



## Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### NWPCC

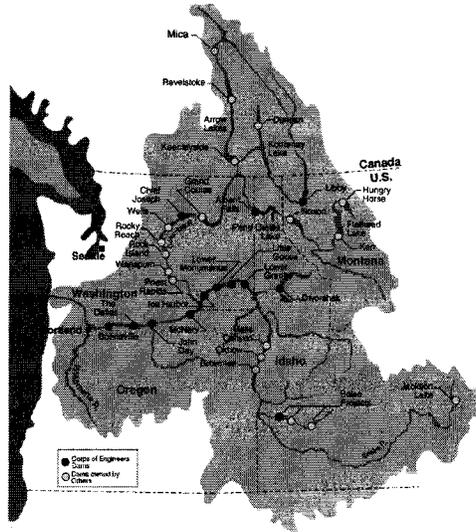
- A Council created to give MT, ID, OR, and WA a stronger voice in determining the fate of Columbia Basin resources
- Develops a 20-year power plan to balance power supply and costs (economic and environmental)
- Develops a fish and wildlife program to mitigate dam impacts on all Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife
- BPA resource decisions must be consistent with the plan, and other federal agencies' fish & wildlife decisions must consider the Council's plan

slide 2



Energy & Telecommunications Committee Mtg.  
September 16, 2011

# Columbia River Basin



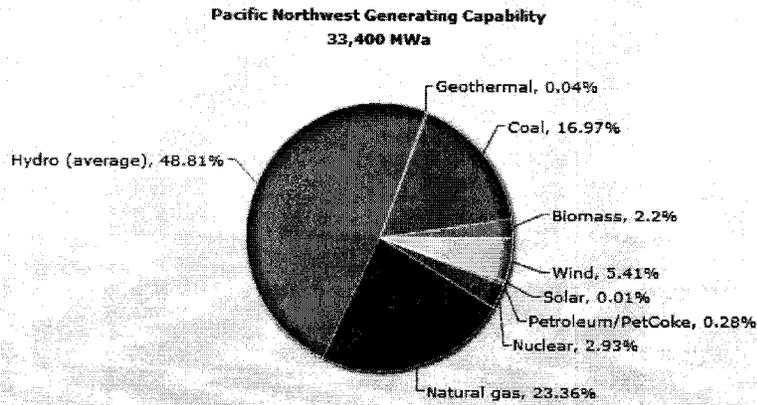
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# Sixth Power Plan

- Emphasizes energy efficiency as a resource throughout the NW
- Vision through 2014:
  - 1,200 average megawatts of energy efficiency
  - Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) wind power requirements are met
  - Possible gas-fired plants built by some utilities for energy, capacity, and wind integration

slide 4

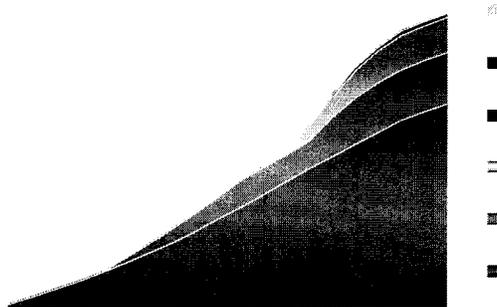
# Current NW Resources



slide 5



# Sixth Plan Resource Portfolio



slide 6



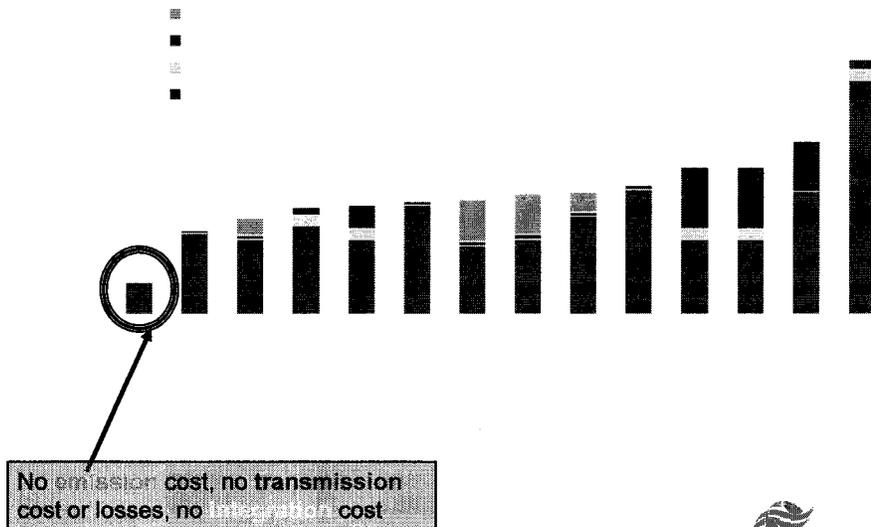
## Sixth Plan Vision: 2015-2030 Resource Portfolio Diversifies

- More conservation (~ 4,500 average megawatts)
- More wind power (required by RES policies in NW, CA)
  - ✓ Efficient use of existing reserves for backup
- Generating resources, including new technologies, to back up renewables
- Meet and exceed CO<sub>2</sub> reduction goals
- Smart grid: A new option for reserve power
- New natural gas plants for baseload, peaking
- Reduced reliance on coal-fired plants

slide 7



## The Resource Line-Up



slide 8



## Other Power Resources

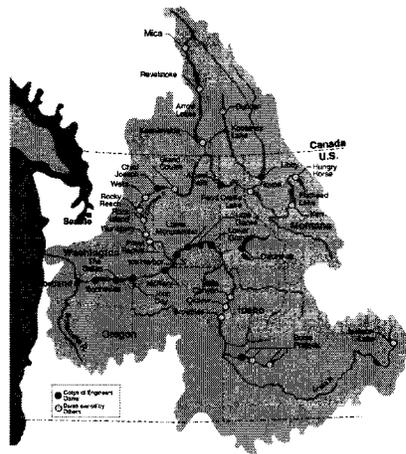
- The Regional Technical Forum (RTF)
  - Wealth of expertise in conservation program planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- The Wind Integration Forum (WIF)
  - Joint effort of NWPCC and Bonneville Power Administration to address regional issues around increasing wind generation.

slide 9



## The Columbia River Treaty (CRT)

- Ratified in 1964
  - Allowed for the construction of Libby Dam
- Purpose of providing flood control and optimal hydropower generation
- Treaty could be terminated as early as 2024 by either nation with 10 year notice
  - Both power and fish and wildlife ramifications



slide 10



## Treaty Power Provisions That Could be Impacted

- Canada must operate 15.5 MAF of storage for optimum power generation downstream in Canada AND the United States.
- U.S. must deliver power to Canada equal to one-half the estimated U.S. power benefits (Canadian Entitlement) from the operation of Canadian Treaty storage, currently worth about \$250-\$350 million annually.
- Province of B.C. owns Canadian Entitlement, and BPA (on behalf of the U.S.) delivers the power based on daily schedules set by B.C.
- Owners of five Mid-Columbia non-federal hydro projects deliver 27.5% of Canadian Entitlement to BPA for delivery to B.C.

slide 11



## NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion



- Intended to ensure that the operation and configuration of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of ESA listed species.
- There is a separate Bi-Op for Libby and the impacts to White Sturgeon
- Montana has been involved in litigation to protect its interest at Libby and Hungry Horse.
- Federal Judge James Redden in Portland, Oregon recently remanded the 3<sup>rd</sup> iteration of the federal salmon plan.

slide 12



## 2011 Bi-Op Litigation

- Plaintiffs alleged that the Bi-Op is flawed because of reliance on strategies the implementation and efficacy of which are uncertain.
- District Judge Redden granted a remand until January 2014 at which point new, specific habitat restoration projects must be identified.
- While case was remanded, motion to interfere with flows out of dams, including Libby and Hungry Horse, was denied.
- MT's future participation is unclear and partially dependent on federal (defendant's) actions.
- MT's issues have largely been litigated successfully so far but will need to keep an eye on all proceedings.

slide 13



## Questions from the Committee?

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slide 14

