



The mission of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board is to restore viable and sustainable populations of salmon, steelhead, and other at-risk species through collaborative, economically sensitive efforts, combined resources, and wise resource management of the Upper Columbia region.

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Regional salmon recovery organization releases *The Power of Partnership*

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

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Wenatchee, WA – The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, a non-profit organization that uses a collaborative approach to salmon recovery in North Central Washington, has released a 12 minute video called *The Power of Partnership*. Produced by Wenatchee-based Howell at the Moon Productions, the video features outstanding cinematography highlighting local landscapes and partners, and tells a remarkable story underlying the salmon recovery efforts in our region.

The video can be seen at the organization's web site, www.ucsrb.com. A limited number of DVDs are also available for outreach and education efforts for schools, non-profits, and salmon recovery partners.

While salmon have inhabited the Columbia River for millennia, *The Power of Partnership* picks up the story in the late 1990s with the listing of spring Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout in the Upper Columbia basin under the Endangered Species Act. The subsequent restrictions imposed by the ESA listings began to impinge on local cultural practices, including farming. In response, a unique partnership of agencies, tribes, regional governments, non-profit organizations, and private citizens reached across cultural and political boundaries to craft a recovery plan for the salmon, assuring local control of the recovery effort.

This regional grassroots effort is a compelling story. And with encouraging increases in recent salmon returns, it appears that the efforts of the UCSRB and its partners are showing early signs of success. Last year's spring Chinook returns were the third largest in records dating back to 1980. The 2009 count of steelhead passing Priest Rapids Dam and entering the Upper Columbia basin was the highest since 1977.

"These numbers are certainly encouraging," noted UCSRB Associate Director Derek Van Marter. "But we have to keep in mind that all salmon runs are at a fraction of their pre-settlement levels. While these returns are encouraging, we still have a long way to go to achieve the recovery goals we've collectively agreed need to be met."

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