

Make Your Voice Heard



The 9th Northwest Regional Power Plan

Webinar 2

August 24, 2026



NW Energy Coalition

Welcome!

- Feel free to introduce yourself in the chat
- Name, organization, where you are joining from



NW **Energy** Coalition

Who We Are

- The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of over 100 environmental, civic, and human service organizations, utilities, and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and British Columbia
- Our mission: NWEAC advances clean, equitable, and affordable energy policies by leveraging our analytic expertise and convening a broad alliance of people and organizations



NW **Energy** Coalition

Agenda

- Webinar Reminders
- Timeline: Draft 9th Plan
- Panelist Introductions & Why the 9th Plan Matters
- Overview of the Draft Plan and Our Focus Areas
 - Options to Engage
 - Questions



Webinar Reminders

- Please stay on mute throughout the webinar
- Please ask questions in the chat throughout the webinar and they will be answered at the end
- NW Energy Coalition is made up of diverse perspectives and identities, please be mindful of respecting this diversity with your questions and comments

What is the Northwest Power Plan?

- 20-year plan that aims to ensure an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply for the NW region while mitigating adverse effects on fish and wildlife
 - 6-year Action Plan (2027-2032)
- Forecast energy needs, available resources, and new options
- Develop recommendations for BPA to implement
- Encourage other utilities to align with the plan



NW **Energy** Coalition

What is the Northwest Power Plan?



NW **Energy** Coalition

Timeline of the Draft 9th Plan

- June 9: NW Energy Coalition 1st Webinar – background on the 9th Northwest Power Plan
 - www.nwenergy.org/oth-northwest-regional-power-plan/
- August 12: Draft 9th Plan released for public comment
 - <https://www.nwcouncil.org/energy/ninthpowerplan/>
- October 16: Public Comment Period closes
 - 7 in person public hearings (tbd): Portland, Bend/Redmond, Seattle, Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Missoula, + 1 online webinar
 - Comment at Council meetings – Sep 9-10 Portland OR, Oct 14-15 Donnelly ID
 - Deadline for written public comments: October 16, 2026
- December 2026-February 2027: Final Plan adopted



NW **Energy** Coalition



Why The 9th Plan Matters



NW **Energy** Coalition

Elijah Cetas

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission – Energy Analyst



NW **Energy** Coalition

Ben Otto

NW Energy Coalition – Interim Regional & State Policy Director



NW **Energy** Coalition

Derek Goldman

NW Energy Coalition – Policy and Regulatory Associate



NW **Energy** Coalition

Fred Heutte

NW Energy Coalition – Senior Policy Associate



NW **Energy** Coalition



Broad Overview of the Draft 9th Plan



NW **Energy** Coalition

Plan Components

- Region-wide forecast of energy needs compared to current resources
- Consider how fish and wildlife program changes hydroelectric output
- Consider a range of scenarios: different loads, different gas prices; different resource assumptions
- Set energy conservation goals for BPA – duty to prioritize cost effective conservation
- Propose a resource strategy to meet future needs – amounts and types of new generation the region needs



Main Drivers of Plan Outcomes

- Loads growing due to data centers, high tech, and electrification
- Climate change is altering energy needs and hydro conditions
- Clean energy and storage resources are the most cost effective
- The region needs a lot of new resources in the future
- Salmon and steelhead need better river conditions to survive





Our Focus Areas



NW **Energy** Coalition

9th Plan Overarching Campaign Priorities

- Energy efficiency, renewable resources, demand response and data center flexibility are maximized
- Strong fish protections included as a baseline for power planning
- Compliance with state and utility clean energy priorities
- Prioritize affordability, resource adequacy and reliability

Mobilize diverse and effective public comments on the Draft 9th Plan from NWECC members and partners, including Tribes, clean energy businesses, and state and local governments



NW **Energy** Coalition

Priority 1: Resource Strategy

Resource	Amount by 2032
Conservation	1,060 aMW total 860 aMW OR/WA (up to \$150/MWh) 200 aMW ID/MT (up to \$70/MWh)
Demand response	590 MW
Voltage regulation	220 MW
Renewables	9,000 MW
Storage	5,200 MW
Natural Gas	2,100 MW



Priority 2: Energy Conservation and Demand Response

- Adopt a single conservation target for the region, not split targets
- Model Conservation Standards for
 - Data centers
 - Heat pump installations
- Develop and scale up Demand Response products and pricing programs



Priority 3: BPA Recommendations

- Achieve energy conservation targets
- Modernize conservation programs, especially in rural areas
- Help public power utilities implement Demand Response programs
- Prepare to acquire new renewable energy resources
- Assess how storage can displace gas and enhance hydro
- Lead the region in expanding transmission capacity



NW **Energy** Coalition

Priority 4: Load Management Forum

- New recommendation from the Public Interest Groups
- Develop an overall regional load management strategy:
 - peak-oriented energy efficiency
 - demand response
 - distributed energy resources
 - data center/high tech load management
- Build on previous Council Forums
 - Convene the region and conduct a full assessment
 - Propose targets, policies, programs and an implementation roadmap



Priority 5: Connecting salmon and energy

- The Northwest Power Act requires the region to balance the benefits of hydropower with protection and recovery for fish and wildlife
- The Council updated the Fish & Wildlife Program in June with input from Tribes, state agencies and the public
- A strong 9th Power Plan will support the Fish & Wildlife Program by diversifying clean energy resources and providing more flows for fish



NW **Energy** Coalition

Take the Burden off the Fish

Principles for review of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Draft Ninth Power Plan



Elijah Cetas - Energy Policy Analyst
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
August 24, 2026



1. The Northwest Power Act establishes parity between energy need and ecosystem function

- Passed in 1980 to both ensure reliability and steer hydro management toward salmon recovery.
- “Parity” is embedded in the Act - remains highly relevant
- Integrating the Fish & Wildlife program with Power Planning is hard but essential – many benefits to “putting fish first”
- Lots of room to grow in the draft and future studies



2. The hydro system is not a pliant battery

- Tribal treaty rights and ESA-mandated flows must be protected
- Climate change is driving more low and erratic flow years
- Need to build-in adaptive management for fish or we will see a regional lose-lose
- Hydro flexibility should not be assumed, and replacement must be planned



3. The region needs to build flexibility around the hydro system to protect fish and communities, integrate renewables

- PNW is a historic leader in EE, but less potential now
- Interconnection is a big question
- Demand response becomes necessary when resources are strained
- Data center demands pose acute threat to reliability, flows for fish, community health



4. Demand management is be the best tool we have

- EE is still critical for low-income and tribal communities
- Demand response potential is very large
- Distributed resources are smart for many reasons
- Reducing data center loads is critical tool for resource adequacy and reliability
 - Efficiency potential
 - Demand response more important: daily, hourly, emergency
- Need lots more “batteries” – tool for adaptive energy management



5. The Power Council & Bonneville should take the lead

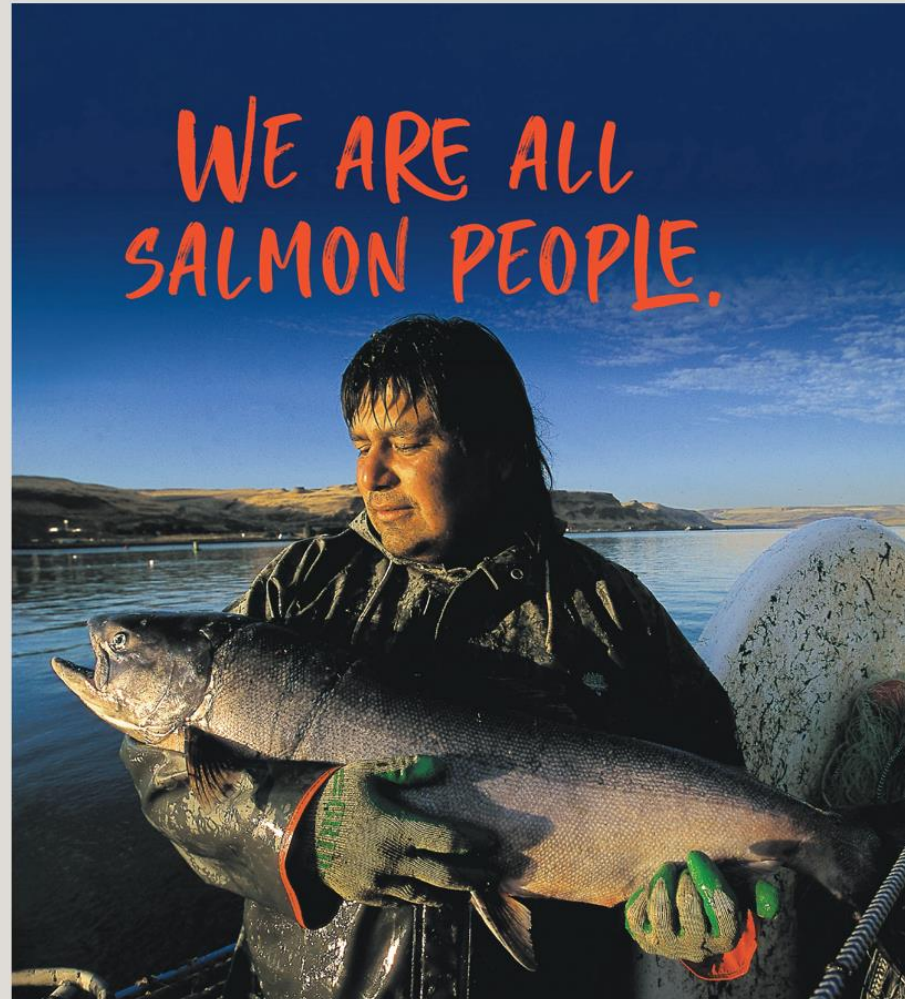
- Invest in storage and new responsible generation
- Manage demand and promote efficiency
- Ease interconnection of renewable resources
- Invest in thoughtful transmission upgrades and expansion
- Guide new markets and emerging technologies toward fish- and community-beneficial outcomes





**My Strength is
From the Fish**

Thank you!
Elijah Cetas
ecetas@critfc.org



Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission





9th Plan Timeline and Opportunities for Engagement



NW **Energy** Coalition

Draft 9th Plan Public Comment is Open

Public comment period closes Friday, October 16

- NWECC will provide a public comment toolkit by mid-September

Formal hearings for public comment in person/online (schedule tbd)

- 7 locations – Portland, Bend/Redmond, Seattle, Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Missoula + 1 online

Public comment at Council meetings in person/online

- September 9-10 (Portland OR), October 14-15 (Donnelly ID)

Written comments via online form or email

- online form to include free form comments and any attached documents
<https://www.nwcouncil.org/energy/ninthpowerplan/>



NW **Energy** Coalition



Q&A

follow up any time:

Fred Heutte – fred@nwenergy.org

Ben Otto – ben@nwenergy.org



NW **Energy** Coalition