



**Washington Rural Electric**  
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

**WRECA Board of Directors  
RESOLUTION  
Supporting the  
Northwest's Dams and Hydrosystem**

The rivers and hydrosystem in the Pacific Northwest provide multiple benefits to the Northwest's economy including energy, irrigation, flood control, trade, fishing, and habitat for fish and wildlife. The dams on the rivers provide the Northwest's families and businesses with a critical source of clean, renewable, and reliable energy.

The electricity generated by the dams and hydropower system on the Northwest's rivers is affordable, and supplies over two-thirds of our region's current energy needs - and is essential to support future growth in the region. Because the energy produced by the hydropower facilities at the dams is instantaneously available, it is needed to support other renewable energy sources when the wind does not blow and the sun does not shine. Consequently, any losses in hydrosystem's capacity and energy production will result in the development of more fossil-fueled generation, which can contribute to global warming and raises climate change concerns.

Because several Northwest salmon and steelhead species are listed under the Endangered Species Act and require that a comprehensive approach be taken to protect them, which includes addressing the issues of harvest, habitat, and hatcheries in addition to the operations of the dams and the hydrosystem, Northwest utility customers and dam operators have made significant investments in the dams and hydrosystem operations to benefit the fish and wildlife. Such efforts are contributing to increases in salmon survival. It must be recognized, however, that salmon runs vary widely from year-to-year (between 2001 and 2004 some of the highest salmon runs in history occurred) and are heavily affected by ocean conditions.

In an effort to further benefit fish and wildlife that rely on the regions rivers and hydrosystem for their survival, the Northwest's interests, including state and federal agencies and Indian tribes, are engaged in collaborative discussions to develop a new Biological Opinion under the ESA to protect listed salmon and steelhead stocks.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association supports the clean, renewable hydrosystem in the Northwest and opposes further changes in dams or hydrosystem operations that are not science-based or cost-effective.

**Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2007**

**s/Robert Estrada  
President**

**s/Chris Thomerson  
Secretary**

*"Owned By Those We Serve"*

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