

We Need Your Help to Keep Our Dams! Please Act Today!

In light of Judge Redden's recent guidance letter to the parties in the Biological Opinion debacle, we need your help. Judge Redden has serious reservations about the BiOp and lists six actions he urges the government to consider implementing as settlement discussion continue. The Judge's letter is surprising, given his March 6 statement in court that "We are very close."

The Obama Administration is currently reviewing the BiOp. Ultimately, they will decide whether they support the BiOp, support it with modifications, or reject it in favor of starting over. They are doing so while plaintiffs and dam breach advocates continue their aggressive campaign urging the Administration to include dam breaching in a revised or new BiOp.

Franklin PUD continues to support the BiOp. We urge the Administration to give it a thorough review and to engage all of the sovereigns in that review. It was the product of an unprecedented collaboration among the scientists and fish managers from the federal government, Northwest Tribes and the Northwest states (but not Oregon). We believe the BiOp will stand up under rigorous scientific scrutiny. It provides more funding, more actions, more certainty, and more cooperation for rebuilding fish runs than this region has ever seen. The BiOp, in concert with the historic Tribal and State Fish Accords signed last year, address the key issues of funding and certainty that contributed to rulings against previous BiOps.

But we need your support and help. If you have the time over the next week, would you please send a letter to the editor (or to the Administration itself) in support of the BiOp. The easiest way to do this is go online to the Tri-City Herald, and on the top bar, you will see a tab called "Opinion," then "Write a Letter." They have a 200-word limit so below are some key talking points for your use.

We urge you to visit NW RiverPartners website for more information on the BiOp as well.
www.nwriverpartners.org

(Please remember: Putting these points into your own words and reflecting your own experience is most effective - and time is critical at this point.)

Key points to include in your letter to the editor/Administration:

- There is unprecedented regional support for the latest Biological Opinion or plan to help endangered salmon and steelhead;
- For the first time in decades, states, tribes federal agencies and river interests have rallied around a common plan and stand ready to implement it vs litigating it;
- We too are committed to helping these fish even though it means our customers are shouldered with making an unprecedented investment – literally billions – over the next ten years;
- Nowhere in this country or the world is such an investment being made to help a listed species;
- We support this plan because it is based in sound science and should provide real benefits;
- It was developed collaboratively and transparently and continues that approach throughout its 10-year duration;
- Those few that don't support it are focused on promoting dam removal and/or further diminishing the region's clean hydro energy supply – in the name of helping fish but with no real support for their claims;

- The hydro system provides the region not only with clean, renewable energy but jobs, economic stability and cleaner skies;
- We need to say “enough” to those whose only focus is staying in the court room and fundraising, and forge ahead with implementation of constructive actions that will actually benefit fish;
- Obama administration officials currently reviewing the plan need to stand behind it, seize this historic opportunity to put aside regional divisiveness, and move ahead with salmon recovery.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me. We want our voices heard on this critical issue of salmon recovery.

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