



## Splashy Facts about Dams Fish and our Hydro System

### **Hydropower is the ultimate renewable resource** – *low cost, reliable and clean.*

- Over half of the Northwest's electricity – 60 percent --comes from clean, renewable hydropower, which does not contribute to global warming.
- Hydropower supports the region's booming wind power industry by ensuring that there's electricity when the wind isn't blowing. Hydro can generate power more quickly and reliably than any other energy resource.

### **The hydro system provides critical benefits to the west** – *power, river transportation, irrigation, recreation, flood control and fish and wildlife conservation.*

- The four lower Snake River dams alone produce enough energy to power a city about the size of Seattle, and cost just \$50 million per year to operate.
- Replacing the energy generated by the Lower Snake River dams would be expensive, costing consumers between \$400 million and \$550 million a year.
- Barging on the Columbia and Snake rivers accounts for \$15 billion annually in international trade and more than 40,000 port jobs.
- Barging keeps consumer prices down and the environment cleaner: it is the greenest and least-costly mode of inland transportation, often saving shippers 25 percent or more over rail or truck. Barging reduces pollution keeping 700,000 trucks off the highways annually.
- Fresh Northwest crops reach dinner tables throughout the world thanks to irrigation from our hydrosystem, generating \$60 billion in agriculture a year.

### **Dams and fish coexist** – *customer investments in fish contribute to improved survival.*

- Investments in dam improvements have boosted survival of young fish moving downstream to the ocean to 95 percent and higher at most dams.
- These investments include fish-friendly turbine upgrades, transporting fish around dams in barges, changing hydro operations to provide more water to move fish downstream, bypass systems that move fish around the dams, and predator control.

- Fish runs are improving, according to recent data. In fact, record runs were experienced in 2001 and, today there are more fish in the Columbia River than at any time since the first dam was built in 1938.

Northwest electricity consumers contribute more than \$700 million each year to help salmon and steelhead through their energy bills. Approximately 20 percent of the Northwest residents' electricity bills go to fish protection, the largest effort to help an endangered species anywhere in the world.