



BPA celebrates 70 years of service

In 1937, Congress and the Roosevelt Administration created Bonneville Power Administration in anticipation of the need to market energy from the Bonneville and Grand Coulee dams. Today, BPA provides about half the electricity used in the Northwest including power generated at 31 dams, a nuclear plant and wind projects. Through the years, low cost power has been a cornerstone of the Northwest economy, stimulating growth and new jobs. Small communities and rural farms were energized and grew into thriving entities, thanks to power generated from the hydro system.

When BPA was first formed, there were some who believed there was little need for the great amounts of new power generated by Bonneville and Grand Coulee. But J.D. Ross, BPA's first administrator, focused on marketing the power that in turn helped promote industrial growth and enabled land to be irrigated. Now, 70 years later, not only does BPA supply power, it also helps fund and manage the largest fish and wildlife program in the world as well as support regional conservation programs.

Congratulations to BPA for 70 years of service to the Pacific Northwest.