

## **Dear Members,**

For me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for are our wonderful communities. I know I speak for all MEC employees when I say we are thankful and fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to the communities we serve that much stronger.

## **Thank You to Our Veterans**

Veterans Day pays tribute to all those who served our country honorably. I hope you had the opportunity to visit The Wall that Heals last month. La Pine was fortunate to be the only stop the Vietnam Memorial Wall replica made in Oregon. With respect, honor, and gratitude, thank you, Veterans.

## **Northwest Hydropower Shouldn't Be Taken for Granted**

Hydropower is often taken for granted. Some well-known interest groups would even like it to disappear. They've been persistent in calling for the removal of productive hydroelectric dams, like those on the lower Snake River, claiming it's the only way to help salmon.

Gov. Kate Brown unfortunately has joined in the sentiment. In March the State of Oregon filed a lawsuit in district court over the future of salmon and hydropower and the breaching of the four lower Snake River dams. This came after she signed a historic four-state collaborative agreement to work together to find the best solutions for fish and invested stakeholders.

This is concerning because with climate concerns and climate-friendly policies, the need for renewable generation will continue to grow. Hydropower provides reliable support to solar and wind power, resources that fluctuate in generation based on if the sun is shining or the wind is blowing. Hydroelectric dams can hold water when wind and solar are available, or release water into their turbines when wind and solar are unavailable. These renewable resources working together provide critical balance to the grid.

Furthermore, reports show that upgrades to the lower Columbia and Snake River dams have led to a fish survival rate past each dam of 93 to 99%, depending on the species. About 50% of the juvenile salmon that enter the uppermost reservoir in the lower Snake River make the journey past Bonneville Dam, which is a comparable survival rate to that of a free-flowing river.

If keeping reliable and affordable power is important to you, please consider joining ORECA-Action, our grassroots initiative. You can join visiting [www.ORECA-action.org](http://www.ORECA-action.org).

## **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Our office is closed Thursday, November 25, to observe the holiday. Our after-hours outage line is always available at 800-752-5935.

**Jim Anderson, General Manager**

**Your 2022 member calendar is included in this edition of Ruralite.**