

ECONOMIC PROFILE OF SNAKE RIVER RECREATION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license to operate the Hell's Canyon Complex (HCC), comprised of Brownlee, Oxbow, and Hell's Canyon Dams, appurtenant reservoirs and related features and affected upstream and downstream reaches of the Snake River and its tributaries will expire on July 31, 2005.

The recreation use associated with the Hell's Canyon Dam Complex consists of fishing and other activities on project reservoirs, as well as private and commercial jet boat use, fishing, and private and commercial river running downstream of Hell's Canyon Dam. Although aggregate visitation, recreational use value and the regional economic impacts of this use are thought to be quite large, they have never been quantified. Additionally, judging by the results of other studies of nationally significant resources, the nonuse or passive use value of HCC resources may also be substantial.

The objectives of this proposed study are (1) to document the type, extent and location of recreation use, (2) to obtain existing estimates of the economic value of such uses, (3) to obtain existing estimates of the regional economic impact of this recreation use, and, (4) to identify and obtain existing studies of nonuse or passive use economic value which may be applicable to this effort. If judged to be feasible and defensible, these data may later be used for an application of benefits transfer (see: *Water Resources Research* Vol 28 No. 3 March 1992) or may serve as a basis for subsequent primary site specific studies.

Use appropriate techniques to obtain the following for the years 1963 (or before) through the present:

1. Recreation use data by activity and location
2. Existing site specific and/or representative estimates of the economic use value of these activities for the time periods available.
3. Existing site specific and/or representative estimates of the regional economic impact of these activities for the time periods available.
4. Identify and obtain studies of nonuse or passive use value pertinent to HCC resources. Provide professional opinions as to the applicability of these studies for the HCC re-licensing effort.