



PRESS STATEMENT

**June 18, 2026
Vancouver, WA**

Northwest RiverPartners Expresses Appreciation for Improvements to 2026 Fish & Wildlife Program

*Northwest Power & Conservation Council's Final Amendments Address
Concerns Raised by Diverse Coalition*

Vancouver, Washington—June 18, 2026— Northwest RiverPartners, with support from our diverse coalition of utilities, ports, labor, business, and agricultural organizations, expresses our appreciation following the Northwest Power & Conservation Council's adoption of the 2026 Fish & Wildlife Program—which included critical requested changes from the draft released last December.

Following strong engagement by NW RiverPartners members, the Council's final plan removed harmful amendments included in their draft released last December, including one that called for extending spill into August. These provisions lacked substantive benefits for salmon recovery while introducing significant additional risks to the affordability, reliability, and authorized uses of the river system, including irrigation and navigation.

“We feel that the program as adopted addressed many of our biggest concerns,” said Austin Rohr, deputy executive director of Northwest RiverPartners. “Our members and partners around the region stepped up several times throughout this process to make their voices heard, and this is the direct result of their hard work. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnership with the Council and finding ways to build a brighter future for fish, wildlife, and people in our region.”

Following the adoption of the 2026 program, Council staff will prepare the findings for review and adoption. Simultaneously, work is underway on the

Ninth Power Plan, with a draft to be released for public comment in the fall of this year.

Northwest RiverPartners, alongside our partner organizations, will continue to engage with the Council on these critical activities.

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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, Nevada, and Northern California. 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 improves communities and the natural environment, and we encourage science-based solutions that help hydropower and salmon coexist and thrive.