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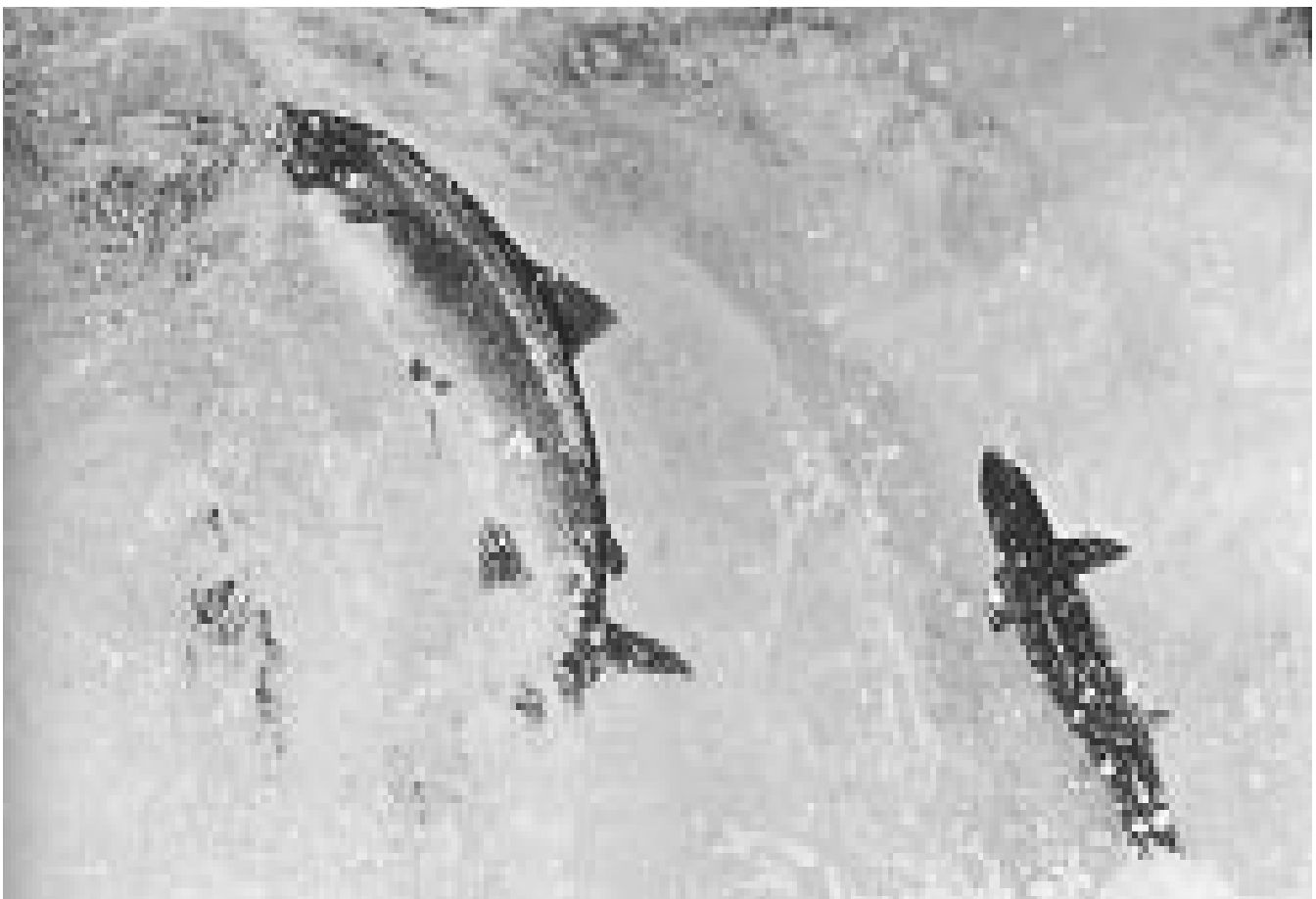
Spring 1998

The Energy Activist

NW Energy Coalition

Energy and Salmon

Home to fish, Northwest rivers produce $\frac{2}{3}$ of region's power



Few salmon remain to complete their legendary journey up the Columbia River and its tributaries past a lethal gantlet of dams



Knowledge Is Power

Here in the Northwest we enjoy the lowest electricity bills in the country, thanks largely to **Columbia River** hydropower. But up until now, our low bills have come at a heavy price — the loss of the greatest salmon river the world has ever known. Only 100 years ago, over 15 million steelhead and salmon returned to the **Columbia and Snake Rivers** and their tributaries every year. Today only a tiny fraction of that once-large number make it back to their birth waters to spawn the next generation of fish.

Other factors have contributed to the decline, but we now know that our Columbia and Snake River hydroelectric system is the main reason why salmon and steelhead are headed for extinction on those rivers.

We have to know the facts before we act to solve the problem, and we now have the knowledge to save fish and have affordable energy too. The *Energy Activist* is dedicated to showing that we know *how* and *why* our hydropower system kills fish and what we have to do to fix it. We don't have to choose between our low-cost power and healthy fish runs – with a little common sense, we can enjoy both.

Mark Glyde



The Energy Activist

Founded in 1981, the NW Energy Coalition is dedicated to the pursuit of clean and affordable energy. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, all donations to the NW Energy Coalition are tax-deductible.

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From Riding The Rapids To Rapid Decline

As dams tame our rivers, wild salmon plummet toward extinction



FISH LADDERS: *When the dams were built, most experts were concerned with how adult salmon would be able to get around the dams to return upstream to spawn. Fish ladders that allowed adults to climb over the dams solved part of that problem, but salmon continued to plunge toward extinction. Now we know that dams pose nearly insurmountable barriers to young salmon making their way to the ocean, and are the major cause of dying runs.*



RESERVOIRS: *Dams slow down the river current and back up water for miles, forming deep reservoirs that young fish heading to the ocean can get lost in. A journey that used to take two weeks now takes up to three months, severely affecting the young salmon's ability to adapt to salt water. Lost and confused salmon are easy prey for other fish, and many never survive the reservoirs.*



DAM TURBINES: *When salmon get to the dams, things go from bad to worse. The river's flow makes turbines deep within the dams spin to generate electricity, and many young salmon are swept into the turbines along with the water. Spinning turbine blades and high water pressures kill and injure a large number of fish at each dam.*

Dams are the main killers of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. The major dams were built over a 40 year period, starting with **Rock Island Dam** on the Columbia in 1933 and ending with **Lower Granite Dam** on the Snake in 1975.

The combined effects of long, slow-moving reservoirs and deadly turbines kill between 5-15% of migrating young fish at each dam. Most Columbia and Snake River salmon and steelhead must survive four to eight dams on their trip to the ocean. **The dams will kill 80-95% of the fish which have to face all eight of them.**

The federal government's answer to this high death rate is to take the fish out of the water and transport them downstream in trucks and barges. Barging, which began as an experiment 20 years ago, has become the federal government's catch-all solution for protecting salmon from the lethal effects of dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

In 1999 the federal government will make key decisions on whether to continue barging salmon and steelhead downstream or to make the rivers safer for fish by modifying or retiring some dams.

Read on to find out which path holds the key to the salmon's survival.

Dams Aren't Forever — Extinction Is

Regional decisionmakers agree: retiring dams a reasonable option to save fish



Saving salmon in the Northwest means taking a hard look at retiring four dams on the **Snake River** in **Washington State**. Science tells us that salmon need more natural river conditions. Although there are other measures that will help save salmon, including modifying dams, dam retirement is being considered to make the river safer for fish.

Retiring dams is a reasonable solution

One of the region's more conservative newspapers, **The Idaho Statesman**, supports retiring the four dams to save salmon. The **Seattle Post-Intelligencer** urges the Northwest to listen to scientists calling for more natural river conditions. Independent scientists are 80-100% certain that salmon will come back within 24 years if the four Lower Snake River dams are retired.

Early retirement for Snake River dams will leave most of each dam whole. When a dam is retired, the dirt bank connecting the dam to the riverbank is removed. The concrete portion of the dam remains in place, allowing the river to flow around it.

The benefits the four dams provide can easily be replaced:

- Together, the four dams only produce 4% of the Northwest's power. The region can easily do without that power now and could replace it if necessary through common sense investments in energy conservation and renewable energy like wind power.
- The dams do not provide flood control.
- Only 13 agri-businesses pull water out of the river for irrigation. If the dams were retired the river level would drop, but the irrigators could easily extend their water lines to reach the lower water level.
- Locks at the dams allow Lewiston, Idaho to operate a seaport in the Rocky Mountains, nearly 500 miles from the ocean. Instead of sacrificing salmon for shipping, industries could use trucks or rail to move their products.

We can afford to retire dams

Retiring the dams is a one-time expense. It will cost money up front but will bring the expensive and failed practice of barging to an end and eliminate dam operation and maintenance costs.

The Idaho Statesman

ESTABLISHED IN 1864 • IDAHO'S CAPITAL NEWSPAPER

"Breaching four dams on the Lower Snake River makes economic sense and restores an Idaho treasure. If salmon return to the state in substantial numbers — which they will if the dams are breached — the long-term benefits outweigh any short-term losses."

— September 22, 1997 —

Caravan Of The Absurd

Salmon and steelhead reach the ocean in government parade of trucks and barges

Most of the young salmon and steelhead that make it down the **Columbia and Snake Rivers** travel by truck or boat. Begun 20 years ago as an experiment, barging has become the federal government's main solution to save fish from the lethal effects of dams.

What is barging? Fish are collected in front of dams and forced into small pipes that shoot them to handling facilities. They are then pumped into barges and trucks and hauled downstream where they are eventually released below the last dam on the Columbia River.

Barging doesn't work. The physical handling involved in barging stresses and injures the fish. Barging also subjects fish to overcrowding, exposes them to disease, and disrupts their ability to return to spawn in the streams where they were born.

Barging Wastes Money. Salmon need bold action, not more money spent on the failed practice of barging. Two panels of independent scientists agree that the best way to restore wild salmon is to stop barging and create a more natural river system that is better for migrating fish.

The last two years of this century are vital for the future of wild salmon and steelhead in the Northwest. In 1999 the **Clinton Administration** must decide to end the failed "techo-fix" of barging and commit to making the river safer for fish.



Energy And Wild Salmon In Abundance

Utilities have proven they can make rivers safer for fish

Dams don't have to spell death for salmon and steelhead. In some areas of the Northwest, utilities have made a commitment to modify dams to reduce their harmful effects on fish.

An agreement is due to be finalized soon that will help bring back threatened steelhead runs on the **Mid-Columbia River** in Eastern Washington. **Chelan and Douglas County Public Utility Districts** have agreed to increase river flows at their three dams to make it easier for fish to migrate downstream. A multi-million dollar habitat restoration fund for nearby tributary rivers is also in the agreement. Previous modifications agreed to by the Chelan, Douglas and Grant PUDs have helped make the **Hanford Reach Brights** the healthiest run of salmon on the Columbia.

On the **Skagit River** in Western Washington, **Seattle City Light** has taken a "salmon-protection-first" policy in operating its dams. A successful program to control river flows for fish has resulted in a 650% increase in the Skagit's chum salmon run and a 150% increase in the pink salmon run over the last three decades.

Nowhere To Hide

The Four H's: Habitat destruction, hatcheries, harvest, and hydropower haunt salmon



Habitat destruction due to poor development is a major threat to salmon in western Oregon and Washington

Causes of salmon declines in the Northwest (salmon may be affected by all or some of these reasons in different rivers).

Habitat Destruction

- building near rivers ruins salmon habitats in wetlands and floodplains
- cutting down trees that provide shade along stream-banks makes rivers too warm for fish
- logging and road building on steep slopes muddies streams
- pollution from cities, industry, and agriculture poisons river water
- taking more water out of rivers for irrigation, industry, and growing cities means less water for salmon

Hatcheries

- hatchery fish compete with wild salmon for food
- diseases are more easily spread through hatchery populations, which threatens wild fish
- weaker hatchery fish breed with wild salmon and hurt their ability to adapt to changing environments

Harvest

- overfishing drives salmon populations down
- salmon are accidentally caught and killed by fishermen trying to catch other fish

Hydropower

- dams turn flowing rivers into slow-moving reservoirs that delay young salmon on their way to the ocean
- dam turbines injure or kill many young salmon

Many Northwest salmon and steelhead species are being listed or are proposed to be listed under the Endangered Species Act. Here's a sampling:

Western Washington/Oregon

Listed as threatened:

Lower Columbia River steelhead

Proposed to be listed as threatened:

Puget Sound chinook
Lower Columbia River chinook
Upper Willamette River chinook
Southern OR/ CA Coast chinook
Ozette Lake sockeye
Hood Canal Summer chum
Columbia River chum
Upper Willamette River steelhead

Candidate for proposal:

Baker River sockeye

Eastern Washington/Oregon & Idaho

Listed as endangered:

Snake River sockeye
Snake River Spring/Summer chinook
Upper Columbia River steelhead

Proposed to be listed as endangered:

Upper Columbia River Spring chinook

Listed as threatened:

Snake River Fall chinook (expanded)
Snake River steelhead

Proposed to be listed as threatened:

Snake River Fall Chinook
Middle Columbia River steelhead

Recipe For Extinction

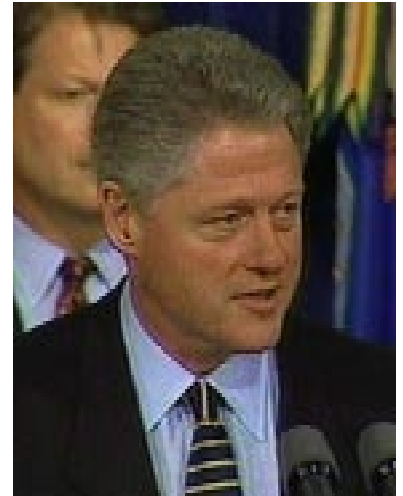
Federal fish plan serves up delays, more barging

If the **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)** has its way, most young salmon and steelhead will continue to be forced into barges, trucks or deadly turbines at Columbia and Snake River dams.

The new NMFS plan, called the **Steelhead Biological Opinion**, responds to recent Endangered Species Act listings of Columbia and Snake River steelhead but will also affect salmon. The NMFS plan will:

- Actually increase the failed practice of barging young fish past dams;
- Fail to spill enough water over the dams, which is needed to help young fish avoid deadly power generation turbines; and
- Delay decisions, promised by the **Clinton Administration** in 1999, on whether to keep barging or give salmon and steelhead a fighting chance by retiring and modifying dams.

As currently written, the plan simply continues the status quo and does virtually nothing to make the river safer for fish. Salmon and steelhead need



Bonneville Keeps Two Sets Of Books

Bogus budget scapegoats salmon as cause of agency's financial woes

The latest effort by the **Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)** to evade its obligation to bring salmon and steelhead back to the **Columbia and Snake Rivers** comes in the form of grossly inflated reports of how much the agency has spent on fish programs.

The widely reported false claim that Bonneville has spent \$3 billion on fish in the last 20 years is a result of the agency's continued scapegoating of salmon as the source its financial woes.

Close to half of the reported \$3 billion is money that BPA claims to have spent or lost because water was used to direct migrating young fish away from deadly power-generating turbines rather than to make electricity. However, the agency does not

charge irrigators and river shippers for water used to benefit them instead of generating power. Only when water is used to benefit the natural inhabitants of the Columbia River does BPA charge for its use.



As energy deregulation unfolds in the Northwest and in Congress, and decisions about how to save salmon creep ever closer, BPA must stop falsely blaming salmon and confront the real sources of its financial problems. The time has come for BPA to deal with the region's debt from the failed **WPPSS** nuclear power plants and to stop giving away the benefits of the Columbia and Snake Rivers to the aluminum, corporate farm and river transportation industries.

Legislators Proceed With Caution

WA passes limited consumer safeguards, ID coalition seeks to protect citizens



Two bills relating to energy deregulation were passed by the **Washington State Legislature** and signed by **Governor Locke** this winter. **House Bill 2831** requires utilities to show how much they charge customers for the different parts of electricity service, such as the cost of generating electricity and the cost of carrying it across power lines from power plants to homes and businesses. The bill also requires utilities to gather information on customer satisfaction, number of complaints, number of blackouts and other information that will help customers choose their energy providers under deregulation.

Senate Bill 6560 requires utilities to make available to customers information such as billing and shut-off policies, credit/deposit requirements, and other basic

consumer protections. Unfortunately, a provision that would have required utilities to show the environmental impacts of energy production was deleted from the final legislation.



Activity in Idaho centered on the resolution written by the **Idaho Energy Coalition** in conjunction with the **NW Energy Coalition**. The resolution passed the **Senate Resources and Environment Committee** 7-5, but died in the Legislature's joint **Interim Committee on Energy Deregulation**.

The resolution urged the state's congressional delegation to preserve local control over Idaho's electric industry and to withhold support of deregulation if it harms the economy or environment of Idaho citizens.

Deregulation Debate Goes On

OR coalition pushes ahead, MT waffles on law passed last year



Although there was no session in Oregon this year, there was plenty of activity relating to energy deregulation. The **Fair and Clean Energy Coalition** of Oregon and the **NW Energy Coalition** moved to support a model for energy deregulation that would require utilities to invest at least 3% of their retail revenues in energy conservation, renewable energy resources and low-income weatherization, and give consumers the opportunity to buy green power.

The **Portfolio Access Model (PAM)** is also designed to ease consumers into deregulation of the energy industry. Under this model, consumers would be given a portfolio of choices through their existing utilities. Consumers would be able either to stay with the standard electric rate provided by their utility, choose green power, or receive a rate based on the open market price for electricity. The portfolio model would eventually

give way to full deregulation, where consumers would choose among many different companies that supply electricity.



Citing concerns that the energy deregulation bill passed last year will be bad for Montana's environment and consumers, **NW Energy Coalition** member group **Montana Environmental Information Center** filed two petitions with the state legislature to repeal the law.

Although there was no session this year, Montana legislators were also engaged in rethinking energy deregulation this past winter. Legislators considered convening a special session to look more closely at the implications of the energy deregulation law they passed in 1997 after the state's largest utility, the **Montana Power Company**, announced plans to sell all of its power plants.

Outreach

NW Energy Coalition Flexes Organizing Muscle

BPA Cost Review Committee reverses decision to ax investments in clean energy

Nearly 40 NW Energy Coalition member organizations and allies flooded the **Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Cost Review Committee** with letters, emails and phonecalls in February. The outcry pushed the Committee to reverse its draft recommendations that virtually eliminated BPA investments in energy conservation, renewable resources and low-income weatherization.

The overwhelming response from our members and allies, and the Committee's change of heart, showed that together we can make a difference!

Recommendations

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Draft Cuts</u>	<u>Final Cuts</u>
Conservation market transformation	\$14.6 million/year	\$4.6 million/year
Legacy conservation/ L-I weatherization	\$4.5 million/year	\$2.5 million/year
Renewables	\$3.3 million/year	\$2.2 million/year

Coalition members and allies made their voices heard:

Regional

Friends of the Earth
 Natural Resources Defense Council
 Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
 NW Energy Coalition
 Renewable Northwest Project
 Save Our *Wild* Salmon
 Sierra Club NW

Idaho & Montana

Association of Idaho Cities
 Idaho Energy Coalition
 Idaho Rivers United
 Idaho Rural Council
 Montana Environmental Information Center
 Missoula Urban Demonstration Project
 South Central (ID) Community Action Agency

Oregon

Citizens Utility Board
 Emerald People's Utility District
 Eugene Water & Electric Board
 Housing Authority and Community Services
 Agency of Lane County

Oregon, con't

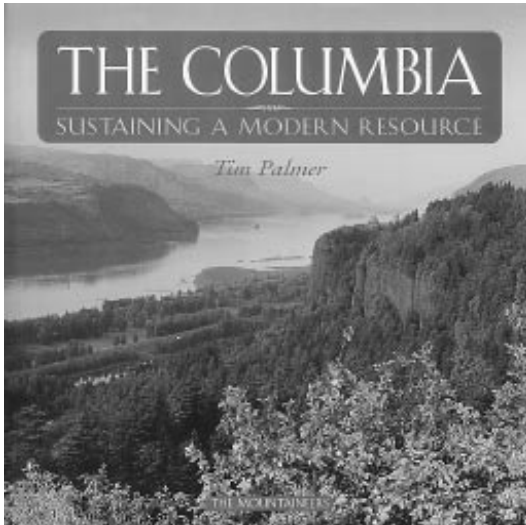
Klamath Falls Solar Association
 League of Utilities and Social Service Agencies
 League of Women Voters
 Multnomah County Weatherization
 Oregon Environmental Council
 OSPIRG
 Solar Energy Association of Oregon

Washington

Atmosphere Alliance
 Efficiency Works!
 Energy Project
 League of Women Voters
 Seattle City Light
 Spokane Neighborhood Action Program
 Washington Citizen Action
 Washington Environmental Council
 WA Dept. of Community, Trade, and Economic Development
 WashPIRG
 Washington State Association of Community Action Agencies



Outreach



The Columbia

New book by Tim Palmer paints vivid picture of the Northwest's landmark river

What do Yellowstone National Park, Portland, Missoula, Boise, Bend, Spokane and Kelowna, British Columbia all have in common?

The answer is found in **Tim Palmer's** latest book, *The Columbia: Sustaining a modern resource*. These cities and more lie in the 259,000 square miles that make up the **Columbia River Basin**. Linked by a living network of rivers and streams that all feed into the Columbia, seven states and one Canadian province form the backbone of the fifth largest river system on the continent.

Palmer traces the path of the river and its many tributaries from beginning to end. He focuses on modern treatment of salmon, forests, and the land within the watershed and shows how all are connected to the people who live and work there. He makes a compelling case that in order for the region to have both a living river and a working river, we must view it as a whole and make resource decisions accordingly.

The Columbia is both a beautiful collection of photographs and a distinct call for more balance in how we manage the river. In a clear, well organized book, Palmer introduces us to the real Columbia we thought we knew.

Coalition To Gather In Montana

Roundtable discussions, Eagle and Turkey nominations promise lively weekend

The Spring '98 NWECA Conference/Board Meeting is shaping up to be energizing and engaging. Much anticipated roundtable discussions on deregulation of the energy industry, fish and dams, and green power promise to generate lively debate. The agenda will also feature outreach and communications workshops, panel discussions on energy deregulation in the four Northwest states and perspectives from California.

The conference will also be an opportunity for everyone to make nominations for the annual **Conservation Eagle and Turkey awards**, so come prepared with names! The Eagle award is given for "achievement above and beyond the call of the Northwest Conservation Act by an entity other than an individual or board member of the Coalition." The Turkey award is given for "nasty, disgusting performance which is a disgrace to the people and natural environment of the Northwest."

Spring Conference and Board Meeting

May 29-31, 1998 — KwaTaqNuk Lodge — Polson, Montana

Detailed information can be found on the Coalition website: www.nwenergy.org/nwec

Clean Energy Works

Sun's Energy Harnessed to Save Fish

Solar panel protects salmon stream from destructive effects of grazing

Members of the **Warm Springs Tribe** in Oregon are using solar power to protect one of their salmon streams. The stream is right beside an area that is grazed by cows. Electricity generated by a solar panel is used to pump water out of, and away from the fenced stream and into barrels allowing the cows to quench their thirst without trashing salmon habitat.

Before installation of the solar panel and fence, the cows drank directly from the stream and trampled the streambank, muddying the water and destroying streamside vegetation that helps keep the water cool enough for salmon.

Poor grazing methods are a major cause of salmon habitat destruction all over the West. The Warm Springs Tribe has clearly demonstrated that with common sense and ingenuity, grazing cattle don't have to spell extinction for salmon.



Salmon activists marvel at innovative solution

Outreach

On The Road — Washington

Senior, human service, labor and other groups learn about energy

On April 8th, **Snohomish County Human Services** hosted a panel discussion and Q&A on energy restructuring. The panel was designed as an introduction to the issue and a forum for discussing what energy deregulation will mean for average consumers. **KC Golden** of the **WA State Dept. of Community, Trade and Economic Development**, **Coe Hutchison** of **Snohomish County PUD**, State Representative **Mike Cooper (D)**, and **Mark Glyde** of the **NW Energy Coalition** spoke about the changes, benefits and risks deregulation poses for average consumers to begin the forum.

Questions from the audience reflected fears that rates for average consumers in the Northwest will rise under deregulation and that only large buyers of power will benefit from more competition in the energy industry.

The discussion was attended by over 30 people including representatives from human service organizations, **American Association of Retired Persons**, the **Council on Aging**, and organized labor. Additional attendees included the local President of **United Way**, State Representative **Al O'Brien (D)** and representatives from **Congressman Jack Metcalf** and **Senator Patty Murray's** offices.



Membership

Our members, both individuals and organizations, are the driving force behind the work NWEAC accomplishes. Here are just a few examples of organizations that make the Coalition a powerful voice for change.

Idaho Citizen's Network



The Idaho Citizens Network (ICN) was founded in 1988 through the merging of **Idaho Fair Share**, **Idaho Neighbors Network**, and the **Idaho Disabilities Coalition**. Idaho Citizens Network has a long history of involvement in energy issues, as Fair Share and the Neighbors Network which were born out of electricity rate hike battles in the 1970s.

With 15,000 members state-wide, ICN's main focus is protecting the interests of Idaho citizens on many issues, including housing, health care, and utility deregulation. The Citizens Network co-hosted a press conference at Boise's **Power Summit** on deregulation last year which called for maintaining affordable electric bills for Idaho's residential consumers.

ICN's two major campaigns in the coming year both involve consumer protection for low income households. Its equity in banking campaign is focused on ensuring that banks give loans to people living in low and moderate income areas, and its housing campaign is targeted at organizing residents in low-income housing units.

For more information, contact Kevin Borden at (208) 385-9146.

National Center For Appropriate Technology



A national organization with offices in **Butte, Montana** and **Fayetteville, Arkansas**, the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) has four principle program areas:

Energy conservation. NCAT maintains a website on energy-related issues including energy conservation in land use planning and transportation — visit it at www.sustainable.doe.gov

Low income energy issues. NCAT provides research and technical assistance to agencies distributing energy assistance money, helping them leverage funds and learn from each other to make limited dollars go as far as possible.

Affordable housing. NCAT shares techniques for retrofitting buildings to use less energy and water with public housing authorities.

Sustainable agriculture. NCAT runs a national hotline program for farmers and others interested in sustainable agriculture practices: 1-800-346-9140.

For more information about NCAT, call Executive Director Kathy Hadley at 1-800-275-6228, or visit their website at www.ncat.org

Seattle City Light



Seattle City Light has been a leader in energy conservation since 1976 when the City decided to rely on conservation and renewables instead of nuclear power. That decision spawned twenty+ years of solid achievement in energy conservation efforts. In 1992 the City decided to rely on energy conservation for 100% of expected load growth for the next ten years.

City Light's approach to relicensing its hydroelectric dams on the **Skagit River** exemplifies its commitment to fish and wildlife restoration. The utility sat down with environmentalists, fishers, tribes, agencies, communities, and others to put together its proposal. The result has been more salmon and eagles, and restored habitat.

City Light reaches out to make sure low income households can afford electricity with low income rate discounts, emergency energy assistance and low income weatherization. The utility has been a pioneer in bringing its citizen owners into the decision making process via advisory committees, community workshops, polling, and now electronic communications.

For more information, contact Marc Sullivan at (206) 684 3738.

Membership

If you would like to have your organization profiled in the Activist, please give us a call. We'll spread the word about your good works. Let us know if you have suggestions for the Member Spotlight for upcoming issues.

LUSSA

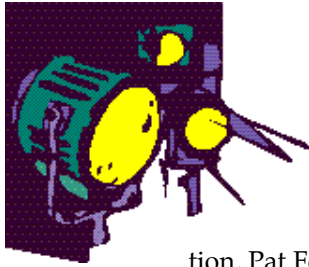


The **League of Utilities and Social Service Agencies (LUS-SA)** is a regional coalition of energy providers and utilities including **PGE, Pacific Power, Columbia River PUD**, and fifteen social service agencies in the Northwestern region of Oregon. Its purpose is to serve as a round table where utilities and agencies can find better ways to meet the utility needs of low income Oregonians.

"LUSSA is a rare and splendid animal in these polarized and contentious times," states **Jay Formick**, LUSSA director and **NW Energy Coalition Executive Board** member. The league is a member of the NW Energy Coalition because its members want to have a hand in shaping energy policy in the Pacific Northwest and staying informed on the issues that effect low income people.

LUSSA realizes the kind of relationship most communities would like to have between utilities and low income advocates: respect for the jobs both groups do to help low income people, and tolerance in the face of disagreements.

For more information, contact Jay Formick at (503) 612-3790



Member Spotlight: Pat Ford

A founding member of the NW Energy Coalition, Pat Ford was the Coalition's first Secretary and now serves on the Executive Board as **Idaho Caucus Chair**. He became active on energy issues in the 1970s fighting coal plants as Executive Director of the **Idaho Conservation League**. Now on the League's board, Pat represents ICL to the Coalition.

As a life-long conservationist, Pat has always been interested in fish. He wrote about the fate of steelhead and salmon in the region for six years as a reporter and editor for **High Country News**, and edited a special issue on "Salmon at the Crossroads" when listings started to occur under the **Endangered Species Act** in the early 1990s.

Pat is currently the **Idaho Field Representative** for the **Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition**, an organization that he helped found in 1991. His is a long-term vision — he sees issues as beads on a string, as a means to achieving progress, organizing people, changing politics, and changing attitudes. Columbia Basin salmon recovery is compelling to Pat as an issue that connects diverse people and interests across the region. "By saving salmon we will shape a better energy future, improve tribal relations, establish better patterns of water use and unite conservationists, fishermen and others across the Northwest," he says.

Pat hikes often into the upper reaches of the **Salmon River** drainage in central Idaho. Someday soon he wants to see salmon back in those streams where they belong.



Remember The Columbia

Puget Sound must not lose sight of region's most important river

In 9th grade Washington State History, I learned that the territory was proposed for statehood under the name Columbia. I mourned the loss of such a lovely name. At the same time, I was almost totally ignorant of the **Columbia River** and its importance to my life and to the **Puget Sound Basin**.

My ignorance has abated as I work for electric energy conservation and restoration of salmon threatened by hydropower, but I still have a lot to learn. My fellow citizens of the Puget Sound Basin have a much longer way to go.

In a statewide poll, the *Oregonian* found that 1) Oregonians count the decline of salmon as their top environmental concern; 2) they think the Columbia should be managed **first** for salmon; 3) a majority are willing to spend some of their own money to bring salmon back; and 4) almost 40% support removing some dams to help salmon.

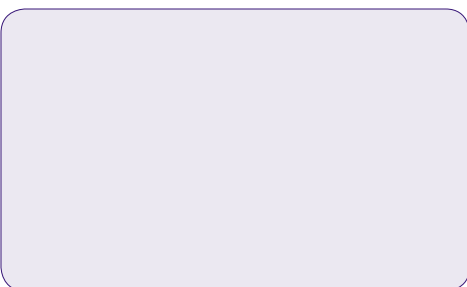
In Washington, there is shocking ignorance of the real reasons for salmon declines. The loss of habitat from logging, agriculture and urban development is overlooked for the old bugaboos of over-harvesting by one group of bad guys or another. Depending on whose lies you believe, sport, commercial or tribal fishers get blamed.

Meanwhile the massacre of salmon by Columbia and Snake River dams fails to penetrate Puget Sound consciousness. For the Columbia, the lowest estimates of hydroelectric dams' contribution to human-caused salmon deaths is 80%.

The Columbia and Snake Rivers are enormously important in Washington's economy and ecosystem. Although low cost BPA power goes to all four states in

the region, 60% goes to Washington public power: **Snohomish PUD, Seattle and Tacoma, Clark County PUD** and many others. Columbia irrigation makes possible the agriculture which sustains the state's economy and barging on the Columbia supports agriculture, logging, mining and the trade economy.

Commercial, sport and tribal fishing businesses are also crucial to the region's economy, not just in Puget Sound, but in **Alaska and British Columbia** as well. Salmon from the Columbia migrate to the **Bering Sea** and mix with salmon from Canada and Alaska. The loss of Columbia salmon has such a major impact on the entire salmon fishery that the state of Alaska has more top level staff devoted to Columbia salmon than Washington does.



And, then there's the undeniable reality: the Columbia and the Snake run through Washington. It is Washington rivers that have been despoiled; it is Washington eagles, sturgeon, grizzlies, and other creatures which once thrived on the river. But the Columbia and the Snake are apparently invisible because the rivers themselves are not visible from the Sound.

As a Coalition of groups which span the region and understand the interrelationships of salmon, electricity, the economy and ecosystem, we have a special responsibility to educate the Puget Sound Basin, with its preponderance of the region's population, political clout, and financial weight. We need all of that influence honed to make the right decisions for our states and our region and, most important, for our salmon.

— Sara Patton
Coalition Director

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NW Energy Coalition

Association For The Advancement Of Sustainable Energy
Policy -- BC

Alliance to Save Energy

Alternative Energy Resources Organization -- MT

American Rivers

Atmosphere Alliance -- WA

Citizen Action -- WA

Citizens' Utility Board -- OR

Clallam-Jefferson Community Action Council -- WA

Cold Spring Conservancy -- WA

Earth and Spirit Council -- OR

Emerald People's Utility District -- OR

Energy Outreach Center -- WA

Eugene Future Power Committee -- OR

Eugene Water and Electric Board -- OR

Fair Use of Snohomish Energy -- WA

Friends of the Earth

Golden Eagle Audubon Society -- ID

Greenhouse Action -- WA

Greenpeace

Human Resources Council, District XI -- MT

Idaho Citizens Network -- ID

Idaho Conservation League -- ID

Idaho Consumer Affairs -- ID

Idaho Rivers United -- ID

Idaho Wildlife Federation -- ID

Kootenay-Okanagan Electric Consumers Association -- BC

League of Utilities and Social Service Agencies -- OR

League of Women Voters -- ID, OR, WA

Metrocenter YMCA -- WA

Montana Environmental Information Center -- MT

Montana Public Interest Research Group -- MT

Montana River Action Network -- MT

Montana Urban Demonstration Project -- MT

Mountaineers -- WA

National Center For Appropriate Technology -- MT

Natural Resources Defense Council

Northern Plains Resource Council -- MT

Northwest Energy Efficiency Council -- WA

Opportunity Council -- WA

Oregon Action -- OR

Oregon Energy Coordinators Association -- OR

Oregon Environmental Council -- OR

Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group -- OR

Pacific Rivers Council -- OR

Portland Energy Conservation, Inc. -- OR

Puget Sound Council of Senior Citizens -- WA

Renewable Northwest Project -- OR

Rivers Council of Washington -- WA

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Salmon For All -- OR

Seattle Audubon Society -- WA

Seattle City Light -- WA

Sierra Club

Sierra Club of British Columbia -- BC

Snohomish County Public Utility District -- WA

Solar Energy Association of Oregon -- OR

Solar Information Center -- OR

South East Idaho Community Action Agency -- ID

Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs -- WA

Tahoma Audubon Society -- WA

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Trout Unlimited -- WA

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