DRAFT 2026 COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN

FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM

TRANSCRIPT OF DRAFT 2026 COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN

FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM

MEETING

HELD ON

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

3:30 P.M.

NORTHWEST POWER AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

851 SOUTHWEST SIXTH AVENUE, SUITE 1100

PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

1   PARTICIPANTS

2

3   Mike Milburn, Chair, Council Member of Montana

4   Thomas Purce, Vice-Chair Council Member of

5   Washington

6   KC Golden, Council Member of Washington

7   Charles Sams, Council Member of Oregon

8   Ed Schriever, Council Member of Idaho

9   Douglas Grob, Council Member of Montana

10 Margaret Hoffmann, Council Member of Oregon

11 Kym Buzdygon, Public Affairs Division Director

12 Chad Madron, NWPCC Senior Division Coordinator

13 Kris Homel, NWPCC Biologist for Program Performance

14 Kate Self, NWPCC Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist

15 Patty O'Toole, NWPCC Fish and Wildlife Division

16 Director

17 John Shurts, NWPCC General Counsel

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1   TRANSCRIPT OF DRAFT 2026 COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN

2   FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM

3   MEETING

4   HELD ON

5   TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

6   3:30 P.M.

7

8   CHAIR MILBURN: Welcome you all today that

9 are online here listening and also those that are --

10 are presenting or testifying before us. Appreciate

11 that a lot.

12   If I didn't, I'll call the meeting to

13 order. And this is the public hearing for the --

14 our Council's Draft 2026 Columbia River Basin Fish

15 and Wildlife Program. And a very important part of

16 -- of -- of our -- of our program is this part of

17 it, the public input. So we really appreciate you

18 being here, listening in, or testifying.

19   Anyone wishing to provide public comment

20 should have signed in online. If you decide during

21 the hearing that you would like to give comment, do

22 so in this meeting organizer at

23 northwestcouncil.org. When the time comes to hear

24 your comments, I will call your name to testify in

25 the order in which you signed up.

1   And we will have a list on the -- on your

2   screen of everybody that signed up, and we'll do

3   that in order. I'll give everyone three minutes.

4   There will be a timer, so you can time -- help

5   monitor that yourself. And if it gets a little

6   close to three minutes, we'll give you a reminder

7   that your time is -- is winding down.

8   So first order of business is that I do

9   have a statement that I have to read.

10   Under the Northwest Power Act, the

11   Northwest Power and Conservation Council adopts and

12   periodically amends a program to protect, mitigate,

13   and enhance fish and wildlife facilities on the

14   Columbia River Tributary.

15   Hold on. It says my battery's getting

16   low. That's not good. And it's plugged in. Be

17   prepared. We will get this -- change cords here.

18   All right. See where I'm at.

19   Council's in the process of amending this

20   Fish and Wildlife Program in a formal amendment

21   process under the act. We recently released a draft

22   of the 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program. The

23   Council's now at the stage of the amendment process

24   where we are receiving public comment on that Draft

25   Fish and Wildlife Program. The formal comment

1 period extends until March 2nd, 2026. The Council

2 is conducting public hearings like this one to

3 receive oral comments on the draft.

4   We have a court reporter in attendance to

5 record your comments. The transcript of this

6 hearing will be circulated to all council members

7 and staff and will be included in the administrative

8 record for this program amendment process.

9   The Council is also accepting written

10 comments on the Draft Fish and Wildlife Program

11 until March 2nd, 2026. Instructions for how to

12 comment in writing are on the Council's website.

13 The Council will consider all the oral and written

14 comments on the Draft Program when making a final

15 decision on the 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program. The

16 Council is expecting to make a decision on the final

17 program in May of this year.

18   We will run the meeting, I think it's

19 until 6 o'clock, that specific time. And make sure

20 you sign-in, if you haven't, you'd like to say

21 something and Kym is going to give us --

22   CHAD MADRON: Kym, I think Member Milburn

23 may have been kicked off the -- he might need to

24 reconnect his computer. I do have the presentation

25 ready for you though.

1   KYM BUZDYGON: Fantastic. Well, I will do

2   that and we will work on getting turn over and back

3   online. I also just want to take one quick second

4   and doublecheck.

5   Brittany, if you're the court reporter, do

6   you mind just coming up for a second, letting us

7   know you're here and ready.

8   THE REPORTER: I'm present. Thank you.

9   I'm present. Thank you.

10   KYM BUZDYGON: Great. Thank you so much.

11   All right. Well, good afternoon,

12   everyone. Welcome to this public hearing on the

13   Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Draft

14   2026 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

15   My name is Kym Buzdygon. I'm the

16   Council's director of public affairs, and I'm going

17   to give a short presentation on the Council and the

18   Fish and Wildlife Program and then we will open it

19   up for public comment.

20   Next slide please.

21   So who we are. The Council was created by

22   Congress under the Northwest Power Act of 1980 to

23   give the Pacific Northwest a greater voice in power

24   planning and protecting fish and wildlife. The

25   Council is an interstate compact agency representing

1 the basin states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and

2 Washington. The governor of each state appoints two

3 members.

4   The Northwest Power Act requires the

5 Council to develop, with public participation, a

6 regional power plan and a Fish and Wildlife Program.

7 Federal agencies, including Bonneville Power

8 Administration, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army

9 Corps of Engineers, and the Federal Energy

10 Regulatory Commission all have legal

11 responsibilities under the act.

12   Next slide, please. So first, I'll

13 briefly touch on our role in power planning.

14   The Council must develop a 20-year

15 regional power plan to ensure an adequate,

16 efficient, economical, and reliable power supply for

17 the Pacific Northwest. The Council considers how

18 much energy the region will need and what resources

19 are available to meet that need, beginning with

20 energy efficiency.

21   The Council's power plan -- Council's

22 power plan guides Bonneville Power Administration's

23 acquisition of cost-effective resources. It also

24 serves as an important technical resource for the

25 region. The power plan is reviewed and revised

 1 every five years. The draft of the next power plan,

 2 called the Ninth Power Plan, is expected mid-2026.

 3   As with the Fish and Wildlife Program,

 4 there will be multiple opportunities for public

 5 comment on the power plan, and we hope to hear from

 6 you.

 7   Next slide, please.

 8   So the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program

 9 is updated about every five years, based primarily

10 on the recommendations from state and federal fish

11 and wildlife agencies and tribes, along with other

12 partners, as directed by the Northwest Power Act.

13   The Fish and Wildlife Program is intended

14 to protect, mitigate, and enhance all fish and

15 wildlife impacted by the hydropower system. It

16 includes on-site mitigation measures at the dams,

17 like changes to flow and passage, and off-site

18 mitigation measures like habitat restoration and

19 artificial production.

20   Next slide, please.

21   The Council's Fish and Wildlife Program

22 has been in place for over 40 years. It is one of

23 the largest mitigation efforts in the world,

24 covering an area roughly the size of France. It has

25 grown and evolved over time, based on the best

1 available science, and while progress is evident,

2 the Council recognizes that more work remains to be

3 done.

4   Next slide please.

5   Over the 40-year life of the program,

6 there have been significant accomplishments.

7 Changes to how the hydro system operates, as well as

8 improved passage at the dams, has benefited both

9 adult and juvenile migration. Habitat work has

10 protected, restored, or improved hundreds of

11 thousands of acres of land across the region.

12   The Columbia Basin Water Transaction

13 Program has collaborated with willing landowners and

14 irrigation districts to keep water in streams when

15 fish need it most. Artificial production programs

16 support both conservation and harvest objectives.

17 Over 1,800 fish screens have been installed and

18 maintained to keep fish out of irrigation systems,

19 and that's just to name a few accomplishments.

20   Next slide, please. So next I'll talk

21 about how the Fish and Wildlife Program gets

22 updated.

23   So there are many steps that we have to

24 take to amend the Fish and Wildlife Program,

25 beginning with the call for recommendations that

1 went out to the region in January 2025 and the

2 subsequent public comment period. We released the

3 Draft Program in December of 2025, and we are now

4 accepting comments on that draft until March 2nd.

5 The Council's goal is to release a final Fish and

6 Wildlife Program in May of 2026.

7   We received hundreds of recommendations

8 and thousands of comments during this amendment

9 process, and the Council has considered them

10 carefully over the last six months. Over the course

11 of this review, some topics seem to be of particular

12 urgency or importance to the region.

13   Priorities identified for the Draft

14 Program include making sure that assets and projects

15 have the funding they need to continue to function

16 and benefit fish, having consistent and stable hydro

17 operations over a longer period of time that keeps

18 water moving, increases velocities, and minimizes

19 fluctuations, assessing and managing predation in

20 the areas most likely to increase salmon and

21 steelhead survival, and continuing the crucial

22 habitat work that is the cornerstone of the

23 Council's Fish and Wildlife Program.

24   The Council is also placing particular

25 emphasis at this time on coordinating with other

1 relevant agencies to identify sources of non-repair

2 funding.

3   Next slide, please. Now to get to a

4 little housekeeping.

5   So as the chair mentioned, the list of

6 people who signed up to comment will be displayed on

7 the screen. Chair Milburn will call your name, and

8 you'll be able to unmute and make your comment at

9 that time. You will not be able to turn on your

10 camera.

11   Each person is getting three minutes for

12 comment. A timer will be displayed in the corner of

13 the screen, and you'll also hear someone chime in at

14 30 seconds, letting you know when it's almost time

15 to wrap up.

16   Please be courteous to council members,

17 staff, and others. Please note that your comments

18 will become part of the official record. And please

19 note that you can also submit comments online. So

20 you can go to nwcouncil.org/amend, and that'll guide

21 you through the online process.

22   All right. Last slide, please.

23   So now we want to hear from you. One

24 quick reminder, just to clearly state your name and

25 organization if you're affiliated with one before

1 you start your comments. That just helps our court

2 reporter with her transcript.

3   And that is all I have for now. So I

4 think if we can pop up that list of folks, then we

5 can get started.

6   CHAIR MILBURN: Hi, Kym.

7   KYM BUZDYGON: So back to you, Chair

8 Milburn. Thank you.

9   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay. Thank you.

10   I'm back with you, at least until the next

11 blackout. I'm going to start first with introducing

12 our council members that are online.

13   And, Member Hoffmann, let's start with

14 you.

15   MARGARET HOFFMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 My name is Margi Hoffmann. I am a council member

17 from the great state of Oregon. Happy to be here.

18 Thank you.

19   CHAIR MILBURN: All right. I don't see

20 who else is on. Just go down the line here for

21 other council members on.

22   KC GOLDEN: Hi, this is --

23   CHAIR MILBURN: Go ahead, KC.

24   KC GOLDEN: -- KC Golden from Washington.

25 Washington Council Member. Thanks for coming out

1 and giving us your guidance.

2   CHARLES SAMS: Hey, everyone. Chuck Sams,

3 Oregon's Council Member partnered with Margi. Thank

4 you for being here today.

5   THOMAS PURCE: Hi, I'm Les Purce. I'm a

6 Washington Council Member. It's nice to be here to

7 hear your comments this afternoon.

8   ED SCHRIEVER: Good afternoon, Ed

9 Schriever, Council Member from Idaho. Pleasure to

10 have you all commenting today.

11   CHAIR MILBURN: All right. Anyone else?

12 I think that's it. Thank you, Council Members, for

13 being here too. We're going to start right off --

14   DOUGLAS GROB: Doug Grob from Montana,

15 Council Member.

16   CHAIR MILBURN: Oh, Doug, you're on.

17 Yeah.

18   DOUGLAS GROB: Yes. I got blocked off

19 when I started there, but I'm here. Doug Grob,

20 Montana. Thank you.

21   CHAIR MILBURN: Thank you.

22   All right. Thank you, all. Let's get

23 rolling here.

24   And, Rob Cole, you're the first one up.

25 Thank you for joining us.

1   ROB COLE: Hi, thank you for having me.

2   I'm Rob Cole from Valley Ford, Washington.

3 Raised in Willamette Valley and spent most of my

4 life in Eastern Washington.

5   First, thank you for all that you're

6 doing. I appreciate all the work, reviewing the

7 studies and the projections. And I wish I could

8 project that 20 years. And I do appreciate that

9 you're taking the task on.

10   Probably my biggest concern is growing up,

11 now hitting retirement age, and just keeping an eye

12 on affordability for my own little universe here and

13 my bills, seeing that the -- you know, the prices

14 seem to be rising faster than the national rate, and

15 I noticed where Washington used to rank at some of

16 the lowest energy costs.

17   So that would be one of my major concerns.

18 And plus, you know, we've got -- we're going to have

19 some huge demand with data centers. That's a

20 concern to me, where I would hope that they are

21 heavily accountable in making up their share of

22 prices and costs, rather, of energy. Other than

23 that, predator management, I think it needs to be

24 handled a little more aggressive with the --

25 preserving the salmon.

1   And I thank you. That's what I have.

2   Appreciate it.

3   CHAIR MILBURN: And, Rob, thank you.

4   Next, we have Glen Spain. Thanks, Glen.

5   GLEN SPAIN: Afternoon, Members of the

6   Council and Staff. My name is Glen Spain. I'm the

7   Northwest Regional Director for the Pacific Coast

8   Federation of Fishermen's Associations.

9   We are commercial fishing families up and

10 down the coast. And the middle of that coast, of

11 course, is the Columbia River, which was once the

12 largest salmon-producing river system in North

13 America, and perhaps in the world. And it has

14 fallen into disuse, unfortunately, through a variety

15 of things.

16   I -- I urge you to continue to invest in

17 meeting the goal, the five million returning spawn

18 goal is -- is -- is only a fraction of what we could

19 produce, but it's certainly a good goal. You don't

20 have to reinvent the wheel. There is already a -- a

21 100-year salmon restoration program out there, the

22 Columbia Basin Partnership.

23   We were a member of that. Some 78

24 different entities, including states, tribes, and

25 federal agencies, many stakeholders, have come up

 1 | with this plan. And it is a very workable plan.

 2 | It's been well-tested. That should be adopted as

 3 | part of the plan of -- of restoration that the

 4 | Council is pushing for. That would make it

 5 | consistent.

 6 | Otherwise, we tend to pull in different

 7 | directions at different times. It's very important

 8 | to invest in our salmon resource. It is one of the

 9 | most fundamental values that we have in the Pacific

10 | Northwest, not only for a multibillion-dollar

11 | fishery, and remember that 58 or so percent of all

12 | the salmon caught in Southeast Alaska originate in

13 | the Columbia.

14 | Much of the fish and all the way down to

15 | Central California come from -- or impacted by

16 | Columbia River abundances. All of that is an

17 | investment, and making that investment returns jobs

18 | on a sustainable basis, provides food for America's

19 | tables. It also helps the entire ecosystem. As you

20 | know, there are multiple ecosystem values of salmon.

21 | It is the only known mechanism where ocean

22 | nutrients that are lost through erosion come back to

23 | the land. It is the heartland, the base of a lot of

24 | our forest ecosystems. Some 126 other species

25 | depend on salmon for all or part of their lifecycle.

 1 So all of these things are very important.

 2   KRIS HOMEL: Thirty seconds remaining.

 3   GLEN SPAIN: And I just thank you for all

 4 of your effort. The -- we support the salmon goal

 5 of five million, and we really would like to see you

 6 integrate the Columbia Basin Partnership Plan into

 7 the efforts that you're undertaking today. Thank

 8 you.

 9   CHAIR MILBURN: Yes, and Glen, thank you.

10 Appreciate it.

11   All right. Chelsea, you're up.

12   CHAD MADRON: Mr. Chairman --

13   CHAIR MILBURN: Yes.

14   CHAD MADRON: -- I don't see Chelsea as

15 connected right now, so we should probably move on

16 to the next person for now.

17   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay.

18   Kelly, you're up.

19   CHAD MADRON: Just a moment, Kelly. I'm

20 unmuting you right now.

21   CHAIR MILBURN: All right. Thank you.

22   CHAD MADRON: All right, Kelly. You have

23 mute, unmute control.

24   KELLY SCHWINT: Okay. Am I on?

25   CHAIR MILBURN: You bet. We -- loud and

1 clear. Thanks, Kelly.

2   KELLY SCHWINT: All right. I'm Kelly

3 Schwint. I'm a business rep for Local 77. I

4 represent utility workers in the northwest, around

5 9,000 of them.

6   A little background on me. I started in

7 fisheries at Grant PUD in 2009. I became a -- a

8 hydro power plant operator through an

9 apprenticeship. I was a senior power plant

10 operator, and then I became a senior system

11 operator, which includes dispatching spill

12 generation and maintaining compliance with fish

13 constraints on the Columbia.

14   My concern mainly today is the increased

15 spill far into August. Spill gases the river and

16 can cause GBT and juvenile salmon, not to mention,

17 you know, spilling too far into August. What are

18 the actual numbers of juvenile salmonids left in the

19 Snake River during August? I mean, there's really

20 not substantial evidence that we're even having a

21 migration period into that time period.

22   I think it's important that spill over

23 time is reduced, and we allow the investments such

24 as these juvenile bypasses, spillway weirs,

25 trucking, and barging to really shine. We've

1 reduced spill on the Columbia at certain projects by

2 up to 80 percent with some of these technologies,

3 but the Snake is still handcuffed by some of this

4 stuff, and we haven't really truly let some of that

5 technology shine.

6   Juvenile salmon swim in the top 40 feet of

7 water, and most spillway gates are a lot deeper than

8 that. So when fish swim, they have to be sucked

9 down and out through those gates, and the pressure

10 drop disorients the fish, and you end up having more

11 predation through the -- through a project than what

12 you would normally.

13   I'd also like to point out, you know,

14 people talk about the mortality rate of projects,

15 and typically you see mortality --

16   KRIS HOMEL: Few seconds remaining.

17   KELLY SCHWINT: -- in the 98 percent, and

18 only 7 of those go through the turbine, that's 0.14

19 percent. Investment in the fish survival comes from

20 dams, and salmon and dams can coexist, and the

21 Columbia is evidence of that, specifically the

22 Okanagan red run.

23   CHAIR MILBURN: All right. Kelly, thank

24 you. Time's up, and we appreciate your comments.

25   Okay. Let's see. Is Chelsea in? What

 1 | was the status of Chelsea?

 2 | CHAD MADRON: I don't see that name

 3 | connected. I've -- I've been scrolling up and down,

 4 | down to the queues as well, and I don't see that

 5 | person yet.

 6 | CHAIR MILBURN: Okay. Well, we'll just --

 7 | we'll just put her at the bottom then, unless --

 8 | CHAD MADRON: Okay.

 9 | CHAIR MILBURN: -- unless you say

10 | otherwise.

11 | All right. After Kelly, we have Marjorie.

12 | MARJORIE MILLNER: Okay.

13 | CHAIR MILBURN: Marjorie Millner.

14 | MARJORIE MILLNER: You can hear me okay?

15 | CHAIR MILBURN: You bet.

16 | MARJORIE MILLNER: Okay.

17 | CHAIR MILBURN: Thank you for joining.

18 | MARJORIE MILLNER: Okay. Thank you.

19 | My name is Marjorie Millner, M-A-R-J-O-R-

20 | I-E, M-I-L-L-N-E-R.

21 | Thank you, Council Members and Staff, for

22 | all your hard work and for holding these hearings.

23 | I testified virtually at the first hearing, and I

24 | have some additional comments on my impression of

25 | the entire plan, which I finished reading this past

 1 week.

 2   And on tribal treaty rights and climate

 3 change, two factors that I feel haven't been

 4 emphasized enough in the hearings. The proposed

 5 plan overall describes a failing river ecosystem and

 6 multiple specific attempts to get a better result

 7 from the Bonneville Power Administration and other

 8 agencies after what can only be called an utterly

 9 inadequate performance so far.

10   Any other contractor would be flat-out

11 fired if, after being given 40 years to increase

12 fish runs from 2.5 million to a very modest five

13 million, they ended up at their 2025 deadline with

14 no increase at all. And wild fish returns are

15 likely only 10 percent or less of current returns,

16 and this is after over $26 billion spent on

17 mitigation. What BPA has done is prove that eight

18 dams really are four dams too many.

19   The scientific consensus is that the four

20 lower Snake River dams must be breached if the wild

21 fish runs are to have any chance of recovery. These

22 four dams constitute only 2.6 percent of the

23 northwest power grid at this point. This, in trade

24 for the devastation of the Columbia Snake River

25 ecosystem, we cannot let this happen on our watch.

1   Regarding tribal treaty rights, those who

2   have testified against breaching the four lower

3   Snake River dams always make it about the money.

4   Now, as a rate-payer, I'd be willing to pay more to

5   honor the treaties and save the fish and orcas, but

6   by some calculations, rates would not have to

7   increase. But we are all living on the millions of

8   acres of land ceded by the tribes in treaties that

9   guarantee them fishing rights.

10   If we are a nation of laws, we must

11   fulfill our treaty obligations. The tribes have

12   been saying for decades that the four lower Snake

13   River dams must be breached for their fishing rights

14   to exist. Regardless of cost, it is time to breach

15   the dams. We should just thank our lucky stars that

16   today we do have good alternatives in conservation,

17   solar power, and wind power that we didn't have 50

18   years ago.

19   Regarding climate change, we are now in a

20   different ecological world than the one that existed

21   when the Council was created. Recent summers have

22   seen increasing incidences of lethally high water

23   temperatures and toxic algae in the slack water

24   behind the four lower Snake River dams.

25   KRIS HOMEL: Few seconds remaining.

1   MARJORIE MILLNER: It doesn't -- I'll make

2   it.

3   It does not matter if hatchery production

4   might be tripled. If the fish have to return to

5   water so hot that they die, it's for nothing. The

6   increased incidence of unhealthy or lethally high

7   water temperatures in the slack water behind the

8   four lower Snake River dams as a result of climate

9   change must be recognized as the new existential

10   threat to salmon recovery that it is.

11   Thank you very much for all your work,

12   again, and for taking my additional comments.

13   CHAIR MILBURN: Marjorie, and thank you.

14   And next we have Abbie.

15   Abbie. Are you on, Abbie?

16   CHAD MADRON: Abbie, you have mute, unmute

17   control. You can speak when you're ready.

18   ABBIE ABRAMOVICH: Thank you so much. Can

19   you hear me?

20   CHAIR MILBURN: You bet. Thank you,

21   Abbie.

22   ABBIE ABRAMOVICH: Good afternoon. My

23   name is Abbie Abramovich, and I'm the Salmon Program

24   Senior Associate for the Idaho Conservation League.

25   My childhood was spent exploring the

1 landscapes of Idaho, including rafting trips on the

2 Salmon River and what my family called Idaho

3 snorkeling on the red -- on Redfish Lake. It's not

4 lost on me that despite spending so much time in

5 these places that were named for Idaho's fish, my

6 childhood was based in scarcity.

7   Instead of witnessing wild salmon and

8 steelhead in these special places, I knew the story

9 of Lonesome Larry and knew the chance of me seeing a

10 wild salmon during these family vacations was slim

11 to none. Decades later, nothing has changed.

12 Despite the Power Council's role of protecting,

13 mitigating, and enhancing fish in the Columbian

14 Snake River Basin's wild salmon and steelhead remain

15 on the brink of extinction.

16   It was 1987 when the Council first

17 established the goal of five million adult fish

18 returning to the basin. This nearly 40-year-old

19 goal was based on a comprehensive review that found

20 hydropower caused the vast majority of salmon

21 losses, between 5 and 11 million fish. This five

22 million fish goal isn't arbitrary. It's the number

23 needed to begin turning the tide of extinction and

24 restoring balance to the ecosystem.

25   And yet, despite four decades of work,

1 current adult returns are less than half that goal.

2 My Idaho childhood was so clearly defined by the

3 lack of salmon in our region, it inspired me to --

4   THE REPORTER: Last sentence please.

5   ABBIE ABRAMOVICH: -- personally to

6 protect and enhance this -- this --

7   CHAD MADRON: Abbie, we're having some

8 trouble with your audio, and so the court reporter

9 was asking you to repeat your last sentence.

10   ABBIE ABRAMOVICH: Oh, I see. Thank you.

11 Let's see where I was at. I'll just skip ahead.

12   I'll skip ahead to if I had failed over

13 and over to reach a 40-year-old goal, you can rest

14 assured that I would do everything in my power to

15 change that. So to hear that this Council has not

16 adopted all the recommendations from the fish

17 managers in the region is incredibly disappointing.

18   I know you've heard that this will result

19 in rising costs, but significant rate increases

20 cannot be attributed to salmon measures. Energy

21 rates in our region are going up due to a general

22 demand increase, including data centers. In the

23 coming years, we will need to double the amount of

24 energy generation in the Pacific Northwest.

25   Compared to this, incorporating

1 recommended operations for fish -- fish passage like

2 summer spill is a minuscule ask. The Council's own

3 -- and it would not affect the region's ability to

4 --

5   KRIS HOMEL: Thirty seconds remaining.

6   ABBIE ABRAMOVICH: -- projected future

7 demands. I know you've also heard that increased

8 spill would put hardworking people at the dams at

9 risk, but salmon operations are always suspended if

10 there's a concern for human or -- health or human

11 safety.

12   It's my goal to work myself out of a job.

13 I hope that there never has to be another person in

14 my position because I'm hopeful we'll see a day

15 where Idaho kids actually get to witness healthy and

16 abundant salmon runs. We live in a world where

17 affordable, clean energy, and healthy salmon

18 populations can coexist.

19   Please adopt all the fish managers'

20 recommendation to make this future a reality. Thank

21 you.

22   CHAIR MILBURN: Thank you, Abbie.

23   Next is Owen.

24   CHAD MADRON: Hi, Owen. I'm giving you

25 mute, unmute control on the Zoom software. You

 1 should be able to unmute and speak.

 2   CHAIR MILBURN: Hello. Owen, are you

 3 there?

 4   CHAD MADRON: Look for the microphone

 5 control button in the bottom left hand of the Zoom

 6 software to unmute yourself and let us know what you

 7 have to say.

 8   CHAIR MILBURN: All right. Let's go --

 9   OWEN BEGLEY-COLLIER: Oh, can you hear me

10 now?

11   CHAIR MILBURN: Oh, yeah. There you are,

12 Owen. Thank you.

13   OWEN BEGLEY-COLLIER: Sorry about that.

14 I'm on my phone and it didn't show up.

15   CHAIR MILBURN: No, that's okay. Thank

16 you. Yeah, thanks for joining.

17   OWEN BEGLEY-COLLIER: Yes, thank you so

18 much for your time.

19   My name is Owen Begley-Collier and I'm a

20 student at Western Washington University.

21   A lifelong love of the southern resident

22 orcas has been a gateway into salmon advocacy.

23 Snake River salmon are a keystone species, feeding

24 the entire ecosystem from orcas to bears to trees.

25 These salmon are also -- are also crucial for tribes

 1 all around the region, both spiritually, culturally,

 2 and economically.

 3   Salmon are also crucial for fisheries all

 4 over the region. Salmon on the Snake River are

 5 teetering on the edge of extinction. According to a

 6 2021 report done by the Nez Perce Tribe, around 42

 7 percent of spring and summer Chinook on the Snake

 8 River are already at the threshold for quasi-

 9 extinction.

10   A 2022 report done by the National Oceanic

11 and Atmospheric Administration concluded that

12 breaching the Snake River dams is "essential and a

13 centerpiece action" for recovering salmon on the

14 Snake River. Immediate action must be taken to

15 recover Snake River salmon and to breach the lower

16 Snake River dams as soon as possible.

17   For those reasons, I'm asking that the

18 Council adopt a proposal that includes elevated

19 levels of spill through August 31st, detailed and

20 explicit accountability measures, especially linked

21 to Bonneville Power Administration's responsibility

22 to achieve program goals.

23   And I'm also asking that the Council

24 acknowledge lower Snake River dam breaching as a

25 necessary measure in the final 2026 Fish and

1 Wildlife Program and include an analysis of a -- of

2 a dam breach scenario in the Ninth Power Plan.

3 Thank you so much for your time.

4   CHAIR MILBURN: You bet, Owen, and thank

5 you.

6   Next is Michelle.

7   MICHELLE HENNINGS: Hi, can everyone hear

8 -- hear me?

9   CHAIR MILBURN: We can, Michelle.

10   MICHELLE HENNINGS: Okay.

11   CHAIR MILBURN: Thank you for joining.

12   MICHELLE HENNINGS: Thank you.

13   Good afternoon. Thank you for the

14 opportunity to speak today. My name is Michelle

15 Hennings and I'm the Executive Director of the

16 Washington Association of Wheat Growers.

17   I'm speaking on behalf of Washington Wheat

18 Growers and personally as a wheat farmer from

19 Eastern Washington. WAG represents over 4,000

20 producers across the state who rely on the Columbia

21 Snake River system and particularly the lower Snake

22 River dams for our livelihoods.

23   The Columbia Snake River is the nation's

24 top wheat export gateway with more than 55 percent

25 of all US wheat exports moving through the Pacific

1 Northwest. Specifically, roughly 10 percent of US

2 wheat exports pass through the four locks and dams

3 along the lower Snake River.

4 This is especially important for our

5 state, as Washington is the fourth largest wheat

6 producer in the nation and exports about 90 percent

7 of the wheat we produce. We appreciate the

8 Northwest Power and Conservation Council's work on

9 the Draft Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife

10 Program, including support for the Phase 2

11 Implementation Plan and increased focus on managing

12 predation of salmon and steelhead.

13 WAG strongly believes that dams and salmon

14 -- salmon can and do coexist. Average adult salmon

15 and steelhead returns are nearly three times higher

16 than the first counts at Bonneville Dam,

17 demonstrating that coordinated investments and

18 improved operations can produce real gains for fish

19 populations.

20 Reliable, low-cost hydropower from the

21 Columbia River system provides a substantial benefit

22 to wheat farmers. Hydropower supplies large-scale,

23 flexible generation and helps keep local electricity

24 prices lower and stabilizes the grid during peak

25 seasonal demands, which is a critical -- which is

 1 critical during seeding and harvest.

 2   Lower and more predictable energy costs

 3 reduce expenses for irrigation pumping, grain

 4 drying, aeration, and storage systems, preserving

 5 already thin farm margins and helping maintain

 6 competitiveness in global markets. Hydropower's

 7 dispatchability also supports irrigation

 8 infrastructure and grain handling facilities when

 9 farmers need them most, reducing the need for costly

10 on-farm backup generation.

11   At the same time, maintaining and

12 improving hydropower operations must go hand in hand

13 with strong measures to protect and restore salmon,

14 such as fish passage improvements, flow management

15 operations when appropriate, habitat restoration,

16 and monitoring predation management.

17   Continued investment in modernized dam

18 operations and habitat will help sustain both energy

19 reliability and healthy fish populations. When

20 balanced effectively, these efforts sustain regional

21 energy affordability and reliability by protecting

22 fisheries, tribal resources, and the economic

23 resilience of --

24   KRIS HOMEL: Few seconds remaining.

25   MICHELLE HENNINGS: -- Washington wheat

 1 farmers in rural communities. The Pacific Northwest

 2 is quickly losing its energy affordability

 3 advantage. Rising energy costs and declining

 4 reliability are squeezing wheat farmers during an

 5 already difficult period by increasing operating

 6 expenses and disrupting time-sensitive activities.

 7   Again, thank you for the opportunity to

 8 testify on behalf of Washington Wheat Farmers.

 9   CHAIR MILBURN: Thank you, Michelle.

10 Appreciate it.

11   Patricia, you're up.

12   CHAD MADRON: Member Milburn -- excuse me,

13 Chair Milburn --

14   CHAIR MILBURN: Yes.

15   CHAD MADRON: -- Patricia, and then also

16 the next speaker, Andrew, do not appear to be

17 connected at this time. And so I would suggest we

18 move on to Jane Fritz.

19   CHAIR MILBURN: All right. Let's do that.

20 You let me know if they show up.

21   So Jane, you're up. Jane Fritz.

22   JANE FRITZ: Can you hear me?

23   CHAIR MILBURN: I can. Thank you for

24 joining.

25   JANE FRITZ: Thank you for listening.

1   CHAIR MILBURN: You bet.

2   JANE FRITZ: And I'm Jane Fritz of the

3   Idaho Mythweaver. I'm the media director, a radio

4   producer, and a podcaster who has been working on

5   salmon issues since 1992, when I happened to be at

6   the Sawtooth Hatchery when Lonesome Larry was caught

7   in the weir on Redfish Creek.

8   So I go way back on stories about salmon,

9   but these last five years I had worked on a major

10   documentary and radio production called People of

11   the Salmon that looked at the Nez Perce Tribe's work

12   in the Wallowa Mountains in the Wallowa Valley of

13   Oregon and their efforts to enhance, restore, and

14   reintroduce fish such as Coho salmon and -- and with

15   hopes to bring sockeye salmon back to Wallowa Lake.

16   It was an incredible eye-opening

17   experience. I was able to spend the summer in the

18   Wallowas in 2021. I've learned so much in those

19   years. Our one-hour program came out in April of

20   2025. It's run in Spokane on public radio. It's

21   run in Boise. I would love to have it in Oregon, in

22   Washington, other places, but it's also available.

23   If anyone on the Council wants to hear it, you can

24   go to our website, mythweaver.org.

25   We are a non-profit, or it's on Spotify

1 and Apple Podcasts under Voices of the Wild Earth,

2 and it's called People of the Salmon. All I can

3 tell you is having listened and learned and talked

4 to dozens of people, tribal people, biologists, it

5 is very clear to me that the Snake River Dams must

6 be breached if salmon in the Wallowa Valley and

7 county are to survive.

8   Those wild fish, like Lonesome Larry, are

9 -- are something to behold, and it's so essential to

10 save. And so I'm -- I'm not a scientist. I listen

11 to scientists. I listen to tribal elders. Our

12 documentary has elders who remember fishing at

13 Celilo Falls. We have lost so much, and in 40

14 years, not a lot has been gained --

15   KRIS HOMEL: Seconds remaining.

16   JANE FRITZ: -- that has been pointed out.

17 So my hopes are that we can protect salmon and steel

18 from -- steelhead from extinction, and -- and we

19 need to do it now. And the loss of the Columbia

20 Basin Agreement was a tremendous loss after all that

21 work with the tribes.

22   Thank you very much for listening, and I

23 hope you'll listen to the documentary. It says a

24 lot.

25   CHAIR MILBURN: And thank you, Jane.

 1 | Appreciate it.

 2 | Bear Prairie, welcome.

 3 | BEAR PRAIRIE: Thank you. Glad to be

 4 | here.

 5 | Glad to -- well, I now recently moved over

 6 | and worked for Lower Valley Energy as the CEO. We

 7 | represent and provide electric service to about

 8 | 32,000 members here in Idaho and Wyoming.

 9 | And as a longtime born and raised Idaho

10 | resident, I can, you know, definitely speak to the

11 | Redfish Lake. I grew up in Jerome. And, you know,

12 | that was our background and our backyard of where we

13 | spent a lot of time. And I remember the, you know,

14 | '80s and not having many fish around. I also can't

15 | do a lot of time camping up there over the last, you

16 | know, 15 years.

17 | And I also know that over the last four or

18 | five years, I've been up there in the summer when

19 | salmon have been running, and people are catching

20 | salmon like crazy. And I've seen kids sitting in

21 | the creek that comes -- or the Redfish Creek that

22 | comes into Redfish Lake. And I've watched kids snag

23 | salmon with treble hooks, which was a little bit

24 | alarming. If they're that extinct, why are we

25 | having kids snagging them and stuff?

1   So I think the narratives don't always fit

2   the reality on the ground. I've also lived through

3   the '80s where there was no salmon fishing. I've

4   also, in the 2000s, spent a lot of time salmon

5   fishing in Riggins and along the salmon, and have

6   caught a lot of wild salmon and hatchery salmon and

7   steelhead.

8   So you know, it is definitely a success

9   story, and I attribute that success story to the

10 hard work that you folks have been doing by

11 following the science. And, you know, I think what

12 the science is telling us is that, you know, salmon

13 and dams can coexist. This is also an issue I've

14 been working on for a lot of years.

15   This is a, you know, after working on, you

16 know, what was formerly known as the Simpson

17 Proposal, this is now a $65 billion problem of

18 removing those four lower Snake dams. And the

19 science is not clear because it's on that delayed

20 mortality figure that we have truly not studied

21 enough. So we think it might have an impact, but

22 we're not sure.

23   So I think we need to continue to follow

24 the science and continue to do what we can to

25 maintain affordable, reliable, carbon-free

 1   generation. And I applaud, you know, the Council

 2   for, you know, having a balanced approach and

 3   looking at the science and understanding the true

 4   differences between the delayed mortality figures

 5   and the nuance detail.

 6   And I know it's a red meat issue for a lot

 7   of groups and individuals, but the only --

 8   KRIS HOMEL: Seconds remaining.

 9   BEAR PRAIRIE: -- the only way that we're

10   going to solve this is to continue working together

11   and acknowledging that we are on the right path, we

12   are doing the right things, and, you know, we need

13   to keep -- you know, keep the course.

14   So thank you for all your guys' work.

15   CHAIR MILBURN: And thank you, Bear, for

16   those comments.

17   Next will be John Osborn.

18   JOHN OSBORN: Thank you, Chairman Milburn,

19   for this opportunity to comment. My name is John

20   Osborn.

21   I live on Vashon Island, which is located

22   between Seattle and Tacoma, an unceded ancestral

23   land of the s ..babš or the Swift Water People.

24   And I'm testifying as an individual in support of

25   salmon and orca.

1   In way of background, I'm a physician.

2   I'm in my 41st year of providing medical care for

3   veterans. I actually started with World War I vets.

4   My patients are mostly veterans from three states,

5   Idaho, Montana, and Washington.

6   I've also served as physician advisor for

7   Camp Chaparral, jointly hosted by the Department of

8   Veteran Affairs and the Yakima Nation, which is

9   centered on Indian combat vets with PTSD, and that

10 work also has informed my ethics work on the

11 Columbia River.

12   I came of age in Idaho's sawtooth country

13 and know the power of salmon charging up the Salmon

14 River to spawning headwaters. They are below Galena

15 Summit. My mother is Marie Osborn. She's Idaho's

16 first nurse practitioner and the nation's first

17 licensed nurse practitioner.

18   My mother covered 6,000 square miles of

19 Central Idaho through the Stanley Clinic and Stanley

20 Ambulance and the volunteer EMTs. So I know that

21 well -- that world well and I knew -- and -- and I

22 know what it's like to see salmon coming up river.

23   Like many people in this region, I -- I

24 care about salmon. I am a rate payer and I want to

25 see BPA and my utility, Puget Sound Energy, be part

 1 of the solution for salmon, for fish and wildlife,

 2 and for orca. My work in ethics includes helping to

 3 coordinate the One River Ethics Matter or ORM

 4 conference series.

 5   ORM supports involvement from Indigenous

 6 sovereigns, faith leaders, and academic institutions

 7 to undertake what has been a multi-year ethics

 8 consultation for our severely impaired river. Our

 9 12th ORM will be virtual and held on November 12th

10 and 13th and focused on fisheries and salmon

11 restoration of the Upper Columbia above Grand Coulee

12 and Chief Joe.

13   And here's the key point for Council --

14 for Council Members. Decisions about the Columbia

15 River, they may be economic, they may be cultural,

16 but they are definitely ethical. Decisions about

17 Columbia River salmon should uphold --

18   KRIS HOMEL: Seconds remaining.

19   JOHN OSBORN: Decisions about Columbia

20 River salmon should uphold ethical principles,

21 notably beneficence, autonomy, and justice.

22   Thank you.

23   CHAIR MILBURN: And thank you. Appreciate

24 it.

25   All right. Looks like Bridget is next.

 1   BRIDGET ALBERS: Hi.

 2   CHAIR MILBURN: Hi, Bridget.

 3   BRIDGET ALBERS: Thank you for the

 4   opportunity to share comments today.

 5   My name is Bridget Albers and I'm an

 6   Avista Utilities rate payer. I was raised in

 7   Portland, Oregon. I'm currently studying at Gonzaga

 8   University in Spokane, studying sociology and health

 9   equity. I am also a part of Save Our Wild Salmon's

10   NextGen Salmon Collective.

11   Through these organizations, I've learned

12   how valuable it is that we take care of our natural

13   resources in order to promote the health of not only

14   our salmon, but all living things. Salmon are a

15   keystone species, meaning that promoting the health

16   of our salmon is crucial for the health of our

17   ecosystems.

18   While I understand the importance of

19   affordable energy, it should not have to come at the

20   cost of our salmon populations. In order to achieve

21   the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's goal

22   of five million annual fish return, we must listen

23   to all recommendations from tribal and state fishery

24   managers.

25   I have three main asks of the Council.

 1 The first is for elevated spill levels through

 2 August 31st as a priority hydropower operations

 3 measure.

 4   The second is for detailed and explicit

 5 accountability measures to be put in place to ensure

 6 that BPA is responsible for achieving the goals of

 7 their program.

 8   The third is that this program

 9 acknowledges that the Lower Snake River dam removal

10 is a necessary measure in order to restore salmon

11 populations to full abundance and that an analysis

12 of the dam breach scenario should be included in the

13 power plan.

14   I am deeply concerned about the crisis

15 that salmon and steelhead populations are facing

16 across the Columbia River Basin. We have the

17 opportunity now to alter this trajectory. Let's

18 please listen to the lands and experts in order to

19 protect our environment now and for future

20 generations.

21   Thank you so much for your time and your

22 work on this project.

23   CHAIR MILBURN: And thank you, Bridget.

24   Next will be Lauri. Lauri Dayton.

25   CHAD MADRON: Lauri, we show you as

1 unmuted. You may be blocked in another way. From

2 our side, it looks like you can speak okay.

3   CHAIR MILBURN: All right. How are we

4 doing?

5   CHAD MADRON: She still shows as unmuted

6 on our side. We can circle back if you'd like, Mr.

7 Chairman.

8   CHAIR MILBURN: All right. Okay. Let's

9 see. Yeah, let's -- let's go with Katie and then

10 we'll come back to Lauri and see if she's up.

11 Thanks.

12   CHAD MADRON: All right. Let me see --

13   CHAIR MILBURN: Katie, are you on?

14   CHAD MADRON: -- let me see if Kaia is

15 connected. Just a moment. She wasn't a moment ago.

16   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay.

17   CHAD MADRON: I do not see Kaia connected,

18 but I do see Mark Leed as connected.

19   CHAIR MILBURN: Mark, good.

20   Mark, let's go with you. Thank you.

21   MARK LEED: Thank you. Yeah.

22   My name is Mark Leed. I'm a resident of

23 Vancouver, Washington.

24   I'm another fan of Redfish Lake. I've

25 been camping up there probably eight different

 1 times. I am a rate payer of Clark Public Utilities,

 2 which obtains, I think, the majority of their power

 3 from the hydroelectric dams in the Columbia and

 4 Snake River system.

 5   For your 2026 Fish and Wildlife Plan, I

 6 encourage you to incorporate the recommendations of

 7 all the state and tribal fisheries managers in the

 8 region. I would also like you to extend elevated

 9 spill over the dams through the end of August in

10 order to optimize conditions for out-migrating

11 juvenile salmon and steelhead.

12   And the plan also needs to acknowledge

13 that breaching of -- of the lower Snake River dams

14 is a necessary measure for restoring salmon and

15 steelhead populations. That is the consensus of the

16 fisheries biologists who have studied the issue.

17   And I think that the services provided by

18 the dams can be transitioned to other sources and

19 phased out over the next few years. They only

20 provide, as -- as somebody mentioned earlier, a very

21 small portion of the power. And upgrading the

22 hydroelectric plants at those four dams is going to

23 cost hundreds of millions of dollars. They're --

24 they're aging at this point.

25   And in terms of the wheat transportation,

1 that is an issue, but a lot of the transportation of

2 wheat through Southeastern Washington has already

3 been transitioned to trucking over the last 25

4 years. And so I think it is feasible that barging

5 could be phased out, and that's not a necessity in

6 the long term.

7   And I think that finishes my comments.

8 Thank you very much for your time.

9   CHAIR MILBURN: Yeah, you bet, Mark.

10 Thank you.

11   MARK LEED: Mm-hmm.

12   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay. It looks like we're

13 going to go to Parker -- Parker Meade.

14   PARKER MEADE: Thank you very much for

15 getting me on the list, and thanks for -- thanks for

16 your time.

17   CHAIR MILBURN: Thank you, Parker.

18   PARKER MEADE: So my name is Parker Meade,

19 and I live in Seattle, Washington. I was born in

20 Idaho, and I've grown up in Washington. I've lived

21 here my whole life. I'm a ratepayer and utility

22 customer of Seattle City Light, and I'm here to

23 share why salmon recovery and a strong Fish and

24 Wildlife Program matter to me.

25   As a ratepayer, I care about affordable,

 1 reliable power, but more importantly, I care about

 2 living in a region defined by healthy, abundant

 3 salmon and steelhead. Salmon are a keystone species

 4 in the Columbia and the Snake River ecosystems, and

 5 they feed forests, wildlife, and entire food web

 6 systems. Their decline signals ecosystem failure.

 7   We've known for decades that dams harm

 8 salmon. The impacts of federal hydropower systems,

 9 blocked habitat, turbine mortality, altered flows,

10 and warming reservoirs are all well-documented.

11 Continuing incremental mitigation while wild stocks

12 decline amounts to managed extinction. We cannot

13 accept that outcome.

14   To achieve the Council's five million fish

15 goal, I urge you all to adopt all of the

16 recommendations from state and tribal fishery

17 managers as required under the Northwest Power Act,

18 including three priorities. Elevated spill through

19 August, wild juvenile salmon that migrate in August

20 make up the -- a disproportionate large --

21 disproportionately large amount of the returning

22 adults.

23   An increased spill protects genetic

24 diversity and supports their long-term population

25 growth. Second, clear and enforceable

1 accountability measures tied to Bonneville Power

2 Administration's responsibility to achieve program

3 goals using a whole -- whole of government approach

4 in the Ninth Power Plan.

5   BPA manages and markets this power system

6 and must be accountable for meeting measures --

7 measurable fish recovery benchmarks. Third,

8 acknowledge lower Snake dam removal as a necessary

9 measure in the final 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program

10 and include a full breach scenario analysis in the

11 Ninth Power -- Power Plan.

12   The science shows that removing the four

13 lower Snake dams would have the highest -- or the

14 single largest impact on salmon recovery and is

15 necessary to reach the five million goal.

16 Significant rate increases cannot be attributed to

17 salmon measures. Energy rates are rising primarily

18 because of growing demand and our region will

19 continue to grow in the coming years.

20   The purpose of a strong Fish and Wildlife

21 Program is to set clear biological goals first. The

22 power plan can then determine how to maintain low

23 costs while meeting those obligations. Please do

24 not weaken the program before conducting the full

25 energy analysis --

 1   KRIS HOMEL: Thirty seconds remaining.

 2   PARKER MEADE: -- needed to show that we

 3   can have both affordable power and abundant fish.

 4   We also need to be honest about shifting baselines.

 5   Each generation grows up thinking that salmon

 6   numbers they see are normal.

 7   When we see small temporary improvements

 8   it's easy to call that success, but today's returns

 9   are a fraction of historic abundance. What looks

10   like recovery is often just a slight uptick from

11   crisis levels. We cannot redefine success downwards

12   simply because we've grown used to scarcity.

13   We have the science. We have the

14   responsibility. I urge you to adopt the program

15   that moves us beyond managed decline toward real

16   recovery.

17   Thank you very much for your time.

18   CHAIR MILBURN: Thank you, Parker.

19   All right. Next Jennifer.

20   JENNIFER JOLY: Good evening, Chair

21   Milburn and Members of the Council.

22   My name is Jennifer Joly. I'm with the

23   Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association

24   which is made up of 11 municipally-owned and

25   operated electric utilities.

1   We appreciate the Council's work and our

2   customers' significant investments to protect,

3   mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife in our

4   region while ensuring adequate, efficient,

5   economical, and reliable power supply.

6   We are supportive of priorities to address

7   predation, invest in critical maintenance and

8   infrastructure for salmon and steelhead, and the

9   reintroduction above Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph.

10   As full requirements customers of BPA, our utilities

11   depend on the Federal Columbia River Power System

12   and we recently signed new 16-year contracts with

13   BPA.

14   Increases in system costs or risk to

15   reliability have disproportionate impacts in our

16   communities. Two quick examples. McMinnville Water

17   and Light supports industrial and agricultural

18   workers in Oregon's wine growing region. Cascade

19   Steel is the city's largest employer providing

20   family wage jobs.

21   Cascade, one of the few remaining steel

22   plants on the West Coast, would not be sited in

23   McMinnville without access to reliable, low-cost

24   power. In the city of Forest Grove in the Portland

25   Metro area, utility customers are highly impacted by

 1 the housing crisis and face economic hardship. One-

 2 third of renters spend over 50 percent of their

 3 income on rent.

 4   At the school district, 60 percent of

 5 students receive free and reduced lunch. We must

 6 have the Council clearly identify data, assumptions,

 7 and any uncertainties underlying your

 8 recommendations. Prioritize cost-effective actions

 9 with demonstrated biological benefit.

10   OMEU is concerned that the proposed

11 mainstem hydro operations are likely to negatively

12 impact affordability and reliability. We urge the

13 Council to meaningfully coordinate this program with

14 BPA and other federal agencies who have

15 responsibility for operating the system. As you

16 know, operational changes to the hydro system are

17 currently subject to ongoing federal litigation.

18   It is important that the Council's program

19 not prejudge outcomes or constrain future

20 operational flexibility before those processes are

21 complete.

22   KRIS HOMEL: Thirty seconds remaining.

23   JENNIFER JOLY: Recent extreme weather

24 events have made clear how essential hydro

25 flexibility is for maintaining reliable service and

 1 literally saving lives. We think it makes sense for

 2 the Council to delay or extend your public process

 3 given the -- the litigation.

 4   In closing, OMEU cannot accept the hydro

 5 system operations as proposed. The flow objectives

 6 and minimum operating pool requirements are too

 7 extreme. We urge the Council to take a more

 8 balanced approach.

 9   Thank you.

10   CHAIR MILBURN: Thank you, Jennifer.

11   All right, Joel -- Joel Fletcher.

12   CHAD MADRON: Joel, I show you as

13 connected three different ways, so I'm going to try

14 and unmute all three of them and hope that one of

15 them is the right way to get you connected there.

16 All right. Go ahead, Joel.

17   CHAIR MILBURN: Hello, Joel.

18   CHAD MADRON: Joel, all three instances

19 with your name are unmuted, so if you want to go

20 ahead and give it a shot at one of your devices

21 there.

22   JOEL FLETCHER: Hi, can you hear me?

23   CHAIR MILBURN: There you go, Joel. Yeah.

24   JOEL FLETCHER: Joel Fletcher, University

25 of Washington, Earth and Space Sciences.

1   CHAIR MILBURN: Thanks for joining, Joel.

2   Go ahead.

3   JOEL FLETCHER: Thanks.

4   I want to address the structural concern

5   in this draft. The Northwest Power Act assigns the

6   Council the responsibility to protect, mitigate, and

7   enhance fish and wildlife affected by the hydropower

8   system. The responsibility rests -- rests with you

9   guys.

10   I'd just like to say what's -- what's

11 absent here is a clear finding. Secondary logistics

12 do not relieve the Council of its statutory

13 responsibility, and quite frankly, if they are being

14 used to defer structural determinations, that

15 position must be expressly adopted and substantiated

16 in the record.

17   The act requires equitable treatment of

18 fish and wildlife alongside power production.

19 Postponement does not satisfy the statutory duty.

20 This Council has operated under the Pacific

21 Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation

22 Act since 1980.

23   And while your service is acknowledged,

24 frankly, after five years or five decades -- almost

25 five decades, 45 years now, with salmon numbers

 1 crashing throughout their range, this Council's

 2 efforts have been ineffective, and after 44 years of

 3 taking taxpayer dollars, it's my recommendation that

 4 this Council be dissolved.

 5   Thank you.

 6   CHAIR MILBURN: Joel.

 7   Okay. We've got London.

 8   CHAD MADRON: All right. Just a moment,

 9 please.

10   All right. London, you have mute, unmute

11 control.

12   LONDON FLETCHER: Hello?

13   CHAIR MILBURN: Hi, London. Thanks for

14 joining us.

15   LONDON FLETCHER: My name is London

16 Fletcher. I'm a research assistant with the Orca

17 Research Trust in New Zealand and within the

18 University of Washington's Department of Biology in

19 Seattle.

20   I reviewed the draft amendments to the

21 Fish and Wildlife Program. I'm alarmed not only by

22 what it contains but by what it omits. This draft

23 reduces abundance ambition relative to documented

24 historical production. It maintains minimum Smolt-

25 to-Adult Return thresholds as low as 2 percent.

 1   It contains no structural escalation

 2   mechanism if those targets fail. It relies on,

 3   "Contribute to verbiage rather than enforceable

 4   outcomes," and it defers the comprehensive system-

 5   wide power modeling necessary to evaluate structural

 6   alternatives. Federal law mandates that this

 7   Council must protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and

 8   wildlife affected by hydropower while assuring

 9   reliable supply.

10   It is established that this program must

11   be based upon the best available scientific

12   knowledge. When the best available scientific

13   knowledge establishes cumulative system-wide

14   mortality drivers, a program that lowers ambition,

15   omits structural accountability triggers, and defers

16   comparative modeling must explain how it remains

17   consistent with its statutory mandate.

18   That explanation is not present in this

19   draft. This program sets biological targets but

20   does not determine or does not require publication

21   of comparative modeling before dismissing structural

22   alternatives. If reliability is the reason to

23   retain the current configuration, then publish the

24   full grid simulations.

25   Publish summer peak demand scenarios.

 1 Publish winter extreme event modeling. Publish cost

 2 impacts to rate payers. Publish carbon

 3 implications. If the dams are absolutely

 4 indispensable, demonstrate it.

 5   If they are replaceable within reliability

 6 standards, then refusing to evaluate structural

 7 alternatives while biological targets continue to

 8 underperform is inconsistent with the statutory

 9 obligation to protect fish affected by the

10 hydropower system.

11   Twenty-five years from now, the record

12 will show exactly what this Council knew. It will

13 show that peer-reviewed science had already

14 demonstrated how freshwater and marine conditions

15 jointly determine Chinook survival. It will show

16 that replacement power modeling frameworks already

17 existed and had quantified the megawatts,

18 portfolios, and costs required to replace the lower

19 Snake River dams while meeting reliability

20 standards.

21   It will show that the Northwest Power Act

22 required protection of fish and wildlife using the

23 best available scientific knowledge while assuring

24 reliable power. It will show that survival targets

25 were set as low as 2 percent, which is grossly

 1 unambitious. It will show that comparative modeling

 2 was available but not required in this amendment,

 3 and it will show the vote.

 4   History will not remember process

 5 language. History will not credit good intentions.

 6 History can only measure --

 7   KRIS HOMEL: Thirty seconds remaining.

 8   LONDON FLETCHER: -- the adult returns

 9 will have rebounded towards historic production

10 capacity or they will not have. Twenty-five years

11 from now, no one will ask whether this was

12 politically difficult. They will ask whether it was

13 scientifically defensible, whether it was legally

14 consistent.

15   They will ask whether leaders acted when

16 the data was clear. We are the generation

17 inheriting that answer. Make sure it withstands the

18 record.

19   CHAIR MILBURN: All right. Thanks,

20 London.

21   Let's see who we have. Nancy's next.

22 Nancy Johnson.

23   NANCY JOHNSON: Thank you.

24   My name is Nancy Johnson. I appreciate --

25   LONDON FLETCHER: Can I leave the meeting?

1   NANCY JOHNSON: -- I appreciate this time

2   and -- and your work. I grew up in -- I'm currently

3   living in Edmonds, Washington, and a rate payer with

4   Snohomish County PUD.

5   I grew up in South Central Washington in a

6   family that farmed, fished, and hiked. I'm

7   testifying today in honor of my dad, Forrest

8   Johnson, a good farmer, a passionate fisherman, and

9   a strong conservationist. When I was five, dad took

10   me to Celilo Falls.

11   This was about a year before the

12   completion of the Dalles Dam, which wiped out the

13   falls and surrounding community. A traditional -- a

14   traditional fishing ground where several tribes

15   gathered to fish during salmon runs. Later, he

16   explained to me that we took that trip because of

17   his concern that the dam would be the end of an era

18   for that rich tribal fishery and the Village of

19   Celilo.

20   He knew the dam and the fish population

21   could not coexist. He was a realist, but he would

22   be shocked today at how few salmon remain. We need

23   to restore at least five million salmon. Please

24   adopt the recommendations from state and tribal

25   fisheries managers. They know what they're talking

 1 about.

 2   Salmon must have enough water to migrate

 3 through the month of August in order to maximize

 4 genetic diversity. Salmon first, when it comes to

 5 water. And you and we cannot let the BPA off the

 6 hook. They must meet their obligations to protect

 7 fisheries and honor treaties with tribal nations.

 8   Finally, the -- the topic of breaching the

 9 four Lower Snake River Dams must be included in the

10 plan. Upstream from the Lower Snake River Dams lies

11 the best remaining salmon and steelhead habitat in

12 the continental US. Removing those four dams and

13 replacing their hydropower with clean, renewable

14 energy will have the single largest impact for

15 rebuilding salmon runs.

16   Thank you again for this opportunity to

17 comment.

18   CHAIR MILBURN: Thank you, Nancy.

19   All right. Kirsten Kane is next.

20   CHAD MADRON: Kirsten, I've given you mute

21 and unmute control.

22   KIRSTEN KANE: All right. Can you hear me

23 now?

24   CHAD MADRON: Yes, we can.

25   CHAIR MILBURN: There you are. Yeah.

1   KIRSTEN KANE: Okay. Great.

2   CHAIR MILBURN: Yeah. Hi, Kirsten.

3   Thanks.

4   KIRSTEN KANE: Awesome.

5   Well, hello, members of the Northwest

6   Power and Conservation Council. My name is Kirsten

7   Kane.

8   I have a PhD in ocean ecology and

9   biogeochemistry. And I'm here today on behalf of

10   Friends of the San Juans, urging you to include some

11   important points in the five-year update to the Fish

12   and Wildlife Program.

13   With the Trump administration's withdrawal

14   from the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement and its

15   failure to carry out a national effort to recover

16   native fish populations throughout the Columbia

17   River Basin, this Draft Fish and Wildlife Program is

18   the best way to mitigate harm to threatened salmon

19   and steelhead from Columbia and Snake River Dam

20   operations.

21   These salmon populations are critical to

22   the health and prosperity of endangered southern

23   resident killer whales. I'm here to advocate for

24   increased prey availability to support the southern

25   residents' recovery. Many of the Chinook salmon

 1 populations that southern residents feed on come

 2 directly from the Columbia River Basin and are

 3 listed as threatened or endangered.

 4   The goal of this plan must be to restore

 5 five million salmon in the Columbia River Basin.

 6 State and tribal fishery managers have agreed and

 7 have recommended ways to achieve this goal. First,

 8 the plan should include elevated levels of spill

 9 through the end of August. So August 31st is a

10 priority hydropower operations measure.

11   Salmon and steelhead need extra water

12 spilled over dams to help them migrate. This is

13 especially important for juveniles that migrate in

14 late August as they are important for genetic

15 diversity.

16   My second point is that the plan should

17 increase funding and strengthen support for the Fish

18 Passage Center, including the Comparative Survival

19 Study and Smolt Monitoring Program.

20   Third, the plan should ensure a path

21 forward -- a path forward towards affordable,

22 reliable, and new clean energy development that also

23 protects and restores harvestable and abundant

24 salmon.

25   Fourth, the Bonneville Power

1   Administration, or BPA, must be held accountable for

2   reaching the goals set in the plan, meeting their

3   obligations to protect fisheries and honor treaties

4   with tribal nations. We recommend adopting a 2035

5   timeline to keep BPA accountable in achieving the

6   five million salmon goal.

7   And finally, the plan should include

8   breaching the four lower Snake River dams as an

9   action for fish that must be considered and analyzed

10 in the next power plan. Removing these four dams

11 and replacing their hydropower --

12   KRIS HOMEL: Few seconds remaining.

13   KIRSTEN KANE: -- replacing their

14 hydropower with clean, renewable energy will have

15 the single largest impact for rebuilding the salmon

16 runs.

17   Thank you for the opportunity to provide

18 comments.

19   CHAD MADRON: All right, Mr. Chairman.

20 Looking through the names online, Lauri Dayton, is

21 still connected.

22   Lauri, if you'd like to go ahead and try

23 and speak now, we could do that.

24   And the other folks are currently not

25 connected.

1   Lauri Dayton, if you would unmute, we can

2   try again.

3   Okay. She doesn't seem -- oh, wait. She

4   just unmuted. So let's see.

5   Lauri? Lauri, again, you show unmuted on

6   our side. So there might be something with your

7   local equipment that's meeting you, maybe a -- a

8   hard setting on your microphone or something like

9   that.

10   CHAIR MILBURN: Well, what do you think?

11   No Lauri? And is anybody else connected?

12   CHAD MADRON: None of the other names that

13   were on the list have connected at this time.

14   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay.

15   CHAD MADRON: And Lauri seems to be having

16   a technical issue on her end.

17   CHAIR MILBURN: All right. Well, I guess

18   we could take a break. Should we do that? Check

19   back in in a few?

20   PATTY O'TOOLE: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is

21   Patty. Yeah, I think we do need to continue to

22   maintain the line until about 6:00. As more people

23   will sign up, I think Chad will add names to the

24   list, and then we'll certainly notify people. But a

25   break seems to make sense.

1   Just letting Brittany know we may take a

2   break. And then if people show up, we'll gavel back

3   in and continue forward. But we'll make sure you're

4   ready.

5   CHAIR MILBURN: So let's do that. Well,

6   how about if we took a break at 10 to? Would that

7   work? And then check back in? Patty, does that

8   sound good?

9   PATTY O'TOOLE: Yeah.

10   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay.

11   PATTY O'TOOLE: That sounds -- sounds

12   great. Thank you.

13   CHAD MADRON: Okay.

14   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay. Yeah, let's just do

15   that. And camera's off then, everyone, for a bit.

16   We'll see you at 10 minutes to the hour. Thanks.

17   CHAD MADRON: All panelists, please mute

18   your mics and turn off your cameras.

19   Those attending, you can see on the screen

20   and on our website, their email

21   meetingorganizer@nwcouncil.org to sign up to give

22   comment today. And I'll add you to the list that we

23   show on the screen. Thank you.

24   (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)

25   PATTY O'TOOLE: -- connect with you on

1 when he is ready. He's probably still adding names.

2 All right.

3   CHAD MADRON: Hello, Mr. Chairman. Yes,

4 I've processed all the email that I have up to this

5 moment. And the list is updated on the screen. So

6 let me go ahead and find our next speaker.

7   If you want to go ahead to Mr. Gevock, we

8 can go there.

9   CHAIR MILBURN: That sounds good.

10   Nick, you're next.

11   NICK GEVOCK: Thank you, Council Members

12 and Chair. I'm -- I'm glad you got me on here.

13 Thanks for this opportunity.

14   My name is Nick Gevock. I'm actually a

15 Montana sportsman, and just speaking for myself

16 today.

17   And I certainly spent a lot of time

18 recreating in the Columbia Basin and -- and as an

19 angler. You know, a lot of what I wanted to say has

20 been said, but I do just want to express support for

21 a strong, robust salmon recovery. Many of the

22 points that have been made elevating the spill over

23 the dams, incorporate those recommendations from

24 your tribal and state fish managers.

25   And -- and really get serious about

1 achieving this five million fish goal. And I can't

2 stress enough that, you know, what's -- what's

3 happening is not working. It's time to get serious

4 about salmon recovery. So certainly this Council

5 needs to include breaching of the lower Snake River

6 dams in the -- in the plan or at least looking at it

7 and taking a serious look at what it would do.

8   So anyway, I just wanted to express my

9 strong support for those measures. And thank you

10 for the opportunity to speak.

11   CHAIR MILBURN: You bet, Nick. And thank

12 you.

13   All right. Dave, you're up.

14   DAVE TEGELER: Hello. Can anybody hear

15 me?

16   CHAIR MILBURN: You bet we can. Thank

17 you.

18   DAVE TEGELER: Okay. I thank you for this

19 forum.

20   I've -- I've just been kind of looking

21 from the outside-in at this whole effort over the

22 last couple of years. And my comments are going to

23 be contrary to most of the people who have spoken

24 here.

25   I'm a licensed professional engineer in

1 the state of Washington. And one of the comments

2 that got my attention here a few minutes ago was

3 somebody was saying, "We can breach the dams and

4 replace the power with clean, reliable, renewable

5 energy." Well, let me make a comment about that.

6 Except for hydropower, there is no clean and

7 reliable energy.

8 Windmills and solar panels are about as

9 dirty and expensive as you can get. If you think of

10 -- of the mining that has to go on to produce the

11 solar panels or the horrible blight of the landscape

12 the windmills create, it's not an even trade at all.

13 And I'm a supporter of keeping the dams wherever

14 they are, even raising them if we can, but solve the

15 problem with fish ladders, if you have to.

16 But I do want to make a comment. The --

17 the current cost in -- in terms of electrical bills

18 for everybody, when you equate it to a pound of

19 salmon you buy at the grocery store, which costs

20 about 10 to 12 bucks depending on the market, the

21 cost right now today of the regulation associated

22 with preserving the salmon we have, is anywhere from

23 $15 to $25 a pound.

24 And I -- I did a -- a search, and Grok AI

25 actually did quite an extensive report on it. If

 1 you have an inclination, you ought to -- you ought

 2 to search it yourself. What is -- what is the

 3 energy cost subsidy for a pound of salmon you buy at

 4 the grocery store? It's about twice what you're

 5 paying for at the grocery store.

 6   So any -- any fish ladders or anything of

 7 that nature have to take into the account that you

 8 are increasing a regulatory subsidy on the

 9 production of salmon.

10   KRIS HOMEL: Thirty seconds remaining.

11   DAVE TEGELER: I think at least people in

12 my camp would say, "Well, how much is enough?" But

13 I think we absolutely have to keep those reservoirs

14 as giant batteries on the power system and keep

15 those dams alive.

16   Thank you very much.

17   CHAIR MILBURN: Thank you, Dave.

18   Elizabeth, you're up.

19   ELIZABETH KERWIN: Hi, my name is

20 Elizabeth Kerwin and I'm here to share why salmon

21 recovery and a strong Fish and Wildlife Program

22 matter to me.

23   I live in Whatcom County and I'm a rate

24 payer and utility customer of PSE. I and many other

25 rate payers in our community want BPA and our

1 utility companies to prioritize fish-friendly power

2 generation and sustainable, abundant salmon and

3 steelhead populations. And, you know, I'm not that

4 technically adept at speaking, but I'm working hard

5 to understand all of this.

6   And one thing that's really clear to me is

7 that we have made some devastating choices related

8 to the environment. And I have looked quite a bit

9 at information about the Lower Snake River Dam and

10 really believe that it needs to be removed as a

11 necessary measure in the final 2026 Fish and

12 Wildlife Program.

13   And, you know, I heard someone -- an

14 impassioned younger speaker earlier in this call,

15 and I really appreciated what she spoke about how we

16 would look back 25 years from now at this moment in

17 time and what needs to happen in order to have an

18 environment that is livable for people who are much

19 younger than ourselves right now.

20   And I -- I really don't trust that the

21 desire for profit isn't winning out. And, yeah, I

22 think that's a devastating reality, especially in

23 terms of the current administration and the

24 environmental protections that are being stripped

25 away. And so my work actually as a forest protector

1 up in Whatcom County is really focused on what can

2 we do more locally. And the Northwest is my region.

3   And I really deeply hope that we can

4 consider what is going to be best for future

5 generations. And the other part of this for me is

6 what's happened to the indigenous populations of

7 this country and of the state of Washington. And

8 what do we owe in terms of the cultural implications

9 for -- I live near the -- the Nooksack people. And

10 I think that that's such a huge consideration --

11   KRIS HOMEL: Thirty seconds remaining.

12   ELIZABETH KERWIN: -- that has been

13 underplayed. And so, you know, my position is

14 clear.

15   And I thank you so much for being willing

16 to listen to individual citizens.

17   CHAIR MILBURN: You bet, Elizabeth, and

18 thank you.

19   All right, next, Chris Wilke.

20   CHRIS WILKE: Can everybody hear me?

21   CHAIR MILBURN: You bet. Thanks, Chris.

22   CHRIS WILKE: Okay. Great. Thanks for

23 making space for this testimony. It took me a while

24 to figure out how to get on the list. I appreciate

25 it.

1   CHAIR MILBURN: Yeah.

2   CHRIS WILKE: My name -- my name is Chris

3   Wilkie.

4   I'm the Executive Director at Center for

5   Environmental Law and Policy. I'm also a rate

6   payer, a conservationist, a salmon and steelhead

7   fisherman. I travel to the Columbia River Basin and

8   spend money in the communities there.

9   Salmon are not optional to our region.

10   They're a keystone species that connects our forest

11   to our resident orcas offshore. They've been the

12   lifeblood of our rivers. And for the Pacific

13   Northwest tribes since time immemorial. These

14   rivers are now in life support.

15   While we may speak at times of momentary

16   abundance, we still see deadly high temperatures,

17   fish kills, predation problems associated with dams,

18   poor water quality. The science shows that we have

19   some runs on the brink of extinction and others have

20   been lost entirely. We truck fish around dams. We

21   shoot them through water cannons on TV.

22   And when these stories come out, people

23   think we're solving the problem. But are we?

24   Climate change is getting worse for our region. And

25   we can expect drought conditions increasing in

1 frequency and intensity. We can expect lower

2 snowpack. And we can expect more demand from power

3 from data centers and a growing population.

4   We can also expect more habitat losses and

5 less marine survival for the salmon, which will mean

6 fewer fish returning. And most of all, we can

7 expect warmer waters and less of it. We have a

8 chance now to build resilience to restore salmon

9 runs to five million fish because they will get

10 knock -- knocked back again from climate change.

11   But if we strengthen this plan, we can

12 help give them a fighting chance. And for this

13 reason, I'm urging the commission to include

14 elevated spill over the dams through August 31st to

15 protect the juvenile out-migrating salmon and

16 maintain biodiversity, to incorporate the

17 recommendations of tribal and state fisheries

18 managers, to adopt that 20-35 time frame for

19 achieving the five million fish goal, and to include

20 breaching the lower Snake River dams.

21   And here I'd like to take a moment to

22 address a comment that was made earlier about

23 windmills being dirty energy. This is really a

24 false narrative that's put out as disinformation.

25 There's plenty of mining and extraction going on

1 | with fossil fuels. The legacy --

2 | KRIS HOMEL: Thirty seconds remaining.

3 | CHRIS WILKE: -- legacy of dams is -- is

4 | dirty also. There's methane emissions coming from

5 | the dams, 1.8 million megawatt -- metric tons of CO_2

6 | equivalent coming just from the lower Snake River

7 | dams every year. You can look up the estimated of

8 | greenhouse gas emissions from lower Snake River dams

9 | and reservoirs using the All-Res tool for that

10 | information.

11 | So for this reason, I urge you to -- to

12 | connect your plan with specific actions and

13 | performance standards to ensure the recovery of

14 | salmon. Thank you.

15 | CHAD MADRON: All right, Chair Milburn.

16 | CHAIR MILBURN: Yes.

17 | CHAD MADRON: Hey, so I see that --

18 | CHAIR MILBURN: I'm muted.

19 | Chelsea, you're up.

20 | Thank you, Chris. Thank you.

21 | Chelsea, you're up.

22 | CHAD MADRON: I see Chelsea is still not

23 | connected.

24 | CHAIR MILBURN: All right. Let's -- let's

25 | --

 1   CHAD MADRON: I was going to say Kaia

 2   Olson has connected now.

 3   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay.

 4   CHAD MADRON: So we can jump down to her.

 5   CHAIR MILBURN: Kaia -- Kaia. Let's go to

 6   Kaia.

 7   KAIA OLSON: Hello. Thank you.

 8   CHAIR MILBURN: Kaia, thank you.

 9   KAIA OLSON: Yes, thank you for being here

10   and hosting this public comment.

11   My name is Kaia Olson. I am a student up

12   in Bellingham and a rate payer of Puget Sound

13   Energy. And as a rate payer, I want reliable energy

14   year-round that also supports strong and sustainable

15   salmon populations.

16   I'd like to see BPA and local utilities

17   prioritize clean energy that reduces our region's

18   dependence on hydropower. I'm deeply alarmed about

19   the crisis salmon and steelhead are facing across

20   the Columbia Basin, and I urge you to adopt a final

21   2026 Fish and Wildlife Program that helps achieve

22   the Council's legal obligations for the next 5 to 10

23   years and make actionable progress for salmon and

24   steelhead recovery.

25   To achieve the Council's five million fish

1 goal, I urge you to adopt all of the recommendations

2 by state and tribal fish managers throughout the

3 region to whom the Council must pay deference as

4 required by the Northwest Power Act. Specifically,

5 the following three priorities.

6   The first being elevated spills of --

7 levels of spill through August 31st as a priority

8 hydropower operations measure. Detailed and

9 explicit accountability measures, especially linked

10 to BPA's responsibility to achieve program goals.

11   And acknowledgement that lower Snake dam

12 removal is a necessary measure in the final 2026

13 Fish and Wildlife Program, and that would include an

14 analysis of dam breach scenario in the Ninth Power

15 Plan. I just -- I really want to highlight that

16 salmon are the lifeblood of the Pacific Northwest,

17 and I cannot imagine a future without them.

18   I'm a young environmental science student,

19 and I -- you know, I cannot -- I can't imagine a

20 future without this keystone species that means so

21 much to our region economically and ecologically and

22 culturally. So I urge you to adopt a plan that

23 ensures reliable energy without compromising salmon

24 and steelhead and all that they mean to us.

25   Thank you for your time.

1   CHAIR MILBURN: Kaia, thank you.

2   All right. Let's see. Who do we want?

3   Who's on? Who's connected?

4   CHAD MADRON: Well, I see that Lauri

5   Dayton reconnected, so let me try --

6   CHAIR MILBURN: All right.

7   CHAD MADRON: -- again allowing her to

8   talk, and perhaps she's fixed her equipment issue.

9   LAURI DAYTON: Hello?

10   CHAD MADRON: Hello.

11   LAURI DAYTON: Hello. Can you hear me?

12   CHAD MADRON: Yes, we can.

13   LAURI DAYTON: Oh, finally.

14   CHAIR MILBURN: There we go. Thank you.

15   LAURI DAYTON: Sorry about all that.

16   My name is Lauri Dayton, and I'm a

17   resident of Eastern Washington here, by profession

18   electrical engineering, have -- having worked at one

19   of them, Priest Rapids Dam. Also an old Port of

20   Mattawa commissioner and an avid fisherman, and my

21   family -- extended family farms wheat in Colfax.

22   So I'm pretty interested in the lower

23   Snake River dams, but I want to look at a real

24   narrow topic of the temperature of the water in the

25   Snake River. First-hand experience, I was fortunate

 1 enough to have a trip up Hells Canyon to Pittsburgh

 2 Landing right during the heat dome event, August

 3 11th. And surprisingly the fish finder said the

 4 water was 74 degrees.

 5   So I jumped in and sure enough, it didn't

 6 freeze. And so, I'm good to think, "Now, wait a

 7 minute. Salmon are supposedly biologically impacted

 8 somewhere north of 68 degrees. So if the inflow is

 9 that warm, how can the Snake River dams be

10 responsible for heating the water up that much?"

11   Enter Dworshak Dam with the activity of

12 releasing cold water low from the reservoir in the

13 summer to compensate for temperatures, and you find

14 that the water coming in at Lewiston, or the water

15 in the system at Lewiston is somewhere around 66

16 degrees.

17   Now, my 74 degree temperature thing was

18 corroborated by the gauging station at Anatone,

19 which I have the data on, and I was able to graph

20 over that. Yes, it's 24 degrees Celsius, whatever

21 that is. And when it leaves Ice Harbor, it's on the

22 order of 22 degrees -- 21 to 22 degrees. So that's

23 about five or six degrees.

24   Anyhow, which causes me to question the

25 foundation of the argument that the Snake River

1 | dams, and Dworshak as a system, cause fish mortality

2 | by raising the temperature too high. And so, that

3 | does reduce the arguments on --

4 | KRIS HOMEL: Thirty seconds remaining.

5 | LAURI DAYTON: -- that does reduce the

6 | arguments on that axis for removing the Snake River

7 | dams, and I think what we need is some more

8 | concentrated study because there's a lot of data out

9 | there.

10 | Anyhow, thanks for your time. Take care.

11 | CHAIR MILBURN: Yeah, you bet, and thank

12 | you. Yeah, thanks for your input. Appreciate it.

13 | Okay. We have three remaining. Any of

14 | them connected? Chelsea, Yuan, Patricia, Andrew?

15 | CHAD MADRON: I do have one phone line

16 | that just connected. Let me make sure.

17 | If this is the phone line that connected,

18 | are you Chelsea, Patricia, or Andrew? I'm going to

19 | take that as a no. And so, the other three names

20 | have not connected yet. No, sir.

21 | CHAIR MILBURN: All right.

22 | Well, we are on the hook until 6:00 your

23 | time, 7:00 my time. So we can take another -- take

24 | another break until 20 after, I suppose. Do you

25 | want to do that?

1   Patty, what do you think?

2   PATTY O'TOOLE: Yeah, that sounds pretty

3 good. I think a good 15 minutes. And, Mr. Chair,

4 then if we need to, we can extend it again. And I'm

5 sure Chad will keep watching email.

6   CHAIR MILBURN: All right. I'll do that.

7 I'll check the --

8   CHAD MADRON: I did have someone just sign

9 up just now. They are connected if you want to take

10 that caller.

11   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay. Yeah, go ahead.

12 Let's just do that right now.

13   CHAD MADRON: It's Mr. Garrett Hylton or

14 Hilton.

15   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay. Go ahead.

16   GARRETT HYLTON: Yeah, hello. My name is

17 Garrett Hilton. I work for Wells Rural Electric

18 Company in Northeastern Nevada. We're a BPA all

19 requirements customer.

20   I just want to provide a little bit of

21 context for a -- a comment made about, you know,

22 methane gas releases at -- at dams. The study that

23 that references most -- most frequently is a study

24 that takes a look at dams -- all dams worldwide.

25   In the United States, for example, less

1 than 3 percent of all dams are equipped with

2 hydroelectric capabilities. Dams exist for all

3 kinds of reasons. Also, there are a lot of

4 disparities in gas releases near the equator versus

5 gas releases as you get higher up into the Northern

6 Hemisphere.

7   And so, some of those numbers that we're

8 talking about are -- are fairly minimal when we're

9 talking about the Northwest dams and their impact on

10 -- on carbon release. I do want to acknowledge this

11 is an incredibly difficult, complicated issue, and

12 multiple things can be true at once. Certainly, we

13 -- we want healthy, abundant salmon runs.

14   We want to be honoring treaties with --

15 with Native American groups. We also want to make

16 sure that our power grid is reliable in providing

17 energy to all of the -- the customers that we serve.

18 And, you know, the -- the bottom line here is, while

19 I certainly I'm sympathetic to the desire for

20 investing in green, reliable energy, the fact

21 remains that wind is not a dispatchable form of

22 generation.

23   Solar power is not a dispatchable form of

24 generation. So your alternatives to a baseload

25 resource like hydro are -- are fairly limited. And

1 so, this is certainly not an easy, straightforward,

2 simple solution to adhere and -- and solve all of

3 these problems.

4   Thank you for your commitment to trying to

5 solve all of these problems and taking these things

6 into account, and for your time today.

7   CHAIR MILBURN: And, Garrett, thank you

8 for your -- for your words. Appreciate it.

9   All right. Anyone else connected since

10 that, the last one? All right.

11   CHAD MADRON: No.

12   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay. Let's just -- let's

13 just come back --

14   PATTY O'TOOLE: May I suggest, yeah, maybe

15 till 5:30, and then we'll see if anyone else has

16 come back.

17   CHAIR MILBURN: 6:30? Okay.

18   PATTY O'TOOLE: Or yeah -- or sorry, 5:30.

19 Yeah, 6:30 your time.

20   CHAIR MILBURN: You mean 5:30. Yeah, 6:30

21 my time. 5:30? Okay.

22   PATTY O'TOOLE: Okay. Okay.

23   CHAIR MILBURN: Let's just do that. Check

24 back in then. Thanks.

25   Camera's off. Audio off.

 1   (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)

 2   CHAIR MILBURN: There's Patty, there's

 3   Brittany, there's Les, there's Chad. Let's go ahead

 4   and get going again. If anyone has figured out how

 5   to connect, I guess.

 6   CHAD MADRON: Hi, everyone. Yeah, the

 7   three names that had signed up ahead of the meeting

 8   still have not connected.

 9   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay.

10   CHAD MADRON: And we've had no new sign-

11   ups.

12   CHAIR MILBURN: Right.

13   CHAD MADRON: So there's nothing to report

14   at this time.

15   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay. Well, I guess what

16   do we do?

17   PATTY O'TOOLE: So, Mr. Chair, at this

18   point, I think it's -- we're sort of obligated to

19   make sure someone remains available and --

20   CHAIR MILBURN: Yeah.

21   PATTY O'TOOLE: -- the court reporter

22   remain available for the full time, Mr. Chair. But

23   if -- if you want to assign staff or a -- or just

24   yourself and release others, it's kind of up to you

25   at this point. It's possible that someone could pop

 1 | in before 6:00.

 2 | Another option is just to take another 15-

 3 | minute break, come back, check in, just do that one

 4 | or two more times. Or you can release -- release

 5 | folks and we'll just make sure someone does stay

 6 | around to be able to capture anything that might

 7 | come in. It's up to you, Mr. Chair.

 8 | CHAIR MILBURN: Let's -- let's -- I doubt

 9 | anybody's going to sign up. For any of the council

10 | members or anyone except Brittany, I guess you,

11 | Patty, and me, go ahead and go if you'd like, but

12 | we're -- we're going to -- let's take another break

13 | though. And at a quarter to, we'll check back in.

14 | In the meantime, anybody wants to leave, go ahead

15 | and go. So we'll --

16 | PATTY O'TOOLE: Thank you.

17 | CHAIR MILBURN: -- we'll handle it. So,

18 | okay. So let's check back in at your 5:45 time,

19 | Patty and Brittany, if we could, and anyone else

20 | that wants to stick around, but let's do that. And

21 | then we'll make a decision from there, whether to

22 | just assign one or two people to stick around.

23 | PATTY O'TOOLE: Okay. Thank you, Mr.

24 | Chair.

25 | ED SCHRIEVER: And I'm going to jump off.

1   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay. Good.

2   ED SCHRIEVER: It's Ed. Good night.

3   CHAIR MILBURN: See you, Ed. Thank you.

4   ED SCHRIEVER: Okay.

5   (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)

6   CHAIR MILBURN: Looks like only the same

7   three.

8   CHAD MADRON: Actually, Mr. Chairman,

9   we've added three new names. So --

10   CHAIR MILBURN: Oh, we do. Oh, there we

11 are.

12   CHAD MADRON: Emme here. Yeah. The other

13 three still not connected, but we have three new

14 names. One is not quite connected yet, but I did

15 get an email from her. So I'm hoping she'll connect

16 shortly.

17   Oh, there she is. So yeah, the three

18 folks starting with Emmy (sic) and Jan and Bea have

19 all connected and we can work through those names

20 when you're ready.

21   CHAIR MILBURN: All right. Sounds good.

22   Emmy, let's go ahead with you. Thanks.

23   EMME ROUTON: Hey there, how's it going?

24 It's Emme, but it's confusing to everyone.

25   CHAIR MILBURN: Emme?

1   EMME ROUTON: Yes.

2   CHAIR MILBURN: Emme. Okay.

3   EMME ROUTON: Yeah, I just want to thank

4   you guys for taking the time out of your days to --

5   to do this.

6   Just want to say, yeah, salmon are the --

7   the ecological bedrock of -- of this place and this

8   land. And I think need to be prioritized in -- in

9   all decisions because we can figure out solutions to

10   power generation, but it's pretty hard to bring back

11   -- bring back the salmon.

12   Yeah, food chain collapse, everything,

13   forest collapse, all the things that come downstream

14   of losing salmon. They are -- they are integral to

15   the system. And so anything we can do to prioritize

16   their well-being, prioritizes the well-being of this

17   land and its peoples.

18   Yeah, so just want to say that. Really

19   appreciate you guys --

20   CHAIR MILBURN: Thank you.

21   EMME ROUTON: -- yeah, allowing --

22   allowing more spill through August would be great.

23   CHAIR MILBURN: Thank you, Emme.

24   Appreciate it.

25   EMME ROUTON: Yeah. All right. Take

1 care.

2   CHAIR MILBURN: All right. Yeah. Thanks.

3   CHAD MADRON: Thanks, Emme.

4   CHAIR MILBURN: All right, Jan.

5   Is Jan on -- Conitz?

6   JAN CONITZ: Yeah.

7   CHAIR MILBURN: Hi, Jan. Thanks.

8   CHAD MADRON: Jan, you have the ability --

9 there you go. I see you unmuted.

10   JAN CONITZ: Okay. Hello. Oh-oh. I've

11 got a bad echo.

12   CHAIR MILBURN: Oh, yeah.

13   JAN CONITZ: Let me make sure -- I'm

14 sorry. Are you getting an echo?

15   CHAIR MILBURN: Yeah, we are. We can come

16 back to you, if you would like. And we --

17   JAN CONITZ: Let me try moving to a

18 different location in the house.

19   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay.

20   JAN CONITZ: How about this?

21   CHAIR MILBURN: A little better maybe.

22 Try it again.

23   JAN CONITZ: How about now?

24   CHAIR MILBURN: It's a little better.

25   JAN CONITZ: Okay.

```
 1              CHAIR MILBURN:  I think -- I think it's

 2   okay.  Why don't you go ahead.  Let's try it.

 3              JAN CONITZ:  Okay.  Sorry about that.

 4              Okay.  My name is Jan Conitz.  I grew up

 5   and graduated from high school in Moscow, Idaho.  I

 6   attended the University of Washington with a biology

 7   degree.  And ever since I have lived in Alaska, I

 8   got a master's degree from the University of Alaska

 9   in fisheries.

10              I fish commercially for salmon in

11   Southeast Alaska.  And I worked as a research

12   fisheries biologist with the Alaska Department of

13   Fish and Game and US Fish and Wildlife Service for

14   about 20 years in Southeast Alaska and in the --

15              THE REPORTER:  The echo is throwing me

16   off.  The last sentence, please.

17              JAN CONITZ:  Pardon?

18              CHAIR MILBURN:  Yeah.  Would you -- would

19   you repeat your last sentence there?  We'll try it a

20   little bit longer and see if we can do this.  We're

21   still getting an echo.  Repeat your last sentence.

22   We've got a recorder -- clerk recorder type here

23   taking notes.

24              JAN CONITZ:  Okay.  Let me just try

25   something.  I think I might have a duplicate Zoom
```

 1 session.

 2   CHAD MADRON: You did seem to have a

 3 duplicate Zoom session. Jan, do you want to try

 4 again?

 5   CHAIR MILBURN: Yeah, Jan, are you there?

 6 Still showing on.

 7   CHAD MADRON: Jan, I show you unmuted on

 8 your side, but unfortunately, we can't hear you

 9 anymore.

10   CHAIR MILBURN: You know what? Let's go

11 to the next one. Maybe she can figure it out --

12   CHAD MADRON: Okay.

13   CHAIR MILBURN: -- in the meantime.

14   Is that -- is it Bea, Bay?

15   BEA BAGLEY: It's Bea. Hi.

16   CHAIR MILBURN: Bea, hi. Hi, thanks for

17 --

18   BEA BAGLEY: Hi, thank you.

19   I'm a student. I live in Bellingham.

20 Thanks for staying in the meeting for this like

21 little last minute comment. I'll be quick.

22   I just wanted to remind you, the Council,

23 of your legal obligation to protect and enhance all

24 fisheries impacted by the hydropower system. And a

25 great way to do that would be elevated spill over

1 the dams to the end of August to protect the out

2 migrating juvenile salmon and steelhead.

3   And I just want to remind everyone again

4 that in the long-term, the only way to get to the

5 Council's proposed goal of five million fish is by

6 breaching the lower Snake River dams. This is

7 pretty important to me.

8   I'm from the Pacific Northwest. I want to

9 continue living here and the salmon are important

10 for our tribes and our ecological and economic

11 wellbeing. That's all I got.

12   Thank you.

13   CHAIR MILBURN: Yes, thank you.

14   Okay. Back to Jan. Any luck there? Jan,

15 can you hear us?

16   CHAD MADRON: Hi, Jan. I still show you

17 as connected twice actually. I've given both of

18 your lines ability to unmute if you want to try one.

19   CHAIR MILBURN: Jan, we're not getting you

20 here. If you don't have luck, Jan, you can always

21 email.

22   All right. Well, the other three looks

23 like probably aren't going to be joining us.

24   We can take another.

25   PATTY O'TOOLE: Mr. Chair, I think it's

 1 okay. I mean, we've only got 10 minutes left. I

 2 think if you want to adjourn, I think we can.

 3   CHAIR MILBURN: Okay.

 4   PATTY O'TOOLE: We would just offer that

 5 if anybody, Jan or anyone else who wanted to, yeah,

 6 you can go to our website and submit written

 7 comment. It's quite easy. There's lots of

 8 different ways. Chad's showing you right now.

 9   There's just all kinds of information and

10 resources on our website that will help you do that.

11 So it's a great option if you did not or were not

12 able to participate in this hearing. That's a great

13 -- great way to do it.

14   So, Mr. Chair, I'll leave it up to you.

15 But I think at this point, we've got less than 10

16 minutes. I think it's okay.

17   CHAIR MILBURN: Let's -- let's do it.

18 I'll go ahead and adjourn the meeting. Thank you.

19   Anyone else that's out there listening,

20 thanks for your input. We appreciate it. And the

21 council members, thanks for joining in and

22 especially to the staff, Patty, Kym, Chad, everyone.

23   Thank you and good night.

24   PATTY O'TOOLE: Thanks, all.

25   CHAIR MILBURN: Yeah.

1   THE REPORTER: Have a good night. Thank

2   you.

3   (WHEREUPON, the 2026 COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN

4   FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM MEETING concluded at 5:52

5   p.m.)

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1   CERTIFICATE

2

3   I, Brittany Douglas, do hereby certify that I

4   reported all proceedings adduced in the foregoing

5   matter and that the foregoing transcript pages

6   constitutes a full, true and accurate record of said

7   proceedings to the best of my ability.

8

9   I further certify that I am neither related to

10 counsel or any party to the proceedings nor have any

11 interest in the outcome of the proceedings.

12

13   IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand

14 this 13th day of March, 2026.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22   Brittany Douglas, CER No. 4235

23

24

25

$

$15 65:23

$25 65:23

$26 21:16

$65 36:17

0

0.14 19:18

1

1,800 9:17

1.8 71:5

10 21:15 30:1 62:6,16 65:20 72:22 88:1,15

100-year 15:21

11 24:21 47:24

11th 75:3

12 65:20

126 16:24

12th 39:9

13th 39:10

15 35:16 77:3

15- 81:2

16-year 48:12

1980 6:22 51:22

1987 24:16

1992 33:5

2

2 30:10 52:25 54:25

2.5 21:12

2.6 21:22

20 14:8 76:24 85:14

20-35 70:18

20-year 7:14

2000s 36:4

2009 18:7

2021 28:6 33:18

2022 28:10

2025 10:1,3 21:13 33:20

2026 3:14 4:22 5:1,11,15 6:14 10:6 28:25 43:5 46:9 67:11 72:21 73:12

2035 60:4

21 75:22

22 75:22

24 75:20

25 44:3 67:16

2nd 5:1,11 10:4

3

3 78:1

30 11:14

31st 28:19 41:2 59:9 70:14 73:7

32,000 35:8

4

4,000 29:19

40 8:22 19:6 21:11 34:13

40-year 9:5

40-year-old 24:18 25:13

41st 38:2

42 28:6

44 52:2

45 51:25

5

5 24:21 72:22

50 22:17 49:2

55 29:24

58 16:11

5:30 79:15,18,20, 21

5:45 81:18

6

6 5:19

6,000 38:18

60 49:4

66 75:15

68 75:8

6:00 61:22 76:22 81:1

6:30 79:17,19,20

7

7 19:18

74 75:4,17

77 18:3

78 15:23

7:00 76:23

8

80 19:2

80s 35:14 36:3

9

9,000 18:5

90 30:6

98 19:17

A

Abbie 23:14,15, 16,18,21,22,23 25:5,7,10 26:6,22

ability 26:3 84:8 87:18

Abramovich 23:18,22,23 25:5, 10 26:6

absent 51:11

absolutely 54:3 66:13

abundance 41:11 47:9 52:23 69:16

abundances 16:16

abundant 26:16 45:2 47:3 59:23 67:2 78:13

academic 39:6

accept 45:13 50:4

accepting 5:9 10:4

access 48:23

accomplishments 9:6,19

account 66:7 79:6

accountability 28:20 41:5 46:1 53:15 73:9

accountable 14:21 46:6 60:1,5

achieve 28:22 40:20 45:14 46:2 59:7 72:21,25 73:10

achieving 41:6 60:5 64:1 70:19

acknowledge 28:24 43:12 46:8 78:10

acknowledged 51:23

acknowledgemen t 73:11

acknowledges 41:9

acknowledging 37:11

acquisition 7:23

acres 9:11 22:8

act 4:10,21 6:22 7:4,11 8:12 45:17 51:5,17,22 54:21 73:4

acted 55:15

action 28:13,14 60:9

actionable 72:23

actions 49:8 71:12

activities 32:6

activity 75:11

actual 18:18

add 61:23 62:22

added 82:9

adding 63:1

additional 20:24 23:12

address 48:6 51:4 70:22

adept 67:4

adequate 7:15 48:4

adhere 79:2

adjourn 88:2,18

administration 7:8 21:7 28:11 60:1 67:23

administration's 7:22 28:21 46:2 58:13

administrative 5:7

adopt 26:19 28:18 45:15 47:14 56:24

70:18 72:20 73:1, 22

adopted 16:2 25:16 51:15

adopting 60:4

adopts 4:11

adult 9:9 24:17 25:1 30:14 55:8

adults 45:22

advantage 32:3

advisor 38:6

advocacy 27:22

advocate 58:23

aeration 31:4

affairs 6:16 38:8

affect 26:3

affected 51:7 53:8 54:9

affiliated 11:25

affordability 14:12 31:21 32:2 49:12

affordable 26:17 36:25 40:19 44:25 47:3 59:21

afternoon 6:11 13:7,8 15:5 23:22 29:13

age 14:11 38:12

agencies 7:7 8:11 11:1 15:25 21:8 49:14

agency 6:25

aggressive 14:24

aging 43:24

agreed 59:6

Agreement 34:20 58:14

agricultural 48:17

ahead 12:23 25:11,12 50:16, 20 51:2 60:22 63:6,7 77:11,15 80:3,7 81:11,14 82:22 85:2 88:18

AI 65:24

alarmed 52:21 72:18

alarming 35:24

Alaska 16:12 85:7,8,11,12,14

Albers 40:1,3,5

algae 22:23

alive 66:15

All-res 71:9

allowing 74:7 83:21,22

alongside 51:18

alter 41:17

altered 45:9

alternatives 22:16 53:6,22 54:7 78:24

ambition 52:23 53:14

Ambulance 38:20

amend 9:24

amending 4:19

18:12

complicated 78:11

comprehensive 24:19 53:4

compromising 73:23

computer 5:24

concentrated 76:8

concern 14:10,20 18:14 26:10 51:4 56:17

concerned 41:14 49:10

concerns 14:17

concluded 28:11

conditions 43:10 54:14 69:25

conducting 5:2 46:24

conference 39:4

configuration 53:23

confusing 82:24

Congress 6:22

Conitz 84:5,6,10, 13,17,20,23,25 85:3,4,17,24

connect 62:25 71:12 80:5 82:15

connected 17:15 20:3 32:17 42:15, 17,18 50:13,15 60:21,25 61:11, 13 71:23 72:2

74:3 76:14,16,17, 20 77:9 79:9 80:8 82:13,14,19 87:17

connects 69:10

consensus 21:19 43:15

conservation 4:11 6:13 9:16 22:16 23:24 30:8 40:21 51:21 58:6

conservationist 56:9 69:6

consideration 68:10

considered 10:9 60:9

considers 7:17

consistent 10:16 16:5 53:17 55:14

constitute 21:22

constrain 49:19

constraints 18:13

consultation 39:8

context 77:21

continental 57:12

continue 10:15 15:16 36:23,24 37:10 46:19 54:7 61:21 62:3 87:9

Continued 31:17

continuing 10:21 45:11

contractor 21:10

contracts 48:12

contrary 64:23

Contribute 53:3

control 17:23 23:17 26:25 27:5 52:11 57:21

coordinate 39:3 49:13

coordinated 30:17

coordinating 10:25

cords 4:17

corner 11:12

cornerstone 10:22

Corps 7:9

corroborated 75:18

cost 22:14 40:20 43:23 54:1 65:17, 21 66:3

cost-effective 7:23 49:8

costly 31:9

costs 14:16,22 25:19 31:2 32:3 46:23 48:14 54:18 65:19

Coulee 39:11 48:9

council 4:11 5:1, 6,9,13,16 6:17, 21,25 7:5,14,17 9:2 10:9,24 11:16 12:12,16,21,25 13:3,6,9,12,15 15:6 16:4 20:21

22:21 24:16 25:15 28:18,23 33:23 37:1 39:13, 14 40:25 47:21 49:6,13 50:2,7 51:6,12,20 52:4 53:7 54:12 58:6 63:11 64:4 73:3 81:9 86:22 88:21

Council's 3:14 4:19,23 5:12 6:13,16 7:21 8:8, 21 10:5,23 24:12 26:2 30:8 40:21 45:14 48:1 49:18 52:1 72:22,25 87:5

country 38:12 68:7

counts 30:16

county 34:7 56:4 66:23 68:1

couple 64:22

court 5:4 6:5 12:1 25:8 80:21

courteous 11:16

covered 38:18

covering 8:24

crashing 52:1

crazy 35:20

create 65:12

created 6:21 22:21

credit 55:5

creek 33:7 35:21

crisis 41:14 47:11 49:1 72:19

finding 51:11

finished 20:25

finishes 44:7

fired 21:11

First-hand 74:25

fish 3:14 4:13,20, 22,25 5:10,15 6:14,18,24 7:6 8:3,8,10,13,14,21 9:15,17,18,21,24 10:5,16,23 16:14 18:12 19:8,10,19 21:12,14,21 22:5 23:4 24:5,13,17, 21,22 25:16 26:1, 19 28:25 30:9,18 31:14,19 33:14 34:8 35:14 39:1 40:22 43:5 44:23 45:14 46:7,9,20 47:3 48:3 51:7,18 52:21 53:7 54:9, 22 56:15,20 58:11,16,17 59:17 60:9 63:24 64:1 65:15 66:6, 21 67:11 69:17, 20 70:6,9,19 72:21,25 73:2,13 75:3 76:1 85:10, 13 87:5

fish-friendly 67:1

fished 56:6

fisheries 18:7 28:3 31:22 39:10 43:7,16 56:25 57:7 60:3 70:17 85:9,12 86:24

fisherman 56:8 69:7 74:20

Fishermen's 15:8

fishery 16:11 40:23 45:16 56:18 59:6

fishing 15:9 22:9, 13 34:12 36:3,5 56:14

fit 36:1

five-year 58:11

fixed 74:8

flat-out 21:10

Fletcher 50:11, 22,24 51:3 52:12, 15,16 55:8,25

flexibility 49:20, 25

flexible 30:23

flow 8:17 31:14 50:5

flows 45:9

fluctuations 10:19

focus 30:11

focused 39:10 68:1

folks 12:4 36:10 60:24 81:5 82:18

follow 36:23

food 16:18 45:5 83:12

Ford 14:2

forest 16:24 48:24 67:25 69:10 83:13

forests 45:5

form 78:21,23

formal 4:20,25

Forrest 56:7

fortunate 74:25

forum 64:19

forward 59:21 62:3

fossil 71:1

found 24:19

foundation 75:25

fourth 30:5 59:25

fraction 15:18 47:9

frame 70:18

frameworks 54:16

France 8:24

frankly 51:13,24

free 49:5

freeze 75:6

frequency 70:1

frequently 77:23

freshwater 54:14

Friends 58:10

Fritz 32:18,21,22, 25 33:2 34:16

fuels 71:1

fulfill 22:11

full 41:11 46:10, 24 48:10 53:24 80:22

function 10:15

fundamental 16:9

funding 10:15 11:2 59:17

future 26:6,20 41:19 49:19 68:4 73:17,20

G

gained 34:14

gains 30:18

Galena 38:14

Game 85:13

Garrett 77:13,16, 17 79:7

gas 71:8 77:22 78:4,5

gases 18:15

gates 19:7,9

gateway 27:22 29:24

gathered 56:15

gauging 75:18

gavel 62:2

GBT 18:16

general 25:21

generation 18:12 25:24 30:23 31:10 37:1 47:5 55:16 67:2 78:22, 24 83:10

generations 41:20 68:5

genetic 45:23 57:4 59:14

Gevock 63:7,11, 14

giant 66:14

give 3:21 4:3,6
5:21 6:17,23
50:20 62:21
70:12

giving 13:1 26:24

glad 35:3,5 63:12

Glen 15:4,5,6
17:3,9

global 31:6

goal 10:5 15:17,
18,19 17:4 24:17,
19,22 25:1,13
26:12 40:21
45:15 46:15 59:4,
7 60:6 64:1 70:19
73:1 87:5

goals 28:22 41:6
46:3,21 60:2
73:10

Golden 12:22,24

Gonzaga 40:7

good 4:16 6:11
13:8 15:19 22:16
23:22 29:13
42:19 47:20 55:5
56:8 62:8 63:9
75:6 77:3 82:1,2,
21 88:23 89:1

government 46:3

governor 7:2

graduated 85:5

grain 31:3,8

Grand 39:11 48:9

Grant 18:7

graph 75:19

great 6:10 12:17
58:1 62:12 68:22
83:22 86:25
88:11,12,13

greater 6:23

green 78:20

greenhouse 71:8

grew 35:11 56:2,5
85:4

grid 21:23 30:24
53:24 78:16

Grob 13:14,18,19

grocery 65:19
66:4,5

Grok 65:24

grossly 54:25

ground 36:2
56:14

groups 37:7
78:15

Grove 48:24

grow 46:19

Growers 29:16,18

growing 14:10
46:18 48:18 70:3

grown 8:25 44:20
47:12

grows 47:5

growth 45:25

guarantee 22:9

guess 61:17 80:5,
15 81:10

guidance 13:1

guide 11:20

guides 7:22

guys 51:9 83:4,19

guys' 37:14

H

habitat 8:18 9:9
10:22 31:15,18
45:9 57:11 70:4

half 25:1

hand 27:5 31:12

handcuffed 19:3

handle 81:17

handled 14:24

handling 31:8

happen 21:25
67:17

happened 33:5
68:6

happening 64:3

Happy 12:17

Harbor 75:21

hard 20:22 36:10
61:8 67:4 83:10

hardship 49:1

hardworking 26:8

harm 45:7 58:18

harvest 9:16 31:1

harvestable
59:23

hatchery 23:3
33:6 36:6

headwaters
38:14

health 26:10 40:8,
13,15,16 58:22

healthy 26:15,17
31:19 45:2 78:13

hear 3:23 8:5
11:13,23 13:7
20:14 23:19
25:15 27:9 29:7,8
32:22 33:23
50:22 57:22
64:14 68:20
74:11 86:8 87:15

heard 25:18 26:7
67:13

hearing 3:13,21
5:6 6:12 20:23
88:12

hearings 5:2
20:22 21:4

heartland 16:23

heat 75:2

heating 75:10

heavily 14:21

held 39:9 60:1

Hells 75:1

helping 31:5 39:2

helps 12:1 16:19
30:23 72:21

Hemisphere 78:6

Hennings 29:7,
10,12,15 31:25

Hey 13:2 71:17
82:23

high 22:22 23:6
69:16 76:2 85:5

higher 30:15 78:5

highest 46:13

highlight 73:15

highly 48:25

hiked 56:6

Hilton 77:14,17

historic 47:9 55:9

historical 52:24

History 55:4,5,6

hitting 14:11

Hoffmann 12:13, 15,16

Hold 4:15

holding 20:22

HOMEL 17:2 19:16 22:25 26:5 31:24 34:15 37:8 39:18 47:1 49:22 55:7 60:12 66:10 68:11 71:2 76:4

honest 47:4

honor 22:5 56:7 57:7 60:3

honoring 78:14

hook 57:6 76:22

hooks 35:23

hope 8:5 14:20 26:13 34:23 50:14 68:3

hopeful 26:14

hopes 33:15 34:17

hoping 82:15

horrible 65:11

hosted 38:7

hosting 72:10

hot 23:5

hour 62:16

house 84:18

housekeeping 11:4

housing 49:1

how's 82:23

huge 14:19 68:10

human 26:10

hundreds 9:10 10:7 43:23

hydro 9:7 10:16 18:8 49:11,16,24 50:4 78:25

hydroelectric 43:3,22 78:2

hydropower 8:15 24:20 30:20,22 31:12 41:2 45:8 51:7 53:8 54:10 57:13 59:10 60:11,14 65:6 72:18 73:8 86:24

Hydropower's 31:6

Hylton 77:13,16

I

I-E 20:20

Ice 75:21

Idaho 7:1 13:9 23:24 24:1,2 25:2 26:15 33:3 35:8,9 38:5,19 44:20 85:5

Idaho's 24:5 38:12,15

identified 10:13

identify 11:1 49:6

imagine 73:17,19

immemorial 69:13

impact 36:21 46:14 49:12 57:14 60:15 78:9

impacted 8:15 16:15 48:25 75:7 86:24

impacts 45:8 48:15 54:2

impaired 39:8

impassioned 67:14

Implementation 30:11

implications 54:3 68:8

importance 10:12 40:18

important 3:15 7:24 16:7 17:1 18:22 30:4 49:18 58:11 59:13,14 87:7,9

importantly 45:1

impression 20:24

improved 9:8,10 30:18

improvements 31:14 47:7

improving 31:12

inadequate 21:9

incidence 23:6

incidences 22:22

inclination 66:1

include 10:14 29:1 46:10 58:10 59:8 60:7 64:5 70:13,19 73:13

included 5:7 41:12 57:9

includes 8:16 18:11 28:18 39:2

including 7:7 15:24 24:1 25:22 30:10 45:18 59:18

income 49:3

inconsistent 54:8

incorporate 43:6 63:23 70:16

incorporating 25:25

increase 10:20 21:11,14 22:7 25:22 59:17

increased 18:14 23:6 26:7 30:11 45:23 58:24

increases 10:18 25:19 46:16 48:14

increasing 22:22 32:5 66:8 69:25

incredible 33:16

incredibly 25:17 78:11

incremental 45:11

Indian 38:9

indigenous 39:5 68:6

indispensable 54:4

individual 37:24 68:16

individuals 37:7

industrial 48:17

ineffective 52:2

inflow 75:8

information 67:9 71:10 88:9

informed 38:10

infrastructure 31:8 48:8

inheriting 55:17

input 3:17 76:12 88:20

inspired 25:3

installed 9:17

instances 50:18

institutions 39:6

Instructions 5:11

integral 83:14

integrate 17:6

intended 8:13

intensity 70:1

intentions 55:5

interested 74:22

interstate 6:25

introducing 12:11

invest 15:16 16:8 48:7

investing 78:20

investment 16:17 19:19 31:17

investments 18:23 30:17 48:2

involvement 39:5

irrigation 9:14,18 31:3,7

Island 37:21

issue 36:13 37:6 43:16 44:1 61:16 74:8 78:11

issues 33:5

J

Jan 82:18 84:4,5, 6,7,8,10,13,17, 20,23,25 85:3,4, 17,24 86:3,5,7 87:14,16,19,20 88:5

Jane 32:18,21,22, 25 33:2 34:16,25

January 10:1

Jennifer 47:19, 20,22 49:23 50:10

Jerome 35:11

job 26:12

jobs 16:17 48:20

Joe 39:12

Joel 50:11,12,16, 17,18,22,23,24 51:1,3 52:6

John 37:17,18,19 39:19

Johnson 55:22, 23,24 56:1,8

joining 13:25 20:17 27:16 29:11 32:24 51:1 52:14 87:23 88:21

jointly 38:7 54:15

Joly 47:20,22 49:23

Joseph 48:9

Juans 58:10

jump 72:4 81:25

jumped 75:5

justice 39:21

juvenile 9:9 18:16,18,24 19:6 43:11 45:19 70:15 87:2

juveniles 59:13

K

Kaia 42:14,17 72:1,5,6,7,8,9,11 74:1

Kane 57:19,22 58:1,4,7 60:13

Katie 42:9,13

KC 12:22,23,24

keeping 14:11 65:13

Kelly 17:18,19,22, 24 18:1,2 19:17, 23 20:11

Kerwin 66:19,20 68:12

key 39:13

keystone 27:23 40:15 45:3 69:10 73:20

kicked 5:23

kids 26:15 35:20, 22,25

killer 58:23

kills 69:17

kind 64:20 80:24

kinds 78:3 88:9

Kirsten 57:19,20, 22 58:1,2,4,6 60:13

knew 24:8,9 38:21 54:12 56:20

knock 70:10

knocked 70:10

knowledge 53:12, 13 54:23

KRIS 17:2 19:16 22:25 26:5 31:24 34:15 37:8 39:18 47:1 49:22 55:7 60:12 66:10 68:11 71:2 76:4

Kym 5:21,22 6:1, 10,15 12:6,7 88:22

L

lack 25:3

ladders 65:15 66:6

Lake 24:3 33:15 35:11,22 42:24

land 9:11 16:23 22:8 37:23 83:8, 17

Landing 75:2

landowners 9:13

lands 41:18

landscape 65:11

landscapes 24:1

language 55:5

large 45:20,21

large-scale 30:22

largest 8:23 15:12 30:5 46:14 48:19 57:14 60:15

Larry 24:9 33:6 34:8

late 59:14

Lauri 41:24,25 42:10 60:20,22 61:1,5,11,15 74:4,9,11,13,15, 16 76:5

law 53:6 69:5

laws 22:10

leaders 39:6 55:15

League 23:24

learned 33:18 34:3 40:11

leave 55:25 81:14 88:14

leaves 75:21

Leed 42:18,21,22 44:11

left 18:18 27:5 88:1

legacy 71:1,3

legal 7:10 72:22 86:23

legally 55:13

Les 13:5 80:3

lethally 22:22 23:6

letting 6:6 11:14 62:1

levels 28:19 41:1 47:11 59:8 73:7

Lewiston 75:14, 15

licensed 38:17 64:25

lies 57:10

life 9:5 14:4 44:21 69:14

lifeblood 69:12 73:16

lifecycle 16:25

lifelong 27:21

Light 44:22 48:17

limited 78:25

lines 87:18

linked 28:20 73:9

list 4:1 11:5 12:4 44:15 61:13,24 62:22 63:5 68:24

listed 59:3

listen 34:10,11,23 40:22 41:18 68:16

listened 34:3

listening 3:9,18 32:25 34:22 88:19

literally 50:1

litigation 49:17 50:3

livable 67:18

live 26:16 37:21 44:19 66:23 68:9 86:19

lived 36:2 44:20 85:7

livelihoods 29:22

lives 50:1

living 22:7 40:14 45:2 56:3 87:9

local 18:3 30:23 61:7 72:16

locally 68:2

located 37:21

location 84:18

locks 30:2

logistics 51:11

London 52:7,10, 12,13,15 55:8,20, 25

Lonesome 24:9 33:6 34:8

long 44:6

long-term 45:24 87:4

longer 10:17 85:20

longtime 35:9

looked 33:11 67:8

losing 32:2 83:14

loss 34:19,20

losses 24:21 70:4

lost 16:22 24:4 34:13 69:20

lot 3:11 16:23 19:7 34:14,24 35:13,15 36:4,6, 14 37:6 44:1 63:17,19 76:8 78:3

lots 88:7

loud 17:25

love 27:21 33:21

low 4:16 46:22 52:25 54:25 75:12

low-cost 30:20 48:23

lower 21:20 22:2, 12,24 23:8 28:15, 24 29:21 30:3,24 31:2 35:6 36:18 41:9 43:13 46:8, 13 54:18 57:9,10 60:8 64:5 67:9 70:1,20 71:6,8 73:11 74:22 87:6

lowers 53:14

lowest 14:16

luck 87:14,20

lucky 22:15

lunch 49:5

M

M-A-R-J-O-R- 20:19

M-I-L-L-N-E-R 20:20

made 47:24 49:24 63:22 67:7 70:22 77:21

MADRON 5:22 17:12,14,19,22 20:2,8 23:16 25:7 26:24 27:4 32:12, 15 41:25 42:5,12, 14,17 50:12,18 52:8 57:20,24 60:19 61:12,15 62:13,17 63:3 71:15,17,22 72:1, 4 74:4,7,10,12 76:15 77:8,13 79:11 80:6,10,13 82:8,12 84:3,8 86:2,7,12 87:16

main 40:25

mainstem 49:11

maintain 31:5 36:25 46:22 61:22 70:16

maintained 9:18

maintaining 18:12 31:11 49:25

maintains 52:24

maintenance 48:7

major 14:17 33:9

majority 24:20 43:2

make 5:16,19 11:8 16:4 22:3 23:1 26:20 45:20 55:17 61:25 62:3 65:5,16 72:23 76:16 78:15 80:19 81:5,21 84:13

makes 50:1

making 5:14 10:14 14:21 16:17 68:23

managed 45:12 47:15

management 14:23 31:14,16

managers 25:17 40:24 43:7 45:17 56:25 59:6 63:24 70:18 73:2

managers' 26:19

manages 46:5

managing 10:19 30:11

mandate 53:17

mandates 53:6

March 5:1,11 10:4

MARGARET 12:15

Margi 12:16 13:3

margins 31:5

Marie 38:15

marine 54:14 70:5

Marjorie 20:11, 12,13,14,16,18, 19 23:1,13

Mark 42:18,19,20, 21,22 44:9,11

market 65:20

markets 31:6 46:5

master's 85:8

Mattawa 74:20

matter 23:3 39:3 44:24 66:22

maximize 57:3

Mcminnville 48:16,23

Meade 44:13,14, 18 47:2

meaning 40:15

meaningfully 49:13

means 73:20

meantime 81:14 86:13

measurable 46:7

measure 28:25 41:3,10 43:14 46:9 55:6 59:10 67:11 73:8,12

measures 8:16, 18 25:20 28:20 31:13 41:5 46:1, 6,17 64:9 73:9

meat 37:6

mechanism 16:21 53:2

media 33:3

medical 38:2

meet 7:19 57:6

meeting 3:12,22 5:18 15:17 46:6, 23 54:19 55:25 60:2 61:7 80:7 86:20 88:18

meetingorganizer @nwcouncil.org 62:21

megawatt 71:5

megawatts 54:17

member 5:22 12:13,16,25 13:3, 6,9,15 15:23 32:12

members 5:6 7:3 11:16 12:12,21 13:12 15:5 20:21 35:8 39:14 47:21 58:5 63:11 81:10 88:21

mention 18:16

mentioned 11:5 43:20

methane 71:4 77:22

metric 71:5

Metro 48:25

Michelle 29:6,7,9, 10,12,14 31:25 32:9

microphone 27:4 61:8

mics 62:18

mid-2026 8:2

middle 15:10

migrate 45:19 57:2 59:12,13

migrating 87:2

migration 9:9 18:21

Milburn 3:8 5:22 11:7 12:6,8,9,19, 23 13:11,16,21 15:3 17:9,13,17, 21,25 19:23 20:6, 9,13,15,17 23:13, 20 26:22 27:2,8, 11,15 29:4,9,11 32:9,12,13,14,19, 23 33:1 34:25 37:15,18 39:23 40:2 41:23 42:3, 8,13,16,19 44:9, 12,17 47:18,21 50:10,17,23 51:1 52:6,13 55:19 57:18,25 58:2 61:10,14,17 62:5, 10,14 63:9 64:11, 16 66:17 68:17, 21 69:1 71:15,16, 18,24 72:3,5,8 74:1,6,14 76:11, 21 77:6,11,15 79:7,12,17,20,23 80:2,9,12,15,20 81:8,17 82:1,3,6, 10,21,25 83:2,20, 23 84:2,4,7,12, 15,19,21,24 85:1, 18 86:5,10,13,16

87:13,19 88:3,17, 25

miles 38:18

million 15:17 17:5 21:12,13 24:17, 21,22 40:22 45:14 46:15 56:23 59:5 60:6 64:1 70:9,19 71:5 72:25 87:5

millions 22:7 43:23

Millner 20:12,13, 14,16,18,19 23:1

mind 6:6

minimal 78:8

minimizes 10:18

minimum 50:6 52:24

mining 65:10 70:25

minuscule 26:2

minute 75:7 81:3 86:21

minutes 4:3,6 11:11 62:16 65:2 77:3 88:1,16

mitigate 4:12 8:14 48:3 51:6 53:7 58:18

mitigating 24:13

mitigation 8:16, 18,23 21:17 45:11

Mm-hmm 44:11

modeling 53:5, 16,21 54:1,16

55:1

modernized 31:17

modest 21:12

moment 17:19 42:15 52:8 63:5 67:16 70:21

momentary 69:15

money 22:3 69:8

monitor 4:5

monitoring 31:16 59:19

Montana 7:1 13:14,20 38:5 63:15

month 57:3

months 10:10

mortality 19:14, 15 36:20 37:4 45:9 53:14 76:1

Moscow 85:5

mother 38:15,18

Mountains 33:12

move 17:15 32:18

moved 35:5

moves 47:15

moving 10:18 29:25 84:17

multi-year 39:7

multibillion-dollar 16:10

multiple 8:4 16:20 21:6 78:12

Municipal 47:23

municipally-owned 47:24

mute 17:23 23:16 26:25 52:10 57:20 62:17

muted 71:18

Mythweaver 33:3

mythweaver.org. 33:24

N

named 24:5

names 60:20 61:12,23 63:1 76:19 80:7 82:9, 14,19

Nancy 55:22,23, 24 56:1 57:18

Nancy's 55:21

narrative 70:24

narratives 36:1

narrow 74:24

nation 22:10 30:6 38:8

nation's 29:23 38:16

national 14:14 28:10 58:15

nations 57:7 60:4

native 58:16 78:15

natural 40:12

nature 66:7

necessity 44:5

P

Pacific 6:23 7:17 15:7 16:9 25:24 29:25 32:1 51:20 69:12 73:16 87:8

panelists 62:17

panels 65:8,11

Pardon 85:17

Parker 44:13,14, 17,18 47:2,18

part 3:15,16 11:18 16:3,25 38:25 40:9 68:5

participate 88:12

participation 7:5

partnered 13:3

partners 8:12

Partnership 15:22 17:6

pass 30:2

passage 8:17 9:8 26:1 31:14 59:18

passionate 56:8

past 20:25

path 37:11 59:20, 21

patients 38:4

Patricia 32:11,15 76:14,18

Patty 61:20,21 62:7,9,11,25 77:1,2 79:14,18, 22 80:2,17,21 81:11,16,19,23 87:25 88:4,22,24

pay 22:4 73:3

payer 38:24 40:6 43:1 56:3 66:24 69:6 72:12,13

payers 54:2 66:25

paying 66:5

peak 30:24 53:25

peer-reviewed 54:13

people 11:6 19:14 26:8 33:10 34:2,4 35:19 37:23 38:23 61:22,24 62:2 64:23 66:11 67:18 68:9 69:22 81:22

peoples 83:17

Perce 28:6 33:11

percent 16:11 19:2,17,19 21:15, 22 28:7 29:24 30:1,6 49:2,4 52:25 54:25 78:1

performance 21:9 71:13

period 5:1 10:2, 17 18:21 32:5

periodically 4:12

person 11:11 17:16 20:5 26:13

personally 25:5 29:18

Phase 30:10

phased 43:19 44:5

Phd 58:8

phone 27:14 76:15,17

physician 38:1,6

Pittsburgh 75:1

place 8:22 41:5 83:7

places 24:5,8 33:22

placing 10:24

plan 7:6,15,21,22, 25 8:1,2,5 16:1,3 17:6 20:25 21:5 29:2 30:11 41:13 43:5,12 46:4,11, 22 57:10 59:4,8, 16,20 60:2,7,10 64:6 70:11 71:12 73:15,22

planning 6:24 7:13 51:21

plant 18:8,9

plants 43:22 48:22

Pleasure 13:9

plenty 70:25

plugged 4:16

podcaster 33:4

Podcasts 34:1

point 19:13 21:23 39:13 43:24 59:16 80:18,25 88:15

pointed 34:16

points 58:11 63:22

Policy 69:5

politically 55:12

pool 50:6

poor 69:18

pop 12:4 80:25

population 45:24 56:20 70:3

populations 26:18 30:19 31:19 40:20 41:11,15 43:15 58:16,21 59:1 67:3 68:6 72:15

Port 74:19

portfolios 54:18

portion 43:21

Portland 40:7 48:24

position 26:14 51:15 68:13

Postponement 51:19

pound 65:18,23 66:3

power 4:10,11 6:13,22,23 7:4,6, 7,13,15,16,21,22, 25 8:1,2,5,12 18:8,9 21:7,23 22:17 24:12 25:14 28:21 29:2 30:8 38:13 40:21 41:13 43:2,21 45:1,17 46:1,4,5, 11,22 47:3 48:5, 11,24 51:5,18,21 53:5 54:16,21,24 58:6 59:25 60:10 65:4 66:14 67:1

quickly 32:2

R

radio 33:3,10,20

rafting 24:1

raised 14:3 35:9 40:6

raising 65:14 76:2

range 52:1

rank 14:15

Rapids 74:19

rate 14:14 19:14 25:19 38:24 40:6 43:1 46:16 54:2 56:3 66:23,25 69:5 72:12,13

rate-payer 22:4

ratepayer 44:21, 25

rates 22:6 25:21 46:17

reach 25:13 46:15

reaching 60:2

read 4:9

reading 20:25

ready 5:25 6:7 23:17 62:4 63:1 82:20

real 30:18 47:15 74:23

realist 56:21

reality 26:20 36:2 67:22

reason 53:22 70:13 71:11

reasons 28:17 78:3

rebounded 55:9

rebuilding 57:15 60:15

receive 5:3 49:5

received 10:7

receiving 4:24

Recent 22:21 49:23

recently 4:21 35:5 48:12

recess 62:24 80:1 82:5

Reclamation 7:8

recognized 23:9

recognizes 9:2

recommend 60:4

recommendation 26:20 52:3

recommendation s 8:10 9:25 10:7 25:16 40:23 43:6 45:16 49:8 56:24 63:23 70:17 73:1

recommended 26:1 59:7

reconnect 5:24

reconnected 74:5

record 5:5,8 11:18 51:16 54:11 55:18

recorder 85:22

recover 28:15 58:15

recovering 28:13

recovery 21:21 23:10 44:23 46:7, 14 47:10,16 58:25 63:21 64:4 66:21 71:13 72:24

recreating 63:18

red 19:22 24:3 37:6

redefine 47:11

Redfish 24:3 33:7 35:11,21,22 42:24

reduce 31:3 76:3, 5

reduced 18:23 19:1 49:5

reduces 52:23 72:17

reducing 31:9

references 77:23

refusing 54:6

region 7:18,25 9:11 10:1,12 25:3,17,21 28:1,4 38:23 43:8 45:2 46:18 48:4,18 68:2 69:9,24 73:3,21

region's 26:3 72:17

regional 7:6,15 15:7 31:20

regulation 65:21

regulatory 7:10 66:8

reintroduce 33:14

reintroduction 48:9

reinvent 15:20

related 67:7

relative 52:23

release 10:5 78:10 80:24 81:4

released 4:21 10:2

releases 77:22 78:4,5

releasing 75:12

relevant 11:1

reliability 31:19, 21 32:4 48:15 49:12 53:22 54:5, 19

reliable 7:16 30:20 36:25 45:1 48:5,23 49:25 53:9 54:24 59:22 65:4,7 72:13 73:23 78:16,20

relies 53:2

relieve 51:12

rely 29:20

remain 24:14 56:22 80:22

remaining 17:2 19:16 22:25 26:5 31:24 34:15 37:8 39:18 47:1 48:21 49:22 55:7 57:11

60:12 66:10 68:11 71:2 76:4,13

remains 9:2 53:16 78:21 80:19

remember 16:11 34:12 35:13 55:4

remind 86:22 87:3

reminder 4:6 11:24

removal 41:9 46:8 73:12

removed 67:10

removing 36:18 46:12 57:12 60:10 76:6

renewable 57:13 60:14 65:4

rent 49:3

renters 49:2

rep 18:3

repeat 25:9 85:19,21

replace 54:18 65:4

replaceable 54:5

replacement 54:16

replacing 57:13 60:11,13

report 28:6,10 65:25 80:13

reporter 5:4 6:5,8 12:2 25:4,8 80:21

85:15 89:1

represent 18:4 35:7

representing 6:25

represents 29:19

require 53:20

required 45:17 54:18,22 55:2 73:4

requirements 48:10 50:6 77:19

requires 7:4 51:17

research 52:16, 17 85:11

reservoir 75:12

reservoirs 45:10 66:13 71:9

resident 27:21 35:10 42:22 58:23 69:11 74:17

residents 59:1

residents' 58:25

resilience 31:23 70:8

Resilient 58:14

resource 7:24 16:8 78:25

resources 7:18, 23 31:22 40:13 88:10

responsibilities 7:11

responsibility

28:21 46:2 47:14 49:15 51:6,8,13 73:10

responsible 41:6 75:10

rest 25:13

restoration 8:18 15:21 16:3 31:15 39:11

restore 31:13 33:13 41:10 56:23 59:4 70:8

restored 9:10

restores 59:23

restoring 24:24 43:14

rests 51:8

result 21:6 23:8 25:18

retain 53:23

retirement 14:11

return 23:4 40:22 52:25

returning 15:17 24:18 45:21 70:6

returns 16:17 21:14,15 25:1 30:15 47:8 55:8

review 10:11 24:19

reviewed 7:25 52:20

reviewing 14:6

revised 7:25

rich 56:18

Riggins 36:5

rights 21:2 22:1, 9,13

rising 14:14 25:19 32:3 46:17

risk 26:9 48:14

river 3:14 4:14 6:14 15:11,12 16:16 18:15,19 21:5,20,24 22:3, 13,24 23:8 24:2, 14 27:23 28:4,8, 12,14,15,16,24 29:21,22,23 30:3, 9,21 34:5 38:11, 14,22 39:3,8,15, 17,20 41:9,16 43:4,13 45:4 48:11 54:19 57:9, 10 58:17,19 59:2, 5 60:8 64:5 67:9 69:7 70:20 71:6,8 74:23,25 75:9,25 76:6 87:6

rivers 69:12,14

Rob 13:24 14:1,2 15:3

robust 63:21

role 7:13 24:12

rolling 13:23

roughly 8:24 30:1

ROUTON 82:23 83:1,3,21,25

run 5:18 19:22 33:20,21

running 35:19

runs 21:12,21 26:16 56:15

S

57:15 60:16 69:19 70:9 78:13

rural 32:1 77:17

safety 26:11

salmon 10:20 14:25 15:21 16:8, 12,20,25 17:4 18:16 19:6,20 23:10,23 24:2,7, 10,14,20 25:3,20 26:9,16,17 27:22, 23,25 28:3,4,13, 15 30:12,13,14 31:13 33:5,8,11, 14,15 34:2,6,17 35:19,20,23 36:3, 4,5,6,12 37:25 38:13,22,24 39:1, 10,17,20 40:10, 14,16,20 41:10, 15 43:11,14 44:23 45:3,8,19 46:14,17 47:5 48:8 51:25 56:15, 22,23 57:2,4,11, 15 58:18,21,25 59:5,11,24 60:6, 15 63:21 64:4 65:19,22 66:3,9, 20 67:2 69:6,9 70:5,8,15 71:14 72:15,19,23 73:16,23 75:7 78:13 83:6,11,14 85:10 87:2,9

Salmon's 40:9

salmon-producing 15:12

salmonids 18:18

Sams 13:2

San 58:10

satisfy 51:19

save 22:5 34:10 40:9

saving 50:1

sawtooth 33:6 38:12

scarcity 24:6 47:12

scenario 29:2 41:12 46:10 73:14

scenarios 53:25

school 49:4 85:5

Schriever 13:8,9 81:25 82:2,4

Schwint 17:24 18:2,3 19:17

science 9:1 36:11,12,19,24 37:3 46:12 47:13 54:13 69:18 73:18

Sciences 50:25

scientific 21:19 53:11,12 54:23

scientifically 55:13

scientist 34:10

scientists 34:11

screen 4:2 11:7, 13 62:19,23 63:5

screens 9:17

scrolling 20:3

search 65:24 66:2

seasonal 30:25

Seattle 37:22 44:19,22 52:19

Secondary 51:11

seconds 11:14 17:2 19:16 22:25 26:5 31:24 34:15 37:8 39:18 47:1 49:22 55:7 60:12 66:10 68:11 71:2 76:4

seeding 31:1

senior 18:9,10 23:24

sense 50:1 61:25

sentence 25:4,9 85:16,19,21

series 39:4

serve 78:17

served 38:6

serves 7:24

service 35:7 49:25 51:23 85:13

services 43:17

session 86:1,3

set 46:21 54:25 60:2

sets 53:19

setting 61:8

severely 39:8

share 14:21 40:4 44:23 66:20

she'll 82:15

shifting 47:4

shine 18:25 19:5

shocked 56:22

shoot 69:21

short 6:17

shortly 82:16

shot 50:20

show 27:14 32:20 41:25 47:2 50:12 54:12,13,15,21, 24 55:1,3 61:5 62:2,23 86:7 87:16

showing 86:6 88:8

shows 42:5 46:12 69:18

sic 82:18

side 42:2,6 61:6 86:8

sign 61:23 62:21 77:8 81:9

sign- 80:10

sign-in 5:20

signals 45:6

signed 3:20,25 4:2 11:6 48:12 80:7

significant 9:6 25:19 46:16 48:2

simple 79:2

simply 47:12

Simpson 36:16

simulations 53:24

single 46:14 57:14 60:15

sir 76:20

sited 48:22

sitting 35:20

size 8:24

skip 25:11,12

slack 22:23 23:7

slide 6:20 7:12 8:7,20 9:4,20 11:3,22

slight 47:10

slim 24:10

small 43:21 47:7

Smolt 59:19

Smolt- 52:24

snag 35:22

snagging 35:25

Snake 18:19 19:3 21:20,24 22:3,12, 24 23:8 24:14 27:23 28:4,7,12, 14,15,16,24 29:21,23 30:3 34:5 36:18 41:9 43:4,13 45:4 46:8,13 54:19 57:9,10 58:19 60:8 64:5 67:9 70:20 71:6,8 73:11 74:23,25 75:9,25 76:6 87:6

Snohomish 56:4

snorkeling 24:3

snowpack 70:2

sociology 40:8

sockeye 33:15

software 26:25 27:6

solar 22:17 65:8, 11 78:23

solution 39:1 79:2

solutions 83:9

solve 37:10 65:14 79:2,5

solving 69:23

sort 80:18

sound 38:25 62:8 72:12

sounds 62:11 63:9 77:2 82:21

sources 11:1 43:18

South 56:5

Southeast 16:12 85:11,14

Southeastern 44:2

southern 27:21 58:22,24 59:1

sovereigns 39:6

space 50:25 68:23

Spain 15:4,5,6 17:3

spawn 15:17

spawning 38:14

speak 23:17 27:1 29:14 35:10 42:2 60:23 64:10 69:15

speaker 32:16 63:6 67:14

speaking 29:17 63:15 67:4

special 24:8

species 16:24 27:23 40:15 45:3 69:10 73:20

specific 5:19 21:6 71:12

specifically 19:21 30:1 73:4

spend 33:17 49:2 69:8

spending 24:4

spent 14:3 21:16 23:25 35:13 36:4 63:17

spill 18:11,15,22 19:1 26:2,8 28:19 41:1 43:9 45:18, 23 59:8 63:22 70:14 73:7 83:22 86:25

spilled 59:12

spilling 18:17

spills 73:6

spillway 18:24 19:7

spiritually 28:1

Spokane 33:20 40:8

spoke 67:15

spoken 64:23

sportsman 63:15

Spotify 33:25

spring 28:7

square 38:18

squeezing 32:4

stabilizes 30:24

stable 10:16

staff 5:7 11:17 15:6 20:21 80:23 88:22

stage 4:23

stakeholders 15:25

standards 54:6, 20 71:13

Stanley 38:19

stars 22:15

start 12:1,11,13 13:13

started 12:5 13:19 18:6 38:3

starting 82:18

state 7:2 8:10 11:24 12:17 29:20 30:5 40:23 43:7 45:16 56:24 59:6 63:24 65:1 68:7 70:17 73:2

statement 4:9

states 7:1 15:24 38:4 77:25

station 75:18

temporary 47:7

tend 16:6

term 44:6

terms 43:25 65:17 67:23 68:8

testified 20:23 22:2

testify 3:24 32:8

testifying 3:10,18 37:24 56:7

testimony 68:23

that'll 11:20

thin 31:5

thing 67:6 75:17

things 15:15 17:1 37:12 40:14 78:12 79:5 83:13

thinking 47:5

Thirty 17:2 26:5 47:1 49:22 55:7 66:10 68:11 71:2 76:4

THOMAS 13:5

thousands 9:11 10:8

threat 23:10

threatened 58:18 59:3

threshold 28:8

thresholds 52:25

throwing 85:15

tide 24:23

tied 46:1

till 79:15

time 3:23 4:4,7 5:19 8:25 10:17, 25 11:9,14 18:21, 23 22:14 24:4 27:18 29:3 31:11 32:17 35:13,15 36:4 41:21 44:8, 16 47:17 56:1 61:13 63:17 64:3 67:17 69:13 70:18 73:25 76:10,23 79:6,19, 21 80:14,22 81:18 83:4

Time's 19:24

time-sensitive 32:6

timeline 60:5

timer 4:4 11:12

times 16:7 30:15 43:1 69:15 81:4

to-adult 52:25

today 3:8 13:4,10 17:7 18:14 22:16 29:14 40:4 56:7, 22 58:9 62:22 63:16 65:21 79:6

today's 47:8

tons 71:5

tool 71:9

top 19:6 29:24

topic 57:8 74:24

topics 10:11

touch 7:13

toxic 22:23

trade 21:23 65:12

traditional 56:13, 14

trajectory 41:17

Transaction 9:12

transcript 5:5 12:2

transitioned 43:18 44:3

transportation 43:25 44:1

travel 69:7

treaties 22:5,8 57:7 60:3 78:14

treatment 51:17

treaty 21:2 22:1, 11

treble 35:23

trees 27:24

tremendous 34:20

tribal 21:2 22:1 31:22 34:4,11 40:23 43:7 45:16 56:18,24 57:7 59:6 60:4 63:24 70:17 73:2

Tribe 28:6

Tribe's 33:11

tribes 8:11 15:24 22:8,11 27:25 34:21 56:14 69:13 87:10

Tributary 4:14

triggers 53:15

trip 56:16 75:1

tripled 23:4

trips 24:1

trouble 25:8

truck 69:20

trucking 18:25 44:3

true 37:3 78:12

Trump 58:13

trust 52:17 67:20

turbine 19:18 45:9

turn 6:2 11:9 62:18

turning 24:23

TV 69:21

Twenty-five 54:11 55:10

type 85:22

typically 19:15

U

unambitious 55:1

unceded 37:22

uncertainties 49:7

underlying 49:7

underperform 54:8

underplayed 68:13

understand 40:18 67:5

understanding 37:3

undertake 39:7

undertaking 17:7

unhealthy 23:6

United 77:25

universe 14:12

University 27:20 40:8 50:24 52:18 85:6,8

unmute 11:8 17:23 23:16 26:25 27:1,6 50:14 52:10 57:21 61:1 87:18

unmuted 42:1,5 50:19 61:4,5 84:9 86:7

unmuting 17:20

update 58:11

updated 8:9 9:22 63:5

upgrading 43:21

uphold 39:17,20

Upper 39:11

ups 80:11

Upstream 57:10

uptick 47:10

urge 15:16 45:15 47:14 49:12 50:7 71:11 72:20 73:1, 22

urgency 10:12

urging 58:10 70:13

utilities 40:6 43:1 47:23,25 48:10 72:16

utility 18:4 38:25 44:21 48:25 66:24 67:1

utterly 21:8

V

vacations 24:10

Valley 14:2,3 33:12 34:6 35:6

valuable 40:12

values 16:9,20

Vancouver 42:23

variety 15:14

Vashon 37:21

vast 24:20

velocities 10:18

verbiage 53:3

versus 78:4

Veteran 38:8

veterans 38:3,4

vets 38:3,9

Village 56:18

virtual 39:9

virtually 20:23

voice 6:23

Voices 34:1

volunteer 38:20

vote 55:3

W

WAG 29:19 30:13

wage 48:20

wait 61:3 75:6

Wallowa 33:12,15 34:6

Wallowas 33:18

wanted 63:19 64:8 86:22 88:5

War 38:3

warm 75:9

warmer 70:7

warming 45:10

Washington 7:2 12:24,25 13:6 14:2,4,15 27:20 29:16,17,19 30:5 31:25 32:8 33:22 38:5 42:23 44:2, 19,20 50:25 56:3, 5 65:1 68:7 74:17 85:6

Washington's 52:18

watch 21:25

watched 35:22

watching 77:5

water 9:12,14 10:18 19:7 22:22, 23 23:5,7 37:23 48:16 57:2,5 59:11 69:18,21 74:24 75:4,10,12, 14

waters 70:7

ways 50:13 59:7 88:8

weaken 46:24

weather 49:23

web 45:5

website 5:12 33:24 62:20 88:6, 10

week 21:1

weir 33:7

weirs 18:24

well-being 83:16

well-documented 45:10

well-tested 16:2

wellbeing 87:11

Wells 77:17

West 48:22

Western 27:20

whales 58:23

Whatcom 66:23 68:1

wheat 29:16,17, 18,24,25 30:2,5, 7,22 31:25 32:4,8 43:25 44:2 74:21

wheel 15:20

wide 53:5

wild 21:14,20 24:7,10,14 34:1,8 36:6 40:9 45:11, 19

wildlife 3:15 4:13, 20,22,25 5:10,15 6:14,18,24 7:6 8:3,8,11,13,15,21 9:21,24 10:6,23 29:1 30:9 39:1 43:5 44:24 45:5 46:9,20 48:3

51:7,18 52:21
53:8 54:22 58:12,
17 66:21 67:12
72:21 73:13
85:13

Wilke 68:19,20,22
69:2 71:3

Wilkie 69:3

Willamette 14:3

wind 22:17 78:21

winding 4:7

windmills 65:8,12
70:23

wine 48:18

winning 67:21

winter 54:1

wiped 56:12

wishing 3:19

withdrawal 58:13

withstands 55:17

witnessing 24:7

words 79:8

work 6:2 9:2,9
10:22 14:6 20:22
23:11 24:25
26:12 30:8 33:11
34:21 36:10
37:14 38:10 39:2
41:22 48:1 56:2
62:7 67:25 77:17
82:19

workable 16:1

worked 33:9 35:6
74:18 85:11

workers 18:4
48:18

working 33:4
36:14,15 37:10
64:3 67:4

world 8:23 15:13
22:20 26:16 38:3,
21

worldwide 77:24

worse 69:24

wrap 11:15

writing 5:12

written 5:9,13
88:6

Wyoming 35:8

Y

Yakima 38:8

year 5:17 38:2
56:11 71:7

year-round 72:14

years 8:1,9,22
14:8 21:11 22:18
25:23 33:9,19
34:14 35:16,18
36:14 43:19 44:4
46:19 51:24,25
52:2 54:11 55:10
64:22 67:16
72:23 85:14

young 73:18

younger 67:14,19

Yuan 76:14

Z

Zealand 52:17

Zoom 26:25 27:5

85:25 86:3