



Terry Flores, Executive Director
(503) 274-7792 (503) 367-9997
www.nwriverpartners.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW APPROACH, NEW SCIENCE HOLDS PROMISE FOR NORTHWEST SALMON RECOVERY

PORTLAND, Ore., October 31, 2007 — The National Marine Fisheries Service today submitted its current draft salmon plan to the U.S. District Court. The plan offers great hope for the region’s wild salmon and steelhead recovery efforts and addresses the points raised by U.S. District Court Judge Jim Redden, according to Terry Flores, executive director of the Northwest RiverPartners, an alliance of farmers, utilities, ports and businesses that promotes science-based and cost-effective salmon recovery.

“The draft salmon plan issued today is unprecedented in its collaborative development and uses a rigorous science approach never before seen,” said Flores, “This is in stark contrast to claims made by the usual outliers that this plan is more of the same.”

The new draft is notably different in several critical aspects and it only takes cracking the cover to see that,” she continued. “Clearly, the environmental extremists and harvesters had their minds made up long ago. They would not support any plan that rejects the impractical notion of removing dams which provide the Northwest with renewable, carbon-free energy and help our local communities prosper.”

The scientific information utilized in the plan looks at each ESA-listed fish stock individually throughout its lifecycle, and provides a scientific roadmap to address the critical bottlenecks in their recovery.

“The new draft takes current scientific information gathered at the watershed level for individual populations and applies it to the problems facing listed fish as they move to and from the Pacific Ocean, something that’s never been done before. The plan also guarantees that substantial funds will be spent on hydrosystem and habitat measures that will help put listed stocks on a path towards recovery,” noted Flores.

The new draft plan identifies more than \$1.5 billion to be invested in improving fish passage at dams, with survival rates expected to be in the 96-98% range. Significant habitat restoration funds are provided for key tributaries, the critical Lower Columbia estuary and for new predation controls.

“The current science assessment indicates that almost all ESA-listed stocks are rebuilding. It also points out what we’ve known for some time, that hydro operations and habitat restoration are not the whole story. We’ve got to address the harvest and hatchery production issues more thoroughly if we’re going to be successful in our salmon recovery efforts,” said Flores.

Flores said the plan remains weak in those areas. Her organization’s hope is that the new science will be used to address all areas of concern in the salmon recovery debate, including the need for serious reform of hatchery practices and harvest of listed salmon and steelhead which are contributing to species declines.

Northwest RiverPartners is a partnership of farmers, electric utilities, ports and businesses joined together to promote science-based, cost effective salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest. RiverPartners supports responsible policies that will lead to increased salmon runs and continued economic opportunity for the Pacific Northwest.

###