FORUM ON MONITORING
SALMON RECOVERY AND WATERSHED HEALTH
SUMMARY MINUTES

DATE: September 11, 2007 | *PLACE: Natural Resources Bldg.*
TIME: 9:00 a.m. | *Olympia, Washington*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Ruckelshaus, Co-Chair	Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Jeff Koenings, Co-Chair	Director, Department of Fish & Wildlife
Laura Johnson	Director, Office of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
Chris Drivdahl	Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Josh Baldi	Designee, Department of Ecology
Jeff Breckel	Designee, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Jim Cowles	Designee, Department of Agriculture
Tom Eaton	Designee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Jim Cowles	Designee, Department of Agriculture
Craig Partridge	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Ron Shultz	Designee, Puget Sound Action Team
Carol Smith	Designee, Conservation Commission
Ginny Stern	Designee, Department of Health
Elizabeth Babcock	Designee, NOAA Fisheries
Terry Wright	Designee, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Alex Conley	Designee, Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board
Julie Morgan	Designee, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
Pete Schroeder	Designee, Lead Entity Advisory Group
Kit Paulsen	Designee, City of Bellevue (new Forum member)
Steve Lanigan	Designee, U.S. Forest Service

IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS SUMMARY BE USED WITH THE NOTEBOOK PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.
A RECORDED TAPE IS RETAINED BY IAC AS THE FORMAL RECORD OF MEETING.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Co-Chair Bill Ruckelshaus opened the meeting of the Forum on Monitoring Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery (Forum) at 9:05 a.m.

Introductions were made and the agenda was approved as presented.

One letter in the meeting packet included a request from the Washington Biodiversity Council to review its draft strategy. The co-chairs noted the need for the Forum to provide comments on the strategy. Bruce Crawford will draft a response from the Forum members.

ACTION ITEM

Bruce Crawford will draft a response on the Biodiversity Strategy from the Forum members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jeff Koenings **MOVED** to approve the June 21, 2007 meeting minutes.
Chris Drivdahl **SECONDED** the motion. Minutes **APPROVED** as presented.

Bruce Crawford pointed out that the data model accepted at the last meeting (Wedding Cake Model) was included in the minutes and the need to keep this before the Forum.

Chris Drivdahl would like to have staff start keeping a running list of action items and status. Co-chair Ruckelshaus agreed this would be a good idea. Bruce will develop this list from past meeting minutes.

ACTION ITEM

Staff will keep a running list of action items and status. Bruce will develop this list from past meeting minutes.

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Bruce Crawford presented this agenda item. (See meeting packet memorandums for details.)

The legislation creating the FORUM requires that the FORUM "review and make recommendations to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the appropriate legislative committee on agency budget requests related to monitoring and salmon recovery and watershed health. These recommendations must be made no later than September 15th of each year. The goal of this review is to prioritize and integrate budget requests across agencies."

This meeting was rescheduled from its previous date of September 25 to meet the OFM deadlines and provide the information required by the legislation.

Bruce reviewed the supplemental budget requests included in the packet and the draft memorandum from the FROUM. Four items are being proposed for recommendation by the Forum for supplemental budget funding:

1. Monitoring Puget Sound Watersheds for Water Quality and Habitat Improvements by 2020 (Ecology)
2. Monitoring Juvenile and Adult Salmon Abundance (Fish and Wildlife)
3. Monitoring Primary Salmon Recovery Watersheds for Habitat Recovery (Fish and Wildlife)
4. Developing a Unified State Map of Lakes, Rivers, and Streams (Recreation and Conservation Office on behalf of the affected agencies)

Josh Baldi discussed Ecology's supplemental request and explained why they were putting this request forward. The request is associated with the Puget Sound Partnership and Ecology is still waiting to hear from the Partnership to see if they are interested in what Ecology is proposing. If they are, Ecology would go forward with the request, if not, they would not put this request forward.

Terry Wright suggested re-wording the proposals to better reflect the "wedding cake" model and how these proposals fit into the overall scheme.

Jeff Koenings believes the proposals are in the highest level of monitoring and they are must haves. He would suggest the Forum be very aggressive in getting these requests funded.

Elizabeth Babcock offered up NOAA Fisheries staff to help coordinate this work.

Alex Conley concerned with using language that "over sells" what will happen. These are key parts but not the full deal and the Forum will come back to the Legislature to fund other portions.

Pete Schroeder talked about a couple monitoring projects that he has been working on that would provide key data on monitoring. He would like to see this information integrated into what the Forum is working on.

Carol Smith asked Josh if the proposal he presented in the past was statewide and now this is Puget Sound focused. Josh answered that this would still be statewide but starting in Puget Sound. Carol suggested adding the wording that this is a pilot project, as Jim Cahill mentioned one reason this didn't go forward last time was how large it was and that OFM would like to see a pilot project.

Tom Eaton asked if the $300,000 request is even close to enough to meet the need? Ken Dzinbal from Ecology came forward to explain this proposal a little better. For $300,000 it is only the first year start-up funding and would need to request more to continue the work.

Bruce Crawford noted that if you only do two salmon recovery regions per year it takes three years to come back to the original starting point which seems like a long time but actually is good timing, as will be seen in Steve Lanigan's presentation, so he believes Ecology has put together a good proposal.

Jeff Koenings asked if there were any comments on the other two requests. Ginny asked if it was really only $550 for the Monitoring Primary Salmon Recovery Watersheds for Habitat Recovery or if it should be $550,000. It should be $550,000.

Bruce commented on the last proposal on the state hydrography mapping and reported that the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) will submit the proposal for all the agencies if that is okay. That was okay to the other state agencies. Terry Wright was concerned with the tribes being left out and would request including the tribes and also have a keeper of the information that would keep this information updated. Bruce noted that Ecology would be the keeper of this map and asked how to include the tribes since they all have different representatives. Terry noted that the Northwest Indian Fish Commission (NWIFC) would be the place to go and that he will work with Bruce to get the language to include in this proposal.

Bruce also asked Ecology how to get the information in their request updated since this letter is due to OFM and the Legislature in the next four days. Josh will work with Bruce to get the updated language in time.

ACTION ITEM
Josh will work with Bruce to get the updated language for the OFM and Legislature in time.

Pete asked if the monitoring being worked on here is implementation, status trends, or effectiveness monitoring. Bruce reported that it is status trends monitoring. Pete suggested getting to effectiveness monitoring. Bruce reported that status trends can get to effectiveness monitoring and there are also other efforts in place that focus on effectiveness monitoring.

Bill Ruckelshaus suggested having clear definitions of what each kind of monitoring is and means so all the Forum can use the same language when talking about monitoring efforts.

With changes discussed during this meeting, the Forum **APPROVED** the packet to go to OFM and the Legislature by September 15.

AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING PROGRAM
Steve Lanigan, U.S. Forest Service, presented this agenda item. (See presentation materials for details.)

Steve explained the evaluation criteria used by the Forest Service in their monitoring efforts and how they are on about an 8-year cycle at this time. They are using remote sensing and satellite imagery for monitoring roads and vegetation. In the 10-year report several things increased. Positive items were vegetation growth (trees grew) and road decommissioning and the negative data was due to wildfires. The new approach is to provide data at a watershed level every 5 years and report in their 15-year plan.

Josh Baldi asked Steve if they are using this for management planning. Steve reported that this is so new that they haven't yet but probably will in the future.

The Forum discussed how this program can be used and additional groups who could be involved with these efforts. They discussed ways to coordinate efforts and to commit to a common set of protocols. The Forum was put in place to coordinate the monitoring efforts statewide and this will take change and executive support in doing this. Discussed the need to solve this problem and make this a priority with a timeframe to get there.

There is an Executives Data meeting scheduled on October 2, 2007, this meeting is meant to be a way to start the coordination process. Bill asked if a letter from he and co-chair Koenings would be a good way to get the executive support. Bruce will work with Jen Bayer, Jeff and Bill to get this letter of support and encouragement.

ACTION ITEM
Bill and Co-Chair will work on a letter to gain executive support.

Jeff Breckel asked what this October 2 meeting is for, haven't the four options already been adopted? What are they trying to accomplish? Jeff Koenings said this is to continue to get to a coordinated understanding and get closer to the goal of a coordinated data source.

Terry Wright asked if the group wants to get to one set of protocols? Jeff sees that executive meeting as a place to figure that question out. Steve believes the letter from Bill and Jeff would be great along with some dedicated staff support to work on this effort.

For more information see www.reo.gov/monitoring/watershed.

PROGRESS REPORT ON WATER QUALITY CONSORTIUM
Ken Dzinbal, Department of Ecology, presented this agenda item. (See presentation materials for details.)

Ken provided an update on where Ecology is after the January 25, 2007 report. The Department of Ecology received $800,000 in the current biennium (beginning July 1, 2007) to continue development of a water quality consortium to coordinate water quality monitoring in the Puget Sound basin. This proposal was endorsed by the Forum in the biennial budget request review and is of interest to the Forum in coordinating effectiveness monitoring with status/trend monitoring for water quality.

Terry Wright asked if this report was available in electronic format. Ken will provide to the Forum members.

Julie Morgan asked how the pilot projects Ken mentioned would look different from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) effectiveness monitoring pilots. He is not sure they would look that different but that the information gathered from both efforts will be able to be integrated.

REQUEST TO JOIN THE FORUM
Kit Paulsen, City of Bellevue, presented this request. (See meeting materials for details.)

Local governments are extremely interested in coordinating monitoring requirements addressing growth management, endangered species, storm water management, and other requirements. The City of Bellevue argues that their participation would bring strong technical and policy representation and help bridge the gap between state and local monitoring efforts.

Co-chair Ruckelshaus would endorse the City of Bellevue being accepted to join Forum contingent on their providing information and communication to the other cities statewide

and bring comments from the cities back to the Forum providing a two-way communication effort.

Kit noted that they put forward their request as an individual entity but they have talked to the Association of Washington Cities and the Association is willing to develop a process to provide a communication and coordination plan between the local governments and the Forum. She suggested that Bruce work with the Association of Cities to put a process in place.

ACTION ITEM
Bruce will work with the Association of Cities to put a process in place to provide communication and coordination with local governments.

Laura Johnson **MOVED** acceptance of the city of Bellevue to the Forum contingent upon a process for communication and coordination be set up through the Association of Cities. Jeff Koenings **SECONDED**. Forum **APPROVED**.

FORUM SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT
Carol Smith, Conservation Commission, presented this agenda item. (See presentation materials for details.)

The Forum asked the Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring Subcommittee to explore ways to improve the accuracy and extent of reporting restoration actions implemented to restore watershed health. The subcommittee enlisted the help of SWIMTAC to explore database issues associated with reporting. This report was completed in 2006 but has been deferred until now.

Carol provided a status update on efforts the subcommittee is working on.

Carol presented four possible next assignments for the group all of which are big assignments so she is asking for Forum direction on what the next assignment for this group should be or if the Forum has another assignment for the group.

Jeff Breckel would like to see the habitat work schedule to be better developed.

Alex Conley believes the database is going in a good direction but that it needs to include the human side that will keep the systems going. He believes the information needs to be at the regional and lead entity level to keep it manageable.

Bruce encouraged common protocols, there has been progress made but need to make sure the information is able to be shared.

Jeff Koenings reported that they (WDFW) is getting money to continue development of the habitat work schedule and he would be glad to include the coordination piece with other programs to help with the sharing of data.

Chris Drivdahl suggested having six featured watersheds for the next State of the Salmon Report. She would suggest working with the regions to figure out what data is still needed in the identified watersheds working with Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, tribes, and local governments in the featured watersheds to get the best and most complete data possible. The next State of the Salmon Report is due on December 1, 2008.

Ginny Sterns believes this is a good step and will get the Forum to the next step in getting additional data statewide.

Jeff Breckel would like to have the regions included on this subcommittee. Carol is supportive of this.

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Ron Shultz, Puget Sound Partnership, presented this agenda item. (See handout for details.)

The Puget Sound Partnership was created by the 2007 Legislature to protect and restore Puget Sound and its spectacular diversity of life, now and for future generations. The Partnership replaces the Puget Sound Action Team and, as of January 1, 2008, will assume the functions now performed by the Shared Strategy for Puget Sound. The Puget Sound Partnership is named as a participant in the Forum in the enabling legislation. The relationship between the Forum and the Partnership is not clear.

Ron provided an update on where the Partnership is in the transition to becoming a new agency.

Steve Lanigan asked Ron how they Forest Service will be involved in this effort. Bill encouraged Steve to not wait for the Partnership to identify efforts but to start working on this through the Federal Caucus now to make sure their efforts are part of what they are already doing.

Elizabeth Babcock noted that the Federal Caucus met and at that meeting they decided on the names for representatives on the Caucus.

Tom Eaton noted that he (with John Schweis as his back up), Elizabeth Babcock, and Ken Berg along with Stewart Toscach as back up will be the names being sent forward to be the representatives.

Bruce noted that Alan Christenson, the usual Forest Service Representative, is going to be retiring soon. Alan has been a real help to the Forum. He is hopeful the Forest Service will continue to send representation to the Forum such as Steve Lanigan who is representing the Forest Service today.

ACTION ITEM

Contact the Forest Service Regional Office for a replacement for Alan Christenson who will be retiring.

JUVENILE AND ADULT ENUMERATION DATA SHARING AND REPORTING

Erik Neatherlin, WDFW, presented this agenda item. (See presentation materials for details.)

The June 2007 Data Workshop sponsored by the Forum identified ways that juvenile migrant data could be coordinated and compiled in a database where all users can have free access to the information. Since the number of databases containing juvenile migrant information is relatively small this area was identified as one where significant progress could be made with WDFW and tribal coordination.

Erik provided an update on the work of this subcommittee.

Alex Conley encouraged keeping the Technical Recovery Teams (TRTs) in the loop.

Elizabeth Babcock is not sure they need a full-time member but will make sure there is representation to this effort as needed, and if it is found full-time assistance is needed, that could be arranged.

Bill Ruckelshaus stressed the need for public education on the concerns with Puget Sound and how to make sure a communication plan can be clear for the public to see that there is continuing need to help the salmon.

Erik does not have a communication plan in place yet, but he is in agreement with Co-chair Ruckelshaus for the need to educate the public with concerns and needs.

Jeff Breckel believes he could help with this as they did a public communication plan in the Lower Columbia.

Pete Schroeder noted that the Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) will have this issue on their next agenda which will be a way to start the public communication.

Bruce asked Erik to include how much in-kind work will be needed from other entities to make this work happen. Also, if you go onto the Data Portal, the only data on smolts is the work that has been done through the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) work.

Jeff Koenings believes the timeframe Erik presented is ambitious but can be done and hopes that all the groups that count fish are able to participate on this workgroup.

SALMON AND WATERSHED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWIMTAC) REPORT TO THE FORUM

Joy Paulus, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), presented this agenda item. (See presentation materials for details.)

The SWIMTAC was created by the Joint Natural Resources Cabinet in 1999 to help coordinate data among the state natural resource agencies. During the 2003-05 biennial budget process, the Legislature authorized expenditures to fund a state data coordinator as partial implementation of recommendations of the Monitoring Oversight Committee. As a result, the SWIMTAC continues in existence as a standing committee of the Monitoring Forum. Joy provided a briefing of the progress over the past year of progress in coordinating data and is asking the Forum for continued support of SWIMTAC activities.

Jeff Koenings believes the SWIMTAC has taken a big step and is very supportive of the work that's been done.

Bruce would like Joy to tie the $68,600 to the supplemental budget request that the Forum looked at earlier in the meeting.

Joy discussed Washington Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) need for reviewing all the hydo-data sets for permitting and how they would really appreciate getting to one data set. WSDOT has already contributed funds to the pilot project.

Joy is asking the Forum for continued support and recommendation to fund the supplemental budget packet.

Terry Wright questioned where the tribes fit into this process. Jeff Koenings noted where the Forum has gotten so far and that it will need to add additional data as the process improves. First getting the state level and then look to add the specific tribal and local data.

DRAFT 2008 MEETING SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

Bruce Crawford presented this agenda item. (See meeting materials for details.)

A meeting schedule of December 6, 2007, and February 6, May 14, July 16, September 3, and December 3, 2008 meeting schedule was proposed for final adoption at the December meeting.

Bruce will get a list of action items out to be able to adopt the 2008 meeting schedule in December.

December meeting items:

- Puget Sound Partnership relation to the Forum discussion
- 2008 Forum Meeting schedule adopted
- October 2 Executive Meeting outcomes

- Erik Neatherland's Smolt and Adult Monitoring update
- Carol Smith's Habitat Database update
- Joy Paulus' SWIMTAC update

Bill suggested looking at past meeting minutes to identify any other action items needing updates.

Josh Baldi suggested a cross-walk with the Monitoring Consortium work and possibly a John Day Summit 2 (possibly on the west side).

An update on PNAMP by Jen Bayer was also requested for some time next year.

ADJOURN
Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Jeff Koenings, Co-Chair

Next Meeting: December 6, 2007
Natural Resources Building, Olympia