

Comments submitted to the Bonneville Power Administration on the
Regional Dialogue Proposal
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This Regional Dialogue proposal pits renewable energy advocates against advocates of restoring Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead. These fish are endangered by the federal hydropower system and BPA has a legal obligation to protect them. But it is wrong to create a false choice between salmon recovery and renewable development. We need to have both in order to meet the growing power needs of this region while fostering a healthy economy and maintaining the unique character of the Northwest, including healthy rivers and abundant wild salmon and steelhead.

It is wrong for BPA to single out salmon protection as the reason that it cannot offer sufficient wind power development. There are many obligations that constrain the hydropower system, not just fish and wildlife, and it is simply not correct to portray it as such.

Bonneville must advocate for real salmon recovery measures, including the one measure scientists say will truly recover these fish, which is to remove the four lower Snake River dams and replace the small amount of power they produce with cost-effective clean energy.

Diversifying our energy production with efficiency measures and renewables reduces demand on the hydro system and is smart to pursue regardless of the effects on salmon. This region is relying on Bonneville Power to fulfill its obligations to protect fish and wildlife and produce enough power for our growing needs in a cost-effective manner. Removing the four lower Snake River dams will restore salmon and steelhead, and will stop the wasteful spending on ineffective salmon recovery measures such as barging and trucking of smolts.

BPA also claims this proposal will add more certainty to their salmon recovery efforts, yet there is nothing in here explaining what the plan is for these efforts. With no plan, it seems more likely that *less* certainty will be the result, quite the opposite of what is stated in the proposal.

The Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition will submit more comprehensive written comments on the proposal at a later date.

Thank you.