



NEWS RELEASE

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Salmon Plan's Science Re-Affirmed – Time to Move On

Northwest RiverPartners urges prompt action to approve the federal salmon plan to focus on implementation to help listed salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake rivers.

"It's long overdue - after nearly two decades of litigation, it is time to finally get out of the court room and focus our energies and resources on actions in the plan to help listed salmon and steelhead" Terry Flores, executive director of Northwest RiverPartners, said Thursday.

"This latest in-depth science review involved NOAA Fisheries' top scientists, the region's Independent Science Advisory Board and other independent scientists and reconfirms that the plan is based in the best possible science" said Flores.

"The plan has been scrutinized from every angle and by every stakeholder possible – it is the most thoroughly reviewed plan for listed species ever", Flores said. "And, it certainly is unprecedented in its cost – witness the nearly \$1 billion per year that will be paid by Northwest families and businesses during these tough economic times," Flores said.

The filing made today in U.S. Western District Court of Oregon today responds to issues raised by Judge James Redden and supplements the 2008 biological opinion by incorporating the Administration's "Adaptive Management Implementation Plan", with slight additions.

The plan also is unprecedented in that it was developed collaboratively by the federal agencies with the states of Washington, Idaho and Montana and virtually all the region's Sovereign tribal governments over a two year period.

"It's time to move on and focus on the actions in the plan to help the fish," Flores said, who added that she expects anti-dam activists to seek to keep the issue in the courtroom so they can press an agenda of removing dams, rather than implementing on-the-ground measures to help listed fish.

Northwest RiverPartners is an alliance of farmers, utilities, ports and business that promote the economic and environmental benefits of the Columbia and Snake Rivers and salmon recovery policies based on sound science.