

## Owned By Those We Serve

Douglas Electric Cooperative Inc.,  
Roseburg, Oregon

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• For Power Outages Call •  
**888.420.8826**

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### Member Services

Todd C. Munsey

### System Engineer

Jess Dory, PE

### Mission Statement

The mission of Douglas Electric Cooperative, a member-owned and operated cooperative, is to provide affordable, reliable electric and other compatible services that enhance the quality of life for its members, using progressive marketing in conjunction with sound financial and management principles.

**DOUGLAS**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OR-10

## Spilling Water For Salmon - Science, Politics and Money

It's impossible to give you a full-blown, comprehensive report on the salmon spill issue in this short column, but I want to at least give you a summary, and how it will directly affect you and the price you pay for electricity.

First of all, what is spill? Spill is the water released through the federal hydro projects on the Columbia and Snakes rivers. The projects already spill between 30 and 40 percent of the water in those rivers, instead of generating renewable, carbon-free electricity. The issue here is that fish advocates want even more water spilled.



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration fisheries models show that increased spill would have little to no impact on fish survival. In fact, it may even have an adverse effect on the young fish we are trying to protect. Fish advocates claim their modeling reaches a completely different conclusion.

From a financial perspective, this is where it costs you, the Northwest ratepayer. Not only does spilling additional water create a loss of generation, and essential back-up for intermittent energy sources such as wind and solar, it also reduces Bonneville Power Administration revenues. To recover these additional costs, BPA must either reduce other program expenditures, pass these additional costs on to its customers, or both. I have heard estimates for the amount of these additional costs ranging anywhere from \$10 to 40 million. To be clear, if it meant preventing extinction of a species or even dramatically increasing fish migration, additional cost over and above the billions that Northwest ratepayers have already paid would be easier for members to swallow. But that simply is not the case here. It's a matter of the courts battling against what we feel is good science.

Thankfully, we have excellent representation working on our members' behalf. Ted Case, the executive director for the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association ([www.oreca.org](http://www.oreca.org)), Terry Flores, executive director with Northwest RiverPartners ([nwrivertpartners.org](http://nwrivertpartners.org)) and Ashley Slater, Vice President of Government Affairs and Policy for PNGC Power ([www.pngc.com](http://www.pngc.com)), continue to look out for your best interests. You will find plenty of information on their websites. In their words, "We can all agree that the Northwest cares about our region's iconic salmon, but we shouldn't throw good money at a bad plan." Feel free to call me with any questions you may have.

Best Regards,

  
James K. Brooks  
General Manager