



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Water Resources Department

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Nancy Molina and Carl Shreck, Co-Chairs  
Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST)  
Oregon State University  
Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society  
321 Richardson Hall  
Corvallis OR 97331

Re. Request for IMST peer review for Ecological Flow White Paper

Thank you for taking the time to consider our proposal to peer review the Ecological Flow White Paper. During the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting Department staff proposed a scope of work and interchanged ideas about what the review might include. This White Paper is being produced by the Ecological Flows Technical Advisory Group (EFTAG). Dr. George Robison from the Department is providing the bulk of the staff time needed to complete the work.

Specifically, the request is that the IMST provide a peer review of the paper that helps ensure sufficient breadth and depth and provides policy makers a range of ideas about how ecological flows can be determined and how they may be used to assure sustainable water supplies for future generations. The purpose of the paper is to provide technical background information regarding ecological flows, with the primary audience being policy makers. This will include definition(s), methods that can be employed to determine them, and how knowledge about the definitions and methods may be applied. The information will be utilized by the Department when considering future applications to the state for grants and loans that are intended to fund water storage projects.

### Scope of Review

We would like the IMST to evaluate the following specific questions about the White Paper and give recommendations for improving the paper in light of your answers:

#### Regarding Ecological Flow Definitions:

1. Is the overall classification of ecological flows adequate or is there a better way to characterize them?
2. Are the definitions clearly delineated and do they represent mainstream thinking on this subject?
3. Do the definitions give enough information to allow policy makers to understand some of the different ways they are determined?

#### Regarding Methods:

4. Are the methods and techniques described in the White Paper representative of the range of options that are available or are there some missing approaches?
5. Are methods or approaches emphasized that are considered as fringe methods while more commonly used methods were not adequately covered?
6. Does the description of methods naturally lead into the more applied parts of the report that follows, or is better exposition needed?
7. Are the limitations and advantages of the various methods for each type of ecological flow adequate to provide the reader an understanding of inferences made in the later sections of the report.

#### Regarding Applications/ Recommendations/ Conclusions

8. The paper includes various determination methods and techniques that relate to narrow situations needing full detailed analyses. Do the related inferences and recommendations regarding their application flow logically from the information in methods, or are more background information and linkages necessary?
9. Do any of the recommendations or conclusions seem to be introduced awkwardly without the logical linkage back to the definitions and methods? If so, what information needs to be added or how does the recommendation need to be altered to better correlate with information given in previous sections.

#### Overall

10. Is there any information that you feel should be added to strengthen the report or any information that needs clarification?

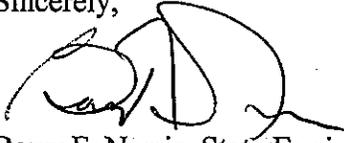
#### **Timeline and Logistics**

The completion of a draft suitable for IMST review should be ready sometime in late April or early May. At this point we would like to give the IMST members a full month to review the paper and produce a letter regarding your findings. The EFTAG in return will modify the White Paper and respond appropriately.

As a means to assist your peer review process my department can provide \$5,000 to the IMST. I understand this amount probably will not underwrite all your costs, but our limited budget prevents us from a more generous offer.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Our EFTAG is looking forward to your peer review as a means to improve the White Paper's utility in the protection and management of ecological flows in Oregon.

Sincerely,



Barry F. Norris, State Engineer  
Oregon Water Resources Department

c: E. George Robison, PhD  
Brenda Bateman, PhD  
Phil Ward, Director

