

**Northwest Public Power Association**  
**36-10 Archived Resolution**  
**Effective Management and Operation of the Columbia River System**

**Background**

NWPPA members rely heavily on the low-cost power generated from hydroelectric dams in the Columbia River System, which serves as the foundation for the Northwest economy. Electrical output from these dams on the Columbia River System is significantly affected by the operation of the river system. Benefits from the dams on the Columbia River system include not only generation of clean, renewable and economical power, but irrigation, freight transport, recreation and congressionally mandated flood control. NWPPA members take the responsibility for management of this natural resource seriously. Electricity ratepayers have invested billions of dollars over the years in fish and wildlife restoration as well as other natural resource programs.

The Bonneville Power Administration has spent billions of dollars on Endangered Species Act and other statutory obligations to fish and wildlife. In addition, publicly-owned and investor-owned utilities are responsible for many programs that cost hundreds of millions of additional dollars. NWPPA members must pass on these costs directly to their customers through electricity rates, which consequently affect the regional economy. Over many of the last several years, substantial numbers of fish have returned to the Columbia River, and the number of harvested fish has broadly increased in most of those years. At the same time, pressures to increase funding levels for fish mitigation have intensified and there have been renewed calls by environmental groups to remove the Snake River dams.

**NWPPA's Position**

- NWPPA supports the responsible management and operation of the Columbia River System to mitigate the impact of dam operations on fish and wildlife through cost-effective, measurable, accountable results, based upon a rigorous, refereed and traditional scientific process.
- NWPPA opposes flow augmentation, increased spill, reservoir drawdown or dam breaching as inconsistent with a scientifically responsible fish and wildlife preservation and recovery effort.

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