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NW RiverPartners calls for scientific scrutiny of BPA salmon proposals
Agreements with tribes are not exempt from accountability

Northwest RiverPartners said today that agreements reached by the Bonneville Power Administration with Northwest tribes are not exempt from scientific scrutiny to ensure that the proposals to spend hundreds of millions of dollars more will provide real benefits to endangered salmon and steelhead.

"We appreciate the federal treaty trust obligations to the tribes," said Terry Flores, executive director of the alliance of Columbia and Snake river users, but she called for the proposals to be reviewed by the Independent Science Review Panel, already charged under federal law with evaluating fish and wildlife projects in the Northwest.

"The spending proposed under these agreements is in addition to the billions already proposed under the new salmon plan over the next 10 years," Flores aid.

"Investments by the region's electricity consumers in fish and wildlife should be spent in a transparent and accountable process that uses the best science now available," Flores said.

The Northwest already has invested more than \$9 billion in the past 20 years to restore Northwest fish and wildlife resources at the direction of state and tribal fish managers.

"The answer to salmon recovery is not to throw more money at it, but to ensure that the dollars are well spent and deliver results," Flores said. "A rigorous scientific analysis, and a comprehensive approach covering all factors affecting listed salmon, is essential to ensure this happens."

In 2007 alone, according to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, \$861 million was invested in salmon measures, including providing added flows for fish resulting in significant lost renewable energy production.

Northwest RiverPartners support science-based, accountable improvements in salmon recovery and protection of other benefits of the Columbia and Snake rivers.

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