

THE *Confluence*

The Power of Water

Port of LEWISTON

MARCH 2026

Clearwater Power CEO Telly Stanger
(Photo by Christopher Stone, Etched
in Stone Media)

Fighting to Keep the Power Flowing at the *Lower Snake River Dams*



Telly Stanger's job centers on a basic need that's as essential as it is contentious. It's a topic that stirs heated debates and power struggles behind closed doors, in courtrooms, and within the halls of government. What is this essential resource? Water, or more specifically, its power.

"Hydropower is huge," said Stanger, Chief Executive Officer at Clearwater Power, a not-for-profit electric cooperative that keeps the lights on thousands of people in more than 11 counties in the Northwest, including Nez Perce and Asotin. "Reliable power increases lifespan, and here we're lucky to have our primary source flowing in our rivers."

Indeed, the member-owned cooperative derives nearly 75% of its electricity from hydropower, facilitated by the locks and dams of the Columbia-Snake River System. Thanks to this reliable, carbon-free resource, Idaho boasted the most affordable electricity rates in the nation as recently as 2021. However, Idaho has since dropped to eighth place, and it may slip further if efforts to dismantle the Lower Snake River Dams succeed.

"They want to spill water rather than generate power, and that makes no sense," said Stanger, who came to Clearwater Power with 20 years of experience in the utility industry, most recently in Montana. "These dams are crucial for maintaining affordable power."

The debate surrounding the Lower Snake River Dams has spanned decades, but tensions have escalated recently following a Portland judge's preliminary injunction mandating increased water spillage at federal dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers. While supporters of dam breaching claim it is vital for salmon survival, Stanger views it as waste and an unproven theory disguised as fact.

"Data and science don't matter anymore," he said, noting that millions have already been spent on ways to enhance salmon survival. "We need to focus on reliability, affordability, and keeping people safe."

Over his years in the industry, Stanger has developed a profound appreciation for the people behind electric cooperatives and the communities they support. Clearwater Power itself was formed in 1937 by local farmers to bring electricity to rural communities often overlooked by larger companies of the time. In the decades since, the company has stayed true to keeping rates affordable.

"Each co-op is different in some way, but we all have the same interests and concerns," Stanger said. The increased spillage through August poses a significant challenge for cooperatives, with estimates suggesting a potential loss of up to 400 megawatts of power generation during the hottest months of the year.

As demand increases, so do costs, and despite the dedicated efforts of public utilities like Clearwater Power, these rising expenses will ultimately be passed on to consumers.

"We have to look at our budgets like everyone else. We have to see what we can take out of it to keep rates as low as possible," Stanger said.

Solutions posed for the resulting loss via increased spillage won't bridge the gap. Stanger notes that the injunction promotes 100% spillage from April through August, spanning the period of largest demand in the region – the sweltering summer season.

"These dams are absolutely essential for reliable power," he asserted, emphasizing that solar and wind energy lack the necessary reliability. "Dams are complex and efficient, ramping up power quietly and dependably."

Stanger noted that Clearwater Power members recognize the tremendous value offered by hydropower and the Lower Snake River Dams, expressing hope that others will appreciate what they have before it's too late.

"Why would we take away a guaranteed resource to face a shortage in supply?" he asked. "We are lucky to have this amazing infrastructure. Hydropower is carbon-free, it's in place and it's working."

The Growing Power Need

- **Nearly 9,000 MW of new capacity needed by 2030, matching Oregon's entire current load.**
- **Wind and solar rely on favorable weather conditions - the wind must blow, the sun must shine.**
- **Federal policy, permitting, and budget constraints hinder new resource development.**

*Data from "Resource Adequacy and the Energy Transition in the Pacific Northwest" report for WA Utilities and Transportation Commission and Department of Commerce.

Welcome, Denise!

The Port is delighted to welcome Denise Metz to the Commission following the retirement of longtime Commissioner Jerry Klemm.

"I am so honored to have been selected from a very qualified group of candidates, and following in Commissioner Klemm's footsteps will not be easy," said Metz. "I will work hard to always have the citizens' best interests heard and valued, and to keep the Port of Lewiston on the path of continuous growth."

Denise brings over 32 years of experience in resource-based industries, including leadership roles at Potlatch, Clearwater Paper, and Idaho Forest Group, where she currently serves as Safety & Security Manager.

"The Port of Lewiston is a cornerstone of growth and commerce," Denise said. "Its role in supporting agriculture and forestry - two pillars of our local industry - is essential to ensuring our businesses remain competitive and our community thrives."

Port General Manager Scott Corbitt values the perspective Denise can add to the team. "With her wealth of experience and her open mind, Commissioner Metz will be an ideal leader to help the Port maximize its impact."

Denise, who has lived in Lewiston since she was 11 years old "turning a wrench" in her Dad's radiator shop, is grateful for the chance to give back to her community. She and husband, Barney, District Manager for Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District, have been married for 37 years and have two children and three granddaughters. Son Sam and his wife Casey live in Kamiah with daughter Alice. Daughter Kristin Million and husband Justin live in Pullman with their children, Evie and Mirabel.

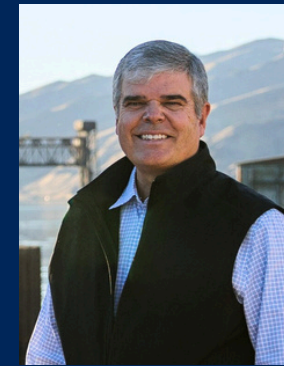
"I am eager to contribute meaningfully to the continued growth and success of this community," she said.



Denise and husband Barney holding Alice (2 1/2) and Mirabel (4) respectively, with oldest granddaughter Evie, 6, standing.

Denise's term will expire at the end of 2026, which is the end of the District 3 seat vacated by Jerry Klemm. She has filed to run for election for a full 6-year term this November.

The Eddy



Scott Corbitt
Port of Lewiston
General Manager

Who gets to decide the fate of a river? Who gets to decide whether dams produce electricity or whether the turbines remain idle? And who ultimately decides whether a place like Lewiston gets to enjoy the benefits of the dams like we have for more than 50 years? In the case of the ongoing litigation titled National Wildlife Federation, et al. v. National Marine Fisheries Service, et al., Case No. 3:01-cv-00640-SI, a single person, using flawed data and incomplete argument, can indeed make that decision impacting the lives of so many.

That single person is the Federal judge located in Portland, OR who recently granted the motion from the Plaintiffs, a group that includes the states of Oregon and Washington, numerous environmental groups like the Sierra Club, and four Native American tribes, including the Nez Perce, for emergency injunctive relief to take control of the operations along the Columbia and Snake rivers. This control includes adding continuous spill over the dams through months of the year, preventing the generation of power. It also includes managing the pool levels behind the dams at minimum levels that result in questionable depths for safe navigation.

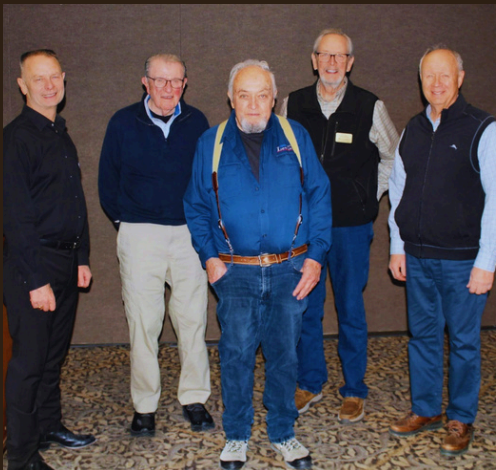
This judge's ruling came despite extensive efforts from the attorneys for the Defendants and Defendant-Intervenors. These defenders presented evidence on the science of fish passage and survival, safe navigation, and the actual statutory meaning of a species in jeopardy. It was some of the highest caliber legal drafting I have ever seen. Unfortunately, it became exceedingly clear that this judge's mind had been made up long before he considered any of the arguments.

So now we live with the effects of this one person's opinion. True, we have options to appeal and many of the Defendants will travel that path. In the meantime, we will live with the uncertainty of the 100% spill, with our talented barge operators reacting to new conditions as they move 14,000 tons of wheat through a lock in a four-barge tow. We will live with uncertainty of the "experiment" of exposing our fish to 125% total dissolved gas. We will live with the reality of our power bills, historically some of the lowest in the nation, increasing by 40-50% in the coming months. Supply and demand.

I often get asked "how can this be happening?". To this I reply that plaintiffs to a lawsuit get to select the jurisdiction where they file. A judge friendly to a plaintiff's cause is a major advantage. But please keep in mind that this lawsuit is merely the prelude to the ultimate fight for our dams in Congress. Only Congress can authorize dam breaching. The Plaintiffs' current efforts are not as much about saving fish as they are about creating a case to present to Congress. With this Order the Plaintiffs will try to show that our dams do not produce enough power to justify their existence. But even under conditions requiring lower power output, the Lower Snake River Dams still produce enough power to light up 800,000 homes.

So at the end of the day, one person can affect the outcome of an individual battle, but the war remains in our hands. Tell your members of Congress that you support the Lower Snake River Dams and all the benefits they provide for us.

Thank You, Jerry!



A crowd of well-wishers turned out for the retirement open house of Commissioner Jerry Klemm after nearly two decades of dedicated service on the Commission. Family, friends, colleagues, community members, and even governmental representatives came out in large numbers to give him a warm send-off. Here he is pictured with current commissioners Joe Anderson (far left) and Mike Thomason (second from right), and former commissioners Todd Maddock (second from left) and Dale Aldredge (far right). We will miss you, Jerry!

CFC Board of Directors



Travis Mykelbust
Former Lewiston
fire chief; current
LCSC professor



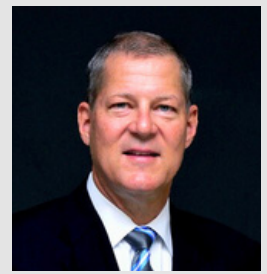
Telly Stanger
Chief Executive
Officer,
Clearwater Power



Mary Hasenoe
Former Port of
Lewiston
Commissioner



Jen Blood
Operations
Manager, Port of
Lewiston



Paul Plofchan
Representative,
Pivot-Tech
Development

Confluence Advisory Group



Matt Mellinger
President,
Northwest
Fourslide



Michelle Ralston
Owner,
Advantage
Advertising



Bert Sahlberg
Communications
Manager,
Clearwater Paper



Michael Collins
Former Lewiston
mayor; current
LCSC track coach

For the Community, *By the Community*

The Port is supporting the formation of Confluence Fiber Communications (CFC) whose mission will be to bring high speed fiber connectivity to every home and business in Lewiston. This network will be built for our community and will be managed by our community without taxpayer dollars or debt to the Port. The local leaders who are tasked with ensuring our community gets every benefit from this network are seen above. A group of 5 makes up the Board of Directors. A group of four additional local leaders comprises the Confluence Advisory Group (CAG) to advise the Board on its connections to the community and the community's reactions to the project. This group of amazing community leaders will oversee construction of the network and operation of the fiber to every home and business. CFC's fiber will transform Lewiston!



Port of LEWISTON

IDAHO'S SEAPORT

OUR VISION

The Port of Lewiston is a respected leader contributing to the region's economic growth and vitality: a model of excellence for transportation, international trade, and job creation.

COMMISSIONERS



Pictured left to right are: **Joseph Anderson**, President; **Mike Thomason**, Vice President; **Denise Metz**, Secretary/Treasurer

OUR TEAM

Scott Corbitt, General Manager
scott@portoflewiston.com

Jen Blood, Operations Manager
jen@portoflewiston.com

Preston Comstock, Finance & Property Manager,
preston@portoflewiston.com

Chad Smith, Maintenance Coordinator
chad@portoflewiston.com

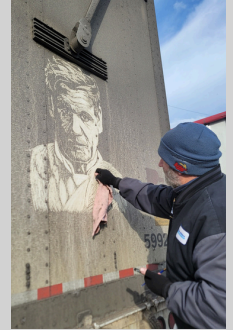
Mary Iacobelli, Communications Coordinator,
mary@portoflewiston.com



SCAN THE QR
CODE TO
VIEW OUR
WEBSITE!

Port of Lewiston
1626 6th Ave N, Lewiston, Idaho 83501
(208) 743-5531
www.portoflewiston.org

Art Done Dirty



After weeks of admiring his work on semitrucks around the Port, we were delighted to catch up with the talented Aaron Decicio, aka "Art Done Dirty." This artist, whose work is seen all around the Valley, uses just a towel and some brushes to create amazing work in the dust on vehicles. His subjects range from stormtroopers and Iron Man to football players and - yes - Gordon Ramsay, a favorite celebrity of wife, Gabrielle. We sure appreciate his talent!!