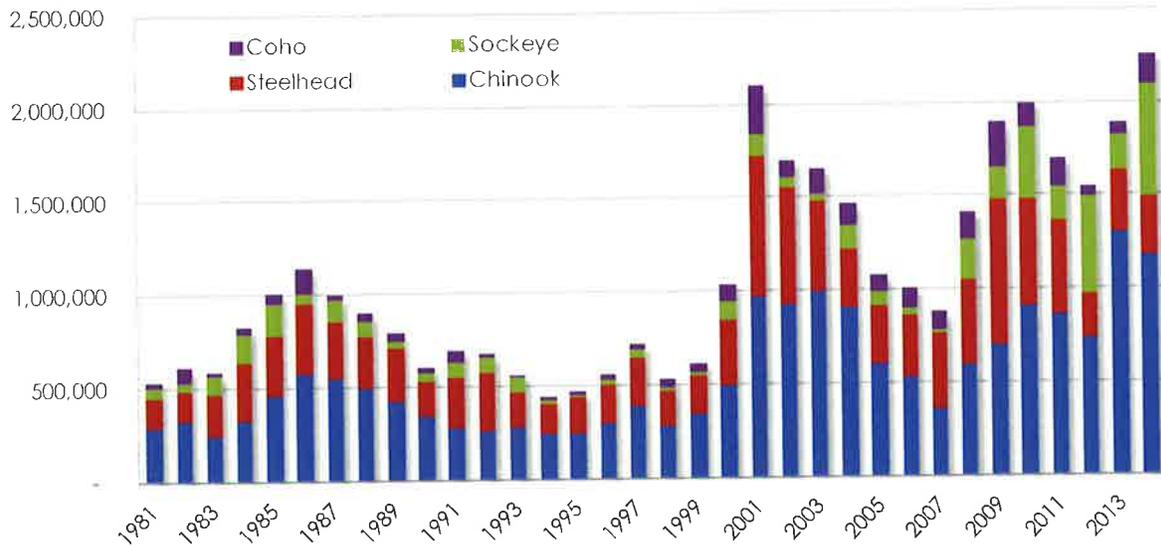
Here is a look at salmon and steelhead returns counted at Bonneville Dam since 1981. The total through mid-December 2014, 2,573,919, is a record since counting began at the dam in 1938.

We note a number of important accomplishments through the fish and wildlife program since it was first adopted by the Council in 1982. More than 2,400 river

miles of habitat have been improved for fish, endangered Snake River sockeye are being recovered, fish hatcheries have been constructed to help recover threatened endangered species, more than 400,000 acres of habitat have been acquired for the benefit of wildlife affected by dams, and scientific research has contributed to steadily improving knowledge about fish, wildlife, and habitat in the basin.

We are proud to be part of the steadily improving supply of clean energy in the Pacific Northwest, and the ongoing efforts to protect and restore fish, wildlife and habitat in the Columbia River Basin including survival improvements for many ESA-listed fish species. The Council is not alone in these efforts, collaborating on a regular basis with state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, Indian tribes, the Bonneville Power Administration, environmental and electric utility organizations, and others. In short, and consistent with the mandates of the Northwest Power Act, the Council is working to ensure that the Northwest power supply remains adequate, efficient, economical and reliable while protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin.

Salmon and Steelhead Counted at Bonneville Dam Through December 17, 2014



Electricity in Idaho

Idaho citizens and businesses benefit from reliable and economical sources of electricity. Idaho has among the lowest power rates in the nation. In February of 2014 Idaho had the lowest electricity prices in the nation – roughly 24 percent below the national average. The utilities that serve Idaho customers have a long history of operating an efficient and low-cost system. Also, Idaho's policy-makers have a long history of being independent and very thoughtful about energy policy. The combination of these **two** has been a great service to the electricity consumers in Idaho.

Overview

Idaho electricity consumers are served by three investor owned utilities (IOUs) and 26 municipally owned or cooperatively owned utilities. The IOUs serve approximately 85 percent of the electricity customers in Idaho, and the publicly owned utilities serve approximately 15 percent. The IOUs are Idaho Power Company, Avista, and Rocky Mountain Power. IOUs in Idaho are companies operated for profit and regulated by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. Idaho's energy use by sector is transportation 25 percent, industrial 35 percent, commercial 16 percent, and residential 24 percent. Renewable resources account for a larger share of net generation in Idaho than any other state.

The Idaho public utilities are owned either by municipalities or cooperatively by their customers. The

municipal utilities operate as city departments and are subject to the city council and mayor and ultimately the voters within the city. The cooperative utilities are not-for-profit corporations and are subject to an elected board of directors. The municipal and cooperative utilities operating in Idaho are: City of Bonners Ferry, Northern Lights, Kootenai Electric, City of Plummer, Inland Power, Clearwater Power, Idaho County, Salmon River, Lost River, City of Weiser, Vigilante Electric, Fall River Electric, Lower Valley Energy, City of Idaho Falls, City of Soda Springs, East End Mutual, United Electric, City of Rupert, City of Burley, City of Albion, City of Declo, South Side Electric, Farmers Electric, City of Minidoka, Raft River Electric, and Riverside Electric Lines.

Idaho's Electricity Generating Resources

Idaho's generating resource mix includes hydropower, coal, natural gas, wind, and geothermal. A small amount is produced by solar and biomass. Solar has some individual roof-top generation and a couple of commercial generation demonstration projects that are in various degrees of consideration. Conservation or energy efficiency is also considered a resource if it is cost effective, and all customers benefit from the expense the utility does not incur requiring the energy from other, more costly resources.

Renewable Energy Development in Idaho

Idaho is one of the few states in the Western Interconnection without a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). However, Governor Otter issued Executive Order No. 2009-05 that created a goal for diverse renewable and/or sustainable energy development. The Order encourages development of (including but not limited to) bio-diesel, biomass, ethanol, methane digesters, wind power, and solar. Also because of an attractive Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) rate and tax incentives, there has been substantial wind development in Idaho. PURPA was passed in 1978 with the intent

is that this wind energy is produced at a time when additional energy isn't needed. During periods of the year when peak energy is needed, (summer/winter) the wind usually isn't blowing. Large amounts of wind power are generated at the same time there is high spring runoff through the hydrosystem. This happens at a time of the year when Idaho Power already has excess power from the hydrosystem. This same scenario takes place at the same time on the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) power system. The electricity market is then flooded with more excess power, which drives the market price down. Intuitively this seems like a good thing for customers. However, this is a time when Idaho Power (and BPA) can usually sell some of their excess hydropower into

The Northwest has relied on energy efficiency for longer and to a greater degree than most other regions of the United States.

to encourage development of small renewable projects. The law requires the utility to buy the power from a PURPA project at a rate based on the utility's avoided cost of building a new power plant. The utility is required to buy this power regardless of need for new generating resources. The cost of buying PURPA power is passed on to that utility's electricity customers.

One of the unintended consequences of large amounts of wind power in Idaho Power Company's service territory

the market to offset other costs. When the market is being flooded with electricity from both hydropower and wind power there is more energy than demand, which makes the price of market power very low and in some cases negatively priced. During this time, the utility still has to pay PURPA rates for the wind energy generated. Cost-effective energy storage would greatly facilitate the integration of variable and renewable energy generation such as wind and solar power.

Transmission and Infrastructure

Idaho utilities are in need of transmission upgrades and expansion. There are times it is more economical for utilities to buy power on the market than to run some of their own facilities. However, transmission capacity for exports and imports of electricity is not available at some of the most critical peak times so additional resources are needed. There are several new transmission projects planned in the state and region to improve this situation.

Utilities are in need of distribution and sub-station expansion and upgrades. Spare transformers are becoming a necessity in the event of a terrorist assault on a substation. It takes 2 years for a transformer manufacturer to build units.

Council Energy Overview

The Seventh Northwest Power Plan

As required by the Northwest Power Act, following completion of the latest revision of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, the Council will begin revising the Northwest Power Plan. The next plan will be the seventh in the Council's history, as the Act requires the Council to review the plan at least every five years.

Under the law, the power plan incorporates the fish and wildlife program. The Council approved the first fish and wildlife program in 1982 and the first power plan in 1983.

The draft schedule for the Seventh Northwest Power Plan proposes its adoption near the end of 2015.

Some of the issues we expect to address in the new power plan include 1) the impacts of load-forecast uncertainty; 2) the cost and pace of future energy efficiency improvements; 3) the cost and availability of new generating resources; 4) power system reliability and adequacy; 5) the effect of proposed federal regulations to

reduce carbon emissions from power plants; 6) integration of variable-output resources like wind and solar power into the power grid; and 7) the ongoing transformation of the utility industry regarding issues such as the creation of energy imbalance markets and adaptation to lower load growth.

Regional Load Growth

The conventional wisdom of the past few years has been that the region's peak loads are growing, but the data does not support this perception, according to a review by the Council.

According to the review of historical trends, since 1995 annual energy loads grew at an average rate of only 0.40 percent, and winter peak loads haven't grown at all. Slow or no load growth may signal the need for a change in traditional utility planning and regulatory practices. Utilities earn returns on investment in capital needed for system expansion.

One thing that has changed in the last 20-30 years is the rapid development of energy efficiency, which dampened load growth while helping the region grow economically without having to rely too heavily on adding new electricity-generating resources. The Council plans to address the load-growth issue in the Seventh Power Plan.

Analysis of power shortage risk

The likelihood of future power shortages in the Pacific Northwest has declined over the last year, a Council analysis shows.

The predicted likelihood of shortage, known by the shorthand "loss of load probability" or LOLP, declined from 7 percent for the year 2017 in a Council analysis in December 2012 to 6 percent for the year 2019 in the Council's current analysis. The Northwest power supply is deemed adequate if the likelihood of future shortages, LOLP, is less than 5 percent.

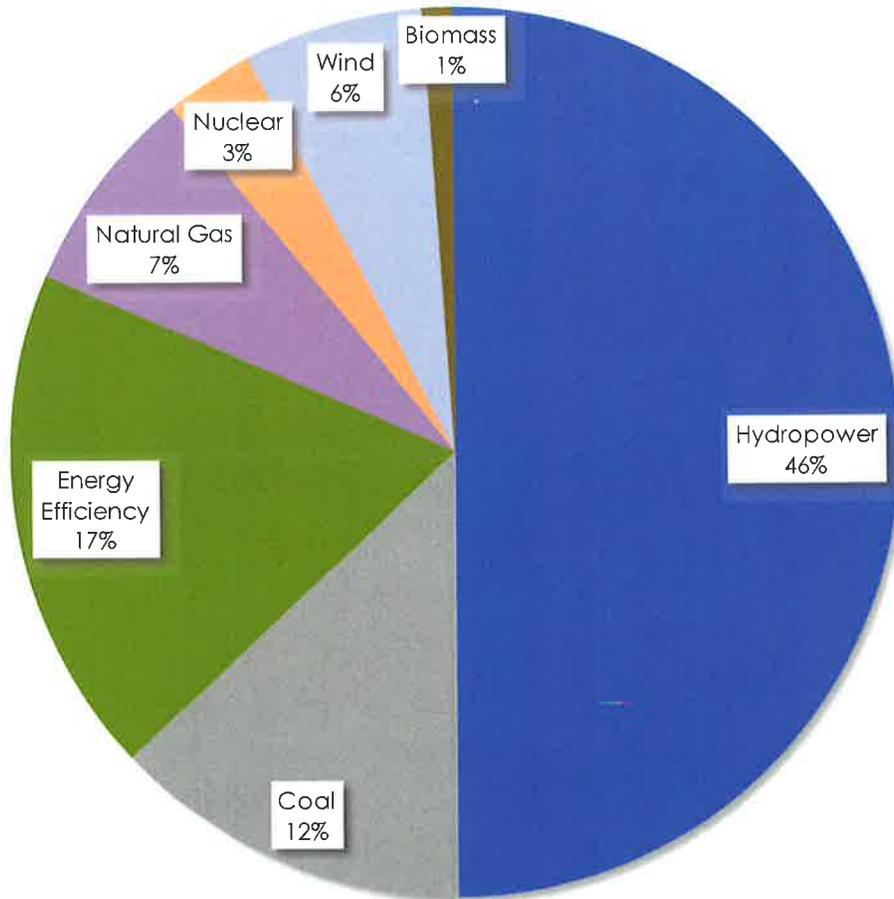
The LOLP declined in the most recent analysis because

the amount of electricity from new power plants soon to come online in the Northwest is greater than the anticipated new demand for electricity in 2019. Important to this conclusion is the Council's anticipation that the Northwest will achieve the Council's energy efficiency savings target of about 350 average megawatts per year between 2017 and 2019. That achievement helps offset the need for more costly new power plants.

However, the risk, or LOLP, increases again by 2021 as the result of the planned retirements of coal-fired power plants in Boardman, Oregon, and Centralia, Washington. In response to those closures, the LOLP increases to 11 percent.

Actions to bring the LOLP down to the Council's 5-percent standard will vary. For example, utilities have plans for new power plants totaling 1,800 megawatts of capacity for construction through 2024. These were not included in the analysis because it only includes plants that are sited and licensed or under construction. Another possibility to reduce LOLP on a short-term, seasonal basis is that utilities in the Northwest could import excess power from the Southwest when it is needed here, and send excess power from the Northwest to the Southwest when it is needed there.

Energy Resources in the Northwest
(2012 data; 2013 data available February 2015)



Through 2012, the Northwest
had acquired about 5,300
average megawatts of
energy efficiency over
the past three decades —
expressed as power,

*enough for five
Seattles today.*



Idaho Fish and Wildlife

Each year we use this report as a forum to highlight a species or ratepayer-funded recovery project. Past reports have chronicled the amazing resurgences of both Snake River sockeye and Snake River fall Chinook as well as fish habitat restoration efforts in the Upper Salmon Watershed. This year we had no choice but to focus on the coho salmon comeback. Although the hatchery component of this effort is not funded by the region's ratepayers via Bonneville Power Administration, ratepayers have helped fund the passage and habitat improvements that play a role in helping restore this population.

2014 witnessed a historic coho return to the Gem State. Over 18,000 coho were counted passing over Lower Granite Dam's fish ladder in 2014. The previous high since counts began in 1975 was 5,060 in 2011. Last year's count was ten times the ten-year average return.

In 1985, coho were declared functionally extinct in Idaho. Fish counts at Lower Granite Dam through the 1980s flat-lined at zero. In the 1960s an unsuccessful attempt was made to restore coho to Idaho.

This record return allowed for a first-time-ever coho fishing season in the Clearwater River Basin in 2014. The season opened on October 17th and ran through November 16th.

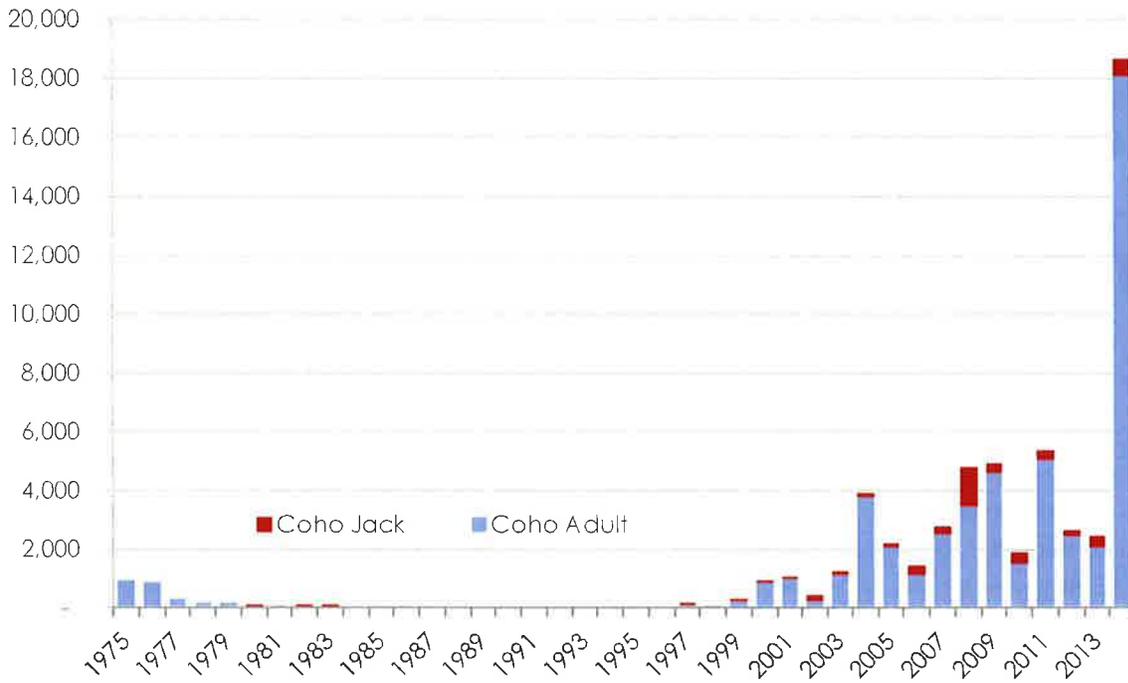
This new fishing opportunity for the region's sportsmen

was made possible by the efforts of the Nez Perce Tribe, which initiated a coho salmon hatchery program in 1995 to bring this extirpated fish back to Idaho. The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, appropriated by Congress, funds 100 percent of the associated coho hatchery expenses. That hatchery program has proven successful, producing growing returns including this year's, which is more than triple the previous high and surpassing the Nez Perce Tribe's original goal of 14,000 adults returning annually to the Clearwater Basin. Last year the tribe trapped just under 7,000 coho at their adult trapping locations, of which 2,300 fish were kept for hatchery purposes. Those adults provided the



Among the great salmon returns of 2014, the Snake River coho stands out because it started at zero.

Coho Salmon Counted at Lower Granite Dam (1975 - 2014)



eggs for 1.3 million coho smolts that will be reared and released in 2016 in the Clearwater Basin. Some 3,600 adults were released to spawn naturally. Some of these were released in streams including Lapwai Creek and Clear Creek. As well, 800 fish were provided for subsistence to tribal members.

and Wildlife Program is a component, at least every five years, beginning with the program.

Council Fish and Wildlife Overview

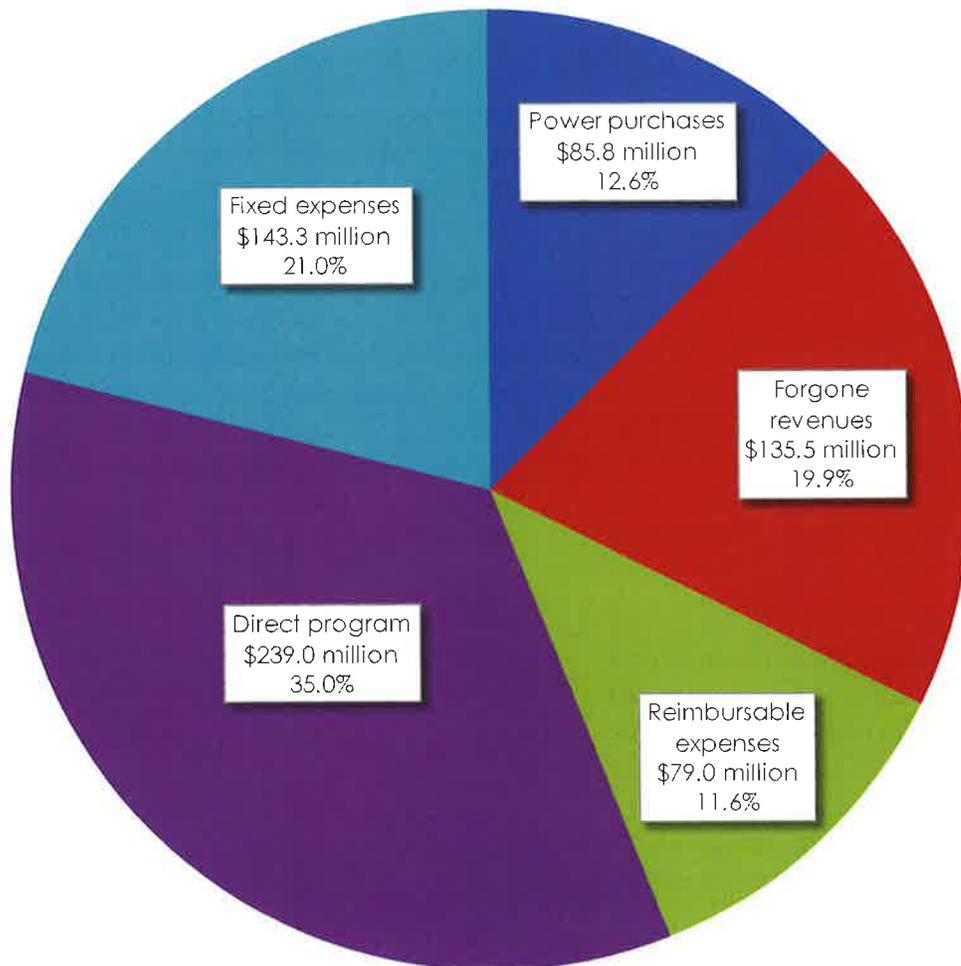
The program, which is funded by the federal Bonneville Power Administration under authority of the Northwest Power Act of 1980, is designed to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife, and related spawning grounds and habitat, of the basin that have been affected by hydropower dams. Bonneville's direct spending on projects that implement the program totaled \$239 million in Fiscal Year 2013. When this report was prepared Bonneville had not yet finalized the 2014 amount.

The Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program: 2014 Program amendment

The Northwest Power Act requires the Council to review the Northwest Power Plan, of which the Fish

Fiscal Year 2013 Bonneville fish and Wildlife Costs (total \$682 million)

(Total of \$682.4 million does not reflect \$155.7 million in obligations to capital projects or \$84.1 million in credits)



Bonneville Power Administration fish and wildlife costs

The Council reports annually to the four Northwest governors on costs of the Bonneville Power Administration to implement the Council's fish and wildlife program. Bonneville had not completed its compilation of costs for Fiscal Year 2014 at the time

this report was submitted to the Legislature. We anticipate the costs will be approximately the same as those in Fiscal Year 2013, however, and so for information purposes we include in this report the following synopsis of Fiscal Year 2013 costs, which totaled approximately \$682.4 million:

- \$239 million in direct (expense) costs to implement the Council's fish and wildlife program



- \$79 million in direct costs and reimbursements to the federal Treasury for expenditures by the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for investments in fish passage and fish production, including direct funding of operations and maintenance expenses of federal fish hatcheries; this category also includes one-half of the Council's annual approximately \$10 million budget (\$5 million in 2013; the other \$5 million is assigned to the Power Business Line budget)
- \$143.3 million in fixed costs (interest, amortization, and depreciation) of capital investments for facilities such as hatcheries, fish-passage facilities at dams, and some land purchases for fish and wildlife habitat
- \$135.5 million in forgone hydropower sales revenue that results from dam operations that benefit fish but reduce hydropower generation
- \$85.8 million in power purchases during periods when dam operations to protect migrating fish reduce hydropower generation, such as by spilling water over dams in the spring or storing it behind dams in winter months in anticipation of required spring spills

The \$682.4 million total does not include obligations to capital investments, as those are annual commitments as opposed to annual costs. The annual costs of capital investments are captured in the "fixed costs" category. The total also does not reflect a credit of \$84 million from the federal Treasury related to fish and wildlife costs in 2013. Applying the credit reduces the total fish and wildlife costs paid by Bonneville customers to \$598.3 million in fiscal year 2013.

Fish and wildlife costs account for a major portion of the rate Bonneville charges its wholesale power customers. Approximately one-third of Bonneville's wholesale rate of \$30 per megawatt hour is estimated to be associated with its fish and wildlife program.

Geographic review projects

In November 2013, the Council recommended 75 projects in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington for funding by Bonneville to improve conditions for fish and wildlife, primarily salmon and steelhead.

Nearly all of the projects are ongoing, and the Council's

recommendations follow a review of the projects by the Independent Scientific Review Panel (nwcouncil.org/fw/isrp/isrp2013-11). Projects in the geographic review were organized by freshwater areas where salmon and steelhead spawn. Most are intended to improve habitat.

Artificial Production, Snake River sockeye

Completion of a new Snake River sockeye salmon hatchery in Springfield inaugurated changes in how the state and its partners are working to restore the iconic species to the headwaters lakes of the Salmon River.

Since the species was listed as endangered in 1991, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, NOAA Fisheries, and the Shoshone Bannock Tribe have operated a captive broodstock program using a hatchery in Eagle, primarily, to rescue genetic material from the few remaining fish and begin rebuilding the run by releasing hatchery-bred eggs, presmolts, and smolts into natal waters to encourage natural production (see fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/fish?getPage=148). The near-term goal is to avoid extinction and maintain genetic diversity. The long-term goal is to rebuild naturally spawning populations to levels that could support tribal and sport harvest.

The new, \$13.5 million hatchery is an important step toward the long-term goal. Eggs produced at other hatcheries operated by IDFG and NOAA will be incubated and reared to the smolt stage at the Springfield facility and then released each spring at the outlet of Redfish Lake. The state expects that the additional smolt production — up to 1 million annually — will lead to higher numbers of returning adult sockeye, and these fish will help move the program from a focus on producing enough fish annually to avoid extinction to developing an integrated conservation hatchery program that results in sufficient numbers of adult sockeye returning from the ocean each year to support naturally spawning populations.

Council History

The Council, known until 2003 as the Northwest Power Planning Council, is an agency of the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The Council was created as an interstate compact agency by the legislatures of the four states under the authority of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980. (In Idaho, Title 61 (Public Utility Commission), Chapter 12, sections 1201-1207, laws of 1981, see www.legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title61/T61CH12.htm.) The Council's first meeting was in April 1981.

The Northwest Power Act gives the Council three distinct responsibilities:

- 1) to assure the region an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable electric power supply;
- 2) to prepare a program to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife, and related spawning grounds and habitat, of the Columbia River Basin affected by the development and operation of any hydroelectric project on the Columbia River and its tributaries; and
- 3) to inform the Pacific Northwest public regarding these issues and involve them in decision-making. This annual report is organized around the Council's three key responsibilities.

The Power Act created a special relationship between the Council and the federal agencies that regulate and operate dams in the Columbia River Basin and sell the electricity that is generated. The administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration, the federal power marketing agency that sells the output of the Federal Columbia River Power System (a system that includes 29 federal dams within the basin and two outside (in southern Oregon), and one non-federal nuclear power plant), is required to make decisions in a manner consistent with the Council's Northwest Power Plan and its Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Other federal agencies with responsibilities for Columbia River Basin dams (the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) are required to take the Council's Power Plan and Fish and Wildlife Program into account "at every relevant stage of decision-making to the fullest extent practicable," in the words of the Act.

Despite its relationship to federal agencies, the Council is not a federal agency and its employees are not federal employees. The eight-member Council consists of two members from each state, appointed by their respective governors. The Council headquarters are in Portland.



For more about the Council's activities, budget, meetings, comment deadlines, policies, or bylaws, call the Idaho office at (208) 334-6970 or visit www.nwcouncil.org. Copies of Council publications are available for free at the website or by calling.



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