

Stenehjem, Carlene R - DKC-7

From: on behalf of BPA Public Involvement
Subject: FW: salmon recovery

From:
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2006 9:46 AM
To: BPA Public Involvement
Subject: salmon recovery

Dear Administrator Wright,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bonneville Power Administration's proposed Regional Dialogue.

The Regional Dialogue proposal creates a false choice between salmon recovery and renewable energy development. BPA has a legal obligation to protect salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin that are threatened or endangered by the federal hydropower system.

It is wrong for Bonneville to single out salmon protection as the factor limiting its ability to accommodate wind power development. In fact, many obligations constrain the hydropower system -- including irrigation, barging and recreation.

Our region needs both salmon recovery and renewable energy development to create an ecologically and economically vibrant future for the Northwest. Renewable energy will allow us to meet the region's growing power needs cleanly and cost-effectively, while healthy rivers with abundant wild salmon will enhance and restore the multi-billion dollar sportfishing and commercial fishing industries. These industries are essential to many tribal and rural economies.

Wild salmon carry immense cultural significance; they are intrinsic to many tribal traditions and constitute an icon of the unique character of the Pacific Northwest.

BPA claims this proposal will add more certainty to salmon recovery efforts, yet nothing in the plan explains what these efforts will be. With no plan put forward, less certainty is the likely result.

I encourage BPA to advocate for real salmon recovery measures, including the one measure scientists say will truly recover these fish, removing the four lower Snake River dams and replacing the small amount of power they produce with cost-effective clean energy. Doing so would spare Northwest ratepayers the pain of spending millions of dollars each year on ineffective salmon recovery measures such as barging and trucking of smolts.

Sincerely,

Allison Ciancibelli