



Oregon Plan *Teamwork*

Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

January 1999

This monthly publication is written and distributed by Mikell O'Mealy, Oregon Sea Grant Fellow in the Governor's Natural Resources Office. It presents her observation of the evolving roles and activities of supporting teams and oversight bodies of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

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IMST Releases Hatchery Report

In December, the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team released the first report of their review of the hatchery-related measures in the Oregon Plan. In the report, the IMST describes four issues that were previously of common concern to independent scientific panels regarding hatchery management. Those concerns are:

1. Hatchery programs have failed to meet their objectives.
2. Management of hatchery programs has impacted wild stocks.
3. Monitoring of hatchery programs is inadequate.
4. Hatchery programs need fundamental change in order to support recovery of wild stocks.

The IMST evaluated whether the Oregon Plan recognizes and adequately addresses these issues through its hatchery measures. The evaluation is concluded with recommendations for prioritization of hatchery measures, development of research and monitoring programs, coordination with associated programs and the revised use of hatcheries. Subsequent reports by the IMST will address various other aspects of hatchery programs and management.

The report, entitled *Review of the Hatchery Measures in the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, Part I: Consistency of the Oregon Plan with Recommendations from Recent Scientific Review Panels*, can be obtained by contacting Teresa Trump at the Governor's Natural Resource Office at (503)-378-3589 Ext. 821. Reports addressing the impact of predators on salmon populations, escapement goals, forest practices, fish habitat in estuarine and lowland systems and others are in progress and can be expected in coming months.

Joint Legislative Committee Reviews Governor's Recommended Budget

At their December meeting, the Joint Legislative Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement was presented with the Governor's recommended budget for natural resources for the 1999 – 2001 biennium. The full budget can be viewed online at <http://www.governor.state.or.us>.

In general, the Governor's budget for natural resources maintains current service levels for natural resource agencies and fills some core needs in agencies with projected revenue shortfalls. The budget provides for expansion of the Oregon Plan by increasing the ability of state agencies, watershed councils and others to implement the plan.

Additionally, the budget demonstrates a clear intent to follow the guidelines of Measure 66, which designates 15% of lottery revenues to the restoration and protection of salmon and parks. It also provides for better setting of regional goals and priorities in salmon and watershed restoration, including better assessment of current conditions and development of local plans to support broader priorities.

Monitoring Team Discusses Important Needs

Those who came from Washington and California to attend the November Oregon Plan Monitoring Workshop were impressed with the level of integration and coordination they saw. Those in Oregon who have been working to coordinate monitoring activities under the Oregon Plan acknowledged progress, but recognized the need for more integration in certain areas. At their December meeting, the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team discussed some important needs that arose from the workshop:

- The need to maintain momentum for existing monitoring programs, even as new opportunities for monitoring continue to arise and funding for monitoring remains limited.
- The need to enhance monitoring support to watershed councils, and to better link to various other monitoring efforts occurring statewide.
- The need for comprehensive tracking, synthesis and reporting of monitoring work, done at different levels to communicate to agencies, oversight bodies, stakeholders and citizens what's being done and learned.

These and other new needs are surfacing because of progress made through implementation of the Oregon Plan. The Monitoring Team plans to continue to strengthen coordination and monitoring efforts to meet these needs, although additional staff and information resources may be required.

Willamette Restoration Initiative Identifies Priorities

Established in October 1998, the Willamette Restoration Initiative (WRI) is charged with ensuring that watershed restoration is integrated with the community and economic development goals in the Willamette Valley. A Board of Directors, created to guide the Initiative, met for the first time in November to identify short-term work priorities. These include:

- forming a watershed based restoration strategy that addresses Endangered Species and Clean Water Act requirements,
- identifying scope and schedules for restoration activities throughout the basin,
- evaluating the December 1997 recommendations of the Willamette River Basin Task Force,
- initiating outreach and education efforts in the valley,
- and refining the WRI mission and preparing for the 1999 legislative session.

The Board plans to develop these priorities at their next meeting, now scheduled for February 5, 1999. As work of the WRI progresses, the Board will make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on Willamette basin-related provisions to be included in the Oregon Plan.

Healthy Streams Partnership Hears Watershed Council Issues

To better understand the challenges associated with building local partnerships and support, the Healthy Streams Partnership Committee heard from Dana Erickson, coordinator of the Long Tom watershed council. Dana voiced issues faced by many watershed councils in their efforts to engage landowners, do restoration projects and organize volunteers. Challenges included:

- not having adequate staff to coordinate people in the watershed and organize restoration work,
- gaining stable funding for council coordinators, outreach efforts and restoration projects,
- overcoming fears felt by many landowners of increased governmental control,
- gaining needed technical assistance for project design and engineering from Soil and Water Conservation Districts, ODFW and other agencies, which are often understaffed, and
- managing the liability associated with volunteer work coordinated by the council.

Dana recommended continuing support for grassroots approaches to restoration; those that help people better understand the problems facing their watershed and that encourage participation in local solutions. The Committee discussed the need to strike a balance between an efficient, fully staffed organization and a grassroots approach, as well as ways of increasing participation by stakeholders and industry members in council meetings.

January Meeting Schedule

Jan. 19	Outreach Team Room 6 at DHR on Broadway, just off the Salem Parkway Time: 1:30pm to 4:00pm
Jan. 19	Coastal Salmon Restoration and Production Task Force Conference Rooms 251A and B, Public Service Building, Salem. Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm
Jan 20, 21	Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team Conference Room 200, Forest Science Lab, Oregon State Univ., Corvallis. Time: 8:30am to 5:00pm each day
Jan. 21	Implementation Team Mill Creek Room, Division of State Lands, 775 Summer St. NE, Salem. Time: 9:00am to 1:00pm
Jan. 21	Monitoring Team Mill Creek Room, Division of State Lands, 775 Summer St. NE, Salem. Time: 1:00am to 4:00pm
Jan. 22	Healthy Streams Partnership Associated Oregon Industries, 1149 Court St. NE, Salem Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm
Meeting time dependent on legislative session	Joint Legislative Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement
Not meeting	Willamette Restoration Initiative