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*CONTACT: Brian Gorman, NOAA Fisheries (206) 526-6613  
Scott Simms, BPA (503) 230-3520  
Diana Cross, Reclamation (208) 378-5020  
Amy Echols, Corps (503) 808-4510*

## **Federal executives respond to Ninth Circuit remand decision** ***Agencies remain committed to biological opinion collaboration***

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit today affirmed the judgment of the U.S. District Court regarding the 2004 biological opinion for federal Columbia Basin hydropower operations.

The federal agencies remain committed to a process begun more than a year ago to produce a comprehensive biological opinion for Federal Columbia River Power System operations that will protect listed salmon.

We look forward to continuing the collaboration process with the states and tribes. We remain hopeful that collaboration will increase the likelihood that the final biological opinion will not only protect salmon but will have broad regional support as well.

Meanwhile, our investments and actions for salmon are producing tangible results. We can report strong survival again in 2006 for juvenile spring chinook as they migrate through reservoirs and past dams.

We are in the process of thoroughly analyzing today's ruling to determine its full effect.

Bob Lohn, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Bill McDonald, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation  
Brigadier General Gregg Martin, Division Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Steve Wright, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration

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