



## Public Power Council

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### **NOAA Fisheries Employs Sound Science to Help Salmon** *PPC Comments on Supplemental Biop Release*

Portland, Ore. – Today, NOAA Fisheries released the latest iteration of the Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (FCRPS BiOp), the plan that manages the Columbia and Snake Rivers to protect 13 salmon and steelhead populations listed under the Endangered Species Act. This plan continues to utilize the best available science to protect Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead on a working Columbia River power and navigation system.

“This updated salmon plan continues on the path of progress seen over the past decade,” said Scott Corwin, Executive Director of the Public Power Council, which represents consumer-owned electric utilities and their ratepayers across the region who rely on the clean hydropower produced by this system.

The updated BiOp meets the U.S. District Court’s requirement that NOAA submit an amended plan that specifies additional habitat actions. NOAA also found that the 2008 BiOp has yielded positive results. Salmon passage rates at the dams is very high, more than 10,000 acres of fish habitat is being enhanced and protected, and hundreds of miles of new stream access is now available. The fruits of these labors have led to the highest salmon returns in over 75 years.

“The region’s electric utility ratepayers are funding most of this massive effort, so it is good to see that it is working effectively to meet the fish survival goals,” said Scott Corwin, Executive Director of the Public Power Council.

The Federal Columbia River Power System BiOp is the most comprehensive and costly effort in the nation to protect ESA-listed species.

*PPC represents Pacific Northwest consumer-owned utilities on issues related to the Federal Columbia River Power System.*

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