



PO BOX 633  
BOISE, ID 83701  
208-343-7481  
fax 208-343-9376  
iru@idahorivers.org  
www.idahorivers.org

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Bill Sedivy  
Boise

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Buck Drew  
Ketchum

Rick Eichstaedt  
Lewiston

Al Espinosa  
Moscow

Peter Grubb  
Coeur D'Alene

Julie Hall  
Boise

John Heimer  
Boise

Tom Kovalicky  
Grangeville

Andy Munter  
Ketchum

Jackie Nefzger  
Boise

Jim Norton  
Boise

Cathy Nuxoll  
Boise

Jon Ochi  
Idaho Falls

Keith Stonebraker  
Juliaetta

Tom Stuart  
Boise/Stamley

Curtis Webb  
Twin Falls

# PRESS ADVISORY

November 26, 2008

Contact: Idaho Rivers United

For immediate release

Bill Sedivy, o) 208-343-7481 c)208-841-5492

Tom Stuart, h) 208-343-3017

## Salmon advocates ask court — ramp up salmon protections in 2009

The State of Oregon and salmon advocates, including Idaho Rivers United, asked a federal judge Tuesday to order improved in-river protections for endangered salmon and steelhead migrating through the lower Snake and Columbia rivers during 2009.

The injunction request was filed in U.S. District court in Portland, where Judge James Redden is expected to rule early next year. Redden won't decide on the injunction until after he rules on the merits of a lawsuit filed by salmon advocates last June. In that case, conservationists and fishing groups charge that the Bush administration's 2008 salmon plan violates the Endangered Species Act and will not save salmon.

The injunction seeks increased spill past dams and higher river flows to help baby salmon down the Columbia and Snake on their way to the sea. In addition, the request seeks the drawdown of the reservoir behind John Day dam on the Columbia.

Tom Stuart of Boise, a long-time salmon advocate, fisherman and former hotel owner in Stanley, pointed out that court-ordered spill and flow regimes have worked for Idaho's salmon in the past.

"What we're trying to do is build on the spill programs that have been in place for the past three years," Stuart said. "Our higher returns of sockeye salmon to Redfish Lake this summer were spurred at least in part by the spill and flow programs in place during 2006, when most of those sockeye headed out to sea."

IRU Executive Director Bill Sedivy called the injunctive request a first step in protecting salmon and fishing communities in Idaho.

"This injunction is a stop-gap measure designed to buy our salmon and steelhead some time while we get to the business of developing a clean energy infrastructure that's not lethal to salmon, and set a table for regional discussions that will lead to a final and successful salmon solution," Sedivy said.

— End —