



Our hydropower system and its vital role in the Pacific Northwest

Austin Rohr | Deputy Executive Director





Our mission: Lead the charge for the Northwest to realize its clean energy potential using **hydroelectricity** as the cornerstone

We **educate** the public and policymakers about the important role of hydroelectricity

We **partner** with our members, Native American tribes, communities, agencies and businesses to achieve common goals

We **support** research and analytics so the region can reach informed decisions

We **engage** in public processes to provide balanced insights and suggestions

Columbia River Basin

Courtesy: Bonneville Power Administration



Millions of
people benefit

Hydropower = Jobs

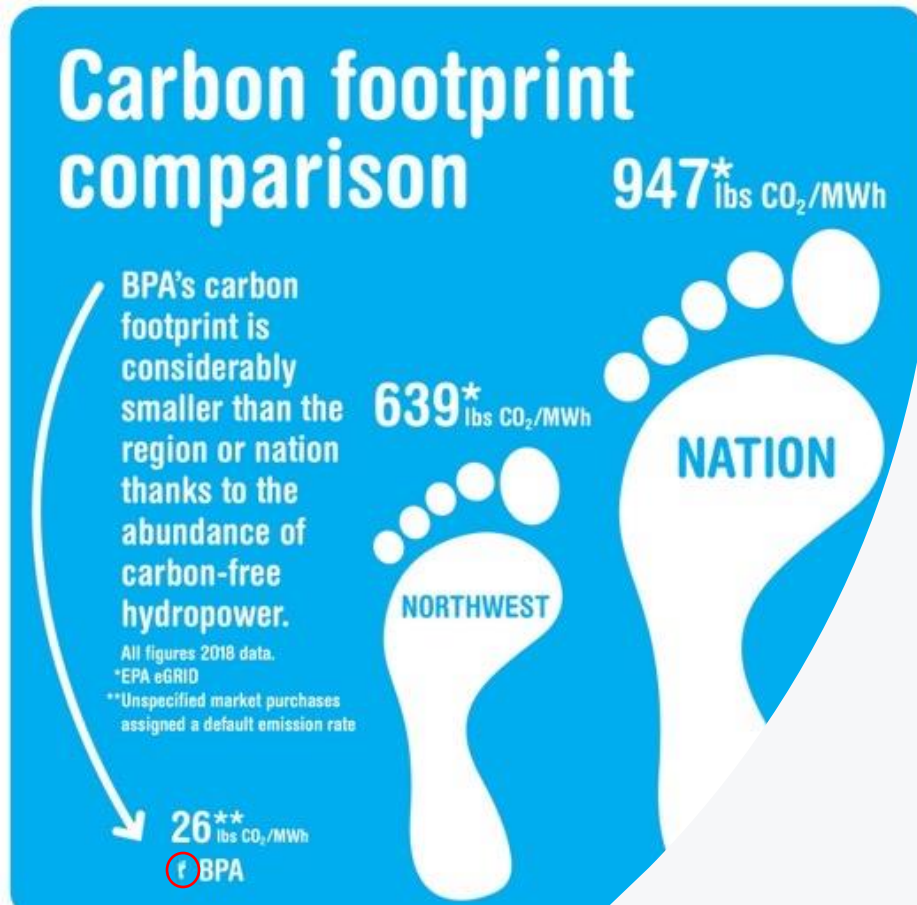


Courtesy: Montana Electric Cooperatives Association

- Companies are locating here for clean, reliable affordable energy
- Our marine highways move 51 million tons of international trade
- Billions of dollars in value
- 40,000 jobs tied to trade

Courtesy: Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, Columbia Snake River System Facts

Hydropower = Clean Air



- Hydropower continues to produce, clean carbon-free energy in our region
- Hydropower reduces emissions in other economic sectors (ex: transportation)
- NOAA: rising sea surface temperatures impacting salmon

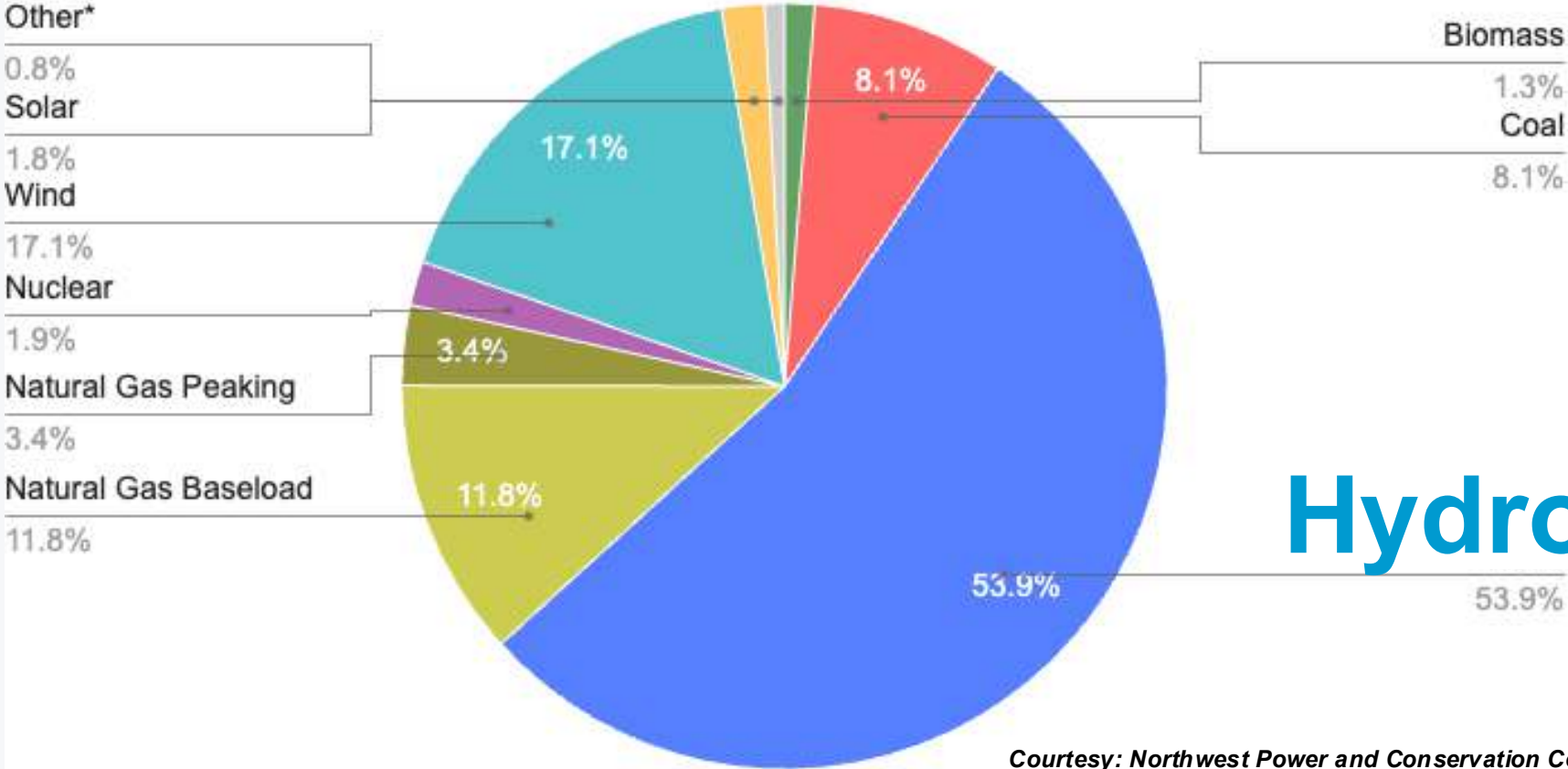
Quiz

What % of the Northwest's electricity comes from hydropower?

26% | 40% | 54% | 78%

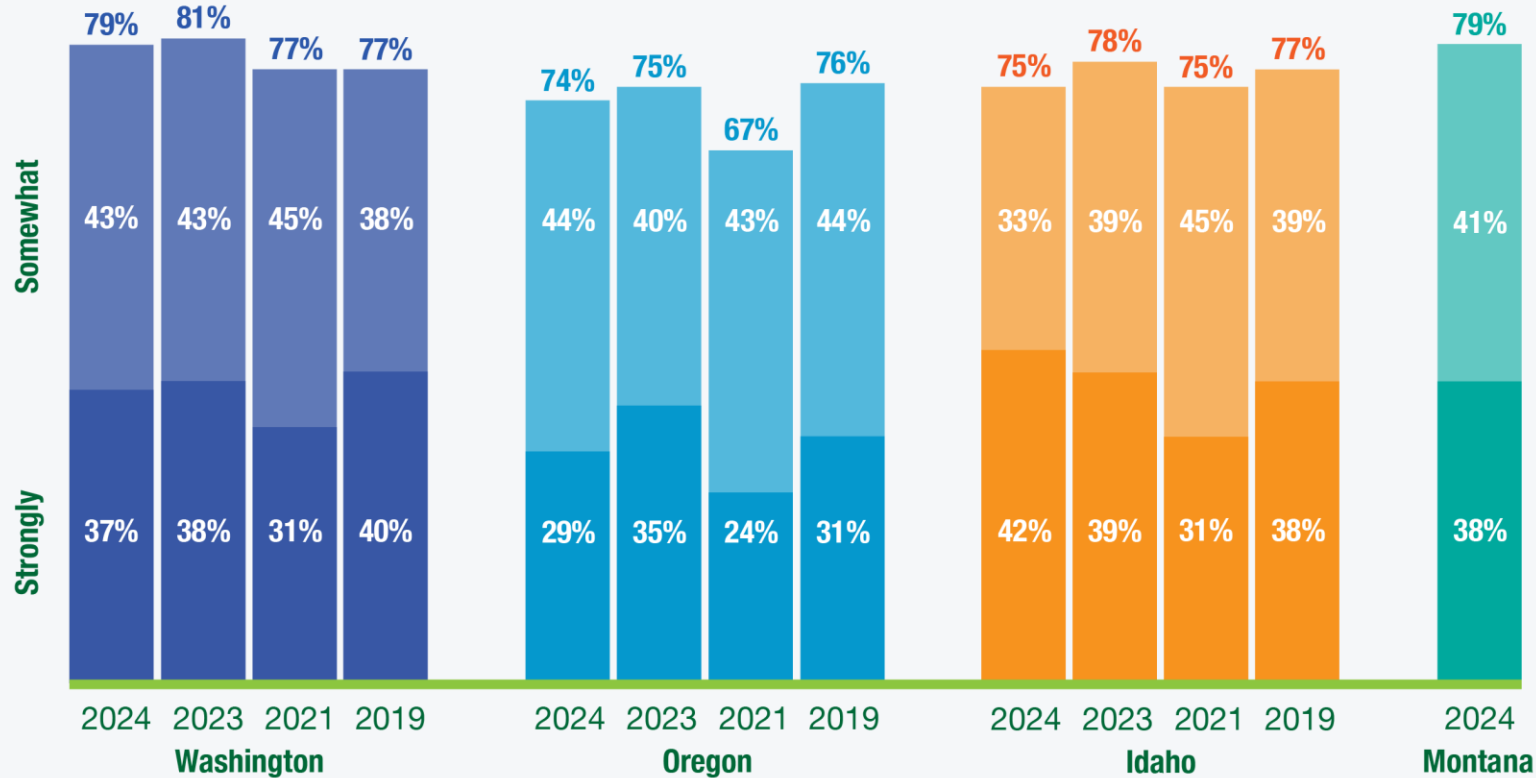
Hydropower = PNW backbone

Pacific Northwest Generating Capacity: 64,340 mw*



Courtesy: Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Showing % support for the use of hydroelectric dams to produce electricity



Strong support for hydropower

More than 3 in 4 residents across the region support hydropower

Across all four states, support for hydroelectric dams to produce energy is high

Courtesy: DHM Research/NWRP Multi-State Survey (October 2024)

Quiz

*Are there more or less fish in the Columbia
& Snake Rivers after dams?*

Less | More

Answer... more!



More than...

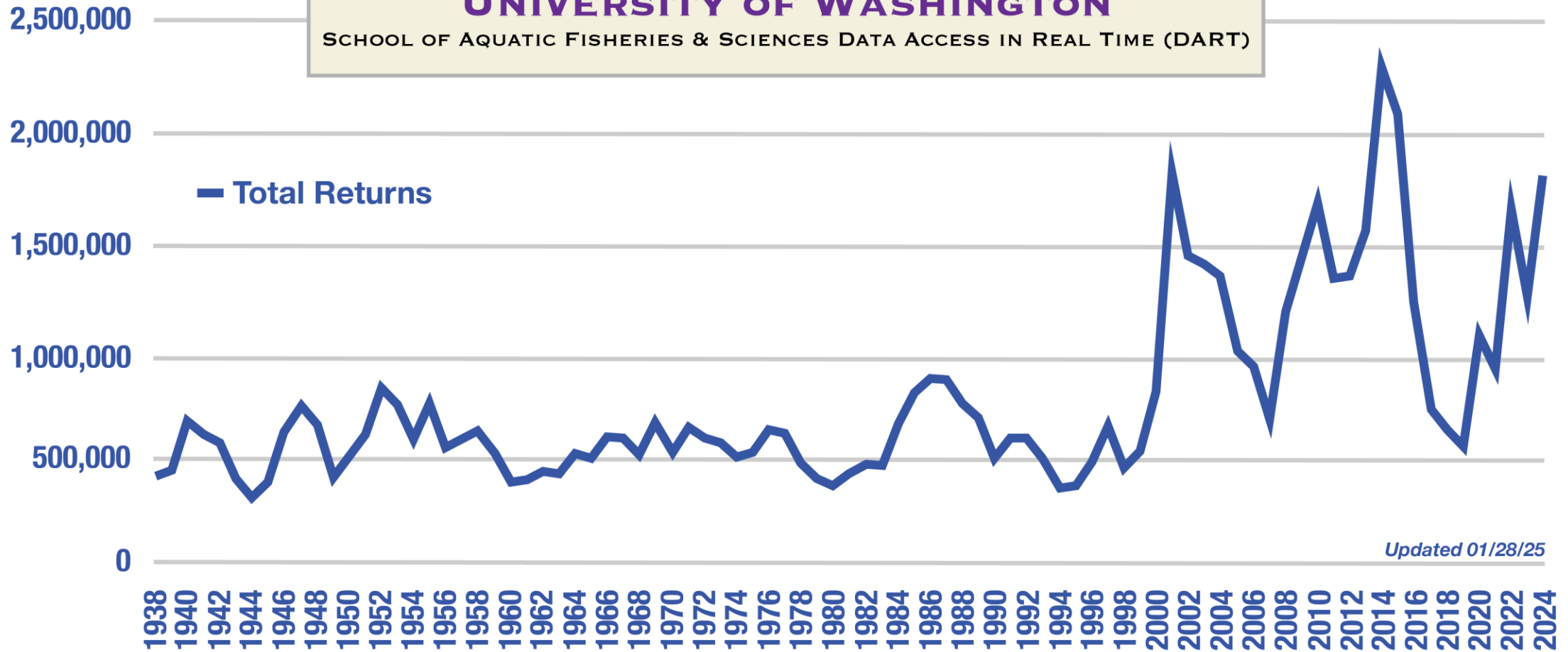
3X

Average increase
in adult salmon
and steelhead
returns since the
completion of
Bonneville Dam
in 1938

According to data from the University of
Washington's Data Access in Real Time

Bonneville Dam Total Adult Salmon and Steelhead Returns* 1938-2024

DATA FROM THE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SCHOOL OF AQUATIC FISHERIES & SCIENCES DATA ACCESS IN REAL TIME (DART)

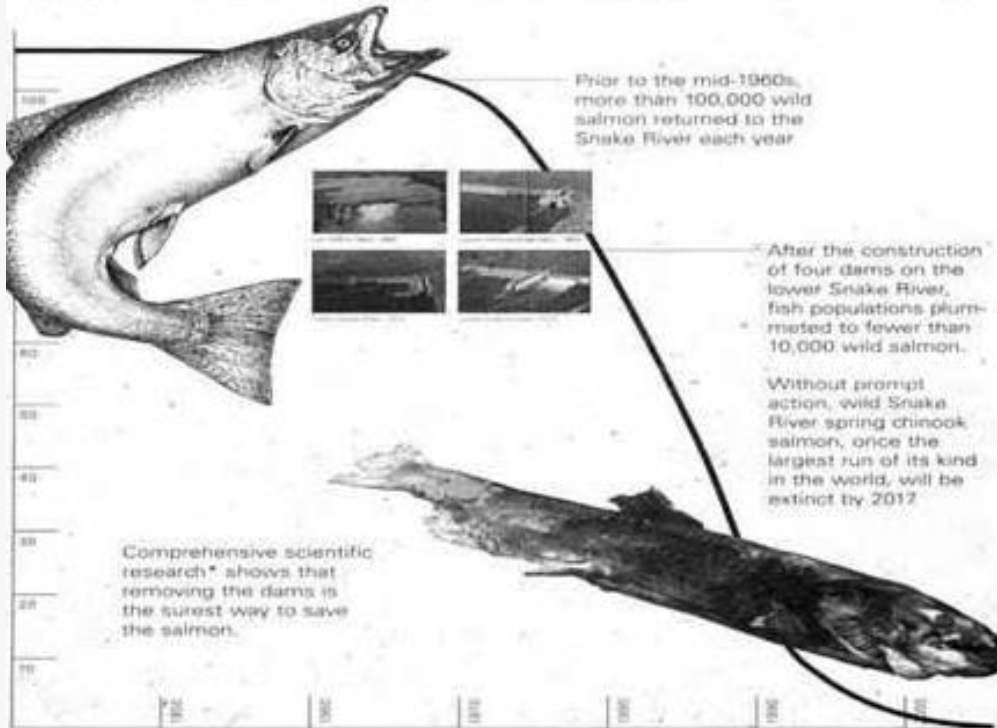


*Excludes "Jacks"

NY Times Ad (1999)

Timeline to Extinction

If we don't act, Snake River salmon will disappear forever.



Don't let time run out for the salmon. Vice President Al Gore will help decide their fate. Tell him you care about salmon and want the lower Snake River dams removed.

Claim: "If we don't act, Snake River salmon will disappear forever."

Lower Granite Dam Returns:

1999 – 10,193 salmon

2024 – 105,174 salmon

Increase: 1031% ↑

**Pressure on
affordable, clean
hydropower
is everywhere**

Caught in a game of tug of war

Rapid growth in demand

OREGON TECH

Soaring data center electricity demand could trigger Northwest blackouts, industry insiders say

CBRE



Washington State Data Center Leasing Reaches New High Amid Growth in Artificial Intelligence

MYNORTHWEST NEWS

Washington's largest 24/7 EV charging facility breaks ground in Redmond



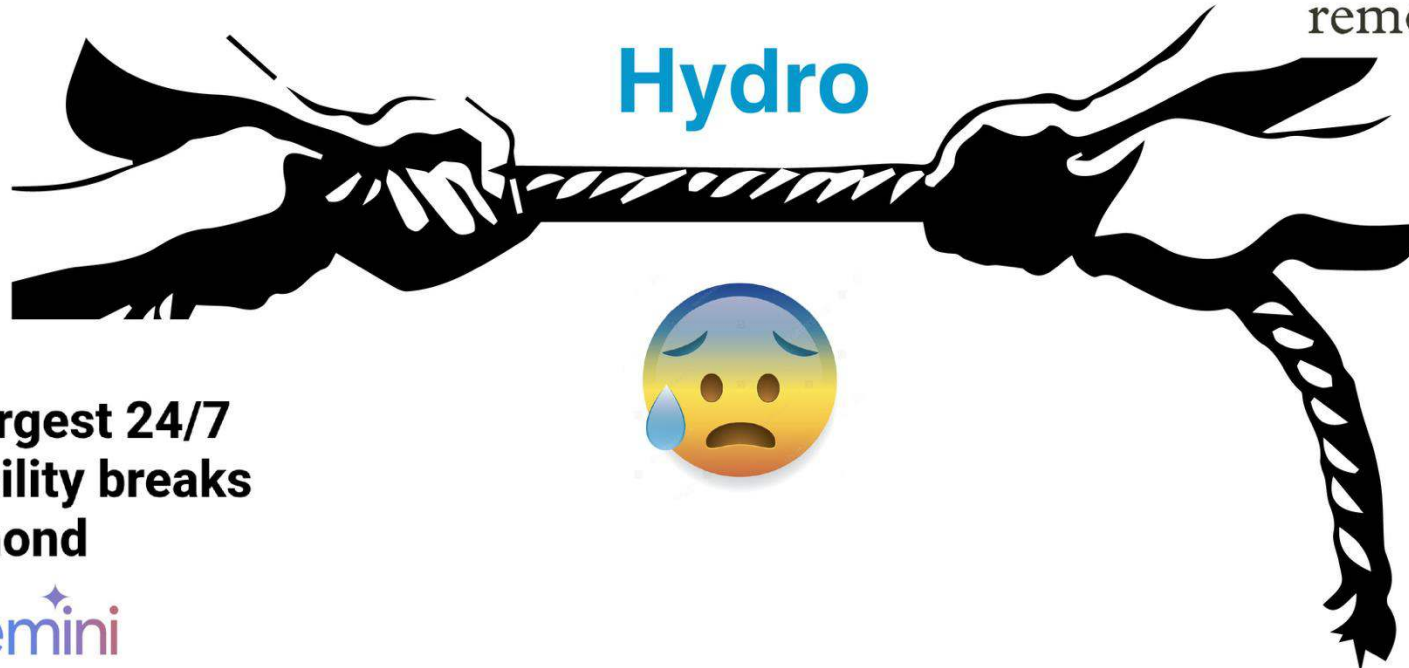
Dam breaching proposals

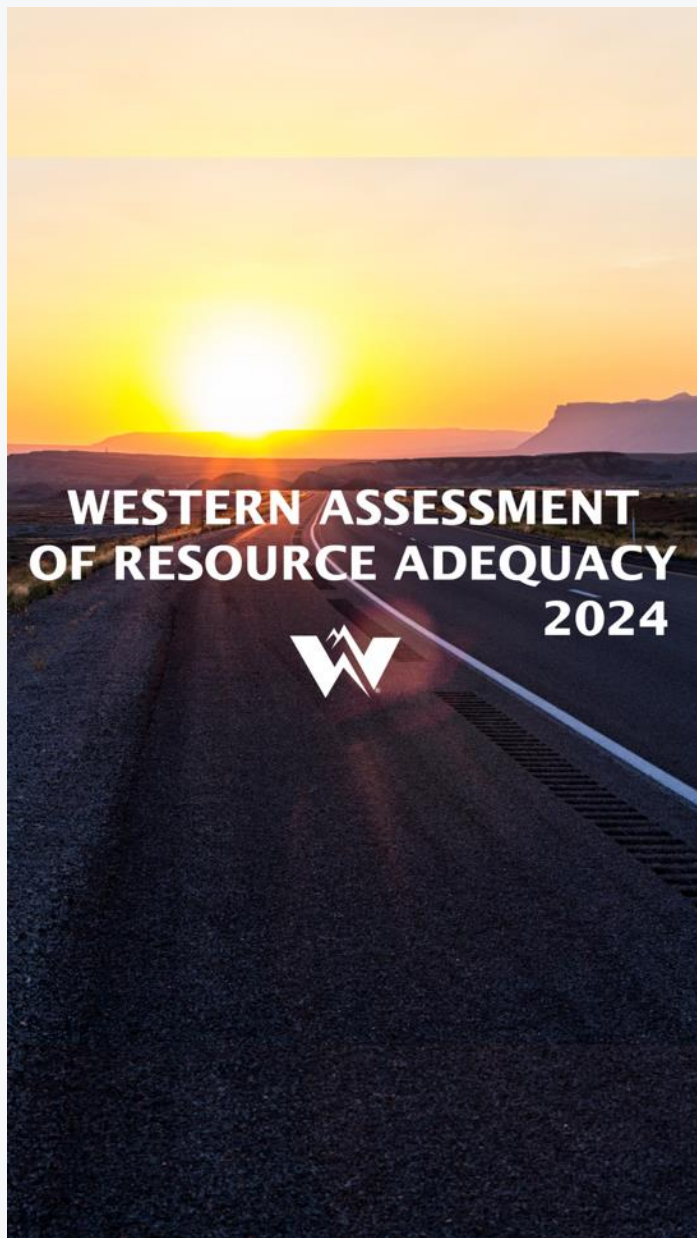
POLITICS NOW

'OPB Politics Now': Is the Pacific Northwest entering an era of dam removal?



Historic agreement seen as a harbinger to Snake River dam removal





The lights are flashing **RED**

“The supply of electricity is not growing fast enough to keep up with demand growth....

“Unless we prioritize reliability as the resource mix evolves and becomes more variable, we are at risk for serious and more frequent disruptions....

“The West must move quickly and more decisively to ensure resource adequacy over the next decade.”

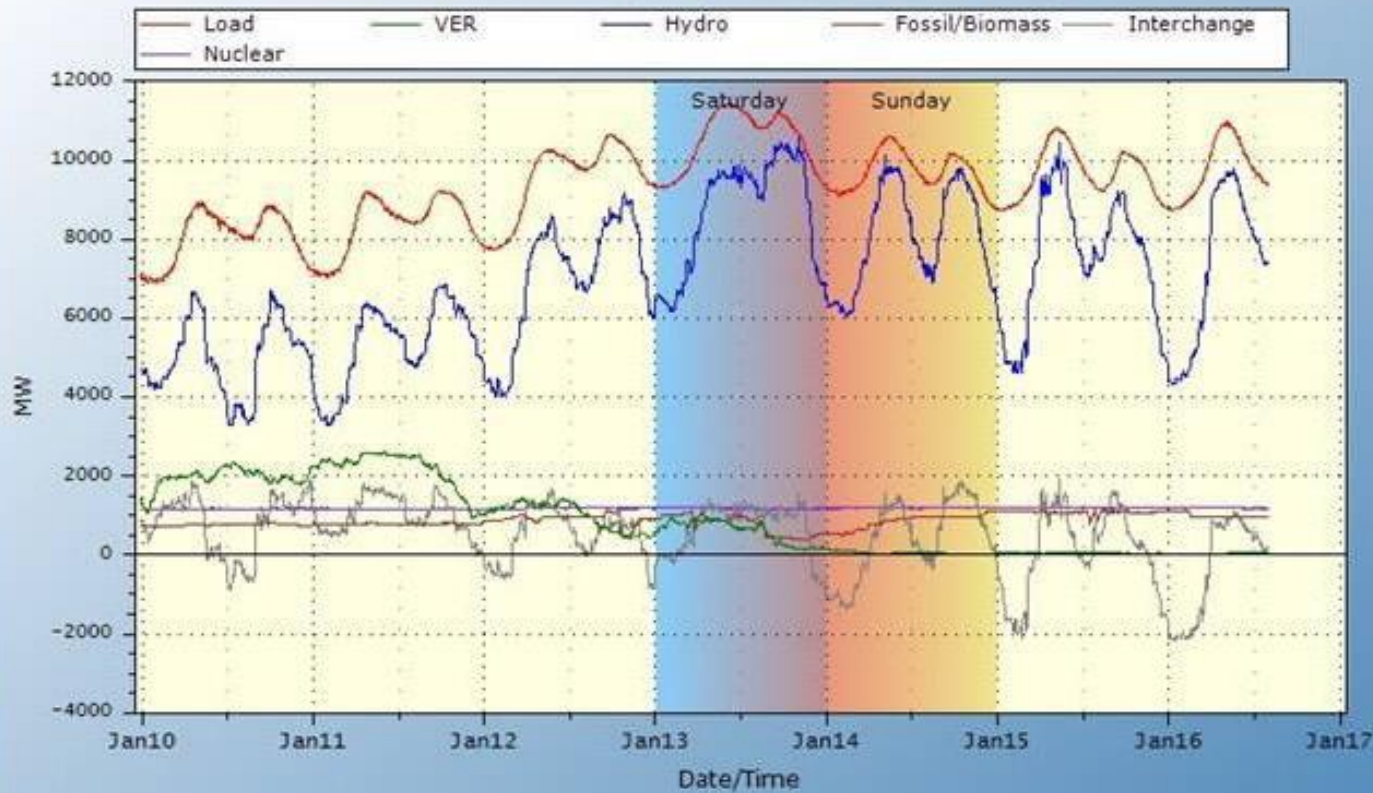
MLK Weekend 2024

Washington & the Northwest faced record-breaking low temperatures, high winds, snow and freezing rain.

More than 100,000 lost power due to damaged lines. In total, an estimated 17 people died from falling trees, electrocution, and hypothermia.

Natural gas experienced equipment failures, and wind generation dropped to **near-zero**.

BPA Balancing Authority Load & VER, Hydro, Fossil/Biomass, Nuclear Generation, and Net Interchange Last 7 days
10Jan2024 - 17Jan2024 (last updated 16Jan2024 14:00:28)



Based on 5-min readings from BPA's SCADA system for points 45583, 177167, 79682, 79685, 164377, and 70681.
Balancing Authority Load in Red, VER in Green, Hydro Gen. in Blue,
Fossil/Biomass Gen. in Brown, Nuclear Gen. in Cobalt and Net Interchange in Gray.
BPA Technical Operations (TOT-OpInfo@bpa.gov)

This represents loads and resources in BPA's Balancing Authority (BA) including some that are not BPA's.
It does not include BPA loads served by transfer, scheduled out of region,
or scheduled to customers with their own BAs such as Seattle and Tacoma

Wind & solar



Wind and solar energy
dropped to near-zero.

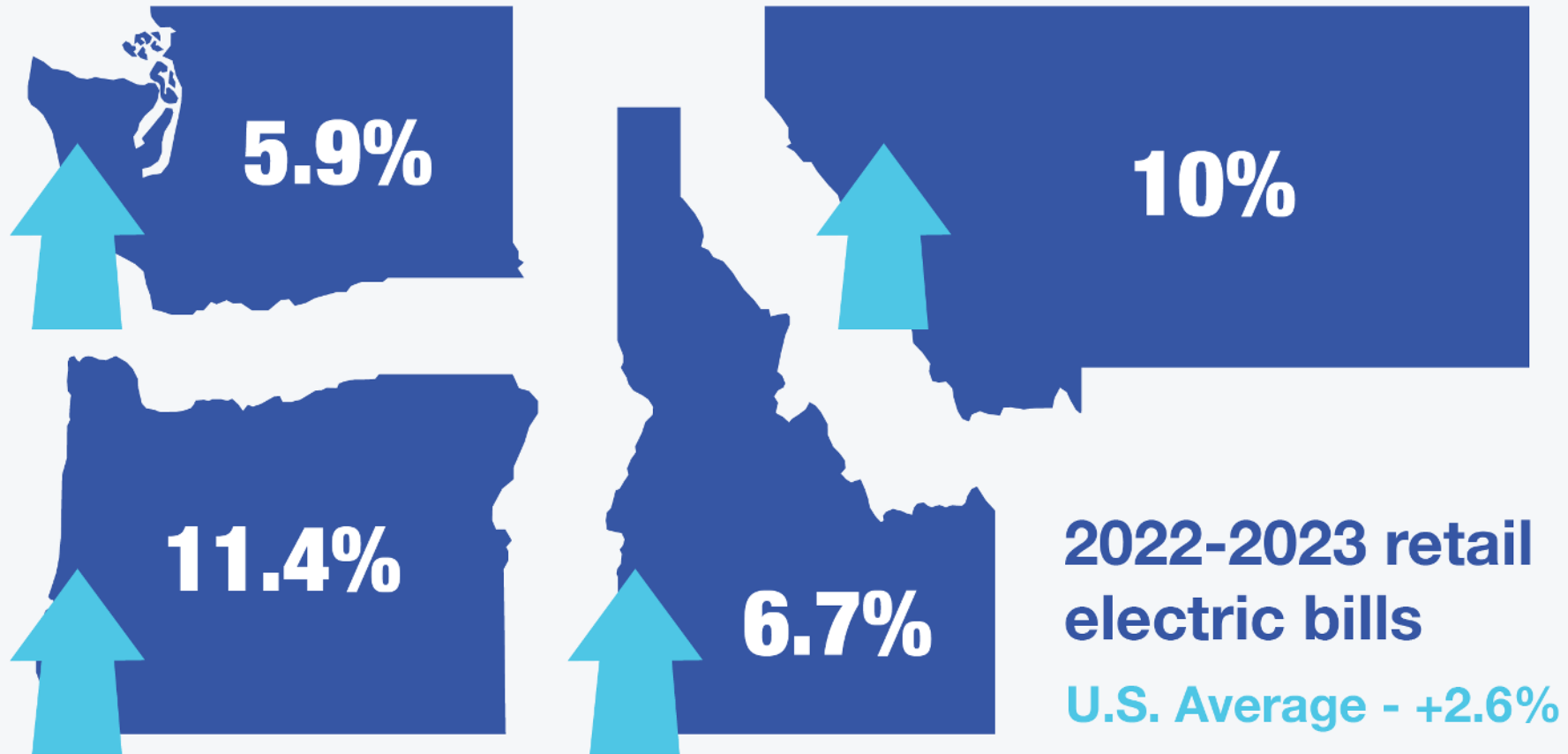


Hydro

Hydropower ramped up
to meet people's needs

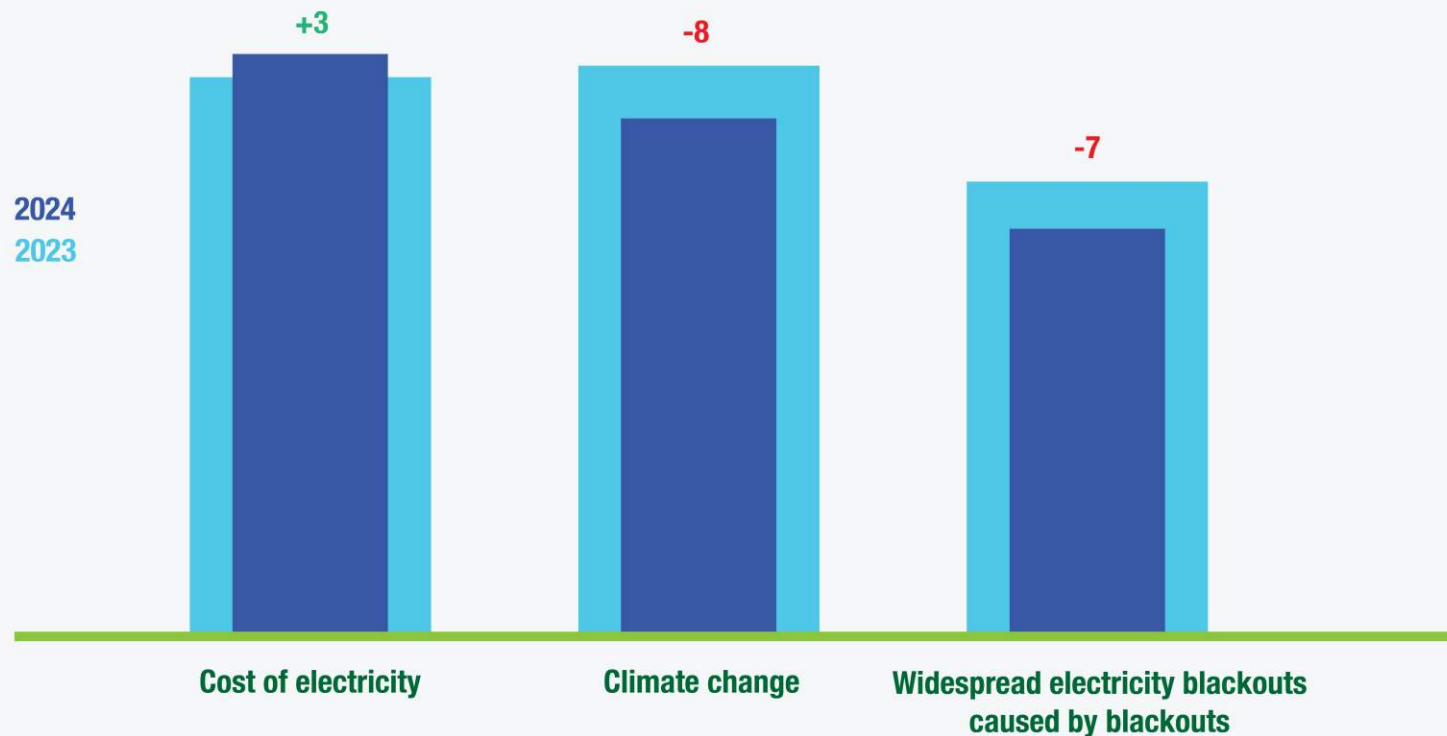
Courtesy: Bonneville Power Administration

Costs are rising



Courtesy: U.S. Energy Information Administration, U.S. Electricity Profile 2023

Showing % very serious/somewhat of a problem



Affordability is the top concern

Concern about the cost of electricity, climate change, and blackouts remain high.

Concerns about both climate change and blackouts decreased from 2023 to 2024.

Courtesy: DHM Research NWRP Multi-State Survey (October 2024)



Chris Sidmore, Flathead Food Bank

Reliability + Affordability = Human Health

32% of clients at the Flathead Food Bank said that increasing energy costs had driven them to seek assistance.

Source: Dam! podcast Ep.37 Cost Cap: Setting the record straight | August 30, 2024

What can we do?



PRESS RELEASE

October 14, 2025
Vancouver, WA

Court proposals by plaintiffs would drive up electricity prices, increase blackout risk for millions of people in the Pacific Northwest

Northwest RiverPartners urges regional leaders to reject renewed litigation and work together to protect salmon and maintain affordable, reliable hydropower

Others push for litigation, dam breaching.

We see another path forward...

Seeking collaboration



What's my role?

- Be an informed voice
- Advocate for balanced energy policies
- Support fish and wildlife restoration alongside clean energy
- Educate others about the value of our hydropower system
- Build relationships with your local energy provider / port / labor / ag



Scan the code below to stay informed and you'll be alerted to action items you can take on important issues...



**Thank you
Washington
State Water
Resources
Association!**



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Austin Rohr, Deputy Executive Director

Appendix

"Lead the charge for the Northwest to realize its clean energy potential using hydroelectricity as the cornerstone."

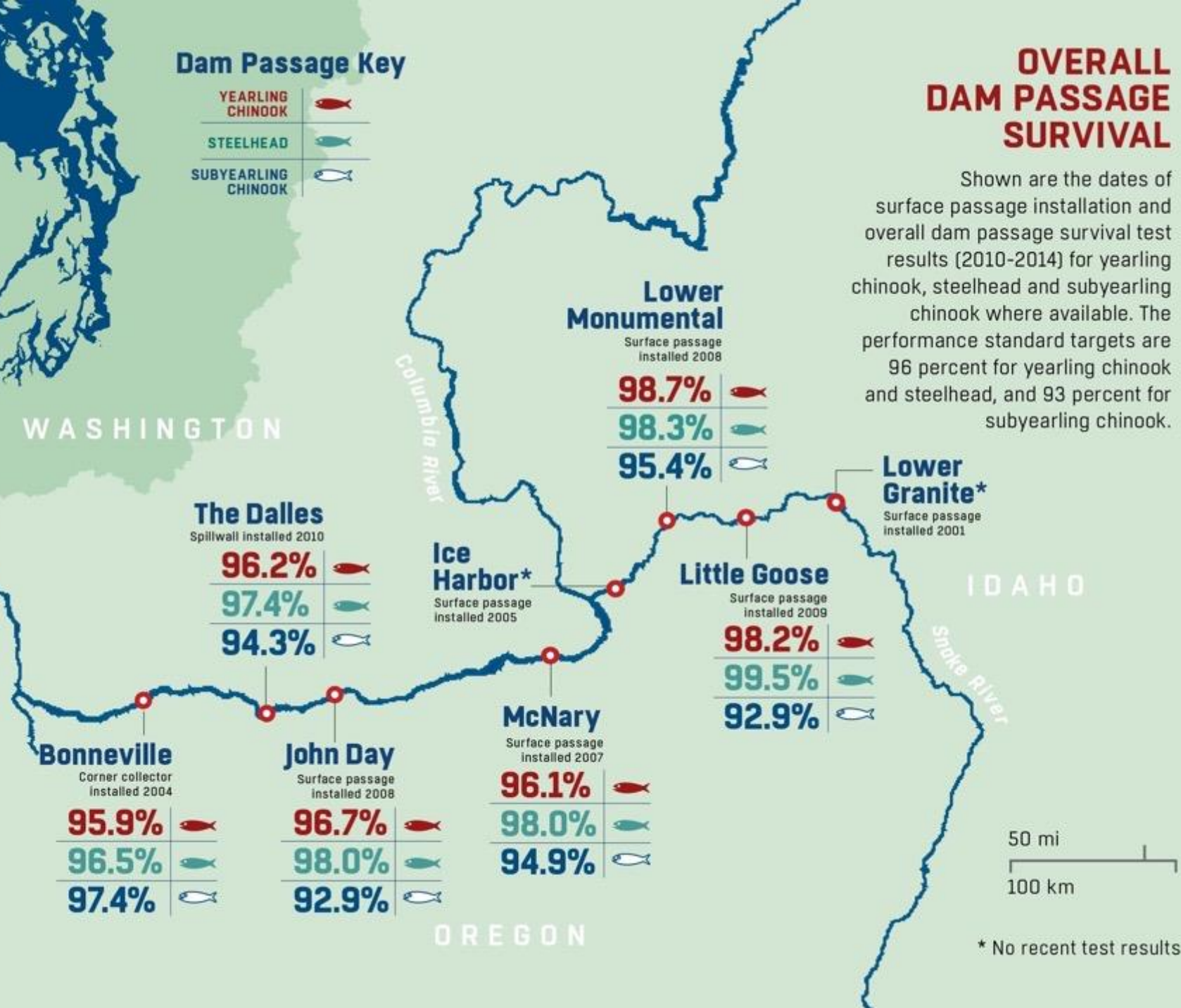
Combined with refined spill operations, the installation of surface passage has reduced the percentage of fish that go through powerhouses (i.e. turbines), decreased fish travel time through the system and increased overall fish survival.

Dam Passage Key

YEARLING CHINOOK	
STEELHEAD	
SUBYEARLING CHINOOK	

OVERALL DAM PASSAGE SURVIVAL

Shown are the dates of surface passage installation and overall dam passage survival test results (2010-2014) for yearling chinook, steelhead and subyearling chinook where available. The performance standard targets are 96 percent for yearling chinook and steelhead, and 93 percent for subyearling chinook.



50 mi
100 km

* No recent test results

KLAMATH RIVER DAMS



LWR. SNAKE RIVER DAMS

163

MEGAWATTS

3,000+

NO

FISH PASSAGE

YES

NO

RIVER NAVIGATION

YES

0

ACRES IRRIGATED

48K

UNCLEAR

ECONOMIC VALUE

BILLIONS