INDEPENDENT MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE TEAM (IMST)

State of Oregon

John Buckhouse
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January 27, 2003

The Honorable Ted Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310

The Honorable Peter Courtney
Oregon Senate President
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310

The Honorable Karen Minnis
Oregon House Speaker
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310

Please find enclosed the 2002 Annual Report of the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST) for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The Team is sending this report to you, the appointing authority for the Team, and copies to the House and Senate natural resource committees and the Governor's Natural Resources Office. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will make arrangements for further production and distribution of this report.

This report summarizes the activities of the IMST for 2002, including independent reports, letter reports to state agencies, and briefings and presentations. During 2002, we completed major reports on Western Oregon Lowlands, Monitoring, and Gravel Mining. We have initiated reports on Urban and Rural Residential Land Use, Eastern Oregon Resources, and Temperatures Standards, which will be completed early in 2003. In addition, the IMST has continued to provide an independent, unbiased review of science issues related to the Oregon Plan to state agencies and the people of Oregon. In this report, we document many of our letter reports and products, most solicited by state agencies. We believe that such requests from state agencies will require an increasing proportion of the Team's work in the future.

In our reports, the IMST continues to make recommendations to state agencies and entities on salmonid and watershed recovery and management of natural resources based on our review of the science. Although most of the agency responses to IMST recommendations are favorable to accomplishing the goals of the Oregon Plan, many responses lack sufficient information to determine the agencies' intent or the effectiveness of proposed actions. We have raised this concern about accountability to the Oregon Plan in all of our Annual Reports.

For the first time, we have attempted to self-evaluate the effectiveness of the IMST. Although the IMST believes that we have made substantial contributions toward the success of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, we suggest that the State conduct an independent review of the Team's effectiveness and products, as well as the process by which the Team operates relative to the many agencies involved in the Oregon Plan. This would allow the State to determine how well the IMST is perceived to be fulfilling State needs and to identify any changes that may improve our effectiveness.

We believe that people and the State of Oregon, its citizens and agencies, have made great progress toward recognizing the importance of watershed restoration and of recovery of depressed stocks of salmonids. The challenge of the Oregon Plan is to persist over the long term, even though the State is faced with new and important challenges. We believe this long-term effort is essential to ensure that freshwater habitats improve so that they will sustain viable populations of salmonids when ocean conditions, which have been very favorable during the last several years, again become unproductive. The quality and availability of fresh water in Oregon are also critical to meet the needs of society.

The IMST has a final concern. The present team has only 6 of the 7 members. One position has remained unfilled for the last year. Next July, two other team members will rotate off the Team, Dr. John Buckhouse and Dr. Kathleen Kavanagh. For the IMST to operate effectively and to complete our mission, a full team is essential. We respectfully request that the three replacements for the IMST be completed by the end of the present biennium.

We will be glad to discuss this report and any related issues with you, if that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Stan Gregory

William Pearcy

Co-Chairs, IMST

cc: Mr. Jim Brown, Natural Resource Policy Director
Mr. Jim Myron, Natural Resource Policy Advisor
Sen. Frank Shields, Chair, Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Rep. Jeff Kropf, Chair, House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Rep. Bob Jenson, Chair, House Water Committee
Mr. Geoff Huntington, Director, OWEB

Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team, Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

2002 Annual Report

January 15, 2003

Members of IMST
John Buckhouse, Department of Rangeland Resources, Oregon State University
Wayne Elmore, Bureau of Land Management, US Department of Interior
Stanley Gregory, (IMST Co-Chair) Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University
Kathleen Kavanagh, Department of Forest Resources, University of Idaho
William Pearcy, (IMST Co-Chair) College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University
Carl Schreck, Biological Resources Division, USGS, US Department of Interior

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Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team, Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds 2002 Annual Report January 15, 2003

The Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST) was established by the Oregon Legislature as part of Senate Bill 924, which was signed into law by Governor John Kitzhaber on March 25, 1997. The establishment of the Team also reflected an agreement between the State of Oregon and the National Marine Fisheries Service ("NMFS") in the memorandum of agreement concerning coho salmon, signed by the State on April 22, 1997. This agreement has been terminated, but Executive Order 99-01 specifics the continuing role of the Team in recovery of wild salmonids in Oregon. Section 5 of SB 924 provides for a 7-member team with "recognized expertise in fisheries, artificial propagation, stream ecology, forestry, range, watershed, and agricultural management" whose general mission is to advise the State on matters of science related to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

The original team was constituted by Governor Kitzhaber in collaboration with Oregon Senate President Adams and Oregon House Speaker Lundquist, and was announced at a press briefing in Salem on October 10, 1997. The current Team was appointed January 1, 2002, and members currently have staggered appointments. One position has been vacant since December 31, 2001.

The intent of the Team is to work in good faith and to focus on science, maintain its independence, operate by consensus (with minority positions identified), and report its findings and conclusions in writing. It is also the Team's intent to conduct their work within applicable Public Records and Meeting laws. This is a report of the Team's activities and accomplishments for the period January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002. The report also briefly outlines the plans and direction of the Team for 2003. Appendices include listings of Team meetings, presentations, and briefings.

Members of the Team

John Buckhouse, PhD, Professor, Department of Rangeland Resources, Oregon State University, Corvallis. Dr. Buckhouse was educated at University California, Davis, and Utah State University, Logan. He received his PhD degree from Utah State University in 1974. He has been on the faculty at Oregon State University (OSU) since January 1975. During that time he has won numerous teaching awards; been recognized for having a nationally acclaimed research program in watershed management; served on a number of national task forces (including a National Academy of Sciences task force where he cooperated in the writing of the book entitled "Rangeland Health"); and is the lead teacher for the Watershed Ecosystem (WESt) Program for landowners. Dr. Buckhouse has published over 150 articles, books, book chapters, and symposium abstracts on the subject of watershed management.

Wayne Elmore, Team Leader, National Riparian Service Team, BLM, USFS, NRCS, Washington Office, Prineville, OR. Wayne Elmore graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1968 with a BS in Forest Management. He has completed additional Post Graduate Studies in Fisheries and Wildlife Management. He began work for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a resource area forester in Spokane, Washington in 1968. He has since held various positions

with BLM including: District Wildlife Biologist, District Wildlife and Fisheries Biologist, Oregon and Washington State Riparian Specialist, and the BLM National Riparian Field Manager. He has worked on over 2,500 miles of riverine riparian systems, including coastal, forested and rangeland areas in eleven western states and other countries. Mr. Elmore's experience has focused primarily on the natural functions and processes of riparian systems and the incorporation of compatible management techniques. He has numerous publications dealing primarily with riparian ecosystem function and management, including riparian management chapters for two textbooks, one sponsored by the Society of Range Management and one by the University of Washington. He has given numerous speeches, lectures, and talks on riparian function, potential, and management.

Stanley Gregory, PhD, Professor, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University, Corvallis. Dr. Gregory has a BS in Zoology from the University of Tennessee and a MS and PhD in Fisheries and Wildlife from OSU. Dr. Gregory was leader of the Northwest Field Research Laboratory for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service from 1977-1981 and a professor in the Department of Fisheries & Wildlife at OSU since 1981. He has conducted research in stream ecology in the McKenzie River basin and the Pacific Northwest for the last 30 years. His research program has investigated many aspects of stream ecology, including algal ecology; invertebrate ecology; fish-habitat relationships; dynamics of large wood; stream chemistry; principles and methods for stream ecosystem restoration; riparian ecology and management; and patterns and processes of river networks in landscape ecology.

Kathleen Kavanagh, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID. Dr. Kavanagh has a BS in Forest Management from the State University of New York (SUNY), a MS in Silviculture from SUNY, and a PhD in Forest Science from OSU. Dr. Kavanagh served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Forest Resources, OSU and Forestry Extension Agent for Clatsop County, OR from 1994 to 1999. Since 1999, she has been serving as Assistant Professor in the Department of Forest Resources at the University of Idaho. Dr. Kavanagh's research areas include silviculture, forest ecosystem processes, and tree hydraulic architecture.

William Pearcy, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Oceanography, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR. Dr. Pearcy is a zoologist, with a current research emphasis in fishery oceanography and the ocean ecology of salmon. His education includes BS and MS in zoology from Iowa State University, and the Ph.D. is marine zoology from Yale University. Originally hired to OSU in 1960, he now serves as an emeritus faculty member in the College of Oceanographic and Atmospheric Sciences at OSU. He is very active in providing leadership and service to the scientific and fisheries management community. Dr. Pearcy received the 1998 Outstanding Achievement Award of the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, and the 1996 Oscar E. Sette Outstanding Marine Fishery Biologist Award of the American Fisheries Society. He has numerous publications focusing on fish ecology in the marine environment.

Carl Schreck, PhD, Leader, Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Biological Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, Corvallis, OR. Dr. Schreck has been researching the biology of fishes for nearly 30 years. He has an A.B. in Zoology from the University of California, Berkeley, a M.S. in Fisheries Science and a Ph.D. in Physiology and Biophysics and Fisheries Science from Colorado State University. He currently serves as Leader of the Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and is senior scientist in the Biological Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey and as a Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at OSU. His research has focused primarily on salmonids. He applies environmental physiology to address environmentally relevant questions; this research has lead to over 200 published

papers. Dr. Schreck is a member of several scientific and management teams, organizations and committees. He is currently serving a four-year term as President of the International Federation of Fish Endocrinologists. He has won numerous national teaching, research, and publication awards.

Major Activities of the Team

Meetings

The Team met in public meetings, usually monthly (Appendix 1). Team meetings were open to the public, consistent with the Oregon Public Meetings Law. Each meeting had a published agenda, minutes, and was audio recorded. Numerous Team subcommittee meetings were held throughout the year but were not open to the public. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is the Repository of Records for the Team. The Team Chair is the custodian of the Records and authorizes their release.

Presentations and Briefings

The Team made numerous oral presentations and briefings (Appendix 2). These included meeting with the Joint Subcommittee on Stream Restoration and Species Recovery, the Governor's Natural Resources Cabinet, and the Oregon Water Resource Commission. Formal presentations were made at the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the Oregon Plan Monitoring Workshop. Team members also worked closely with the Joint Interim Task Force on Salmon Recovery throughout the year to provide scientific and technical guidance to the Task Force's deliberations (see following section).

Joint Interim Task Force on Salmon Recovery

In December 2000, the IMST released their technical report on harvest management of coho salmon entitled: *Salmon Abundances and Effects of Harvest: Implications for Rebuilding Stocks of Wild Coho Salmon in Oregon*. As part of the report, the IMST made the recommendation to the State of Oregon to define in measurable terms what is meant by the recovery of depressed salmonid stocks. In response, the Seventy-first Legislative session created the Task Force on Salmon Recovery and under House Bill directed the Task Force to 1) define recovery for purposes of restoring anadromous salmonids to a point where they may be delisted from endangered or threatened status under the federal Endangered Species Act and 2) to establish criteria to evaluate salmonid recovery.

The IMST worked closely with the Task Force throughout 2001 to provide technical assistance on recovery issues and provided possible definitions of recovery from the Team's previous work. The Team provided definitions of recovery to the Task Force, which were used as draft material by the Task Force as they developed their working and final definitions. The IMST also assisted the Task Force in developing and organizing a technical workshop on salmonid recovery criteria held in Corvallis, OR.

Team Independent Projects

Major reports of the team are based on comprehensive reviews of the scientific literature, as well as input from State agencies and technical reviewers. We invite experts from state agencies and other organizations to make presentations at our monthly meetings during preparation of reports. Before the reports are finalized, we request detailed technical peer reviews by national experts and State agencies. This same lengthy procedure is also followed for some of our letter reports.

Major Reports

The Team worked on the following major reports during 2002.

- Western Oregon Lowlands. The IMST continued work on this project, which deals with land management issues in unconstrained alluvial plains and estuaries of western Oregon. The report evaluates the importance of western Oregon lowlands to salmonids and the scientific basis for maintaining and enhancing lowland river and estuary ecosystems. The report was released in July 2002 and directed recommendations to several state agencies and the Oregon Plan Core Team

- Monitoring**.** As required by Senate Bill 924, the IMST evaluates the Oregon Plan Monitoring Program regularly. During 2002 the Team reviewed and commended the Program's proposed strategy document. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board has since adopted the strategy. The Team is working with the Monitoring Program Manager to conduct a review of the program's progress in 2001 and 2002 and expects to issue a formal review in mid 2003.

- Urban and Rural Residential. The IMST urban land use project focuses on populated areas within the state. Four areas of focus are water quality, water quantity, aquatic and riparian habitat, and fish passage. The goal of this project is to define the scientific basis by which urban lands can be managed to help accomplish the goals of the Oregon Plan. We expect to release this project report in early 2003.

- Gravel Mining. The scope of this letter report is the Team's independent review of a 1995 report on gravel disturbance impacts and salmonids produced by the Oregon Water Resources Research Institute, and additional review of literature on channel morphology, sediment budgets and bedload management, cumulative effects, and effectiveness monitoring. Recommendations concerning management of instream sediment resources were directed to the Division of State Lands, the State Land Board, and the Oregon Plan Core Team.

- Temperature Standards. The EPA and the State of Oregon continue to work to reach agreement on the issue of temperature standards. In 2000, the Team held a scientific workshop for experts in stream water temperature and fish ecology to discuss the importance of vegetation and other physical changes to stream temperature and how cold-water fishes respond to elevated temperatures. Work on the project was delayed during 2001 and 2002 in order for the Team to review science issues surrounding the Klamath Basin water supply during current drought conditions. The project has been reinitiated, and we expect to release a technical report on temperature standards in 2003.

- Eastern Oregon Resources. The geographic scope of this project is the region east of the Cascades, primarily in the mid-Columbia and Snake River systems. The scientific basis for this project utilizes a conceptual model that incorporates biological (i.e. vegetation) and physical (i.e. hydrology) ecosystem components. Science is telling us that when these components are intact, quality salmon habitat is sustained on the landscape. Land uses that alter these components can perturb landscape processes, altering or diminishing habitat capacity and site potential, ultimately affecting salmon recovery. The project was initiated in 2000, but work was suspended in 2001 in order to complete the Lowland and Urban land use projects. Work resumed in 2002, and we expect the project to be completed by 2004.

Popularized Summaries of Reports

The IMST has produced several large and technically oriented reports in the last four years. The principle users are technical staff of the State's natural resource agencies. In addition, watershed councils, private interest groups, and the general public may find the information useful. The IMST believes that our findings, conclusions, and recommendations have the potential to increase public understanding of the science underlying the State's efforts to recover salmonid stocks, but the information may not be accessible to lay audiences in their current formats. The IMST has begun the process of creating popularized summaries of the reports in a Web-based format. The summaries for the Team's first four years will be written by editors with the College of Forestry's Communications Group and made available on the Oregon Plan's web site maintained by OWEB. Web access to the reports is expected in early 2003.

Team Products

A series of written products were produced during the period covered by this report. The Team issued one technical reports, and eight letter reports. Technical and letter reports are available on the IMST web site at http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst. The Team products include the following:

- January 17, 2002 – Letter report to ODFW evaluating the agency's proposed Native Fish Conservation Policy and Guidelines. The review was requested by ODFW.
- March 14, 2002 – Letter report to ODFW evaluating the agency's proposed Native Fish Conservation Policy. This letter provided further technical guidance to ODFW.
- March 14, 2002 – Letter report to ODFW evaluating the agency's proposed Hatchery Management Policy and Guidelines. The review was requested by ODFW.
- March 14, 2002 – Letter report to the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team evaluating the program's draft strategy document. The review was requested by OWEB.
- May 15, 2002 – Letter report to ODFW evaluating the agency's proposed Lower Columbia River Coho Management Plan. The review was requested by ODFW.
- July 15, 2002 – Technical Report 2002-1. A report summarizing the scientific basis for management of western Oregon lowland streams, rivers, and estuaries and the recovery of anadromous and resident salmonids. Recommendations were made to several state agencies and governing bodies and to the Oregon Plan Core Team.
- July 31, 2002 – Letter report to the appointing authorities reviewing current management of instream gravels by DSL and the current state of knowledge concerning instream aggregate mining. Recommendations were made to DSL, the State Land Board, and the Oregon Plan Core Team.
- August 1, 2002 – Letter report to ODF evaluating the scientific and technical merits of the Hinkle Creek Research and Demonstration Area Project proposal. The review was requested by ODF and OWEB.
- November 7, 2002 – Letter report to ODFW evaluating the agency's draft Native Fish Conservation Policy. The review was requested by ODFW.
- November 26, 2002 – Letter report to ODA and DEQ providing information on stream water temperatures and potential consequences for salmonids. The letter and clarification of information was requested by the two agencies.

Catalog of IMST Recommendations and Responses

The primary means of communicating results of the Team's work is through written reports. In IMST reports, the Team assesses the best available science as it pertains to salmonid and watershed recovery and the management of natural resources. Based on these assessments, the IMST makes recommendations to Oregon state agencies or entities.

IMST recommendations are based on our assessment of the best available science as it pertains to salmonid and watershed recovery and the management of natural resources. Recommendations are directed to one or more agencies or entities that have the ability to implement, or to affect changes in management or regulation that are needed for implementation. It should be noted that the IMST looks beyond an agency's *current* ability to implement the recommendations because current legal, regulatory, or funding situations may need to change. It is the belief of the IMST that if an agency agrees that a recommendation is technically sound and would aid the recovery of salmonid stocks and watersheds, the agency would then determine what impediments might exist to prevent or delay implementation and work toward eliminating those impediments. The Team also assumes that each agency has the knowledge and expertise to determine how best to identify and eliminate impediments to implementation, and to determine appropriate time frames and goals needed to meet the intent of the recommendation. In addition, the IMST recognizes that an agency may already have ongoing activities that address a recommendation. Our inclusion of such an "overlapping" recommendation should be seen as reinforcement for needed actions.

Senate Bill 924, which created the IMST, specifies that agencies are to respond to the recommendations of the IMST, stating "(3) If the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team submits suggestions to an agency responsible for implementing a portion of the Oregon Plan, the agency shall respond to the Team explaining how the agency intends to implement the suggestion or why the agency does not implement the suggestion. The Team shall include any agency responses in its report to the Joint Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement". Once agency responses are received, the IMST reviews the scientific adequacy of each response and whether further action or consideration by the agency is warranted. IMST reviews of responses are forwarded to the Governor and the State Legislature. State agencies are expected to respond to IMST recommendations within six months after a report is issued.

Neal Coenen, Manager of the Oregon Plan, has been the recipient of the responses, and shared them with the Team for any further attention. Agency responses are normally expected within six months from the time a report is released. The Oregon Plan Manager has worked with agencies to ensure that responses have been received in a timely matter.

The Team established a catalog of recommendations and the status of responses to these recommendations to simplify tracking compliance with Senate Bill 924. The catalog is available to the State upon request. Since 1998, the IMST has made 127 recommendations in 14 technical and letter reports. The Team has received responses to 76% of recommendations. No responses have been received for remaining the 24% of the recommendations, which were issued less than six months ago.

Accountability to the Oregon Plan

The Catalog of Recommendations and Responses established by the Team shows the status of responses to IMST recommendations, but does not evaluate the adequacy or appropriateness of

the responses in terms of accomplishing the mission of the Oregon Plan. The characteristics of a good response are:

- It includes a clear statement that the agency (a) accepts or agrees with the recommendation or (b) that it rejects or disagrees with it. There should be no middle ground between the two positions. In some cases, agencies may be reluctant to agree or accept a recommendation because they see significant difficulties in implementing it. The Team feels that if a recommendation is sound, the agency should indicate what impediments may exist to prevent or delay implementation and then work towards eliminating those impediments.
- It makes clear what the agency intends to do to work towards implementation of recommendations they accept, or (as required by Senate Bill 924) that they explain why the agency rejects the recommendation.

At Team meetings, the Team has evaluated the responses received from agencies. Four general categories were used to evaluate responses: adequate, intermediate, inadequate, and indeterminate.

- Adequate means that the IMST supports the decision reached by the agency.
- Intermediate means that the decision will decrease the likelihood of accomplishing the goals of the Oregon Plan in a timely manner, but not doom it to failure. We note our concerns but stop short of suggesting the recommendation be reconsidered.
- Inadequate means that the IMST feels the decision by the agency will seriously detract from achieving the goals of the Oregon Plan, and the IMST strongly suggests that the decision be reconsidered.
- Indeterminate means that we can not tell what the agency decided to do with the recommendation, or that we do not have enough information to fully evaluate their response.

This year, as in previous years, the adequacy of responses received has been good. In our opinion, the majority of the responses have been adequate, with few being intermediate or inadequate. In a few cases, an agency indicated that they did not clearly understand the meaning of the recommendation. In these cases, we expect the agency to alert the IMST to the problem and to request clarification. However, a large number of responses have been indeterminate, in that they did not provide the Team with sufficient information to determine what the agency decided to do with the recommendation or how the decision may affect the success of the Oregon Plan. The record of adequacy of agency responses to Team recommendations is available from the IMST upon request.

Effectiveness of IMST Reports and Recommendations on State Agency Actions

Evaluating the overall effects of IMST's reports and products on salmonid recovery and watershed health is difficult to measure. Many years will be needed to assess changes that have occurred. However, more indirect results can be evaluated based on the productivity of the IMST, agency actions that have resulted from our recommendations, and by the requests by state agencies for reviews of research and management policies and plans. As an example for the latter, OWEB used the research priorities identified by the IMST in a 2001 report to prioritize funding allocation for projects.

Major land uses and their potential to influence salmonid recovery have been studied by the IMST, and detailed reports have been completed on west-side forestry, western lowlands-

agriculture, and are near completion for eastside and for urban land uses. In addition, reports are completed on harvest management, hatchery management, effects of predation, and gravel mining. All of these reports are important contributions by the Team on resource management related to salmonid recovery in Oregon.

Other indications of the effectiveness of the IMST are the responses to our recommendations to state agencies. Most have agreed with our recommendations, but often do not have the personnel or finances to implement them.

State agencies often use the IMST as a sounding board and request independent reviews of science policies or management options that they are considering. These requests have resulted in letters from the IMST to ODFW providing our evaluation of the Native Fish Conservation Policy, the Hatchery Management Policy and Guidelines, the Lower Columbia River and the Coho Management Plan; to DSL on management of in-stream gravel; and to ODF on the Hinkle Creek Research and Demonstration Area Project proposal; to ODA and DEQ on stream temperature issues; to OWEB on the Oregon Plan Monitoring Strategy, and to GNRO on a statewide Riparian Policy. Our forthcoming report on recovery of Lost River and shortnose suckers and coho salmon in the Klamath Basin was requested by Governor Kitzhaber.

Based on our Harvest Management Report, we recommended that the State develop an explicit definition of what constitutes recovery of salmon. Subsequently the State legislature directed formation of a Recovery Task Force to define recovery based on measurable criteria. The IMST, in cooperation with this Task Force, convened a special workshop on recovery to facilitate this mission of the State Task Force.

Because salmonids require many habitat types during their life history, the IMST has repeatedly advocated a big picture or landscape approach that examines interactions across different scales and land uses in our reports, as opposed to small-scale, site-specific approaches. Such a large-scale approach is challenging to implement as it involves diverse land uses and jurisdictions of several state agencies. Our repeated call for such an approach was influential in the recent development and adoption of a statewide riparian policy.

The IMST has consistently advocated a scientifically strong monitoring plan in order to evaluate the effectiveness of actions to help restore salmonids and their habitats. Over the past four years, the IMST has also worked closely with the OWEB Monitoring Team and helped to evaluate and formulate the recently adopted Monitoring Strategy.

Although the IMST believes that we have made substantial contributions toward the success of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, we suggest that the State conduct an independent review of the Team's effectiveness and products, and the process by which the Team operates. This would allow the State to determine if the IMST is fulfilling State needs and to identify any changes that may improve our effectiveness.

Team Web Page

The IMST continued to maintain a web page to facilitate public access to information about the IMST, including the Team's Charter, products, and calendar of activities. The web address for the IMST web page is http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst.

IMST Literature Database

Accomplishing the mission of the IMST requires ready access to scientific literature relevant to various projects and reports of the Team. As a direct result, a central IMST literature database has been established and is maintained by technical support staff. The primary purpose of the literature database is to support the work of the Team. We feel that it may also be useful tool to Oregon Plan partners. The goal of a distributed database is to provide a functional product containing accurate citations of scientific and technical literature related to the recovery of salmonid populations and habitats. The primary audience is technically oriented individuals, who read and utilize information from IMST Technical Reports, and who are involved in management, research, and monitoring of salmonid recovery efforts. The database is expected to be available on our web site for public use in 2003.

Analysis of the Current Status of the Team and Plans for the Future

Team Management

The Team members were funded to work 33% of full time through December 31, 2002. The funds are paid directly to Oregon State University (OSU) for the services and expenses of Team members and support staff from OSU, and the one Team member from the University of Idaho. The funds to OSU were used by OSU and University of Idaho to purchase services in various ways to compensate for the reassignment of faculty time. In no case were the funds added to existing 1.0 FTE salary. There was no charge for Mr. Elmore and Dr. Schreck, both federal employees.

The appointment of the original seven members of the IMST had been extended from October 31, 2001 to December 31, 2001. Senate Bill 945 modifies the terms in which Team members are appointed and replaced to allow for staggered terms beginning January 1, 2002. New appointments were designated as follows:

1) Two shall serve for a term ending July 1, 2003.
2) Two shall serve for a term ending July 1, 2004.
3) Two shall serve for a term ending July 1, 2005.
4) One shall serve for a term ending July 1, 2006.

Subsequent appointments will be four-year terms. These staggered terms should help to preserve continuity among the Team, and the Team's interactions with the State of Oregon and Oregon Plan partners. Five of the original seven Team members were reappointed (two declined consideration for reappointment) and one new member was appointed. At present, one position has been vacant since January 1, 2002 and has not yet been filled. This extended vacancy has limited the Team's ability to complete ongoing projects and to integrate new members into the Team within a timely manner. Two more members are scheduled to complete their appointments July 1, 2003, and will also need replacements.

Personnel on our administrative and technical support staff are an essential part of the team and have been instrumental in the Team's ability to complete its work. Funding in the 2001-2003 biennium includes one administrative and technical support person, two technical support persons, one literature specialist, and one part-time clerical specialist. Support staff are Oregon State University employees with the four technical support persons serving as faculty members at OSU. The technical support staff have a broad range of knowledge, research experience, and technical expertise in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest. The support

staff will be a valuable component to the continuity of the Team as it undergoes transitions with new members and a new Team Chair or Co-Chairs each year.

Workload and Budget

Each year, the Team develops a plan of work that is broadly stated to include completion of some projects underway or that we anticipate initiating in the current biennium, and allowance for meeting specific requests to provide scientific review of ongoing or proposed programs or policies that relate to the Oregon Plan. We anticipate this review function to be a significantly larger component of the work of the Team through the remainder of the 2001-2003 biennium and into the 2003-2005 biennium.

Several projects are in progress, with planned completion in 2003. These include project reports on:

- Temperature Standards;
- 2001 and 2002 Monitoring Program of the Oregon Plan;
- Urban and Rural Residential Land Uses; and
- Eastern Oregon Resources.

Projects that the Team may begin work on in the 2003-2005 biennium include:

- Ecological interactions among co-occurring species in the ecosystem (salmonid/non-salmonid, native/non-native, fish/non-fish);
- Effectiveness of salmonid conservation and restoration activities; and
- Historical framework for fish/vegetation distributions and densities, qualities of data, and technical limitations.

The Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team remains committed to providing the scientific oversight for the Oregon Plan called for in Senate Bill 924 and Executive Order 99-01, consistent with the resources provided for the Team.

Appendix 1. Public Meetings Held by the IMST, 2001

January 13-24, 2002 Team meeting held in Corvallis, OR

February 25-26, 2002 Team meeting held in Corvallis, OR

April 24, 2002 Team meeting held in Corvallis, OR

May 20-21, 2002 Team meeting held in Corvallis, OR

June 17-18, 2002 Team meeting held in Corvallis, OR

July 15-16, 2002 Team meeting held in Corvallis, OR

August 12-13, 2002 Team meeting held in Corvallis, OR

September 26-27, 2002 Team meeting held in LaGrande, OR

October 31, 2002 Team meeting held in Corvallis, OR

November 30, 2002 Team meeting held in Corvallis, OR

December 9, 2002 Team meeting held in Corvallis, OR

Appendix 2. Oral Presentations and Briefings by IMST Members, 2002

January 9. Briefing to Oregon Plan Monitoring Team meeting, Salem

January 28. Briefing to Joint Interim Task Force on Salmon Recovery, Salem

February 14. Discussion on landscape level management with Lower Nehalem Watershed Council, Manzanita

March 1. Presentation at the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting, Sun River

March 25. Briefing Joint Subcommittee on Stream Restoration and Species Recovery, Salem

March 26. Briefing to Joint Interim Task Force on Salmon Recovery, Salem

May 7. Briefing to Oregon Plan Core Team, Salem

May 15. Briefing to Governor's Natural Resources Cabinet, Salem

July 1 & 2. Participants in Workshop on Measurable Salmonid Recovery Criteria jointly sponsored by Joint Interim Task Force on Salmon Recovery, IMST, and NMFS, Corvallis

July 10. Participant in US Army Corps of Engineering's Delayed Mortality Workshop, Portland

September 4. Consultation with ODA regarding stream temperature, Corvallis

September 30 – October 1. Presentation, Session Moderator, and participants in Oregon Plan Monitoring Workshop, Corvallis

October 10. Briefing western Oregon lowlands report to Oregon Water Resources Commission, Salem.

2002. Briefings and consultations throughout the year with Joint Interim Task Force on Salmon Recovery, Salem