Renewable Solar Energy at Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery

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• Mission – to exert and protect the inherent sovereignty endowed upon the Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation to promote our Tribal identity, and the well-being of our people, community and environment by building a strong foundation managing resources and perpetuating our cultural lifeways and legacy.
TDN ancestral lands extend north to the Sixes River in Oregon, east to the Applegate River drainage in Oregon, south to Wilson Creek in Del Norte California, and west to the sea stacks off the coast.
Tribal Subsistence
The TDN Natural Resources Department is responsible for issues and projects pertaining to the air, water, ocean, and cultural and other natural resources. The primary function of the Department is to gather data, and to evaluate and make recommendations to the Tribal Council regarding conservation and stewardship projects and policies.
Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery

www.tripadvisor.com

www.tripadvisor.com

www.californiathroughmylens.com

www.californiathroughmylens.com
Project Overview:

Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery rears and releases Chinook and steelhead supporting fishing opportunities in the Smith River.

Supplies Salmon in the Classroom and tours to the local schools.

Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery has an average electric operating expense of ~$25,000 annually.

A reduction in operational costs needed to guarantee long term financial stability.

Renewable energy use would contribute to the environmental sustainability.
113.88KW Photovoltaic system includes:

- 312 x 365 watt solar panels

Installation of 28 panel roof mounted system

Installation of 284 panels on 6 different ground mounted solar arrays using ground mount racking system and trenching between solar arrays.

Installation of electric Balance-of-System from arrays to PV inverters

Removal of trees and vegetation in selected areas that will effect solar production.

Installation of landscaping material to impede vegetation growth beneath the arrays post construction and installation of landscaping materials to mitigate potential run off into waterways as a result of construction.
GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS:
1. THE SYSTEM IS 113.88KW DC RATED SYSTEM
2. MODULES: 312 @ REC 365 WATT PANELS
3. INVERTERS: 2 @ SOLAREDGE 43.2KW 3PH/208V INVERTERS WITH 156 @ P730 OPTIMIZERS
4. RACKING: IRON RIDGE GROUND MOUNT/ FLUSH MOUNT RACKING ON E-JOT ATTACHMENTS
5. ROOF MOUNTED SYSTEM ON CORRUGATED METAL ROOF ATTACHED TO STEAL FURLINGS
6. NO BATTERIES OR UPS
7. STANDARD COMPONENTS INCLUDE: RACKING AND MOUNTING COMPONENTS, WIRING, CONDUIT, OVER-CURRENT PROTECTION.
8. ALL OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT WILL BE WEATHER RATED.
9. ALL OUTDOOR WIRING WILL BE WEATHER RATED.
Progress to Date

Task 1 completed

- Completed pre-award negotiation process with DOE
  - Biological Assessment Completed
  - Elevation Certificate Submitted
  - Contractor getting under contract
  - Tribal administrative and fiscal responsibilities assigned
- Kickoff meeting convened
- Tribal Council informed on project progress
Task 2 completed

- Vendors notified to submit contract for Tribal review with final detailed costs, project personnel, and specific timeline for project implementation.
- Formal contract issued to Vendor for professional services and authorization of project to proceed.

Task 3 completed

- Building Permit application submitted to Del Norte County Planning Office reviewed and approved.
- Interconnection Application submitted to Pacific Power reviewed and approved.
Task 4 completed

- Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery project site ready for project implementation
- Heavy equipment brought in for removal of blackberry bushes, trees, and grading
- Debris removed from roof of building
- Trenches prepared to accommodate solar arrays
The system went into operation on 5/4/2020!
Monitoring of the system is conducted via SolarEdge’s online platform:

- **Daily Solar Power Generation**
- **Monthly Power Generation**
- **Carbon Emissions Saved**
- **Equivalent Trees Planted**
- **System Overview**
Carbon Offsets Generated By Hatchery Solar

Offsets generated at the Hatchery through December 1st are 154,783 pounds of CO2

https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator
The Hatchery solar project has resulted in the equivalent of 1,169 trees planted.

The number of trees per acre in a healthy forest vary by forest type, here in the Pacific Northwest the values range from ~50-150, which translates into roughly 15 acres of forest (ranges from 7-23) equivalent in just the first 7 months of the project.

https://www.savetheredwoods.org/blog/forest/collaboration-for-conservation/
Financial Benefits of Solar
2019 monthly power bills averaged $1,407 – the average bill post solar installation in 2020 is $80.
Electric cost per day averaged $42.95 in 2019, after installation the cost dropped to $2.57.
Year over Year Comparison for the months we have data to analyze

Pre and Post Solar Electric Billing Comparison

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<th>Solar</th>
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<td>September-October</td>
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Financials... The Buck Stops Here

- 2019 Electric Bill Total: $16,888.32

- Estimated Yearly Electric Bill with Solar: $938.05 (Based on CPD estimates)

- Estimated Yearly Savings: $15,950.27

www.pinterest.com
What Can We Do With The Money Saved On Electricity?

- The money saved by switching to solar can be used to buy fish food – a lot of it!
  - RCFH currently spends ~$750 per year on fish food.
  - $15,950.27 money saved by solar $750 per year food costs = over 21 years of fish food!

- The money saved could be used for payroll:
  - The hatchery spends ~$55,000 per year on labor.
  - $15,950.27 money saved by solar $55,000 payroll per year = 3.4 months of payroll!

https://www.bio-oregon.com/
https://www.pymnts.com/
Project Participants

**Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation**
- Grant Administrators
- Prepared the landscape for panel installation along with guidance from Greenwired
- Will assist in maintaining the system

**Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery**
- Provided site knowledge to Greenwired
- Will assist in maintaining the system

**Greenwired Renewable Energy Solutions**
- Designed and constructed the system
- Assisted with getting the required permits
- Obtaining interconnection agreement with Pacific Power
- Assisted with any additional needs required to construct and operate the PV system
SPECIAL THANKS