

January 10, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Greg Sieglitz, Monitoring and Reporting Program Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item D, Attachment B: Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Proposed Monitoring Needs
January 24-25, 2006 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

The interagency Oregon Plan Monitoring Team (OPMT) has been working on the implementation of the Oregon Plan Monitoring Strategy over the last year. Recently, the OPMT has been meeting to establish specific linkages between monitoring conducted by agencies and unmet needs under the monitoring strategy. The projects described in this report are a variety of actions that provide important information for recovery planning actions for salmon and steelhead and are a direct result of information gaps identified in the Oregon Coastal Coho ESU Assessment (Coastal Coho Assessment). The proposed work programs were developed through collaboration and significant discussion.

II. Background

In September 2005, the Board supported the staff recommendation to reserve \$600,000 for joint monitoring efforts to assist Oregon's recovery planning efforts, including efforts to address state agency needs for focused statewide scale effectiveness monitoring, status and trends monitoring, and data management and dissemination activities that are consistent with, and further the objectives of, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. As the coordinator for the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team, OWEB staff have facilitated extensive discussions about the information needed and the location and scale of information that can assist in informing recovery planning efforts. The Oregon Plan Monitoring Team identified five specific projects that can add value to understanding limiting factors to salmon and steelhead populations.

III. Proposed Projects

The five proposed projects address the relationship between water quality and aquatic resources and provide better access to more data. These new projects would satisfy specific data collection analysis and information management needs outlined in the Coastal Coho Assessment. Each project builds on existing efforts and either provides focus or expands current monitoring efforts to cover the areas needed by recovery planning efforts. The five projects are described below:

1. Expanded Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Network in Oregon Coastal Coho ESU. DEQ proposes to add three additional monitoring stations for long-term water quality trending and change the location of approximately three existing stations to improve water quality monitoring coverage for trending in the Oregon Coast Coho ESU. These three new stations will be in Coho populations currently without trending stations and will be in addition to 31 existing ambient monitoring stations DEQ currently monitors in the Oregon Coastal Coho ESU. Station locations will be coordinated with ODFW staff. Ambient stations will be monitored six times per year for standard water quality parameters.

Two-year cost: \$40,920 (DEQ)

2. Macroinvertebrate Sampling for Water Quality and Temperature. ODFW proposed to use field crews to collect macroinvertebrate samples at 160 random juvenile Coho monitoring sites also surveyed by ODFW. Sample density will be increased in selected Coho populations in different years on a rotating basis. DEQ will provide field crew training, sampling equipment, supplies, sample processing, macroinvertebrate contractor services, data management and analysis. The data will be used to estimate temperature (seasonal maximum seven day moving average), sediment, and overall stream water quality and ecological integrity.

Two-year cost: \$279,680 (Contracted Services-\$10,000; DEQ-\$269,680)

3. Temperature Monitoring at Selected Random ODFW Juvenile Coho Sites in the Oregon Coastal Coho ESU. Continuous temperature monitoring at approximately 20 randomly selected sites snorkel surveyed for juvenile Coho salmon will be done by ODFW field crews in the Coastal Coho ESU under this project proposal. Temperature loggers will be deployed, retrieved, and field audited by ODFW field crews. DEQ will supply the temperature loggers and related materials, pre- and post-deployment laboratory accuracy checks, temperature data downloading, storage, and summary statistics.

Two-year cost: \$39,280 (DEQ)

4. Watershed Council Data Compilation. This effort calls for the capture of project results from Oregon Plan funded agencies, as well as the remaining OWEB-funded watershed council sampling and monitoring efforts into a statewide online data library. An additional outcome would be to develop minimum data standards and data entry templates for future data collection efforts to ensure consistency and compatibility across watersheds and agencies.

Two-year cost: \$88,500 (ODFW)

5. Fish Habitat Distribution Maintenance and Development. The goal of this proposed project is to improve the quality, consistency, and availability of Oregon's fish habitat distribution dataset. This proposal describes efforts to reconcile differences between existing coho distribution datasets, thereby providing the Oregon Plan and the Monitoring Team with one consistent, high quality, comprehensive dataset. This effort will also update existing distribution information for other species based on available information. Tools will be developed to capture new observation information.

Two-year cost: \$109,500 (ODFW)

Total cost of five projects: \$557,880