

**Columbia River Tribal Statement on the Mitchell Act EIS to the Pacific Fishery  
Management Council  
April 8, 2009**

The Columbia River Treaty tribes continue to be concerned about the lack of proper funding for Mitchell Act hatcheries. We are also concerned about the pace of preparing an EIS for the program. We believe that part of the problem is that not enough resources are being put into finishing the EIS and we are concerned that funding may not be available to implement any needed programmatic changes to the program. Not having this EIS complete interferes with the biggest task of simply getting Congress to appropriate the funds needed to produce the fish that the Mitchell act should be producing over the long term.

The tribes believe that the purpose of the Mitchell Act is to mitigate for hydro development. We have always believed that the focus of Mitchell Act production needs to be on production of fish upstream of Bonneville Dam. Only by focusing production above Bonneville can the program truly achieve its original objective of mitigating for losses caused by hydro development.

We do not believe that the base funding for the Mitchell Act program should be used to mass mark fish. The base funding should be used to produce fish, maintain hatcheries and support the screen program. If Congress insists that these fish be clipped, funding for clipping fins should be found outside the Mitchell Act program.