

August 28, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Greg Sieglitz, Monitoring and Reporting Program Manager
Courtney Shaff, Effectiveness Monitoring Specialist

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item P: Effectiveness Monitoring Report
September 19-20, 2006 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an update to the Board regarding OWEB's Effectiveness Monitoring Program accomplishments from March 2006 to September 2006.

II. Background

In September 2004, the Board approved an implementation plan for the effectiveness monitoring program. This program is designed to fulfill specific needs identified within the Monitoring Strategy of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The Monitoring and Reporting Program has made significant progress on a number of fronts including the evaluation of western juniper removal projects, successful completion of the effectiveness monitoring workshop, and implementation of an effectiveness monitoring program to evaluate riparian livestock exclusion projects.

III. Effectiveness Monitoring Program Activities

A. Western Juniper Removal Project Evaluation

OWEB contracted with CSR Natural Resources Consulting, Inc. to perform an evaluation of juniper removal projects in Crook and Wheeler counties in 2005 and 2006. The final report, data, and findings are attached (Attachment A) and available on the OWEB web site (www.oregon.gov/OWEB/). Recommendations from the report include:

1. Conduct a Juniper Management Workshop for training OWEB staff, Regional Review Team members, and local representatives;
2. Draft and distribute guidelines for Juniper Project site selection and implementation;
3. Establish a protocol for pre-treatment data collection;
4. Expand monitoring efforts to the remaining counties where OWEB funds juniper removal projects; and
5. Continue to support Juniper removal research.

In response to these recommendations OWEB is planning a Juniper Removal Workshop in the spring of 2007 and is working with CSR Natural Resources Consulting to begin evaluation of juniper removal projects in Lake, Harney, Grant, and Klamath counties.

B. Effectiveness Monitoring Workshop

In coordination with the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST) OWEB held an Effectiveness Monitoring Workshop on April 18-19, 2006, in Corvallis. The workshop was well attended and many topics were discussed, including cooperation with the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board for some types of monitoring, the development of a Statistical Help Center, and the sharing of OWEB grantee monitoring reports, which is now being done through posting of some reports on the OWEB Monitoring and Reporting web page (www.oregon.gov/OWEB/MONITOR/). Staff will provide a brief summary of the workshop at the Board meeting.

C. Riparian Livestock Exclusion Monitoring

In response to recommendations from the Effectiveness Monitoring Workshop, and as a result of collaboration with the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, OWEB has initiated a pilot project evaluating the effectiveness of livestock exclusion projects in riparian areas. A request for proposals was posted in May 2006 and a contractor was hired in early June 2006. Monitoring was conducted this summer at seven locations on five OWEB funded riparian livestock exclusion projects. The projects are located in Lane, Harney, Coos, and Union counties. The final report for the first year of monitoring will be presented at the OWEB Biennial Conference in October 2006.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item. No Board action is requested at this time.

Attachment

- A. OWEB Juniper Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring Final Report