

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

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Mission Statement

“The mission of Douglas Electric Cooperative, a member-owned and operated cooperative, is to provide affordable, reliable electric and other compatible services that enhance the quality of life for its members, using progressive marketing in conjunction with sound financial and management principles.”

DOUGLAS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



The Great Contradiction!

ON THE ONE HAND:

Judge James Redden is running the Columbia and Snake River federal dams for power operations through the Courts using what is called the Biological Opinion (BiOp). Various federal agencies consult during the BiOp process to develop a plan to help the Endangered Species Act-listed fish in these rivers. There have been rounds of BiOps in previous years and last year, Judge Redden rejected the most recent round for the upcoming BiOp, sending the federal agencies back to develop a more aggressive plan.

Recently, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) announced, on behalf of the federal fish agencies, that they are proposing expanded actions to support fish recovery of Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead, representing the most comprehensive approach ever conducted to the ESA-listed fish. The proposal, which will cost almost a billion dollars of your money through your electric bill over the next decade, is now headed into the BiOp writing, which hopes for a product to impress Judge Redden that the feds are more than meeting fish recovery objectives. The comprehensive approach includes \$500 million in dam modifications, \$400 million on habitat and hatcheries.

ON THE OTHER HAND:

We have also recently read of the current excellent sport coho fishing at the mouth of Columbia River. However, we know that salmon return populations are variable on account of factors that recovery programs cannot affect, let alone control - mainly ocean conditions, but also river and weather factors.

Returning fish populations have their ups and their downs. Cumulatively this year the Chinook run over Bonneville Dam is only half of the 10-year average, but the cumulative jack run this year previewing next year's run is about 200 percent of the 10-year number.

Upstream on the Snake River at Lower Granite Dam, the cumulative Chinook run this year is also only half of the 10-year average. But for the jacks coming back it is almost 500 percent of the 10-year average. These fish populations swings are simply too radical for the slow habitat and in-river improvements of court mandated actions through any BiOp, let alone the one now being crafted.

I feel it my duty to update you on what is really going as it affects the electric rates that you pay. There is an enormous waste of salmon recovery dollars relative to recovering salmon populations and it is routine to base public policy on falsehoods. Folks will continue to fish at the mouth of Columbia River and elsewhere catching ESA-list fish. And I will from time-to-time keep writing you about the various expensive ways it all fails to make sense and costs you on your monthly electric bill.

Best Regards,

Dave Sabala
General Manager

Visit our Web site at www.douglaselectric.com

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