

May 10, 2005

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**FROM:** Ken Bierly, Deputy Director

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item H: Drought Response Proposal  
May 25-26, 2005 OWEB Board Meeting**

### **I. Background**

Despite a wet spring, many areas across the state are facing drought conditions this summer. As a result, the lack of instream flow in some rivers could have significant adverse effects on aquatic life. Anticipating low stream flows this summer, OWEB staff have been in conversation with the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and others looking for ways to invest in voluntary transfers of water to protect aquatic resources. OWEB's main interest is to invest in additional streamflow that will improve conditions for listed fish species and water quality. Given the timing of OWEB's grant cycles, it was impossible to solicit grant applications for this purpose in a timely manner. As an alternative, OWEB staff contacted the Oregon Water Trust (OWT) and asked them to identify any water lease transactions that could benefit aquatic resources and be implemented this spring.

### **II. Identified Projects**

The Oregon Water Trust identified ten projects in five basins that would provide benefits to coho and chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout. (Attachment A) OWEB asked OWT to work with OWRD and ODFW to provide a review of the leases and verify the aquatic resource values and likelihood of protection of water. Both agencies support the proposed leases. The aggregate proposal will protect approximately 10 cubic feet per second for \$36,769.

### **III. Alternative Actions**

The Board can take one of two alternative actions:

- A. Approve funding of the ten water right leases as identified in Attachment A, and authorize staff to proceed with agreements to fund the water right leases; or
- B. Request staff to apply the funds to new grant applications coming before the Board next biennium.

### **IV. Recommendation**

Staff recommend the Board adopt Alternative A to approve allocation of up to \$36,769 of capital Lottery Funds from recaptured project funds to assist in the leasing of water rights during the current drought.

Attachment

- A. Projects for 2005 OWEB Funding



Projects for 2005 OWEB Funding

Name	Stream	Basin	Acres	Rate (cfs)	lease term	OWEB Costs	Total Costs	Target Species	Project Status
Miller	Fifteenmile	Hood	81.7	1.04	1 year	\$1,875	\$1,875	Steelhead	Lease Renewal 119, will submit to OWRD 5/3
Fulton	Fifteenmile	Hood	71.0	0.89	1 year	\$650	\$650	Steelhead	Approved Lease 198
Eddin	Fifteenmile	Hood	67.2	0.82	1 year	\$650	\$650	Steelhead	Approved Lease 185
Eggers	McFee Creek	Willamette	3.0	0.04	5 years	\$340	\$340	Steelhead, Spring Chinook	Approved Lease 610
Thielsen	Thomas Creek	Willamette	156.7	1.96	2 years	\$18,804	\$18,804	Steelhead, Spring Chinook	New Lease, will submit to OWRD 5/7
Booke	Calapooya Creek	Umpqua	27.9	0.35	1 year	\$322	\$322	Steelhead, Coho	New Lease, will submit to OWRD 5/7
Cayuse Vineyards	N. Fk Walla Walla	Umatilla	14.1	0.53	1 year	\$902	\$902	Steelhead, Bull Trout	New Lease, will submit to OWRD 5/7
Carlsen	Lostine River	Grande Ronde	90.0	0.73	3 years	\$4,050	\$27,000	Spring Chinook, Steelhead, Bull Trout	New Lease, will submit to OWRD 5/7
Woods-Boatman	Lostine River	Grande Ronde	76.5	1.90	Aug/Sept	\$4,175	\$4,175	Spring Chinook, Steelhead, Bull Trout	Signing Contracts with landowners
Martin	Evans Creek	Rogue	54.0	0.90	Jul-Oct	\$5,000	\$5,000	Coho, steelhead	Lease Renewals L-364, S-3 will submit to OWRD 5/7
			14.3	0.42	1 year				
<b>Total:</b>			<b>656.5</b>	<b>9.57</b>		<b>\$36,769</b>	<b>\$59,719</b>		