

Media release

COWLITZ COUNTY PUD

For Immediate release – May 9, 2007

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PUD Board Signs on to Green Dams, Blue Skies Campaign

In a unanimous vote at yesterday's regular board meeting, Cowlitz PUD Commissioners have joined the Northwest RiverPartners' *Green Dams, Blue Skies* campaign, to help raise awareness of and celebrate the benefits of the NW hydroelectric system.

Cowlitz PUD buys most of its wholesale power from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), which markets the hydro power produced at 31 dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Over 86 percent of the PUD's power supply is from hydroelectric sources.

In passing a resolution to join the regional campaign, the PUD Board joins other electric utilities, trade organizations and industries in the region who count on the multiple benefits offered by the dams on the rivers.

"There has been a renewed effort recently from several special-interest groups calling for the removal of the four dams on the lower Snake River. That makes no sense to us. We believe the dam removal effort is counter-productive to Northwest businesses and citizens," Cowlitz PUD Commissioner Ned Piper said.

"Why reduce a renewable resource like hydroelectricity at a time when our region and country are focused on climate change issues and looking to add to our renewable power resources?"

Northwest RiverPartners is a partnership of farmers, electric utilities and large and small businesses in the Pacific Northwest, who have joined together to ensure that the Columbia and Snake rivers remain living, working rivers. NWRP was founded on the belief that the rivers are the Northwest's greatest natural resource providing residents with clean and affordable electricity, irrigation for farm lands, healthy fish and wildlife, maritime trade, and a multitude of recreational opportunities

Cowlitz PUD serves 47,400 electric customers living in Cowlitz County, WA. Its main office is in Longview. The PUD joined NWRP in 2005.

(Resolution No. 2581 is attached)

END

RESOLUTION NO. 2581

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County, Washington, Supporting Northwest RiverPartners' "Green Dams, Blue Skies" Campaign Relating to the Northwest's Federal Dams and Hydrosystem.

WHEREAS, the Columbia and Snake Rivers provide multiple benefits to the Northwest's economy: including energy production, irrigation, flood control, trade, and fish and wildlife conservation and fishing;

WHEREAS, the federal dams and hydrosystem provide the Northwest's utility customers and businesses with a critical source of clean, renewable, reliable energy capacity and generation;

WHEREAS, the energy generation provided by the federal dams and hydropower system cannot be replaced by other forms of renewable energy generation and, from both an environmental and reliability standpoint, is clearly the preferred source to provide a shaping and firming energy supply for wind power projects.

WHEREAS, any losses in federal hydrosystem capacity and energy will necessarily result in development of more fossil-fueled generation, accelerating global warming and climate change concerns;

WHEREAS, several Northwest salmon and steelhead species are listed under the Endangered Species Act and require that a comprehensive approach be taken to protecting them, which includes addressing harvest, habitat, hatcheries in addition to hydrosystem operation;

WHEREAS, Northwest utility customers and businesses have made significant investments in improvements to the dams and in hydrosystem operations to benefit fish and wildlife including installing fish friendly ladders and by-pass systems with a 98% survival rate;

WHEREAS, salmon runs vary widely from year to year; between 2001 and 2004 some of the highest salmon runs in history occurred with the lower Snake River dams in place.

WHEREAS, 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 Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County supports the Northwest RiverPartners' "Green Dams, Blue Skies" campaign to educate, raise awareness of, and celebrate the benefits of the Northwest hydrosystem.

ADOPTED by the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County, Washington, this 8th day of May, 2007.



President

Edward M. A.

Vice President

ATTEST:

Maed Inc Crosby

Secretary