

Energy Vision

FOR THE COLUMBIA BASIN



The Northwest is at a critical crossroad, facing challenges to the health of the planet and the **future of iconic fish** and wildlife. These challenges are especially important to tribal resources that have sustained tribal people **since time immemorial**.

One path leads to **affordable, carbon-free energy that harmonizes with the ecosystem**. This future would prioritize energy efficiency, renewable resources, new storage technologies, reductions in peak loads, and other strategies that are compatible with the needs of fish and wildlife. These efforts would reduce the impacts of renewable resource projects and transmission lines on tribal resources and save consumers money.

The other path creates **conflicts between renewable resources and tribal resources** and results in higher costs for consumers.

Choosing the first path will require the **courage to act, common-ground solutions, and a commitment of resources** to accomplish the hard work ahead. It will also require the humility to periodically evaluate and adjust course based on new information and understanding.

CRITFC and its member tribes are committed to working with other regional interests to lead the region to a **brighter and healthier future**. Affordable and reliable power is important to regional families and businesses, tribal and non-tribal. The true wealth of our region begins with the health of our rivers, fish, and the ecosystem they support, which is our culture, history, and future.







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The 2022 Tribal Energy Vision comes at a time of extraordinary changes in the electric energy system. Its major theme is to ensure that renewable resources in combination with storage, reductions in peak demand, and increased energy efficiency can provide clean, adequate, reliable, affordable electricity and make things better for fish and wildlife and other tribal resources.

The Pacific Northwest is facing four critical and interrelated issues:

 <p>Climate crisis already underway</p>	 <p>Salmon at risk of extinction.</p>	 <p>Push for quick transition to carbon-free energy</p>	 <p>Bad energy planning can make things worse for salmon</p>
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The region is seeing the effects of climate change all around us.

Tribal elders report altered harvest times of traditional First Foods (salmon, wild game, roots and berries) from when they were younger.

Climate change is pushing salmon to the brink of extinction.

By 2025, 77% of Snake River spring/summer chinook populations are predicted to reach quasi-extinction level (<50 fish).

An urgent shift from fossil fuels and to electrify everything will impact our entire energy grid.

NPCC projects NW solar/wind projects will add 5GW of capacity by 2027 and another 14GW by 2041.

If we wait too long, some of our options, flexibility, and transition resources may be lost as we scramble with reactionary solutions based solely on energy stability with no consideration for other concerns



Prepared by the
**Columbia River
 Inter-Tribal Fish
 Commission**

This Energy Vision is intended to help secure a common ground of restoring salmon while keeping power affordable.



Goals



CRITFC and its member tribes envision a future where the Columbia Basin electric power system supports healthy and harvestable fish and wildlife populations, protects tribal treaty and cultural resources, and provides clean, reliable, and affordable electricity.

The goals for this Energy Vision are:

Goal 1 Create a regional **energy portfolio that protects and enhances environmental quality**, treaty protected resources, and supports the restoration of Columbia Basin's fish and wildlife to healthy and harvestable population levels.

Goal 2 Prevent new and reduce ongoing damage to Columbia River Basin resources, including fish, wildlife, water quality, and tribal cultural resources, by recognizing the relationships and interdependencies of natural and built systems including the Northwest's energy system.

Goal 3 Provide increased **protection for both fish and wildlife and utility customers against unanticipated events**, such as drought, fire and market aberrations while providing an adequate, economical, and reliable electric supply.

Goal 4 Mitigate climate change impacts to protect Northwest ecosystems by replacing fossil-fuel electric generation and reducing the reliance on fossil-fuels for power, transportation, and other uses.



Umatilla tribal members digging roots below windmills.



Fire threatening power lines.
WA Dept of Transportation



New solar panels on the Nez Perce tribal headquarters in Lapwai, Idaho.



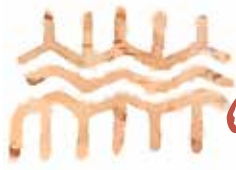
Yakama fisher dipnetting on his scaffold on the Klickitat River, Wash.

Charting a stronger, better future for the Northwest

In 2021, a coalition of Indian tribes from across the Nation adopted a resolution calling on Congress and the President to invest in salmon and river restoration in the Pacific Northwest, charting a stronger, better future for the Northwest, investing in energy and climate solutions and bringing long-ignored tribal justice to our peoples and homelands.

<https://www.ncai.org/AK-21-009.pdf>





Recommendations

The Energy Vision includes 43 recommendations for the Bonneville Power Administration, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, the Federal Action Agencies for the Columbia River System, state utility commissions, or utilities. Highlights of the recommendations include:



Improve River Configuration and Operations. The region needs to plan for changes to reduce the damage to migrating salmon and steelhead caused by the Columbia Basin dams, including breaching the four lower Snake River dams.



Amend the Columbia River Treaty. Amend the treaty to include protections for fish and wildlife and expand the scope to include win-win opportunities to integrate renewable resources.



Reduce Peak Loads. The Energy Vision details actions to reduce peak demands that can save salmon and money.



Maximize Energy Efficiency. Maintain and expand energy efficiency targets and work to exceed them. Energy efficiency measures help fish and wildlife.



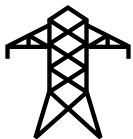
Harness Renewable Resources. Renewable resources in combination with storage and electric load management can create an environment that is better for fish, wildlife, and other tribal resources.



Strategically Site Renewable Resources. Develop a regional plan for where renewable resources should be developed, and where they should not, and to provide expeditious siting with clear and uniform standards across all political subdivisions.



Increase Resource Adequacy. Electricity shortages have reduced protections and funding for fish and wildlife.



Minimize Transmission and Distribution Systems. Load management, energy efficiency, and strategic siting of resources will reduce costs for consumers and the damage to tribal resources.



Address the Climate Crisis. Reduce greenhouse gas pollution and continue to increase energy efficiency to try to avoid the devastating effects we are facing.

