



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**October 24, 2023  
Vancouver, WA**

### **Northwest RiverPartners Names Interim Executive Director**

*Stebbing will manage transition to organization's next leader*

**Vancouver, Washington**—October 24, 2023— Northwest RiverPartners today announces Heather Stebbings as interim executive director starting November 15th. Stebbings will overlap with outgoing Executive Director Kurt Miller to ensure a smooth transition. Miller recently accepted a role leading the Northwest Public Power Association.

Most recently, Stebbings served as PNWA's executive director. Heather has worked closely with Northwest RiverPartners in the on-going federal mediation process over hydropower operations. She is a strong advocate for preserving the lower Snake River dams for the many communities who depend on the dams for clean, affordable energy, transportation, and irrigation.

"We couldn't be more excited about Heather joining Northwest RiverPartners as its interim executive director," said Rich Wallen, Northwest RiverPartners' Board Chair. "Heather is an experienced and respected leader. Her familiarity with the benefits of the region's hydropower infrastructure will provide important continuity to RiverPartners during this period of transition."

Stebbing has over 15 years of advocacy and public policy experience in support of the Northwest's hydropower infrastructure, including 13 years directing communications and government relations for Pacific Northwest Waterways Association.

"Northwest RiverPartners is a critical voice in the region to preserve clean, affordable hydroelectricity. The work to educate the public and policymakers has been incredibly effective under Kurt's leadership and I'm

excited about the opportunity to have a hand in making sure those efforts continue,” said Stebbings.

The Northwest RiverPartners board will be forming a hiring committee to recruit and hire a permanent executive director to continue the work of advocating for hydropower on behalf of millions of rate-payers.

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### **About Northwest RiverPartners**

Northwest RiverPartners (NWRP) is a not-for-profit, member-driven organization. We represent not-for-profit, community-owned utilities across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Nevada. We also proudly represent farmers, ports, and businesses across the region that support clean energy and low-carbon transportation.

NWRP is focused on raising awareness about how the Northwest’s hydropower system betters communities and the natural environment, and we encourage science-based solutions that help hydropower and salmon coexist and thrive. <http://nwriverpartners.org>