

BPA Public Involvement

From: bobf@subutil.com
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Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

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Comments on the Amended Summer Spill Proposal From Steve Loveland, General Manager of Springfield Utility Board This proposal is a great step in the right direction. We believe it does not go far enough but we support it. It will put more salmon back in the river and more people back to work. This proposal: Meets the objectives of saving more fish for less money. Establishes cost-effectiveness as a key objective in determining salmon recovery measures. Recognizes that there are better way to protect summer migrants than unnecessarily wasting water that could be used to produce electricity. Is based on measurable goals and results, rather than ideology and whimsy. The Federal agencies should be applauded for finding ways to provide relief to the region's ratepayers at no harm to fish. Springfield Utility Board's customers have been financially squeezed by BPA's power rates that have risen by nearly 50% since 2001. This has compounded the struggles of Springfield's economy and the plight of our customers on fixed incomes. Springfield Utility Board strongly believes that this proposal still contains too much waste and is a significant missed opportunity to provide an additional boost to the Northwest economy. There is scientific support for eliminating summer spill entirely. There is no credible scientific proof that the lack of spill in 2001 relates to the lower than expected adult returns observed this spring. In fact, data shows that one and two year old fish from 2001 returned in record numbers. Ocean conditions are likely playing a key role in this year's adult returns, which are still significantly higher than the ten-year average. We are urging the federal agencies to expand this program in the coming years. Our customers who finance these fish programs rightfully expect accountability and results for these public resources.