

1 **NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION**

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3 **RESOLUTION 4-09**

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5 **SUPPORT FOR THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF**
6 **THE COLUMBIA RIVER SYSTEM WHILE MEETING**
7 **FISH AND WILDLIFE OBLIGATIONS**
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9 The majority of NWPPA members rely heavily on the low-cost power
10 generated from hydroelectric power dams on the Columbia River System,
11 which serves as the foundation for the Northwest economy. Electrical
12 output from the dams on the Columbia River System is significantly affected
13 by the operation of the river system. Benefits from the dams on the
14 Columbia River system include not only generation of clean, renewable and
15 economical power, but irrigation, freight transport, recreation and
16 congressionally mandated flood control.

17 NWPPA members take the responsibility for management of this
18 natural resource seriously and are continually working to mitigate the
19 effects of the dams on fish and wildlife. Electricity ratepayers have invested
20 billions of dollars over the years in fish and wildlife as well as other natural
21 resource programs. Since 1980, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)
22 has spent over \$8 billion on ESA and other statutory obligations to fish and
23 wildlife. In addition, publicly-owned and investor-owned utilities are
24 responsible for many programs that cost hundreds of millions of dollars
25 more. These costs are passed directly on through electricity rates and affect
26 everyone in the region and the regional economy.

27 Over many of the last several years, substantial numbers of fish have
28 returned to the Columbia River, and the number of harvested fish has
29 broadly increased in most of those years. At the same time, pressures to
30 increase funding levels for fish mitigation have intensified. These pressures
31 include litigation surrounding NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric
32 Administration) Fisheries 2004 Biological Opinion, a potential long-term
33 funding agreement between BPA and the Northwest Power and Conservation
34 Council (Council) and the Council's subbasin plans -- not to mention
35 renewed calls by national environmental groups to remove the Snake River
36 dams.

37 NWPPA supports responsible management and operation of the
38 Columbia River System to mitigate the impact of dam operations on fish
39 through cost-effective, measurable, accountable results, based upon a
40 rigorous, refereed and traditional scientific process. NWPPA opposes flow
41 augmentation, increased spill, reservoir drawdown or dam breaching as
42 inconsistent with a scientifically responsible fish and wildlife preservation
43 and recovery effort.
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