

August 29, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Ken Bierly, Deputy Director

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item L: Recovery Planning
September 19-20, 2006 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This report requests Board action to allocate \$600,000 of Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) to support ongoing efforts to develop salmon conservation and recovery plans throughout the state.

II. Background

The State of Oregon is investing significant resources to develop conservation and recovery plans for salmon and steelhead. This multi-agency planning effort is being coordinated by the Governor's Office, and is one of the more complex and far-reaching initiatives undertaken as part of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The plans will meet both state and federal objectives for the recovery of salmon and steelhead populations.

For the 2005-2007 biennium, the Legislature earmarked \$1.5 million in PCSRF funds split evenly between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and OWEB to assist in the development of conservation/recovery plans. In addition to these funds, the Board approved an allocation of \$200,000 to support local involvement in recovery planning during its September 2005 meeting. To date, OWEB has allocated a total of \$853,943. Individual allocations by OWEB are listed below.

PCSRF Funding for Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Planning

Name	ESU	Amount
Oregon Dept. of Forestry	All	\$175,000
Department of State Lands	All	\$51,578
Water Resources Department	All	\$89,961
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	Coastal Coho	\$66,000
Governor's Office	All	\$37,500
Portland State University	Coastal Coho	\$65,000
Cogan-Owens-Cogan	Willamette	\$150,000
University of Oregon	Coastal Coho	\$80,000
Printing	Coastal Coho	\$7,904
Coho Stakeholder Workshops	All	\$10,000
Councils and Districts	Coastal Coho	\$27,500
Councils and Districts	Lower Columbia	\$20,000
Councils and Districts	Mid Columbia	\$40,000
Councils and Districts	Snake	\$33,500
TOTAL		\$853,943

At the January and March 2006 Board meetings, staff proposed and the Board approved an additional reserve of \$600,000 for conservation/recovery planning from the 2006 PCSRF funds.

III. Current Status and Request

The development of conservation/recovery plans is a high priority for the State of Oregon. Completed plans will provide additional guidance for future board restoration grant investments. Attachment A lists the planning efforts by “Recovery Domain.” It shows the first plan targeted to become final in early 2007 and others to be finalized throughout 2007.

The development of each plan requires technical support and stakeholder team facilitation and support. Funds are also needed to augment staff participation from other agencies to support facilitation and consultant services, meet data management needs, and act as a reserve to address unanticipated needs. Only \$79,000 remains from the \$200,000 allocated to support local group participation in recovery planning, and only \$17,057 remains of the \$750,000 legislative allocation to OWEB.

At this time, specific support requirements and future funding needs are unknown. However, we fully expect additional funding needs to arise during the remainder of the biennium. To date, the Board has delegated authority to distribute funds for conservation/recovery planning to the Executive Director in order to have the flexibility to respond rapidly to funding needs as they occur. The Director works with the Governor’s Office to determine the specific purposes for the funds and the timing of distribution. Staff propose continuing this approach for distributing funds. Staff will regularly report on the progress of conservation/recovery plan development and use of the funds. Updates from the Governor’s Office or other state agencies involved in this effort may also be scheduled at future board meetings.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board allocate up to \$600,000 of PCSRF funds for the purposes of continuing and completing salmon and steelhead conservation and recovery plans. Staff further recommend the Board delegate the authority to distribute these funds to the Executive Director, who will make specific distributions in consultation with Governor’s Office staff.

Attachment

- A. Oregon Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Planning Schedule