ODOT
2001 Oregon Plan Progress Report

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is responsible for the maintenance and operation of 7,848 miles of the state and interstate road system, approximately 10% of the entire road network available to the public. The state highway system parallels, or runs perpendicular, to the major rivers of Oregon, the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. As such, the maintenance, operations, and construction of these roads have the potential to impact the physical habitat and life cycle needs of anadromous fish species. ODOT's component of the Oregon Plan is based on its role as a state highway authority. Some of ODOT's many accomplishments in implementing the Oregon Plan are listed below.

Status of Agency Measures:

- ODOT has 16 agency objectives developed for the Oregon Plan, 2 complete, 11 on-going, 2 have become standard operating procedure and are incorporated into existing agency programs, and 1 has been identified as a future activity, pending legislative authority.
- ODOT has a variety of programs that are independent of the Oregon Plan, but support the measures of the Oregon Plan. These on-going programs include ODOT's Clean Water, Vegetation Management, and Hazardous Materials Management programs.
- ODOT recently performed an agency-wide environmental review on programs, policies, and activities.
- ODOT initiated a broad-scale partnering program with environmental regulators.

Fish Passage:

- Since 1996, ODOT completed statewide inventory of culverts to identify fish passage barriers on state, federal, and county roads.
- In 1997, ODOT dedicated $12 million for each 4 year State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for improving fish passage beginning with the 2000-2003 STIP.
- In 1997-1999, ODOT addressed fish passage using maintenance betterment dollars. Maintenance forces and ODFW addressed over 25 culvert retrofits in western Oregon.
- In 2000, ODOT cooperated in a joint research project evaluating effectiveness of culverts retrofitted for fish passage with the Federal Highway Administration, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Oregon State University.
- In 2001, ODOT completed 7 culvert retrofit or replacement projects restoring a total of 37.7 miles of fish habitat (actual projects listed below).
    - Replaced culvert on Squaw Creek opening 4.5 miles of fish habitat.
    - Replaced culvert on Neahkanie Creek opening 1 mile of fish habitat.
    - Replaced culvert on Charlie Creek opening 1.2 miels of fish habitat.
    - Replaced culvert on Unnamed Creek (a.k.a. Joe Creek #2) opening 1.5 miles of fish habitat.
    - Retrofitted culvert on Tickle Creek opening 2.0 miles of fish habitat.

    - Retrofitted culvert on Porter Creek opening 3.0 miles of fish habitat.
    - Retrofitted culvert on Rock Creek opening 24.5 miles of fish habitat.
- ODOT reassigned the culvert and fish passage program to ODOT Geo-hydro unit.

Landscapes:
- ODOT developed a list of native grass seed mixes for use on test plots throughout the different eco-regions.
- ODOT improved awareness within ODOT of how vegetation management impacts environmental issues.
- ODOT investigated alternative methods of vegetation management and reducing amounts of chemical herbicides used on ODOT rights-of-way.

In-Stream Habitat:
- ODOT developed and adopted 6 design guidelines for streambank stabilization incorporating vegetation into the engineered design.
- ODOT continued the research project with the Oregon State University to determine vegetative effectiveness on bank stabilization.
- ODOT incorporated bioengineering techniques on multiple bank stabilization projects.
- ODOT completed 6 streambank bio-stabilization projects. Projects completed on Agency Creek, West Fork Dairy Creek, Flora Creek, Eel Creek, Clearlake – Belnap Springs, and Slaughter and Unnamed Creek on Nehalem Highway.
- ODOT eliminated riprap from 7 bridge projects.
- ODOT developed an erosion control field manual.
- ODOT presented training classes on erosion control and fluvial geomorphology.

Water Quality:
- ODOT developed an operational directive for treating water quality as well as a decision making process to define when water quality facilities will be included in project development.

Estuaries and Wetlands:
- ODOT partnered with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to re-establish estuarine habitat on the Siletz River.