

May 16-17, 2006 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update #2: 2005-2007 Biennial Report

Background

ORS 541.405, enacted during the 2001 legislative session, states, in part:

(1) The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board shall, by January 15 of each odd-numbered year, submit a report to the Governor and to the appropriate committee or committees of the Legislative Assembly that assesses the implementation and effectiveness of the Oregon Plan in the state. The report shall address each drainage basin in the state and shall include, but need not be limited to:

- (a) A status report on watershed and key habitat conditions in the drainage basin based on available information;
- (b) An assessment of data and information needs deemed critical to monitoring and evaluating watershed and habitat enhancement programs and efforts;
- (c) An overview of state agency programs addressing watershed conditions;
- (d) An overview of voluntary restoration activities addressing watershed conditions;
- (e) A summary of investments made by the board from funds received under section 4b, Article XV of the Oregon Constitution, and all other sources; and
- (f) *The recommendations of the board for enhancing the effectiveness of Oregon Plan implementation in each drainage basin. (emphasis added)*

OWEB has produced two reports to meet this statutory requirement for the 2001-2003 and 2003-2005 biennia (available at www.oregon.gov/OWEB). Previous Oregon Plan reports (1999, 2000, and 2001) focused on people and their efforts to improve fish habitat and watershed health.

2005-2007 Biennial Report

Staff have developed a proposed work plan and content outline and have begun assembling data for the 2005-2007 Biennial Report. The most significant component of past biennial reports has been a two-page layout for each of the 15 Oregon Plan basins that reports basin statistics, completed and reported restoration projects, restoration issues, and investments in restoration.

Staff would like to use the content of the 2005-2007 report to lay the foundation for an expansion of the two-page basin layout to four pages in the 2007-2009 report. This would allow OWEB to highlight trends and accomplishments by basin rather than statewide. For this biennium's report, in addition to highlighting basin facts and investments over the reporting period, staff propose adding new graphics in the two-page spread addressing key watershed trends, specifically the water quality index and change in land use and land cover. Staff also plan to add one new page per basin in a separate section highlighting the specific accomplishments of Oregon Plan partners (state and federal agencies, watershed councils, and soil and water conservation districts) that are tied to basin issues or trends. The proposed content outline is shown in Figure 1.

Production of the 2005-2007 Biennial Report is anticipated to be completed according to the schedule shown in Figure 2. The development of Board observations and recommendations should begin during Phase 3 with a report to the Board at the September 2006 and January 2007 meetings.

Figure 1: 2005-2007 Biennial Report Proposed Outline

SECTION	# PAGES
Introduction	inside front cover
Table of Contents	1
Oregon Plan Overview	1
Oregon Plan Ten Years Summary	1
Basin Highlights (15 basins)	30
Basin Accomplishments (15 basins with overview)	16
Agency Actions Summary	1
Voluntary Restoration Activities Summary	1
Monitoring & Evaluation Overview	1
Science Oversight	1
OWEB Board Observations	1
OWEB Board Recommendations	1
Data Sources, Acronyms & Credits	1
OWEB Board Members	inside back cover
TOTAL PAGES	56 + cover

Figure 2: 2005-2007 Biennial Report Production Schedule

PROJECT PHASE	STARTING	ENDING
Phase 1 - Planning	12/1/05	04/14/06
Phase 2 - Data & Information Collection	2/1/06	6/15/06
Phase 3 - Document Construction & Content Review	6/15/06	10/15/06
Phase 4 - Report Production	10/15/06	12/01/06
Biennial Report Published	12/01/06	1/01/07
Report Submitted to Legislature		01/15/07

Staff Request

The Board has previously identified a subcommittee to work with staff to develop the Board’s recommendations. This arrangement has worked well and staff request the Board form a subcommittee to lead development of the Board observations and recommendations that will be included in the 2005-2007 Biennial Report. Board members should contact Melissa Leoni, Senior Policy Coordinator, at melissa.leoni@state.or.us or 503-986-0179 for more information about the report or if interested in serving on the subcommittee.