

1 **Northwest Public Power Association**
2 **36-10 Archived Resolution - Proposed**

3 **Effective Management and Operation of the Columbia River System**

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5 **Background**

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

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

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27 **NWPPA's Position**

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

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37 Origination Date: 2005. Revised in 2010.