

# Laura McClure is New NVEC Manager



## *New leader replaces Bill Miller, who retired after 10 years of service at cooperative*

Laura McClure, Nespelem Valley Electric Cooperative's (NVEC) new general manager, started at NVEC as an office assistant in 1977, learning the business from the ground up.

Laura has always been an active participant in the community of Nespelem.

She has been treasurer for the Nespelem Junior Rodeo Association and the Washington State High School Rodeo Association, and chaperones the Grand Coulee Dam/Nespelem Ski Bus.

Laura is a graduate of Lake Roosevelt High School in Coulee Dam, and has completed U.S. Department of Agriculture and Rural Utilities Service accounting courses.

Laura moved to Nespelem 28 years ago, when she married her cowboy, cattle-ranching husband, Gary. Laura and Gary raise cattle and bucking bulls.

Laura and Gary have two children, Kelly and Tyson. Kelly, a graduate of Washington State University, was recently married to Ben Buchert. "Ty," a senior at Lake Roosevelt High School, is a calf roper and loves rodeo and skiing.

Laura enjoys skiing, rodeo, spending time with her family and decorating her home. ■

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## The Big Three

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Regional transmission organizations (RTOs), such as Grid West, have not worked anywhere they have been used. In 2004, six RTOs operating in different parts of the country cost consumers more than \$1 billion, eliminating any predicted cost savings or efficiencies.

Ultimately RTOs—including Grid West—are a vehicle to deliver full retail deregulation to consumers, which would be devastating to Northwest energy markets and electric rates.

### **Fish and Wildlife Costs**

Since 1970, the BPA has spent

\$6.5 billion on fish and wildlife programs. That investment continues at \$600 million per year—more than 20 percent of NVEC's annual power supply cost. This investment has paid off with record fish runs recorded for the past four years.

Certain environmental groups again have filed a lawsuit against the federal government challenging the 2004 biological opinion (BiOp).

This document explains how the federal government will operate the dams for safe salmon passage up and down river.

The BiOp is stronger than previous versions, and is considered a step in the right direction by those who believe in cost-effective salmon recovery programs.

My prediction is fish and wildlife

costs will continue to increase, despite our best efforts to contain them.

These three issues—power supply, Grid West and fish and wildlife costs—are the big-picture items that have the most chance of increasing electric rates.

We will need your help to contact elected officials when these issues, or others, are discussed.

The best way to get involved is through our Electric Ambassador program. Please sign up online at [www.electricambassadors.com](http://www.electricambassadors.com), or by calling the NVEC office at (509) 634-4571. ■

**Laura McClure**  
General Manager