

ECONOMIC PROFILE OF TRIBAL USE OF THE SNAKE RIVER

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 Snake River plays an important role in the cultural, social and religious life of American Indian tribes in the surrounding region. This study expected to identify historical and current use of the Snake River by American Indian tribes and, where appropriate, estimate the economic value and impacts of this use.

The objectives of this proposed study are (1) to document the type, extent and location of historical tribal use of HCC resources, (2) to document the type, extent and location of current HCC tribal use, (3) to obtain existing estimates of the economic value of such uses, (4) to obtain existing estimates of the regional economic impact of these uses, and, (5) to identify and obtain existing accounts documenting the social and cultural importance of this area to Native Americans value which may be applicable to this effort.

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

1. Historical tribal use data by activity and location
2. Current tribal use data by activity and location
3. Existing site specific and/or representative estimates of the economic use value of these activities for the time periods available.
4. Existing site specific and/or representative estimates of the regional economic impact of these activities for the time periods available.
5. Identify and obtain studies of the social and cultural importance of HCC resources to Native Americans. Provide professional opinions as to the applicability of these studies for the HCC relicensing effort.