

Alternative energy Source: Hydroelectric power
Stakeholder: Engineer

I am Dave Reese and I am an engineer and Chief of the Hydrology section at the United States Army Corps of Engineers on the Bonneville Lock and Dam. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates and maintains Bonneville Lock and Dam for hydropower production, fish and wildlife protection, recreation and navigation. Since 1938, Bonneville Dam has supplied the region with inexpensive electrical power. Today, we work with other federal, state, local agencies and Native American Tribes to accomplish our mission. Electrical power generated at Bonneville is distributed by the Bonneville Power Administration. The dam features fish ladders to help native salmon and steelhead get past the dam on their journey upstream to spawn. The large concentrations of fish swimming upstream serves as a tourist attraction during the spawning season. Although some people are against constructing large dams for hydroelectric power, there are many advantages: there is no pollution from hydroelectricity, water is provided free by nature so electricity for residents is cheap and it's renewable. The Bonneville Lock and Dam is a safe and efficient way to provide alternative energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.