

**Jeffery C. Allen**  
Chair  
Idaho

**Ed Schriever**  
Idaho

**Doug Grob**  
Montana

**Mike Milburn**  
Montana



## Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

**KC Golden**  
Vice Chair  
Washington

**Thomas L (Les) Purce**  
Washington

**Ginny Burdick**  
Oregon

**Louie Pitt, Jr.**  
Oregon

### **Council Meeting Summary** **December 13, 2023** **via Webinar**

This is a summary of the Council's December 2023 public meeting and the actions the Council decided upon. The meeting agenda and presentation materials for each agenda item during the meeting are posted at <https://www.nwcouncil.org/calendar/council-meeting-2023-12-12/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

#### **December 13, 2023**

Council Chair Jeffery Allen brought the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Pacific time. Council Members Ginny Burdick, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Mike Milburn, Louie Pitt Jr., Thomas L (Les) Purse, and Ed Schriever were in attendance virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 9-10 in Portland, OR and via webinar.

#### **Reports from the Committee Chairs and Executive Director**

##### **Fish and Wildlife Committee**

Member Milburn, Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair, reported on the fish and wildlife committee meeting held on December 12, 2023.

##### **1. Fish and Wildlife Committee Update and Planning**

Patty O'Toole, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director began the presentation by giving a brief division update and discussed each of the committee's agenda items,

followed by sharing the fish and wildlife agenda items for the Council meeting, including information on the agenda item regarding Pacific Ocean and Columbia River Harvest Management.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18544/2023\\_12\\_f1.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18544/2023_12_f1.pdf).

## **2. Bonneville Fiscal Year 2024, Start of Year Fish and Wildlife Budget Update**

Jason Sweet, Executive Manager of Fish and Wildlife at Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), provided an update on the direct program's expense and capital budgets for FY 2024. Sweet also discussed past spending levels for the direct program. The Council received a letter from BPA in October regarding their FY 2024 start of year budget information. The BPA FY 2024 direct program budget is 297.4 million and capital budget is 26.8 million.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18545/2023\\_12\\_f2.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18545/2023_12_f2.pdf).

## **3. Update on the Fish Passage Center Data Management Projects**

Council Fish and Wildlife Division Biologist for Program Performance, Kris Homel, introduced presenters Brandon Chockley and Joe Nowinski of the Fish Passage Center to present on the Fish Passage Center data management project and the resources available to the region through the project. The presentation included information on how the center's resources relate to the Council's Fish and Wildlife program and detailed how they are accessed, shared, and used by decision-makers. Chockley and Nowinski also discussed future data management needs and emerging tools. This was the last of seven presentations related to the data management projects in the Council's program.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18546/2023\\_12\\_f3.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18546/2023_12_f3.pdf).

## **4. Continued Discussion on the Implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Program**

Mark Fritsch, the Council's Project Review and Implementation Manager, and Fish and Wildlife Director Patty O'Toole, provided an update on continued discussion with BPA

related to information shared of the Council's Program. Since last month, discussions with BOA have continued, including a discussion amongst attorneys. Staff has not developed a staff recommendation but will continue to work on the various options moving forward for an alternative process to improve communication and transparency. The Chair requested an update for the February Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18547/2023\\_12\\_f4.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18547/2023_12_f4.pdf).

## **Power Committee**

Member Grob, Power Committee chair, reported on the power committee meeting held on December 12, 2023.

### **1. Power Committee Update and Planning**

Jennifer Light, the Council's Director of Power Planning, began her presentation with division updates including hiring Christian Douglass to join the resources team, finalizing updates to GENESYS in preparation for annual studies and starting to explore capabilities of OptGen, participating in WTEC Technical Task Force, and starting to prepare for 9th Power Plan. Light then shared a preview of the committee's agenda items and followed with sharing details of the power divisions agenda item for the Council meeting.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18548/2023\\_12\\_p1.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18548/2023_12_p1.pdf).

### **2. Fuels Price Forecast Update**

Council Power Staff Steven Simmons and Tomás Morrissey presented an update on the fuel price forecast, sharing the recent efforts to create the natural gas price forecast for the Northwest and other WECC regions. The forecast includes: a Henry Hub price forecast based on Fuel Advisory Committee member surveys, among other inputs, updated hub price differentials based on historical data, and updated monthly hub price shapes based on historical data.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18551/2023\\_12\\_p2.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18551/2023_12_p2.pdf).

### **3. Report on Regional Demand Response Efforts**

Council Energy Analyst, Dylan D'Souza, covered the progress made across region to develop demand response programs, and how they support either regional or individual utility needs. The results from this process will provide input to the Council's mid-term assessment and the next regional power plan. D'Souza shared ways the region is making progress in implementing demand response.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18549/2023\\_12\\_p3.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18549/2023_12_p3.pdf).

#### **4. Report on Reserves Workshop**

Council Power Staff John Ollis and Dor Hirsh Bar Gai presented highlights from the Council's November 1, 2023, reserves workshop. This workshop discussed the reserves recommendations from the 2021 Power Plan with regional stakeholders and sought insights from the region as to what actions were being implemented to ensure sufficient reserves.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18550/2023\\_12\\_p4.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18550/2023_12_p4.pdf).

#### **Executive Director Report**

The Council's Executive Director, Bill Edmonds, took a moment to review the accomplishments of the Council in 2023. Edmonds began by highlighting the achievements of the Power division, including the work on resource adequacy through a multi metric approach and progress on energy efficiency. Next, Edmonds discussed the impactful initiatives of the Fish and Wildlife division, including updating the fish and wildlife program tracker and funding for non-recurring maintenance of fish streams and hatcheries. Finally, this year the Council also conducted a successful Congressional Tour for delegation staff.

#### **Council Meeting Agenda Items**

##### **1. Overview of Pacific Ocean and Columbia River Harvest Management**

Council Fish and Wildlife Director Patty O'Toole began the presentation with introductory remarks, and division staff member Kate Self provided background information on how Columbia River Salmon interacts with the marine environment of the Pacific Ocean. This set the stage for the agenda item, which was an overview of Pacific

Ocean and Columbia River harvest management. Self introduced presenters Ed Farley, Program Manager of Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Program at Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Tony Siniscal, Fisheries Biologist of the Anadromous Harvest Management Branch of the NOAA Fisheries Sustainable Fisheries Division, Kyle Adicks, Intergovernmental Salmon Manager at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Mike Matylewich, Fisheries Management Director at Columbia River InterTribal Fish Commission. The panel presented on the management of Columbia River salmon stocks, and their harvest. It is a highly regulated and collaborative effort carried out by multiple entities each year. The panel highlighted the complex inter-governmental agreements that require sharing the allocation of conservation responsibility, annual harvest, and related decisions or actions. Following a brief introduction of the species and entities involved by staff, Farley presented on the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and high seas fisheries, Siniscal presented on the Pacific Salmon Commission and the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PSC), Adicks presented on the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) and the North of Cape Falcon (NOF) process, and Matylewich presented on Columbia River harvest and the United States vs. Oregon Management Agreement (U.S. v OR). The Council learned that illegal high seas fishing has been significantly reduced with the passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Council learned that the monitoring and enforcement and overall harvest is managed on salmon stock abundance which means managers can achieve both opportunity for ocean and in-river harvest for healthy stocks, while also providing protections for the most vulnerable salmon stocks.

Presentation materials are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18543/2023\\_12\\_1.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18543/2023_12_1.pdf).

## **2. Update on technical service contract Project #2017-002-00, Analysis of Spatial Stream Networks for Salmonids**

Mark Fritsch, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Project Review and Implementation Manager introduced Jody Lando, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Lead for Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Dan Isaak, Research Fish Biologist for Rocky Mountain Research Station at the U.S. Forest Service. The presentation began with Isaak providing a summary of work completed under contract with BPA, associated with Project #2017-002-00, Analysis of Spatial Stream Networks for Salmonids. This project is a technical services contract to develop linear networks for salmon densities using spatial statistics and GIS stream networks. This work was conducted by the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Division's NorthWest Stream Temperature team with NOAA and Queensland University. The products from this exploratory effort is intended to support tributary habitat restoration planning and support a proposed action commitment to monitoring temperature.

Presentation materials are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18541/2023\\_12\\_2.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18541/2023_12_2.pdf).

### **3. Council Business**

#### **Approval of November 2023 Council Meeting Summary**

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for signature of the vice chair the summary of the November 2023 Council Meeting, held in Portland, OR and via webinar as presented by staff.

Member Grob seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the November 2023 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18542/2023\\_12\\_3.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18542/2023_12_3.pdf).

#### **Public Comments**

No public comments.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m. PST.