



Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council



**Established to inform and advance
a regional vision for power and
fish and wildlife in the Columbia Basin**

REGIONAL POWER PLAN

The Council develops a 20-year Power Plan, revised every five years, that ensures the Northwest has an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply.

Key components of the plan include:

- Electricity demand forecast
- Electricity and fuel price forecasts
- Assessment of cost-effective energy efficiency and demand response
- Least-cost generating resources portfolio
- Ensuring the resource strategy meets the Council's adequacy metrics and thresholds (these standards protect the Northwest power supply's adequacy at peak demand periods)

Bonneville Power Administration funds the Council's work and must act consistently with the Council's plan when acquiring resources. The Council's power planning under the Northwest Power Act emphasizes cost-effectiveness and flexibility, mitigating risk in electric power investments, and ensuring the system's reliability and adequacy. The Power Plan offers regional insights to utilities and regulators.

The Council is in the process of developing its Ninth Power Plan, with a goal of releasing a draft to the public by mid-2026 and adopting it by the end of that year. Challenges include significant regional load growth and a shifting resource mix. Growth in demand for electricity is being driven by data centers, electric vehicles, regional population and economic growth, electrification of buildings, and other sectors.

COST-EFFECTIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

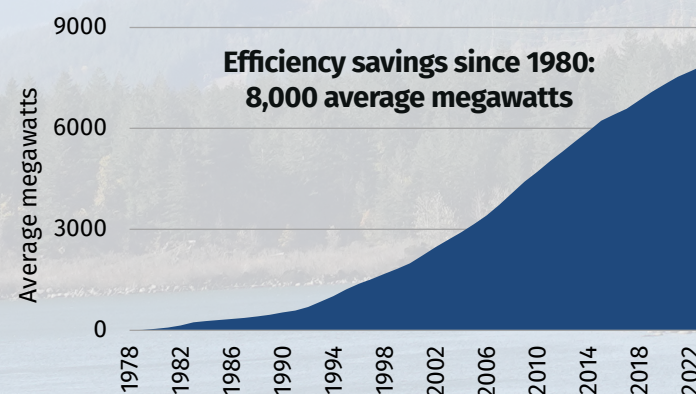
Energy efficiency plays a key role in reducing electricity consumption and making loads more flexible and easier to manage in the Northwest. Over the past several decades, energy efficiency has been a go-to way to meet demand at costs much lower than building new plants. This has been an ideal fit with the low-cost, reliable hydropower generated by the Columbia River. Over the past 20 years, power supply shortages have been rare in the Northwest – even

as extreme weather events have increased – while regional power costs remain among the lowest in the U.S.

Thanks to effective implementation of the Council's past power plans, the Northwest is a national leader in acquiring cost-effective energy efficiency.

Since 1980:

- The region has met more than half its load growth with energy efficiency
- Almost 8,000 average megawatts has been saved, enough power for more than seven Seattles or the average annual output of three Grand Coulee dams
- \$5 billion saved in lower bills for energy consumers and avoided energy costs



COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM

The vision: A Columbia River ecosystem that sustains an abundant, productive, and diverse community of fish and wildlife.

The Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program represents a 40-year effort to protect, mitigate and enhance salmon and other fish and wildlife in the basin affected by the hydropower system. It is one of the largest mitigation efforts in the world. The Council has tracked important progress on goals and objectives, but significant work still remains.

The Program incorporates a variety of strategies, including recommendations for dam operations that improve conditions for fish passage and survival, habitat mitigation, and hatcheries. Target species include salmon, steelhead, and resident fish such as sturgeon and bull trout.

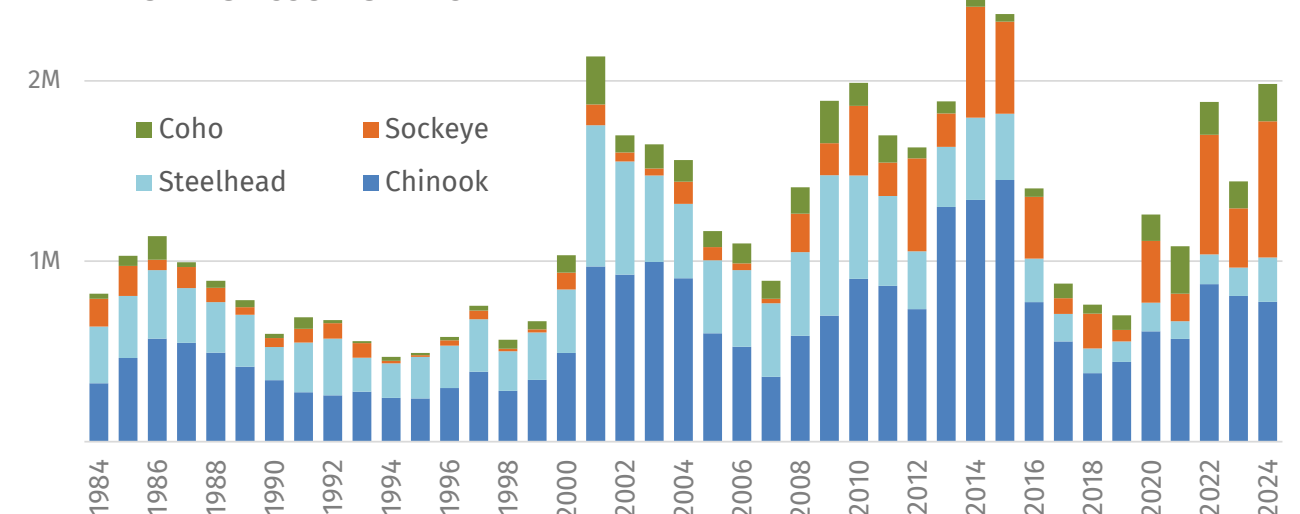
The Council updates the Program every five years based on recommendations from state and federal agencies, tribes, and others. Relevant projects are reviewed by an independent scientific panel.

To date, the Program has:

- Improved water management, flow, and passage to protect and increase survival at Columbia and Snake River dams
- Protected more than 300,000 acres of habitat through purchase or conservation easement*
- Improved over 760,000 acres of habitat through restoration actions**
- Protected 44,000 miles of undammed Northwest rivers and streams

* 1992-2022 ** 2005-2021

ADULT FISH COUNTS AT BONNEVILLE DAM





In 1980, Congress passed the Northwest Power Act, authorizing the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to form the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, an interstate compact agency, giving the region a greater voice in how we plan our energy future in the Pacific Northwest and manage natural resources in the Columbia River Basin.

The Act requires the Council to develop, with broad public participation, a regional power plan and a fish and wildlife program.

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