

January 6, 2006

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**FROM:** Louise Solliday, Governor's Natural Resources Office

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item F: Recovery Planning Update  
January 24-25, 2006 OWEB Board Meeting**

### **I. Introduction**

This staff report describes the current status of the State of Oregon's expedited participation in recovery planning for salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

### **II. Background**

After a species is listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, the listing agency must develop a recovery plan. A recovery plan is a detailed documentation of the biological status and necessary actions to recover the species to a viable status.

The State has begun working with the Northwest Regional Office of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries to develop recovery plans under the ESA that will also serve as Native Fish Conservation Plans under the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Native Fish Conservation Policy.

Oregon has federal salmon and steelhead listings (all "threatened" listings) in five Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs), four of which we share with other states. These include the Southern Oregon/Northern California (SONC) ESU (coho), the Lower Columbia ESU (chum, coho, steelhead, Chinook), the Upper Willamette ESU (Chinook, steelhead), the Mid Columbia ESU (steelhead) and the Snake ESU (Chinook, steelhead). In addition, the Oregon Coast Coho ESU is currently proposed for listing as threatened. Attached to this staff report is a map of the recovery domains (Attachment A), a description of the salmon recovery domains (Attachment B), and the ESA status of West Coast salmon and steelhead (Attachment C).

### **III. Recovery Planning Status**

Oregon has developed a recovery planning structure for each ESU that includes a planning team and a stakeholder team. The planning teams are led by ODFW staff and include staff from state and federal natural resource agencies. The stakeholder teams represent the private and public interests in each ESU and provide input and feedback to the state and NOAA on recovery planning products. The Governor's Natural Resource Office is providing overall coordination and policy direction for the recovery planning effort.

Work plans have been developed for each ESU. It is anticipated that draft recovery plans for each ESU will be completed according to the following schedule:

Oregon Coast	June 2006
Lower Columbia	December 2006
Mid Columbia	December 2006
Snake	December 2006
Upper Willamette	June 2007
**SONC	Unknown

\*\* This ESU is covered by NOAA Southwest Region who has not yet developed a schedule for SONC coho recovery planning.

NOAA and Oregon are sharing costs for the recovery planning efforts. Oregon is using Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (\$900,000 allocated by OWEB and \$750,000 allocated by ODFW) as well as state resources. NOAA is assisting us to coordinate with other states as needed. Washington is expected to have draft recovery plans before Oregon does. Washington's Lower Columbia Recovery Plan has already been submitted to NOAA.

In all recovery planning areas we plan to build on already completed work, including but not limited to, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, the Oregon Coastal Coho Assessment, subbasin plans in the Columbia Basin, watershed assessments and action plans, and ODFW basin management plans. Each plan will include sections on current viability and desired future status for each ESU (including both delisting criteria and broad sense recovery goals), population, limiting factors and threats, management actions to address limiting factors and threats, an implementation schedule and costs estimates, and research, monitoring and evaluation needs. The plans will provide a focused identification of limiting factors that can be used to guide OWEB funding decisions.

The schedule is ambitious and the budget is limited, but we are cautiously optimistic that we can and will deliver draft plans as scheduled.

#### **IV. Recommendation**

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

#### Attachments

- A. Maps of Recovery Domains
- B. Salmon Recovery Domain Descriptions
- C. ESA Status of West Coast Salmon and Steelhead