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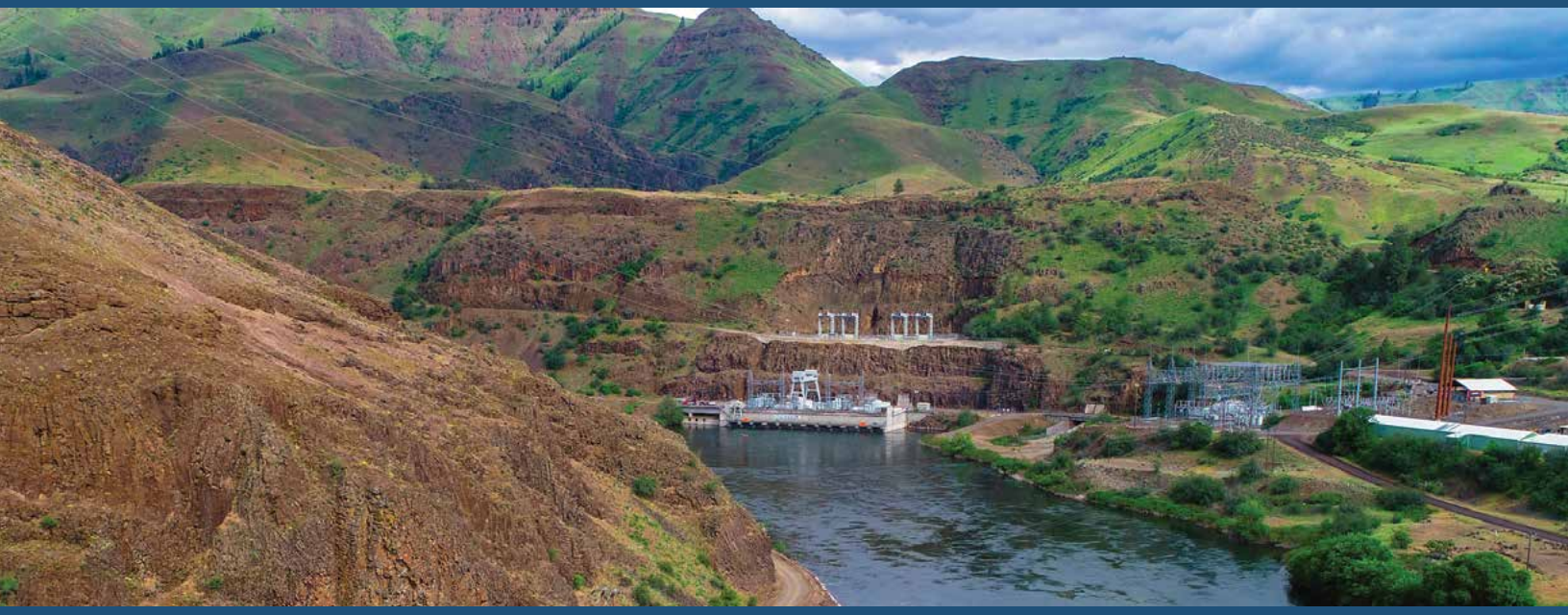
Connections



Relicensing the Hells Canyon Complex – and what it Means to You

You may never have been to Hells Canyon, but the electricity generated there plays an essential role in the lives of Idaho Power customers every day.

Idaho Power's three power plants on the Snake River along the Idaho-Oregon border — Brownlee, Oxbow and Hells Canyon — are known collectively as the Hells Canyon Complex. They provide about 70% of the hydroelectric energy Idaho Power uses to serve our customers.

Clean, reliable hydro is key to our goal of providing 100% clean energy by 2045. It is available when the sun goes down and when the wind isn't blowing.

When the Hells Canyon Complex was built in the 1950s and 60s, Idaho Power was granted a 50-year license by the federal government. That license guides how we operate the dams, how we provide for public access to the Snake River, and the ways we address impacts to fish and wildlife.

Since the license expired in 2005, Idaho Power has been operating the dams on an annual license. We have been working toward a new long-term license for nearly three decades, and that process is nearly complete. A new license will be the culmination of a lot of collaboration with state and local governments, Tribes, federal agencies and the public.

A new license will ensure these vital resources will keep powering our communities for many years to come. But there is more to the relicensing story.

The new license will mean a cleaner Snake River, improved campgrounds and parks, protection of cultural resources, additional wildlife habitat, and scientific research to benefit water quality and fish habitat.

Speaking of fish, did you know Idaho Power releases more than six million steelhead and Chinook salmon into the Snake River each year? Under the new license, we'll upgrade our fish trap below Hells Canyon Dam and add native bull trout to the list of fish species we collect there.

Idaho Power already owns and manages 22,000 acres of wildlife habitat in Hells Canyon. We will add more after receiving a new license. Our biologists plant food plots, control invasive weeds and improve water sources for a wide variety of wildlife.

Upstream, our Snake River Stewardship Program is creating colder, deeper, swifter streamflows that reduce unwanted vegetation and improve fish habitat. We have completed two major island projects and have many more planned.

We're also working with landowners to plant native trees and shrubs along stream banks and provide alternative watering holes for livestock. And we are helping irrigators in key areas upgrade their watering systems, keeping topsoil and nutrients in the field and out of the river.

These are just a few of the ways a new license for the Hells Canyon Complex will benefit our customers beyond the power outlet. For updated information on our license application, visit **idahopower.com/relicensing.**

Lee esta edición de Connections en español a idahopower.com/connections.

Comments about *Connections* are welcome at idahopower.com or Corporate Communications, P.O. Box 70, Boise, ID 83707.

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Have Your Say on Hells Canyon Relicensing

Many of the major issues around Idaho Power's relicensing of the Hells Canyon Complex have been resolved, but some important steps remain. The most significant is a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to be published by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

What that means: As part of the National Environmental Protection Act, the federal government conducted an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) as part of Idaho Power's application for a new license for the Hells Canyon Complex.

That study was completed in 2007. Because the relicensing process has taken so long, FERC needs to update that study. Once that supplemental EIS is published, the public will have a minimum of 45 days to comment (visit idahopower.com/relicensing for updated information.)

After considering the public comments, FERC will issue a final supplemental EIS – probably in the first half of 2024. Key issues will include a fish-related agreement between Idaho Power and the states of Oregon and Idaho, Clean Water Act provisions, methyl mercury impacts, climate change, environmental justice and a request by some regional Native American Tribes for fish reintroduction studies.

Once the EIS is issued and any outstanding issues are resolved, Idaho Power hopes to receive a new license sometime in 2025.

From the Energy-efficient Kitchen

August 2023
Dinner

Grilled Teriyaki Steak

1 lb thin sirloin steak

1 cup soy sauce

1 tsp fresh ginger, grated

¼ cup sugar

2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped

Mix ingredients until sugar is well dissolved. Cut steak into one-inch-wide strips. Marinate steak in teriyaki mixture for at least two hours. Thread steak onto skewers and grill 3-4 minutes per side over medium heat. Makes four servings.

Recipe selected from Idaho Power's Centennial Celebration Cookbook.

The Hells Canyon Complex

Hells Canyon Dam

Capacity: 391,500 kilowatts.

Brought online: 1967

Length of Reservoir: 25 miles.

Idaho Power's fish trap here captures adult salmon and steelhead, which are then spawned at the company's fish hatcheries.

Oxbow Dam

Capacity: 190,001 kilowatts

Brought online: 1961

Length of reservoir: 13 miles.

Oxbow takes its name from a three-mile bend in the Snake River that early settlers said resembled the U-shaped collar around an ox's neck.

Brownlee Dam

Capacity: 675,000 kilowatts

Brought online: 1959

Length of reservoir: 57 miles.

Brownlee is Idaho Power's largest hydroelectric plant. It originally had four generators; the fifth was added in 1980.