



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Agriculture

635 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-2532



April 6, 2006

Dr. Carl Schreck and Nancy Molina  
Co-Chairs, Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team  
Oregon State University  
Department of Forest Science  
321 Richardson Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331-5752

Dear Dr. Schreck and Ms. Molina,

Monitoring is a key component of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA's) Water Quality Program. Knowing the current conditions, if change is occurring, and if so in what direction are essential to directing activities of the program. To pursue answering monitoring questions related to the water quality program, the department has developed a guidebook laying out the strategies and procedures we believe necessary to provide scientifically defensible information. This guidebook provides direction to ODA staff, our partners at the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Councils.

ODA has requested your review of the Agricultural Water Quality Program's Water Quality Monitoring Guidebook to help make our monitoring strategy as scientifically sound and complete as necessary. Our specific questions to the IMST are:

1. Are we asking the right kinds of monitoring questions? Are there other questions we should be asking?
2. Are we correct to focus on riparian conditions? We think riparian vegetation can address water quality issues such as temperature, sediment, dissolved oxygen and pH, and with limited monitoring resources, riparian conditions should be our highest priority for monitoring.
3. Are we using the most appropriate tools?
4. How can we make our strategy and guide more complete? What kinds of things are we missing?

We realize the IMST has a heavy workload and so we are not expecting an immediate response. However, we would request that you schedule the review as soon as time allows.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as ODA's new liaison to the IMST. As you may know our former liaison, Dr. Mack Barrington, left to take a job with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. I have 16 years experience working on agriculturally related water quality issues with a particular emphasis on riparian areas. My post-doctoral research at Kansas State University dealt with studying the mechanisms behind riparian vegetation's ability to remove nitrate in shallow groundwater. I founded the Union SWCD's water quality monitoring program, and I have been ODA's eastern region water quality specialist for 9 years.

Thank you for your consideration of our request, and if you have any questions please call me at (541) 963-4610.

Sincerely,



Ken Diebel, Ph.D.  
Riparian Specialist