# Columbia River Water Management Summary

## Key Legislative Authority:

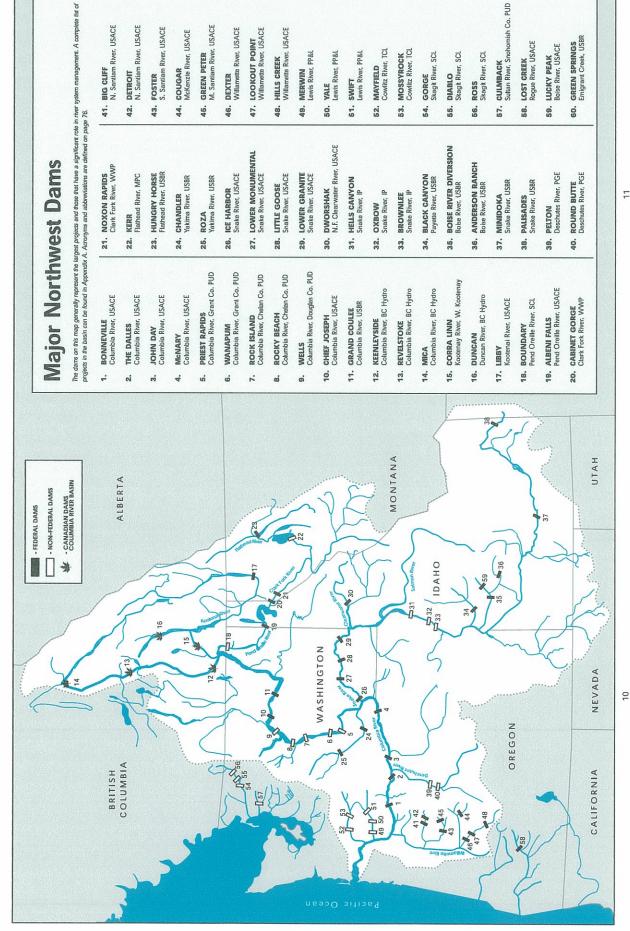
- Reclamation Act (1902).
- Federal Power Act-Commission (1920).
- Bonneville Project Act and Amendments (1937).
- Separate Hydropower Project Authorization (power, navigation, irrigation, recreation, flood control).
- Canadian Treaty and Protocols (1964).
- Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act (1974).
- Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act (1980).
- Endangered Species Act Application to Columbia River System (1992).

## Key Agencies:

- Bonneville Power Administration.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.
- Private/Public Utilities with Hydro Projects.
- NOAA Fisheries (NMFS PNW Region).
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Private/Public Utility Projects).
- Northwest Power and Conservation Planning Council (WA, OR, ID, MT).
- Northwest Columbia River Tribes.
- U.S. Dist. Of Oregon Judge James Redden (2004-2008 Litigation).

# Implementation Policies/Provisions:

- The Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.
- NOAA Fisheries Hydro System Biological Opinion (BiOp).
- Federal Agency Water Management and BiOp Implementation Plans (annual review by Implementation/Technical Management Teams).
- Judge Redden's Operation Orders.



#### Upper Willamette Chinook and Steelhead

Ensure that voluntary spill will not result in unsafe TDG levels for juveniles rearing in shallow water areas.

# 1.1 Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS)

For purposes of this consultation, the Federal Columbia River Power System is defined as the operation and maintenance of 14 Federal projects as shown in Table 2. Various Congressional and Secretarial authorizations provide authority for the Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to construct, operate, and maintain various water development facilities for multiple purposes, including flood control, irrigation, hydropower generation, navigation, recreation, fish and wildlife, water quality, and municipal and industrial water and other purposes. Similar authorizations provide authority for the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to market and distribute power generated by these projects. The Action Agencies continue to authorize, fund, and carryout the operation and maintenance of these projects.

Table 2. General Project Characteristics<sup>1</sup>

Project	Operator	Location	Year Completed	Туре	Original Primary Authorized Purposes
Libby	Corps	Kootenai near Libby, Montana	1973	Storage	Flood control, power
Hungry Horse	Reclamation	South Fork for the Flathead, near Hungry Horse, Montana	1953	Storage	Flood control, power, irrigation
Albeni Falls	Corps	Pend Oreille, near Newport, Washington	1955	Storage	Flood control, power, navigation
Grand Coulee	Reclamation	Columbia, at Grand Coulee, Washington	1942	Storage	Flood control, power, irrigation
Chief Joseph	Corps	Mid-Columbia, near Bridgeport, Washington	1961	Run-of-river	Power
Dworshak	Corps	North Fork of the Clearwater, near Orofino, Idaho	1973	Storage	Flood control, power, navigation
Lower Granite	Corps	Lower Snake, near Almota, Washington	1975	Run-of-river	Power, navigation
Little Goose	Corps	Lower Snake, near Starbuck, Washington	1970	Run-of-river	Power, navigation
Lower Monumental	Corps	Lower Snake, near Kahlotus, Washington	1970	Run-of-river	Power, navigation
Ice Harbor	Corps	Lower Snake, near Pasco, Washington	1962	Run-of-river	Power, navigation
McNary	Corps	Lower Columbia, near Umatilla, Oregon	1957	Run-of-river	Power, navigation
John Day	Corps	Lower Columbia, near Rufus, Oregon	1971	Run-of-river <sup>2</sup>	Flood control, power, navigation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: Table 3-1 from BPA et al. 1995.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> John Day has allocated flood control storage but is operated in a manner that is similar to other mainstem dams that are run-of-river projects.

Project	Operator	Location	Year Completed	Type	Original Primary Authorized Purposes
The Dalles	Corps	Lower Columbia, at The Dalles, Oregon	1960	Run-of-river	Power, navigation
Bonneville	Corps	Lower Columbia, at Bonneville, Oregon	1938	Run-of-river	Power, navigation

Table 2 presents general information for the FCRPS projects, including the projects' original primary authorized purposes. More specifically, the Corps and Reclamation operate the FCRPS and Reclamation projects as described below. The following list does not imply prioritization (which can vary seasonally and with other factors) and does not display the large numbers of significant activities that are currently taken to improve conditions for listed salmonids under the ESA:

- Flood Control The Corps is authorized to direct flood control operations for specific
  Federal and non-federal storage projects, including Canadian projects subject to the
  Treaty, in the Columbia River basin. The management of damaging floodwaters for the
  protection of the cities of Portland and Vancouver was one of the original incentives for
  the construction of the storage projects.
- Irrigation Reclamation is authorized to develop water resources for the irrigation of arid lands. Some Reclamation projects involved the development of full water supplies for the irrigation of new lands, others involved only the rehabilitation of privately developed facilities, while still others involved various combinations of full water supplies for new lands and full or supplemental water supplies for previously irrigated lands. Water supplies for these projects may include a single source or some combination of storage, natural flow, and ground water. Corps projects also may have irrigation storage space. Generally, Reclamation markets the irrigation space on behalf of the Corps.
- **Hydropower generation** The Corps and Reclamation are authorized to generate electricity at their hydropower facilities. The federal dams in the Pacific Northwest supply more than one third of the region's power. BPA sells power from the dams and the power produced by certain other generating plants and constructs, operates, and maintains transmission lines to deliver the electricity.
- Navigation The Corps is authorized to maintain navigation within the lower Columbia and Snake Rivers. Four lower Columbia River projects and the lower Snake River projects were constructed with navigation locks to allow passage for boats and barges to transport products from the Pacific Ocean to inland ports as far upstream as Lewiston, Idaho. Reclamation's Grand Coulee and Hungry Horse facilities are also authorized for navigation and provide flows in support of this function.
- **Recreation** The reservoirs and project lands provide recreational opportunities for boaters, anglers, swimmers, hunters, hikers, and campers throughout the year.

Table 10, below, summarizes the PNW regional resource capacity and energy by generation type for OY 2008.

Table 10

Total Regional Firm Resources for OY 2008<sup>1</sup>

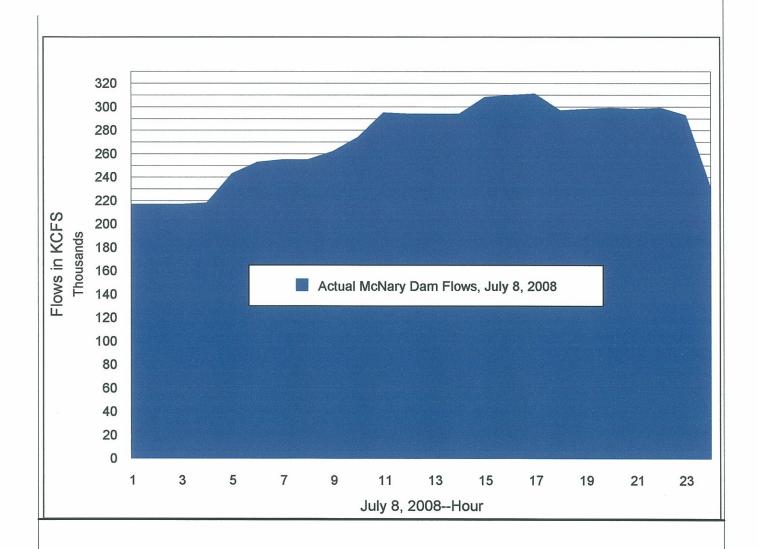
Based on 1937-Critical Water Conditions

Project Type	1-Hour Operational Peaking Capacity (January Peak MW)	Percent of Operational Peaking Capacity	Firm Energy (OY in aMW)	Percent of Firm Energy
Hydro	23,790 <sup>2</sup>	57.3%	11,797	45.0%
Coal	5,871	14.1%	5,178	19.7%
Combustion Turbines	5,154	12.4%	3,227	12.3%
Cogeneration	2,481	6.0%	2,191	8.3%
Imports	1,777	4.3%	1,201	4.6%
Nuclear	1,150	2.8%	1,030	3.9%
Non-Utility Generation	1,171	2.8%	1,309	5.0%
Miscellaneous	134	0.3%	321	1.2%
Total Firm Resources	41,528	100.0%	26,254	100.0%

Regional firm resource estimates before adjustments for reserves, maintenance, and transmission losses.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The hydroelectric capacity is reduced by an operational peaking adjustment, to estimate the monthly maximum operational capability that is available to meet the 1-hour expected peak load, for the 1937-critical water conditions. For January 2008, the reduction is -8,659 peak MW.

#### Columbia River Flows: Hourly Flows Past The McNary Project, July 8, 2008 (Tuesday)



-- The Existing Daily Net Fluctuation of Flows at McNary Dam Is About 80 kcfs, or about 160,000 acre-ft. (per day).

Data Sources: Reservoir Control, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, July 8, 2008 (project data);