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Pacific Power, The Freshwater Trust partner to restore Oregon streams

Through Blue Sky program, customers personally support habitat enhancement projects

PORTLAND, Ore. – Pacific Power customers choosing to support renewable energy through the award-winning Blue Sky program can now also help fund Oregon native fish habitat preservation and restoration projects managed by The Freshwater Trust.

The new partnership with The Freshwater Trust continues a popular habitat enhancement option that Oregon Pacific Power residential and small non-residential customers have had since 2002. By making this choice, customers participating in the Blue Sky program can also donate \$2.50 per month to directly help improve habitat of native fish, including salmon in the state. . More than 4,500 Pacific Power customers in Oregon are currently supporting this program each month.

“The Freshwater Trust has a great track record of selecting important stream habitat projects and making sure they are done in a timely and cost-effective way,” said Pat Egan, Pacific Power’s vice president of customer and community affairs. “Their StreamBank program to track and manage project planning and permitting is a unique tool and a national model that ensures that donations made to The Freshwater Trust have direct and strong impacts on the stream ecosystems targeted for restoration. These projects will be funded by Pacific Power customers, leverage other resources, and will benefit projects in Pacific Power territory. It is a classic win for all involved.”

“We look forward to delivering effective, localized restoration projects for Pacific Power’s customers,” said Joe Whitworth, president of The Freshwater Trust. “With habitat loss being the single most important factor contributing to wild fish declines and almost 30 percent of our rivers unable to fully support aquatic life, investing in river and stream restoration is critical to health of salmon runs and waterways throughout the region.”

Pacific Power customers who choose to participate in the Blue Sky Habitat option pay \$0.012 more per kilowatt-hour above Basic Service rates to support 100 percent renewable energy that is equal to their monthly usage, plus a \$2.50 flat monthly rate. The typical Oregon household using 950 kilowatt-hours monthly will pay \$13.90 more each month—including the renewable and the habitat elements—to participate in this voluntary program. The total additional amount paid each month will fluctuate depending on monthly usage, but the \$2.50 donation to promote healthy fish habitat remains the same.

Since 2002, customer donations to the Habitat program have helped provide funding for 61 projects in a dozen Oregon counties, which supported habitat areas equivalent to more than 130 river miles. In 2010, Blue Sky customers donated more than \$140,000 to habitat projects in this way. For a list of projects benefiting from Blue Sky Habitat customers, visit www.pacificpower.net/blueskyhabitat

About The Freshwater Trust

The Freshwater Trust is an action-oriented 501(c)(3) not-for-profit that restores rivers and streams throughout Oregon. The Freshwater Trust uses cooperative, market-based solutions that benefit rivers, working lands and local communities – from working with landowners to keep more water in streams to streamlining restoration processes to achieve greater pace and scale to improving aquatic habitat using a localized approach.

About Blue Sky

Strong customer support has enabled the Blue Sky program to be instrumental in the creation of more federally recognized Green Power Communities than any other program in the nation. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory has ranked Blue Sky fifth or better in the nation for the eighth consecutive year in the number of customers buying renewable power and for renewable power sales volume. The program is Green-e Energy Certified, which means the renewable energy supported meets the rigorous national environmental and consumer-protection standards established by the nonprofit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy, visit www.green-e.org/energy. More than 40,000 customers in the Northwest are part of Blue Sky.

About Pacific Power

Pacific Power provides electric service to almost 730,000 customers in Oregon, Washington and California. Our goal is to provide our customers with value for their energy dollar, and safe, reliable electricity. Pacific Power is part of PacifiCorp, one of the lowest-cost electricity producers in the United States, with 1.7 million customers in six western states. For more information, visit www.pacificpower.net.