



PACIFIC NORTHWEST WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2020

Contact: Scott Clemans, PNWA Communications Director
360-980-2650 or scott.clemans@pnwa.net

PNWA reacts to lawsuit against Columbia River system operations

PORTLAND, Ore. – Earthjustice yesterday filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue the federal government over the [Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement](#). The EIS was recently approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration, and is supported by Biological Opinions from both NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Pacific Northwest Waterways Association Executive Director Kristin Meira made the following statement in response:

“While we agree that strong action should be taken to support our fish populations in the Northwest, this litigation is unproductive. Narrowing the focus of Columbia Basin salmon recovery to the removal of four Snake River dams ignores the complexity of the basin, the numerous threats faced by the species from ocean conditions and climate change, and the comprehensive commitment our region must have to fish survival and ecological health. This lawsuit is the wrong action focusing on the wrong target and directed to the wrong jurisdiction. It only serves to divide the many entities that must work together, and delay the real work we must accomplish to achieve our mutual goals.”

PNWA in September [praised the Columbia River System Operations EIS](#) and the federal agencies’ approach to balancing the many federally authorized uses of the system while continuing to support the ongoing recovery of endangered species like salmon.

“The river system is central to life in the Pacific Northwest,” said Meira. “It delivers our goods, powers our homes and businesses with clean energy, waters crops, and supports recreation, all while achieving 95% or better fish survival at each of the federal dams with passage facilities. It’s critical we continue working together in good faith to continue improving the system for the benefit of humans, fish and other species, today and for the future.”

For more information on the clean energy, efficient transportation, farm irrigation, fish passage and other benefits of the Columbia-Snake River System, visit www.pnwa.net/rivervalues.

##

The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association is a non-profit, non-partisan trade association of ports, businesses, public agencies and individuals who support navigation, energy, trade and economic development throughout the region. Learn more at www.pnwa.net.