

# NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PUD

2345 River Road  
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## Board of Directors

Barbara Nagle, President  
Clay Smith, Vice President  
Milt Skov, Secretary  
Bill Ward, Treasurer  
Howard Gonser, Director

## Manager

Dwight D. Langer

## Board Meetings

Usually the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the PUD offices, 2345 River Rd. The public is always welcome.

## Our Mission

To provide reliable, competitively-priced energy and related services that benefit our customers, in the tradition of public power.

## Our Core Values and Beliefs

Local citizens championed and fought to create our People's Utility District. They believed—and we believe—in the public's right to own and control its electric utility.

Today, our values are a legacy from our public power heritage, as well as guideposts for a changing future.

We believe in:

- ▶ **Public ownership and local control.**
- ▶ **Integrity.**
- ▶ **Keeping power rates as low as possible.**
- ▶ **Providing quality essential services.**
- ▶ **Quality customer service.**
- ▶ **Community involvement.**

OR-3

## Manager's Report



Dear Customers – Our Friends and Our Neighbors,

After twenty years of experience, data collection and detailed studies—and with billions of dollars invested by electric customers in The Dalles and the Pacific Northwest—we have learned a lot about what works regarding fish survival and what does not.

Studies have shown that keeping young fish in the river and using spill over the dams to move them downstream will expose them to ominous conditions: low flows, high water temperatures and lots of predators.

What has proven effective and beneficial for fish survival is carrying the young fish around the dams in barges and releasing them below Bonneville Dam. Barging has proven to be effective, particularly in low water years like we are experiencing this year. With river flows expected to be 66 percent of normal, this is setting up to be the fifth lowest flow year in 81 years of observation.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is the regulatory agency responsible for the decision on river operations of the federal hydro system. It expects 92,000 adult Steelhead to return to spawn if the young fish are barged and not spilled at the collector dams this year. If spill is provided, only half that number is expected to survive.

Based on twenty-plus years of data, NOAA's proposal to transport the fish on barges intends to keep young fish out of very poor, low-flow river conditions. Despite the scientific evidence that choosing to spill is tantamount to deciding to kill 46,000 adult Steelhead that are listed by the Endangered Species Act, environmental and fishing litigants are objecting to NOAA's proposal. This is yet another example of how your investments—whether from taxes or through your electric bills—are ignored.

NOAA has put the issue before the region's Independent Science Advisory Board (ISAB) for review. One of the parties objecting to the proposal is the State of Oregon. All of the other states support the science and the proposal for barging.

RiverPartners, an alliance that promotes the economic and environmental benefits for salmon recovery policies based on sound science, submitted a letter to the ISAB supporting NOAA's proposal and emphasizing that spilling this year translates to killing 46,000 returning adult fish. We support their letter.

We are not opposed to spill at the dams. Spill can be an effective tool if used properly. It simply is not the right plan to use during the fifth worst water year on record.

Until next time, have a great day.

**Dwight Langer**  
General Manager