

February 27, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Greg Sieglitz, Monitoring and Reporting Program Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item E: Monitoring Report
Effectiveness Monitoring Program
March 15-16, 2006 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the effectiveness monitoring program activities that have taken place between September 2005 and March 2006.

II. Background

In September 2004, the Board approved an implementation plan for the effectiveness monitoring program. This program is designed to fulfill specific needs identified within the Monitoring Strategy of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The Monitoring and Reporting Program staff are making progress on a number of fronts, specifically, western juniper removal projects, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund reporting, and the effectiveness monitoring workshop.

III. Update on Activities

A. Western Juniper Removal Project Evaluation

Western juniper has been rapidly expanding over the last 130 years and is negatively affecting the ecological functions of the landscape including plant diversity, hydrology, nutrient cycling, and energy flow (Barrett 2004¹, Miller *et al.* 2005²). Documented watershed benefits from the removal of western juniper include reduced soil erosion, increased infiltration of water, improved plant diversity, an increase in forage production and positive impacts on water yield. Success or failure of a project is often determined through one or a combination of the following; 1) site selection, 2) method of removal, and 3) follow-up management. Staff will provide some observations, opportunities, and suggestions regarding programmatic management of juniper restoration projects at the Board meeting.

B. Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) Reporting

Several milestones were passed with OWEB's reporting function since the last update given to the Board in September of 2005. In November, the Performance Analyst and Reporting Specialist was hired to be the lead technical contact for the National Marine Fisheries Service

¹ Barrett, R. H. J. 2005. Draft Effectiveness Monitoring - Western Juniper: A Summary of Findings. CSR Natural Resources Consulting, Inc

² Miller, R., F., J. D. Bates, T. J. Svejcar, F. B. Pierson, and L. E. Eddleman. 2005. Biology, ecology, and management of western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*). Technical Bulletin 152, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.

(NMFS) staff that compile data and information for the PCSRF expenditures each year. Becky Miller, who previously worked on 2004 updates to the OWEB restoration database, was hired to fulfill this role. Staff provided several updates to the PCSRF database as required under the new federal annual and quarterly reporting requirements.

1. **November 2005** - Annual report: data “up-load” to PCSRF database. Included several databases including the small grants, maps, and further details about recently initiated projects.
2. **December 2005** - Conducted an analysis of data sent to NMFS regarding other Oregon Plan agency expenditures, provided explanatory information and updated NMFS database.
3. **January 2006** - First quarterly update following new requirements. Sent several databases and worked with NMFS staff in preparation of the draft 2006 Report to Congress.
4. **February 2006** - Provided Oregon stories for the 2006 Report to Congress and edited PCSRF database.

Staff have developed some new tools to assist in the reporting functions of the agency. Specifically, staff developed a form to capture more information on incoming grant applications that allows for more robust data collection and greater detail for reports to NMFS. This form, and work with the Fiscal Program staff on database modifications, also allows OWEB more information about projects when they are initially proposed for funding. This information will be housed in the OWEB databases and will be available to regional staff and their review teams.

C. Effectiveness Monitoring Workshop

OWEB has enlisted the help of the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST) in order to develop a credible, robust and inclusive strategy to evaluate implementation under the Oregon Plan. This strategy could include recommendations on the types of projects, collections of project types, or large scale assessments (i.e., the coho assessment) to implement.

A workshop format was selected as the starting point for this initiative. OWEB staff have been working with a planning team comprised of members of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, The Nature Conservancy, and watershed councils for several months. The planning team is meeting on a weekly basis to develop an agenda, plan workshop activities, and develop outreach materials. We are also developing a set of questions that workshop participants will answer under the guidance of a facilitator during the workshop. The answers to these questions will provide the IMST guidance in the development of an effectiveness monitoring framework for OWEB. In addition, OWEB staff have been contacting watershed councils and SWCDs as well as scientists and agency representatives to invite them to participate in the workshop. The response has been very positive, and many people are looking forward to the opportunity to discuss effectiveness monitoring. The workshop will be held at the LaSells Stewart Center in Corvallis on April 18 and 19, 2006.

IV. Recommendation

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