



Oregon Plan *Teamwork*

Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

February 1999

This monthly publication is written and distributed by Mikell O’Mealy, Oregon Sea Grant Fellow in the Governor’s Natural Resources Office. It presents her observation of the evolving roles and activities of supporting teams and oversight bodies of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

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Kitzhaber Expands Oregon Plan Through Executive Order

In January Governor Kitzhaber released Executive Order 99-01, reaffirming and expanding the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The order comes after Oregon’s withdrawal from a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to implement the Oregon Plan. The MOA provided for implementation to ensure that Oregon coast coho did not warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Following an order of the U.S. District Court, the NMFS reconsidered their previous no-list decision for coastal coho, and listed the species as threatened under the ESA in October 1998. With this listing in place, the central purpose of the MOA was effectively eliminated and clarification of Oregon’s effort was necessary.

The Executive Order begins by affirming implementation of the Oregon Plan, then significantly expands the role of state agencies. Some expansions and directions include:

- Expansion of the Oregon Plan objective for state agencies *to protect and restore salmonids and improve water quality* (section 1(b)). This change shifts the state’s focus from coho and steelhead of the coastal region and valley, to all salmonids statewide. The terms “protect” and “restore” are addressed in sections 1(d) and 1(e) respectfully.
- Direction to establish biological and habitat goals and objectives to protect and restore salmonids on a basin or regional basis (section 1(c)).
- Direction to prioritize state agency measures and modify agency workplans to reflect the expanded scope of the Plan by June 1, 1999 (section 1(f)).
- Direction to streamline and prioritize the actions of state agencies at the regional level, focusing effort on activities and areas of highest priority under the Plan (section 1(h)).
- Direction to support efforts the Willamette Restoration Initiative and other restoration efforts statewide (section 1(j)).
- Direction to each agency to integrate monitoring work and ratify a monitoring team charter by June 1, 1999 (section 1(k,l)).
- Direction to follow the State Geographic Information Systems Plan for documenting, coordinating and sharing data (section 1(n)).

The order then goes on to affirm and expand efforts specific to certain agencies. The Executive Order can be printed from the Oregon Plan website at <http://www.oregon-plan.org>, under the link: *What’s New*.

IMST Releases Predation Report

The Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team, directed to evaluate scientific issues fundamental to implementation of the Oregon Plan, released their second report in January. In December the IMST released their first report on the effectiveness of hatchery-related measures in the Oregon Plan. This most recent report evaluates the impacts of marine mammal and seabird predators on salmonids and recommends mitigation for these impacts.

Important conclusions of the report include:

- predation by marine mammals and seabirds can affect salmonid stocks and their recovery, but evidence for a significant effect is lacking
- the current base of information is insufficient to conclude that predation has a significant impact on adult escapement of Oregon salmonids
- other factors (e.g. habitat modification, ocean conditions, dams) may be equally or more important than predation
- actions to manage predators should be delayed until sufficient information confirms the magnitude of a specific problem, and we adequately understand the problem to recommend an effective course of action
- given this uncertainty, current efforts and resources of the Oregon Plan should be focused on other areas that are more effective in achieving recovery of stocks

The IMST follows their conclusions with prioritized recommendations for research, testing, risk assessment and monitoring. The report, entitled *Pinniped and Seabird Predation: Implications for Recovery of Threatened Stocks of Salmonids in Oregon Under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds*, can be obtained by contacting Teresa Trump at the Governor's Natural Resource Office at (503)-378-3589 Ext. 821. Reports addressing escapement goals, forest practices, fish habitat in estuarine and lowland systems and others are in progress and can be expected in coming months.

Joint Committee Hears Oregon Plan-related Bills

The Joint Legislative Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement was established in 1997 to oversee implementation of the Oregon Plan during the interim. Now that the 1999 legislative session has begun, legislators from the interim committee sit on the Joint Committee for Stream Restoration and Species Recovery (JCSRSR). Bills related to the Oregon Plan, watershed health, salmon recovery and other related issues are expected to come to this committee.

Bills that relate to the Oregon Plan that have been introduced thus far are listed below with bill number, bill sponsor, and a brief summary. These bills have all been assigned to the JCSRSR.

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| SB 130 | Sponsor: Joint Legislative Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement
Summary: Directs State Fish and Wildlife Commission to develop and implement remote hatchbox program, and to report to Legislative Assembly on progress of remote hatchbox program and salmon and trout enhancement program. |
| SB 132 | Sponsor: Joint Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement
Summary: Changes membership of Healthy Streams Partnership (HSP). Directs HSP to elect chairperson and provides staff. |
| SB 133 | Sponsor: Joint Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement |

Summary: Expands scope of responsibility of joint Legislative Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement to include oversight of activities pertaining to all native or anadromous fish.

- SB 321 Sponsor: Governor Kitzhaber
Summary: Creates Parks and Natural Resources Fund within Administrative Services Economic Development Fund. Appropriates money for purposes of protection, restoration and enhancement of wild salmonid populations, watersheds, fish and wildlife habitats and water quality. Referred to Ways and Means.
NOTE: This bill number will soon change with a technical correction in the “Relating to” clause.
- HB 2411 Sponsor: Joint Legislative Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement
Summary: Eliminates duplicative provisions in watershed restoration statutes. Changes eligibility for Governor’s Watershed Enhancement Board grants. Allows graduate students who are performing research under direction of Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team.
- HJM 1 Sponsor: Joint Legislative Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement
Summary: Memorializes President and Congress to withhold National Marine Fisheries Service funding for taking enforcement action in Oregon until Congress provides sufficient funds to assist Oregon in restoration of salmon.

February Meeting Schedule

- Feb. 18 Implementation Team
Mill Creek Room, Division of State Lands, 775 Summer St. NE, Salem.
Time: 9:00am to 1:00pm
- Feb. 18 Monitoring Team
Mill Creek Room, Division of State Lands, 775 Summer St. NE, Salem.
Time: 1:00am to 4:00pm
- Feb. 18, 19 Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team
Conference Room 200, Forest Science Lab, Oregon State Univ., Corvallis.
Time: 8:30am to 5:00pm each day
- Feb. 24 Coastal Salmon Restoration and Production Task Force
Conference Rooms 251A and B, Public Service Building, Salem.
Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm
- Feb. 26 Healthy Streams Partnership
Associated Oregon Industries, 1149 Court St. NE, Salem
Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm
- Weekly Joint Committee on Stream Restoration and Species Recovery
Room 50, Capitol Building, Salem.
Monday 7:00am to 8:30am
Tuesday 4:30pm to 6:30pm
Thursday 7:00am to 8:30am
Friday 9:00am to 11:00am
- Not meeting Outreach Team