



Protected Areas Program

**Peter J. Paquet
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**For more information, visit
www.streamnet.org/ProtectedAreas.html**

Protected Areas

- **1983, the Council directed studies of existing habitat & analyzed alternative means of protection. 1988, the Council concluded:**
 - studies had identified fish and wildlife resources of critical importance to the CRB;
 - mitigation techniques cannot assure that all adverse impacts of hydro development on these populations will be mitigated;
 - small hydro projects may have unacceptable individual and cumulative impacts on these resources; and
 - protecting these resources & habitats is consistent with an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply.
- **Protected Areas were completed in 1988 changes to the list were promulgated in 1989 1990 and 1992 & remain a part of the 2009 F&W Program.**

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- **"Protected Areas" are stream reaches where the NPCC determined that hydroelectric development would have unacceptable risks of irreversible loss to fish and wildlife.**
 - In essence, Protected Areas are places where fish and wildlife values are judged to outweigh the value of electricity those areas could generate
 - Under the Power Act the following federal entities must consider Protected Area status and restrictions when making decisions regarding hydroelectric facility permits and access to electricity from those facilities
 - Bonneville Power Administration
 - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Bureau of Reclamation

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Protected Areas

- The protections apply to new hydroelectric facilities. Significantly, the following are exempted:
 - Facilities licensed by FERC as of August 10, 1988.
 - Relicensing such facilities
 - Modifications to existing hydroelectric facilities
 - Addition of generation to a non-hydroelectric dam or diversion, if it existed as of the date Protected Area status was granted
 - "Transition projects," for which applications or permits were sought from FERC before August 10, 1988.
 - Inclusion in a "Protected Area" does not prohibit hydroelectric development at a site. However, the Council
 - 1) calls on FERC not to license a new hydroelectric development in a Protected Area,
 - 2) calls on BPA not to acquire the power from such a project should one be licensed by FERC, nor to allow access to the Intertie in a way that would undermine the protected areas policy

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Median Resource Development Scenario

Power Plan suggests 85% of load growth over next 20 years can be met with conservation.

- Energy efficiency is at once one of the most under-appreciated and most successful power-sector programs.

