

Power of the People

By W. Marc Farmer,
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WOEC Renewable Energy Projects

West

Oregon Electric Cooperative is involved in two renewable energy projects through Power Resources Cooperative (PRC). We have been a part of the Coffin Butte Landfill project for over ten years, and have now added participation in a Wave Energy Project. I wanted to give you some exciting news on both projects.

WOEC is pleased to introduce our new Green Power program. The Green Power program offers our members the opportunity to purchase an-

other source of renewable energy, in addition to our current renewable energy source of hydro power from BPA. With all of the increased interest levels in renewable energy across the country, and in our own service area, we wanted to create a way for our members to participate in the use of additional clean, renewable, and environmentally friendly sources of energy.

The renewable energy used in our Green Power program will come from power produced at the Coffin Butte Resource Project, which creates the power by burning methane gas produced from a nearby landfill. WOEC has owned a share of the Coffin Butte Project since 1996 but, until now, has sold its entire share of the output to another utility. We will now be offering our members an opportunity to purchase blocks of Green Power from Coffin Butte renewable energy by simply

asking for an application to sign up for the program.

We will be selling Green Power in blocks of 100 kilowatt hours at \$2 per block. This amount will be an addition to your normal power bill. Members will sign a one year contract to purchase as many blocks as they would like up to the amount of their average normal usage. For example, if I were to sign up and purchase five blocks (500 kWh) of Green Power, this would increase my regular power bill by \$10 per month. Each additional block purchased helps us continue to offer renewable energy – now through Coffin Butte – and in other projects WOEC is involved in through our membership in PRC. Look for more information and an application in the March issue of Ruralite if you would like to be a part of the Green Power Program.

PRC is also participating in the development of Wave Ener-

gy off the Oregon Coast in conjunction with Oregon State University and Ocean Power Technologies, Inc. (OPT). A test unit will be placed this summer just off the coastline by Gardiner. If the test is successful, 13 more units will be placed in 2008.

The attributes that make this project so appealing to us is that it is a non-polluting form of energy, it can be readily integrated into local distribution systems, it is more reliable and predictable than wind power,

and produces more energy per meter than wind, as water is denser than air. We are excited about the potential of this project to produce future renewable energy. BPA has offered funds to help us develop this new technology. WOEC is using part of our Conservation Rate Credits to participate in this new technology. If this project successfully produces energy sufficient for power usage, it could very well become a future part of the WOEC Green Power Program.

Hagg Lake opens this weekend for trout

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife officials remind anglers that Henry Hagg Lake in Washington County opens to trout fishing Saturday, March 3. ODFW will stock the lake with 18,000 legal-size rainbow trout and 120 larger brood trout prior to opening day.

Located 25 miles southwest of Portland, Hagg Lake is a 1,200-acre reservoir constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation for irrigation and flood control. The lake averages 51 feet in depth and is 110 feet deep at its maximum.

At the BiMart Hagg Lake Fishing Derby, anglers who catch one of the 200 specially marked trout will win a prize. This event runs until 2:00 p.m.

Henry Hagg Lake is operated by Washington County as Scoggins Valley Park. Facilities include two boat ramps, sever-

al picnic areas, a handicapped fishing dock, and a network of hiking trails. Users pay a day-use fee for vehicles and boats. For more information about the park, call Washington County Parks Department at (503) 846-8715.

Vernonia Lake trout stocking set

Vernonia Lake is scheduled to be stocked with 3,000 trout the week of March 12. Stocking is done by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Additional trout are sched-

uled to be stocked in Vernonia Lake the week of March 19 (4,000 trout) and the week of April 16 (1,000 trout). Happy fishing.



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