



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski., Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360

Salem, OR 97301-1290

(503) 986-0178

FAX (503) 986-0199

www.oregon.gov/OWEB



December 26, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G: Livestock Exclusion Effectiveness Monitoring Report
January 16-17, 2008 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update on the effectiveness monitoring of livestock exclusion projects and the efforts of OWEB and the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) to coordinate on current and future effectiveness monitoring opportunities.

II. Background

Livestock exclusion in riparian areas has been a long standing practice of restoration experts in their attempts to reduce water quality degradation, increase riparian vegetation diversity and structure, increase shade on streams, and reduce disturbances to fish and other wildlife. Riparian livestock exclusion projects are OWEB's second largest category of restoration funding, second only to fish passage projects and totaling over \$20 million in investments over the last 10 years. These project activities also form the backbone of the CREP program in Oregon. Most of the projects fence livestock out of riparian areas so that both stream banks and riparian vegetation can recover, usually naturally, sometimes with additional restoration such as planting projects.

Because of this large investment in riparian livestock exclusion projects, OWEB hired the firm Tetra Tech EC, Inc. (Tetra Tech) in May of 2006, to implement effectiveness monitoring of a portion of OWEB's livestock exclusion restoration projects. By the close of 2006, Tetra Tech completed the baseline monitoring for seven projects located in OWEB's Southwest, Willamette, and Eastern Oregon regions (Regions 2, 3, and 5). Prior to awarding the contract for the second year of monitoring, OWEB staff worked with the SRFB and Tetra Tech staff to plan a coordinated report on the efforts conducted in the two states.

III. Monitoring Results

At the January meeting, Tetra Tech will provide a summary of the early results from the first year of surveys following the implementation of livestock exclusion projects. They will also describe how OWEB and the SRFB have worked together on this project to increase the sample size for analysis and to create one report for both states.

IV. Future Monitoring Coordination

Staff will also discuss the opportunities for future coordination between the states of Washington and Oregon when evaluating the effectiveness of restoration projects. OWEB staff intend to continue to work with the SRFB to evaluate restoration projects jointly and to share information about monitoring efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication and to use limited monitoring dollars effectively.

V. Recommendation

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