



TEN YEARS OF ACTION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2005 – 2015

Ten years ago, Northwest RiverPartners formed as litigation over operations of the federal hydropower system reached a peak. The stakes were high. The presiding federal court judge held the Northwest's economy and environment – which relies on clean renewable, reliable and affordable energy – in his hands.

It was time for utilities, ports, agriculture and businesses to come together. They came together to provide a coordinated legal defense and voice in support of the hydropower system and the massive investments by Northwest families and businesses in helping 13 stocks of endangered salmon. Northwest RiverPartners became that defense and that voice. Over time, RiverPartners also became a strong voice for the Northwest's clean, renewable hydro power through its "CleanHydro" public education media campaign.

RiverPartners: Time to Reach Out, Act and Speak Up

RiverPartners was founded on the dual premise that salmon, dams and hydropower can and must co-exist, and that restoration policies and actions must be based in sound science to ensure salmon and other species will benefit from our collective actions. Our role is to ensure that the investments being made by electric utility customers to benefit fish and wildlife in the Northwest are spent wisely, not wasted. RiverPartners is a tireless advocate for salmon, clean hydropower and the dams that bring so much economic and environmental vitality to the Columbia River Basin and Northwest residents' lives.

Salmon Return in Record Numbers

There is much to celebrate: First and foremost, the last 15 years have seen dramatic and persistent increases in overall adult salmon returns to Bonneville Dam. The Northwest now boasts the largest restoration program for any species anywhere in the nation and likely the world. A billion-dollar habitat restoration program is bearing fruit, and changes to federal hydro operations are speeding young salmon to the sea at very high survival levels – similar to those seen in undammed rivers. The combination of these activities, the myriad other actions in the federal salmon plan, or Biological Opinion (BiOp), that are now underway, and good ocean conditions is working to help the fish.

RiverPartners Plays Key Role in BiOp Litigation and Implementation

RiverPartners helped form and continues to facilitate an unusual and powerful coalition of federal, state, tribal and river interests that is a true force in the federal BiOp case. Working together, this Regional Coalition shared perspectives, filed joint briefs, and coordinated courtroom arguments to put on the best possible defense of the salmon plan. Also, as the BiOp's myriad measures are implemented to protect and restore protected salmon, RiverPartners plays a key role in seeing that the best science is brought to bear to ensure benefits to the species and protect our customers and constituents' investments. And, as the hydro system faces more lawsuits, RiverPartners is there, providing a strong legal defense.

Snake Dams Enjoy Solid Public Support

RiverPartners is a tireless defender of the Snake River dams, which remain firmly in place and enjoy growing public support. That is the case despite calls for dam removal from those who seek free-flowing rivers and a return to a time before hydropower, population growth and climate change. RiverPartners' annual public opinion polling, by an independent research firm over the last ten years, consistently shows we are in touch with public sentiment when it comes to the dams: This year, support for the Snake River dams stood at 70 percent, and 77 percent of residents confirmed they want to see salmon and dams co-exist.

CleanHydro TV Campaign Puts Hydro Back in the Picture

As part of its mission to promote clean renewable hydroelectricity, RiverPartners mounted a major public education TV and print ad campaign called "CleanHydro" from 2013 to 2015, with great results. For too long, hydropower had been overlooked as the key player in the Northwest's clean renewable legacy—even as it provided more than 60 percent of the region's electric energy and 90 percent of its renewable energy. CleanHydro changed that, with over 7 million people in the Northwest seeing our message of "Way to Go H2O," learning about how hydro helps keep our skies clean and the many economic benefits of the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

NWRP: A Trusted Resource

As RiverPartners works with federal agencies, states, tribes and our closely-aligned trade association partners, we've made our mark: In the media, with members of Congress including our Northwest delegation, policymakers such as the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Governor's offices and many others. RiverPartners counters misinformation with facts and well-reasoned perspectives, paying close attention to what the best science is telling us.

We've had a huge impact in our short history—in the courts and halls of power, in the news media, and in the hearts and minds of Northwest residents. In the coming years, RiverPartners will continue to reach out, act and speak up on behalf of salmon, our economy and our quality of life.

Thanks to our member organizations which represent 4 million utility customers, 40,000 farmers, thousands of port jobs and small businesses.