

*Washington Forum on Monitoring
September 11, 2009*

AGENDA Item # 5

Forum Budget Letter to OFM and the Legislature

Presentation by:

Ken Dzinbal

Problem/Issue Statement

The Forum is required to “*review and make recommendations to the office of financial management and the appropriate legislative committees on agency budget requests related to monitoring 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 all agencies.*”

The forum polled members during the June 24th meeting and found no agencies planning to submit monitoring budget requests to OFM for this year’s supplemental budget.

The forum staff has drafted a letter to this effect, attached here for final review and approval by the forum.

What decision is asked of the Forum?

Final review and approval of the draft letter to OFM and the legislature.

Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington ST SE
Olympia WA 98501

Post Office Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917



STATE OF WASHINGTON

360) 902-3000
TTY (360) 902-1996
Fax: (360) 902-3026

E-mail: info@rcow.wa.gov
Web site: www.rcow.wa.gov

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

September 14, 2009

TO: Victor Moore, Director
Office of Financial Management

Senator Ken Jacobsen, Chair
Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee

Senator Phil Rockefeller, Chair
Senate Environment, Water & Energy Committee

Senator Margarita Prentice, Chair
Senate Ways & Means Committee

Representative Dave Upthegrove, Chair
House Ecology & Parks Committee

Representative Brian Blake, Chair
House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

Representative Kelli Linville, Chair
House Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Bill Wilkerson, Chair
Washington Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health

RE: FY 2010 Supplemental Budget Monitoring Recommendations

RCW 77.85.250 created the Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health (Forum), and adopted "*The Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery.*" The Forum currently comprises over 25 participating state, local, regional, tribal, and federal agencies and organizations involved in monitoring for salmon recovery or watershed health.

Among other duties the statute requires the Forum to:

"Review and make recommendations to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the appropriate legislative committees on agency budget requests related to monitoring 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."

Mindful of the budget issues facing the state this year, the Forum asked its members to discuss any potential monitoring proposals for the supplemental budget at our June 2009 meeting. While acknowledging that much work remains to be done, none of the Forum members reported any plans to submit monitoring budget proposals for the FY 2010 supplemental budget.

Therefore, the Forum has identified no new budget proposals to evaluate in preparation for the upcoming budget discussions.

However, the Forum would like to reiterate its commitment to continue working towards more efficient and effective use of state monitoring resources, by clearly identifying our priorities and framework for monitoring, and by using the Forum as a venue for deliberate coordination and program alignment across state, federal, tribal, and local agencies.

To that end, the Forum has been given two primary mandates:

- 1) Implement the recommendations and priorities described in *The Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery* (RCW 77.85.250(1)), and
- 2) Adopt high-level indicators for salmon recovery and watershed health by December 2009 (RCW 77.85.250(8))

With those mandates in front of us, we have encouraged all of the participating agencies to look for opportunities to share resources and coordinate data collection while maintaining their existing commitments to monitoring. We also asked them to guard against reductions that would further impact our collective ability to support the highest priorities of the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy.

We also clearly recognize that the public, the Legislature, and Congress are demanding ever greater accountability for our investments in salmon and watershed recovery. The monitoring programs prioritized in the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy, and implemented by Forum agencies, can provide the objective data and measurements necessary to judge the success of our restoration efforts and gauge the level of investment still needed to reach our goals for salmon recovery and watershed health.

We appreciate this opportunity to report on agency budget requests related to monitoring, and hope that you will continue to support the Forum's efforts to coordinate both policy and technical issues related to monitoring salmon recovery and watershed health.

Sincerely,

Bill Wilkerson, Chair
Washington Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health