

BPA Public Involvement

From: mgr@bbec.org
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To: BPA Public Involvement
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

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The latest proposal by the Corps and BPA to reduce summer spill that was released on June 8, 2004 is a step in the right direction; however, more could be done. Much discussion has taken place over the number of ESA-listed fish affected by reduction of summer spill. Whether the number is 1, 5, 24 or 100, spilling water over dams in July and August is not a cost effective, balanced method for helping fish efforts. Our elected officials along with residents in the Northwest, including consumers of Big Bend Electric Cooperative, have asked federal agencies to find more cost-effective ways to help salmon. By eliminating summer spill, the added revenue can provide rate relief for our consumers and for the region while making available additional funds for more cost-effective offset measures besides spilling water over dams. Federal agencies should move forward quickly to implement the June 8 proposal so that this year's benefits are not lost. Federal agencies should also continue to work to further evaluate spending decisions to achieve more cost-effective salmon efforts in the future. Respectfully, James A. Johnson, Manager Big Bend Electric Cooperative, Inc.