

## **ECONOMIC PROFILE OF WATER USE ON 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 existence and operation of the HCC provides a number of water-related goods and services, including flood control, irrigation water and water for municipal, commercial and industrial use. The amount and timing of water use for these purposes is determined, in part, by a combination of the demand for these goods and services, water availability, the distribution of water rights, and administrative and regulatory agreements and obligations. In turn, water availability for terrestrial and aquatic habitat, fish passage and recreational use of the river may be affected by water use for these other uses. At times, water flows will be complementary between different types of uses; at other times water flows will be competitive between uses. To more fully understand the potential economic trade-offs between these different water uses, this study seeks to identify historical and current water uses, quantify these, estimate the economic value and impact of such use.

The objectives of this proposed study are (1) to identify and obtain existing studies pertinent HCC water use which may be applicable to the relicensing effort, (2) to document the historical type, extent and location of water use in the HCC, (3) to document the current type, extent and location of water use in the HCC, (4) to obtain existing estimates of the economic value of such uses, and, (5) to obtain existing estimates of the regional economic impact of these uses as appropriate.

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

1. Historical water use data by activity and location
2. Current water 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 HCC water use and economic value. Provide professional opinions as to the applicability of these studies for the HCC re-licensing effort.