



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Departments

Member Service Option 3
Engineering Option 4
Marketing Option 5
Operations Option 6

After-Hours Outage and Emergencies:
541-536-2165 or 800-752-5935

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Closed Fridays and holidays

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Vic Russell, Fall River

Vice President

Dick Luebke, Sunriver

Secretary/Treasurer

Tanna King, Chemult

Daniel Jansen, Christmas Valley

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Ron Cass, La Pine

Garry Journey, Crescent

Gil Ernst, Gilchrist

Board meets the fourth Monday
of each month at the co-op office.

STAFF

General Manager

James "Jim" Anderson

Engineering Manager

Tom Weller

Operations Manager

Terry Dunn

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Steinhauer

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

HR and Communications Manager

Sina Streeter

Marketing Manager

Joe Hull

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Help Protect Reliable, Affordable Electricity

As a Midstate Electric Cooperative member, you experience the benefits of hydropower. Most of the electricity in your home is provided by our region's rivers.

Hydropower is the most abundant energy source in the Northwest. The lower Snake River dams—part of the Federal Columbia River Power System—supply this constant source of energy. Hydroelectric generators rapidly respond to increased power demands giving us the critical capacity to keep the power on during extreme weather events.

Hydropower supports our regional efforts to decarbonize power, electrify transportation, integrate wind and solar energy, and ensure vulnerable communities have access to low-cost power. Our rates are among the lowest in the state and country because of our access to hydro.

This valuable resource is now at risk as we face a political push to breach the dams. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and Washington Sen. Patty Murray commissioned a study in favor of dam removal. The Biden administration's Council on Environmental Quality also reviewed the report and endorsed the removal of the lower Snake River dams.

Breaching the dams could mean an increase in electrical rates of up to \$230 per household annually. It can also lead to rolling blackouts, a 10% increase in carbon emissions, a strain on agriculture in the region and an increased flood risk. Replacing the power from the four dams has the potential to cost ratepayers as well as taxpayers more than \$27 billion. Even if emerging technologies become available, we need the reliable, sustainable and dependable energy from our dams.

Special interest groups have concluded that removing the four lower Snake River dams is the only means to protect salmon

from extinction. These studies do not account for other factors affecting salmon.

A 2021 peer-reviewed study by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Science Center states ocean warming is the primary threat to chinook salmon survival. Another study documents that chinook salmon returns up and down the Pacific Coast of North America have been dwindling for the past 50 years, whether these salmon originated from rivers with dams or free-flowing rivers.

We support our industry's shared responsibility for mitigating detrimental impacts to salmon from hydropower system operations. Bonneville Power Administration—our power supplier—partners with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation on hundreds of fish and wildlife programs each year to mitigate hydropower impacts. These efforts include fish-passage technology that achieved a 96% survival objective for juvenile chinook salmon and steelhead.

Regardless of which side you are on, the bottom line is that removing the lower Snake River dams would hurt Northwest families by raising electricity rates and increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Removing existing zero-carbon hydropower generation is a step in the wrong direction.

We must let our elected officials know that removal of these important resources will lead to the destabilization of our rural communities. Please join us in pledging to protect Northwest hydropower by signing up for Voices for Cooperative Power and saying no to breaching the dams at <https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/oregon>. **We need you to help safeguard hydropower and keep Oregon green.**

Jim Anderson, CEO/General Manager