

ANNUAL OREGON PLAN MEASURES REPORT
JUNE 2001
DEQ, Water Quality Division

STATEWIDE MEASURES

DEQ1S: Implementation of Recently Revised Water Quality Standards for Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen and Sedimentation

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Finalized and have started to implement the new Temperature Management Plan (TMP) guidance. TMPs require wastewater permittees (for pre-TMDL streams where the temperature standards is exceeded) to look at all alternatives to reducing temperature impacts of their effluent and show incremental progress in reducing thermal loading.
- Developing guidance for addressing Threatened and Endangered species in the context of the temperature standard to be concluded in October 2001.

Issues:

- EPA expected to propose regional temperature standard in Fall 2001. DEQ will need to look at how this affects our current standard.

DEQ2S: Development of 303(D) List and Identification of Priorities for TMDL Development

Status: On Schedule (303(d) list due for completion Spring 2002)

Accomplishments: Preparing to issue "Call for Data" in July 2001.

Issues: None

DEQS3: Watershed Council Support

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Provided training on monitoring and published newsletter for watershed councils as part of ongoing technical assistance program.
- Supported numerous watershed councils by providing general technical assistance and grants.

Issues: None

DEQ4S: Enhanced 401 Certification for Fill and Removal Operations

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Incorporated new approach to dealing with turbidity issues (i.e., differential standard over the course of a year to more closely address physiological needs of fish) into Ross Island and Klamath delta permits.
- After denying 401 certification for the Corps' proposed Columbia River Channel Deepening project, continuing to work with Corps and others to ensure that any future dredging plans would be adequately protective of water quality.
- Improved coordination with federal and state agencies (Oregon and Washington).

Issues: None

DEQ5S: Revise Water Quality Standard for Sediment

Status: On Hold due to other priorities for triennial review of standards

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ6S: Implement Anti-degradation Water Quality Standard

Status: On Schedule

Accomplishments:

- Implementing recently completed guidance for antidegradation for point sources.
- Developing guidance for application to nonpoint sources.

Issues: None

DEQ7S: Apply for Instream Water Rights on Streams with TMDLs

Status: No current activity.

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ8S: Review and Revise Water Quality Standards during Triennial Review Process

Status: Underway; Expect to complete Triennial Review process in late 2002.

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ9S: Implement Water Quality Standards for Biological Criteria, Nutrients, Toxics and pH

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments: Working on methodology for developing numeric biocriteria as part of Water Quality Standards Triennial Review process.

Issues: None

DEQ10S: Develop Water Quality Standards for Wetlands

Status: On Hold (unfunded, not an agency priority)

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ11S: Revise Water Quality Standards for Nutrients

Status: Underway, participating in EPA-sponsored effort to develop regional nutrient criteria.

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ12S: Designation of Salmon Critical Habitat as Outstanding Resource Waters

Status: On Hold (most – if not all – ineligible for ORW due to 303d listing)

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ13S: Implementation of SDWA Source Water Protection Program

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments: Completed inventory portion of Source Water Assessments for 106 groundwater and surface water; completed 13 final reports. The assessments identify potential contaminant sources and, in conjunction with the final reports, heighten community awareness about water quality risks in their watersheds.

Issues: None

DEQ14S: Management of Point Sources through NPDES Permits

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Implementing new Temperature Management Plan guidance (see Measure #1).
- Completed Wastewater Permitting Process Improvement Team report; currently mapping out implementation plan/timeline. Process improvements will result in improved efficiency and effectiveness in the development and issuance of wastewater permits.

Issues: None

DEQ15S: Management of Storm Water through NPDES Permits

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments: DEQ is talking with EPA, USFWS and NMFS to explore ways that ESA issues can be addressed in the stormwater permitting process.

Issues: None

DEQ16S: Revise SRF Loan Criteria to Help Protect Salmon

Status: Underway

Accomplishments:

- Attempt to pass a bill to broaden eligibility for SRF loans to allow for loans to private entities for nonpoint source pollution control projects failed. Will work with stakeholders during interim to see if legislation is possible next session and/or revise existing SRF administrative rules.

Issues: None

DEQ17S: Implement On-Site Program to Control Nutrient Loads to Surface Waters

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ18S: Implement Groundwater Protection Act to Prevent Adverse Impacts to Salmonid-Bearing Watersheds

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- A groundwater assessment project in the southern Willamette Valley resulted in a recommendation to establish a Groundwater Management Area in Land County

and a Groundwater Area of Concern in Linn/Benton Counties. DEQ is currently considering the recommendation.

Issues: None

DEQ19S: Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Completed sampling in Oregon Coast and Willamette ESU's for water chemistry, stream habitat and biological conditions for macroinvertebrate and fish communities.
- Established criteria for identifying and selecting minimally disturbed reference sites within the Coastal and Willamette Valley regions to develop appropriate restoration goals and expectations for other streams in the same regions. Conducted sampling during summer 2000 in ten reference sites in Willamette ESU.
- Implemented a comprehensive monitoring program in Western Oregon that establishes baseline information on "factors for decline" to assess current status and identify possible trends in the future.
- Sampled over 350 stream sites in Western Oregon for chemical, physical and biological parameters.
- Integrated and coordinated DEQ's monitoring program with the monitoring efforts of ODFW to increase the effectiveness of the data collected by both agencies.
- Issues: None

DEQ31S: 401 Certification of Grazing Leases on Federal Lands

Status: Completed [Rules were promulgated a couple years ago as necessitated by a lower court decision and have since been repealed because that decision was overturned.]

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ32S: Evaluate and Require Mitigation for the Impacts of Dams and Hydroelectric Projects on Water Quality during Re-licensing or Reauthorization

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

- Worked with PacifiCorp and natural resource agencies/stakeholders to reach agreement on terms and conditions related to natural resource protection that will be incorporated into the relicensing agreement for PacifiCorp's North Umpqua system.

Issues: None

COLUMBIA/SNAKE MEASURES

DEQ22S: Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program in Columbia River Estuary

Status: Ongoing; DLCD is lead agency, revised report due in 2003.

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ23S: Lower Columbia River Estuary Program

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ26S: Development of TMDLs for Temperature and TDG on Lower Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers

Status: Underway

Accomplishments:

- Draft TMDL for Total Dissolved Gas is complete; will be released for informal public review in July 2001. Formal public review will take place in fall. TMDL is expected to be completed and submitted to EPA by January 2002.
- EPA is lead on temperature TMDL; effort is ongoing with a target date of completion of August 2002.

Issues: None

DEQ28S: Gas Abatement Plan for Hydropower Projects on Mainstem Columbia River

Status: The Corps has lead on this; will become part of DEQ's efforts under Measure #26.

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ30S: Section 401 Review of Hydropower Projects on Snake River

Status: Underway

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

NORTH COAST MEASURES (Siuslaw, Mid Coast, North Coast)

DEQ20S: Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program

Status: On Schedule

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ21S: Tillamook Bay National Estuary Program

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

Other Activities in Support of Oregon Plan

- Tillamook TMDL finalized and submitted to EPA for approval.

SOUTH COAST MEASURES (Umpqua, Coos, Coquille, Ten Mile, Rogue, S. Coast)

Other Activities in Support of Oregon Plan

- Upper South Fork Coquille TMDL approved by EPA.
- Little River TMDL out for public review and comment.

WILLAMETTE MEASURES (Upper, Middle, Lower Willamette, Scappose, Sandy)

DEQ24S: Implementation of Portland CSO Consent Order

Status: Underway

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ25S: Implementation of Three Basin Rule in Clackamas, North Santiam and McKenzie River Basins

Status: Ongoing

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

DEQ27S: Willamette River Basin Project

Status: Completed.

Accomplishments: DEQ conducted studies on bacteria, skeletal deformities in fish, fish embryo development, and human health risks from consumption of contaminated fish. Reports are available online at:

<http://waterquality.deq.state.or.us/wq/Willamet/reports2000.htm>

Issues: None

Other Activities in Support of Oregon Plan

- Tualatin TMDL finalized and submitted to EPA for approval.

CENTRAL MEASURES (Hood, Deschutes, Klamath, Goose and Summer Lakes)

DEQ29S: Section 401 Review of Powerdale Project on Hood River

Status: Completed

Accomplishments:

Issues: None

EASTERN MEASURES (John Day, Umatilla, Grande Ronde, Malheur, Owyhee)

Other Activities in Support of Oregon Plan

- Umatilla TMDL approved by EPA, May 2001.
- First drafts of TMDLs for Hood and Upper Klamath Lake completed.