



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Departments

Customer 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

Leland Smith, Sunriver

Vice President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Secretary/Treasurer

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Vic Russell, Fall River

Robert Reed, La Pine

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

Bud Kendall, La Pine

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

STAFF

General Manager

Dave Schneider

Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Bartunek

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

In April, a decision to spill more water over the dams of the Columbia and Snake rivers was mandated by U.S. Appellate Judge Michael Simon. The ruling reduces the amount of hydropower the dams can produce from April to June to potentially help migrating salmon. The spill program is projected to continue until 2022.

The mandate impacts the Bonneville Power Administration, which markets the wholesale hydroelectric power produced by the dams on the two rivers. This, in turn, affects Northwest utilities that buy power from BPA. Midstate Electric Cooperative buys 100 percent of its power from BPA.

BPA recently announced the total spill costs \$38.6 million for 2018. By instituting a number of cost-saving measures, it has been able to reduce that cost to \$10.2 million. BPA plans to recoup the \$10.2 million with surcharges of 71 cents per megawatt-hour from June through September. That means it will cost MEC an additional \$90,000 for wholesale power this year.

At the May board meeting, your board of directors decided to absorb the extra costs created by the court-mandated spill. Although you will not see a spike in your bill for the 2018 spill, this may only be a one-year reprieve for a five-year issue.

Northwest RiverPartners, whose membership includes many Northwest utilities and industry associations, says the plan will do little to help salmon, while raising electric rates for the region's utility customers.

"Estimates project an increase in survival rates of 1 percent for

Chinook and 2 percent for steelhead," the advocacy group says. "That's less than decimal dust in a complex river system where survival of young salmon migrating downstream varies year to year from 35 to 70 percent due to a range of potential factors unrelated to spill, including water temperatures, spring runoff timing and volumes, fish health, sea lions and other predators. The models show an even smaller impact on adult salmon returns of 1/100th percent. This is a massive misuse of people's hard-earned dollars that will do little to nothing to help the salmon."

I encourage you to contact your U.S. representatives and make your voice heard. Join our grassroots program, ORECA-Action, at www.oreca-action.org. Help stop this waste of money and the millions of dollars of clean, renewable lost hydroelectric generation.

MEC and Mid-Oregon Credit Union Community Project Underway

In 2017, MEC and another local co-op—Mid Oregon Credit Union—embraced the cooperative spirit by working together to fund a \$10,000 community project through MEC's Operation Round Up Program.

After an application review process of six applicants, the funds were awarded to La Pine Park & Recreation to fund the renovation and development of a safe children's playground in the middle of Frontier Heritage City Park. The groundbreaking ceremony to begin the process of improving the playground area and adding play equipment was May 14.

Dave Schneider
General Manager