

B O N N E V I L L E P O W E R A D M I N I S T R A T I O N



## Heading into the Amendment Process:

### Hydrosystem Mitigation and the Fish and Wildlife Program

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Celebrating 75 years of serving the Northwest

## The Amendment Process: An Opportunity to Confirm Priorities, Acknowledge Progress and Common Goals

- Scope of the program
- Legal framework
- Program investments
- Program accomplishments
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Scientific basis of the program
- Priorities and goals

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## **Council F&W Amendment Process Overlaps Other Key Processes**

- The intersections with the Council process make it important that we work together.
- Updated FCRPS BiOp: Draft August 2013 and Final January 1, 2014.
- NOAA Assessment Process
- Columbia River Treaty

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## **Legal Framework: What Does the Power Act Call On Us to Do?**

- Protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife, including related spawning grounds and habitat.
- Affected by the development and operation of any hydro project on the Columbia River and its tributaries (federal and non-federal).
- While assuring the Pacific Northwest an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply.
- Expenditures shall be in addition to, not in lieu of, other expenditures authorized or required from other entities.

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## Program Investments

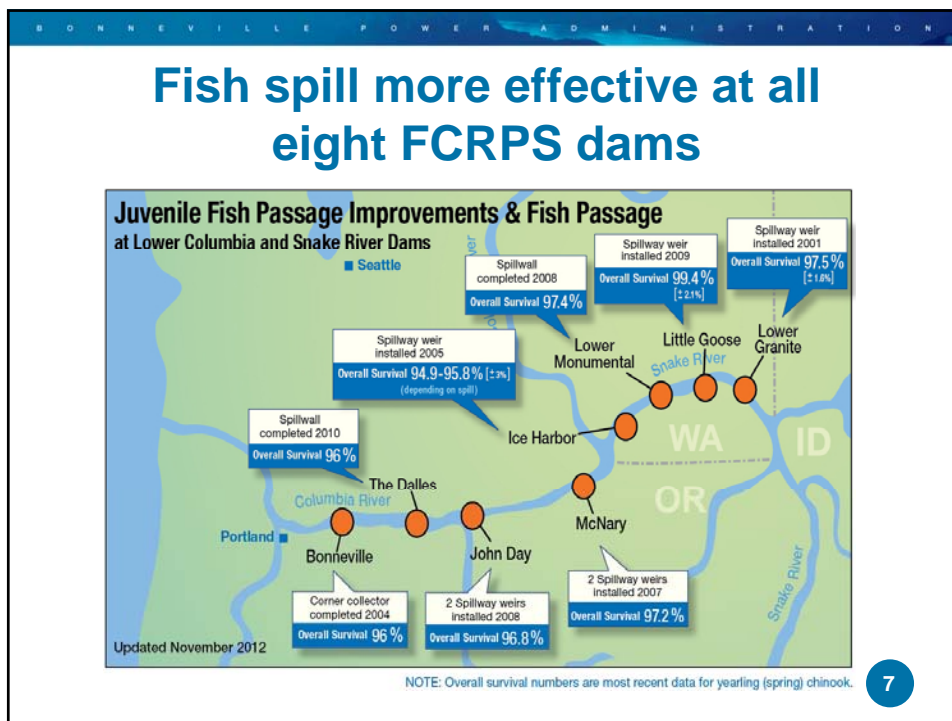
- Significant ratepayer investments in the Program as mitigation for the federal hydrosystem are having real results for fish, wildlife, and their habitat.
- Over 500 contracts with Federal, State, Tribal, and NGO partners.
- Approximately \$450 million in expenditures annually, including Program funding, O&M, and debt service for fish facilities.

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## Program Accomplishments: Hydrosystem Passage is the Foundation of the Program

- **Improved Flows:** Water management that carefully balances flows for anadromous fish, resident fish, upstream-downstream resources, juvenile and adult, year-to-year release and refill.
- **Improved Dam Passage:** Surface passage and surface spill aimed at 96% dam survival for spring migrating fish and 93% for summer fish, with implementation on track to meet or exceed these performance standards. New efforts focused on lamprey passage.

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## Program Accomplishments: Off-site Mitigation

- **Estuary and tributary habitat restoration:** extensive, biologically targeted habitat enhancement for both fish and wildlife, implemented through key partnerships with tribes and states.
- **Habitat protection and improvement:** largely secured through acquisitions and permanent conservation easements.
- **Predator management:** pikeminnow, Caspian tern, and marine mammal management programs.

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## Program Accomplishments: Mitigation and Conservation Hatcheries

- **Hatcheries and hatchery reforms:** Implementation of legally mandated hatchery mitigation, as well as partnerships with tribes and others for:
  - Snake River sockeye conservation
  - Reintroduction of coho
  - Walla Walla and Okanogan reintroduction (in process)
  - Hatchery Genetic Management Plans completed for 44 mitigation hatcheries
  - Snake River sockeye and fall chinook are returning in record numbers
  - Coho salmon have reached harvestable levels where once extinct

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## A World-Class RM&E Program Framework

- Examines status and trends, action effectiveness, critical uncertainties.
- Standardized metrics, protocols, reporting and HLIs are being adopted.
- A number of reforms are underway based on Council and ISRP recommendations.
- Transparency and access through Pisces and Columbia Basin Fish (Taurus) websites.

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## Scientific Basis of the Program

- An ecosystem approach to restoration, that encourages regional collaboration among our partners.
- Sustainability, diversity, resiliency, and adaptability, are all reflected in the program and its implementation.
- Sponsor projects are reviewed by the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) and recommended by Council.

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## In Conclusion, BPA Looks Forward to Participating in the Amendment Process

- An excellent forum for considering issues and coordinating our actions.
- As we go forward, we think it's important to:
  - Acknowledge and build on the tremendous progress and strong partnerships that we have established together.
  - Recognize BPA's investment as mitigation for the hydrosystem.
  - Make the best use of the financial resources available.
  - Continue to collaborate to protect, mitigate and enhance for the benefit of fish and wildlife in the Basin.

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