



Protected Areas Program

**Peter Paquet
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Protected Areas

- **1983, the Council directed studies of existing habitat & analyzed alternative means of protection. 1988, the Council concluded:**
 - **studies had identified fish and wildlife resources of critical importance to the CRB;**
 - **mitigation techniques cannot assure that all adverse impacts of hydro development on these populations will be mitigated;**
 - **small hydro projects may have unacceptable individual and cumulative impacts on these resources; and**
 - **protecting these resources & habitats is consistent with an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply.**

Protected Areas

- **The Council designated certain river reaches in the basin as "protected areas," where the Council believes hydro development would have unacceptable risks of loss to fish and wildlife species of concern, their productive capacity, or their habitat.**
- **River reaches to be protected are those reaches or portions of reaches listed on the "Protected Areas List" adopted by the Council on August 10, 1988, and subsequently. For each river reach listed on the Protected Areas List, the fish and wildlife to be protected are those on the list.**

Protected Areas

- **"Protected Areas" are stream reaches where the NPCC determined that hydroelectric development would have unacceptable risks of irreversible loss to fish and wildlife.**
- **In essence, Protected Areas are places where fish and wildlife values are judged to outweigh the value of electricity those areas could generate**

Protected Areas

Under the Northwest Power Act the following federal entities must consider Protected Area status and restrictions when making decisions regarding hydroelectric facility permits and access to electricity from those facilities.

- Bonneville Power Administration**
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
- Bureau of Reclamation**

Protected Areas

Inclusion in a "Protected Area" does not prohibit hydroelectric development at a site. However, the Council

1) calls on FERC not to license a new hydroelectric development in a Protected Area,

2) calls on BPA not to acquire the power from such a project should one be licensed by FERC, nor to allow access to the Intertie in a way that would undermine the protected areas policy

Protected Areas

- **The Protected Areas list was completed in 1988 changes to the list were promulgated in 1989 1990 and 1992.**
- **It remains a part of the Council's 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program dealing with future hydroelectric development.**

Protected Areas

- **The protections apply to new hydroelectric facilities. Significantly, the following are exempted:**
 - **Facilities licensed by FERC as of August 10, 1988.**
 - **Relicensing such facilities**
 - **Modifications to existing hydroelectric facilities**
 - **Addition of generation to a non-hydroelectric dam or diversion, if it existed as of the date Protected Area status was granted**
 - **"Transition projects," for which applications or permits were sought from FERC before August 10, 1988.**