



*Terry Flores, Executive Director of Northwest RiverPartners, delivered these remarks at a celebration August 20, 2007, to commemorate President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of the Bonneville Project Act 70 years ago.*

### **Congratulations and happy 70<sup>th</sup> birthday BPA!**

We are steadfast believers in the Federal Columbia River Power System and the benefits it has delivered over the past seven decades. This event gives us a chance to acknowledge and celebrate the degree to which our hydro system defines this region and powers the Northwest economy. And, it gives us the opportunity to thank you for your hard work and dedication.

RiverPartners represents dozens of organizations and thousands of ordinary families who value the Columbia and Snake rivers for their natural beauty and for the role they play as living, working partners in the lives of *every* citizen of the Pacific Northwest. The federal government's decision to harness the power of the river over 70 years ago was visionary. No one then could even have imagined the huge dairy farms, network-server ranches, biotechnology labs, and shopping villages that are energized today by the hydro system. Just bringing lights to the homes and farms of the rural Pacific Northwest was revolutionary at that time.

And that is just the power side of things. RiverPartners counts among its members, farmers, water users, ports, waterways associations, food processors, and large industries for which the river and the dams are their lifeblood.

The employees and friends of the Bonneville Power Administration are a huge part of the successful decades-long stewardship of the system. The value to the region may sometimes get lost in the rhetoric of those who don't understand what the hydro system brings to us all, but the public understands. RiverPartners has conducted recent opinion polls that show the general public understands the value of the Northwest's hydroelectric system and supports BPA's work. Nearly 85 percent of Northwest citizens recognize hydro as a renewable resource – akin to wind and solar; 54 percent identify it as the Northwest's most practical resource; and 74 percent agree it is a resource that does not contribute to climate change concerns.

Because we want that support to grow and flourish, Northwest RiverPartners launched a *Green Dams, Blue Skies* campaign earlier this year. We want to spread the word that renewable hydropower fuels our lives without clouding our beautiful blue skies with carbon and other emissions. We are gathering the names of all of those groups and individuals who support the hydro system, and already, we have hundreds signed up and dozens of resolutions passed by boards and commissions in support of our campaign – essentially in support of you and what you do.

We encourage you to add your name to our Green Dams, Blue Skies effort by going to our website [www.nwriverpartners.org](http://www.nwriverpartners.org) and signing up. We need your help in getting the word out that the federal hydro system is the region's cleanest and most reliable renewable resource!

Occasions like this are important to recognize those who went before us and were possessed of the determination and will to make a great thing happen. It is also an opportunity to express our gratitude to the employees of Bonneville. On behalf of RiverPartners, I present this framed salute to Steve Wright, Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration. It is for all of you who carry on this great hydropower tradition – the power of the Northwest.



Terry Flores, Executive Director  
Northwest RiverPartners

Northwest RiverPartners is a partnership of farmers, electric utilities and large and small businesses in the Pacific Northwest, joined together to ensure that the Columbia and Snake rivers remain living, working rivers. It was founded on the belief that these rivers are the Northwest's greatest natural resource providing residents with clean, affordable and renewable electricity, flood control, irrigation for our farm lands, healthy fish and wildlife, maritime trade, and a multitude of recreational opportunities. For more information, please visit [www.nwriverpartners.org](http://www.nwriverpartners.org).