



2021 Hydro Camp

NWAHA's Annual Conference

NWAHA is inviting our industry to join us this February at Hydro Camp! We are taking our 40 years of experience through our Annual Conferences to deliver you the same caliber content you have come to expect in a much cozier way at Hydro Camp. Hydro Camp keeps our long-standing relationships going wherever our cabins are these days and creates a reimaged education filled with all-virtual summits, fireside chats, workshops, networking with fellow campers, and of course our now-famous breakfast club session in the mess hall. Camp is Calling. We will see you at Hydro Camp in February.

Hydro Camp will offer 16 professional development hours across a day and a half of virtual adventures. Attendees (ahem, we meant campers) can pick from live and recorded sessions over the course of the camp. Several sessions will be recorded and available to watch whenever over the spring months.

Wednesday, February 17

Morning Assembly

8:00

NWAHA President and Camp Director, Mary Gail Sullivan. [Tune in Live](#)

Keynote: Lisa Grow, President and CEO - Idaho Power [Tune in Live](#)

Fireside Chats

8:30-9:45 Two Concurrent Summits

Concurrent 1A: **Dam Safety – Case Studies and FERC Perspectives**

The panel will share experiences from recent projects from both owner and FERC's perspective.

Moderator: Brianne Sheron, PMP, PE, NW Hydropower Manager - HDR

Panelists:

Peter Wade – Merced Irrigation District

Daniel Huang – Eugene Water and Electric Board

Douglas Boyer, PE - Chief, Risk-Informed Decision Making Branch,
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections, FERC

Concurrent 1B: Tailoring Hydropower Communications to Your Audience

As hydro professionals you are likely adept at knowing the value of hydropower, but are you adept at communicating that value to various audiences? How would your hydropower elevator speech sound for a politicians versus grade-schoolers versus NGOs versus CEOs versus your neighbors? Would it be the same for Generation X versus Millennial versus Alpha? What media works the best for each audience? Messaging and delivery will either make or break what you are trying to convey – so let's get it right! This panel of experts will provide you with examples, tools, resources, and ideas to help you communicate appropriately based on various audiences in a fireside chat format with audience participation.

Moderator: Neil Neroutsos – Corporate Communications, Chelan County PUD

Panelists:

Karrie Carnes – Public Affairs Specialist, Bonneville Power Administration
Scott Simms – Executive Director, Public Power Council
Heather Stringer – North Central Education Service District Science Cadre Member
Tim Brown – Public Affairs Leader, GE Renewable Energy

Team Building

9:45-10:15 Meet exhibitors and sponsors in expo hall.

Arts and Crafts

10:15-11:15 Two Concurrent Sessions

Concurrent 2A: You Can't Do It Alone- Multi-Agency Coordination of Reservoir Operations

This panel takes a deep-dive into coordinating the operation of river and reservoir systems across multiple agencies, basins, jurisdictions, and licenses. First, the joint work underway by Yuba Water Agency, California DWR, Scripps, and USACE to improve watershed forecasting and translate the improved forecasting into coordinating operational decisions for multiple reservoirs operated by different parties. Second, a look at the modeling relied on by BPA/USACE/BOR in developing the Columbia River System Operations EIS and the proposed measures across 14 Federal facilities in MT, WA, ID and OR.

Moderator: John Yarbrough – CA Department of Water Resources

Panelists:

John Leahigh, Executive Manager, Water Operations - CA Department of Water Resources
John James, Operations Manager – Yuba County Water Agency
F. Martin Ralph, PhD, Center for Western Weather and Weather Extremes, Scripps

Concurrent 2B: **Managing Public Safety and Shorelines**

Can this be done in a manner that is financially responsible while keeping the peace? YES!!! This panel will provide industry approaches and direct experience in managing the public's presence in and around operating hydro facilities. From shoreline management with private landowners to facilities that promote recreation or have high incidents of trespassing, we will provide insights on how to best manage the risk and opportunity of these diverse, and often competing interests.

Moderator:

Bill Cochran, PE, Former Power Resources Section Chief/DWR, Oroville Operations, Relicensing, and Field Manager, and Merced Irrigation District, Hydro Operations Manager

Panelists:

Dave Zayas – Compliance Consultant, Idaho Power Co.

John McVaigh – Hydro Operations Director, Brookfield Renewable

Diane Barr – Principal and Owner, Camas LLC

Fireside Chat

11:15-12:15 **Committee Meetings** [Tune in Live](#)

All attendees welcome

Mess Hall

12:30-1:15 **Annual Membership Meeting, 2021 Pamela E. Klatt Award** [Tune in Live](#)

Nature Trail

1:15-2:45 Two Concurrent Sessions

Concurrent 1: Panel #3A: **State and Federal Agency Collaboration**

This panel provides agencies with a platform to address the hydropower industry as a whole, with emphasis on the benefits of the ongoing collaboration and problem solving between the agencies and the hydropower industry.

Moderator: Matt Love – Cascadia Law Group

Panelists:

David Turner, Program Manager - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Concurrent 3B: **Status of Fisheries Restoration Efforts in the Northwest**

Stewardship opportunities are abundant at hydroelectric facilities when it comes to fish. This panel will discuss specific restoration projects, partnerships and regulatory drivers for restoration of salmonid populations affected by project operations. Fish passage, habitat restoration, stream flows, preservation, management controls, good science, and monitoring are all important stewardship activities. Today's panel of professional biologists will address a range of issues that must be considered when implementing fish restoration efforts.

Moderator: Travis Nelson, FERC Hydro License Compliance – Tacoma Power

Panelists:

Megan Hill, Manager, Environmental Services – Portland General Electric

Richard Piaskowski, Fish Biologist – US, Army Corps of Engineers

Jonathan Hanson, Hydropower Environmental Compliance – Northwestern Energy

Ghost Stories: CEO Fireside Chat

2:45-3:30 The Legend Rip Van Wrinkle tells the story of a Dutch American villager who falls asleep in the Catskill Mountains and wakes up 20 years later to a changed world, having missed the American Revolution. This Q&A session with industry executives and experts asks the question “what will the world look like when we all wake up from our COVID dream and how will the industry be different?”

Moderator: Patty Boyle – Eugene Water and Electric Board

Keynote Speakers:

Chris O’Riley, President & CEO – BC Hydro

Bob Rowe, President – Northwestern Energy

Mary Kipp, CEO – Puget Sound Energy (*Invited*)

Ropes Course

3:30-4:30 Concurrent Sessions

Concurrent 4A: Keeping Hydropower Generation Cost Competitive

Escalating O&M Costs and constrained revenue opportunities are creating challenges for the industry. From aging assets that need more maintenance, to forced outages, to regulatory generation constraints generators need to find ways to stay cost competitive. This panel will discuss what industry is doing to address these challenges to ensure hydrogeneration remains the low-cost renewable energy for the future decarbonized grid.

Moderator: Steve Sinclair – Puget Sound Energy

Panelists:

Steve Miles – US, Army Corps of Engineers

Timothy Welch – Department of Energy

Keith Underwood – Tacoma Power

Concurrent 4B: Markets/ Integration of Renewables

States are moving aggressively to reduce greenhouse gasses by replacing thermal generation with renewable energy sources; hydro can fill these gaps, but the transitions are difficult to predict and manage. This panel explores what operational and technology changes might be needed in the hydro industry to meet this challenge.

Moderator:

Panelists:

Andrew Campbell – UC Berkeley Energy Institute

Tony Zimmer – AGM Energy Supply

Campfire Songs and S'mores

4:30-5:00 Networking in Expo Hall **Tune in Live**

After Hours Soiree

4:30-5:30- Women in Hydro Happy Hour/Trivia **Tune in Live**

Thursday, February 18

Breakfast Club **Tune in Live**

8:00-9:00

Topical networking over breakfast or coffee. Topics will include: Dam Safety/Engineering, Communications/Education, Licensing, Fisheries/Water Quality, Operations, Terrestrial/Land, Maintenance, and Permitting.

Cowboy Corral

9:00-10:30 Two Concurrent Sessions

Concurrent 5A: The Art of Negotiation and Consultation in Hydro Licenses and Relicensing

Modern licenses have numerous adaptive management triggers that require ongoing consultation and mini-negotiations. The trend of engaging in consultation and negotiation during relicensing continues to be relevant as a means of managing uncertainty and establishing protocols for problem solving. This panel explores the best-practices for developing settlement agreements and engaging in agency consultation in a rapidly changing world.

Moderator/Panelists:

Concurrent 5B: Legal and Policy Roundup

Despite the standstill in our personal lives, the past year has been an especially active one for federal legal and policy developments. Join the panel for an in-depth review of recent and upcoming legislation, regulations, and litigation affecting new and existing hydropower interests - ranging from FERC policy to EPA rulemakings and recent court action, to federal species law developments.

Moderator: Angela Levin, Partner – Troutman Pepper

Panelists:

Charles Von Reis – Chelan County PUD

Dennis Cakert – National Hydropower Association

Veronica Keithley – Stoel Rives LLP

Walker Stanovsky – Davis Wright Tremaine

Summit

10:30-11:30

Session 6: **What else could go wrong?**

Case studies will present how compounding factors like this pandemic and emergencies can complicate planning, responses, and public engagement.

Moderator/Panelists:

Closing Campfire

11:30-12:00 **Townhall Summit Closing Ceremonies** [Tune in Live](#)

Camper Awards:

- Doo of the day
- Best dressed
- Playing all out- game winner
- Most chats
- Most questions
- Cleanest cabin
- Most improved camper