STATE OF WASHINGTON

GOVERNOR'S SALMON RECOVERY OFFICE

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May 19, 2006

TO: Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

FROM: Chris Drivdahl, Salmon Team Leader
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

SUBJECT: May Activities of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Columbia River Biological Opinion – Development of materials for use in the rewrite of the BiOp continues to consume considerable time from members in the office. Phil Miller worked with representatives from regional organizations to develop a table that would closely link regional recovery plan implementation to implementation of the BiOp.

Federal register news – The federal register review has now closed for the Snake River regional plan (habitat portion). Only one comment was received, so moving the plan to a final document should go smoothly. The Yakima Plan was posted in the register in early May for a 30 day review.

Permit streamlining – We have begun work (perhaps, re-engaged is more appropriate?) with National Marine Fisheries Service on streamlining reviews of SRFB-funded restoration projects that are part of a regional recovery plan. The approach is likely to be either to wrap projects into some existing Section 7 (ESA) programmatic coverage, or to use Section 4(d) Limit 8 as the vehicle.

Monitoring coordination – We worked with SRFB staff to develop meetings between NOAA and all regional organizations that will improve alignment of PCSRF habitat indicators and metrics with regional recovery plan monitoring. These discussions will help link regional recovery plan monitoring and GSRO's State of Salmon in Watersheds reporting, the work of the Governor's Forum on Monitoring, PCSRF, NOAA monitoring guidance, and the soon to-be-completed WA habitat status and trends design framework.

LEAD ENTITY ADVISORY GROUP (LEAG) REPORT

Prepared by Doug Osterman, Chair, LEAG
May 23, 2006

For

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
June 8 and 9, 2006

This report is a *draft* summation of the LEAG meeting held on May 22, 2006, at the Tacoma Public Library. The summary lists key issues and recommendations of LEAG and other Lead Entities in attendance.

List of Lead Entities and others in attendance:

Doug Osterman, WRIA 9 (King)
Jeanette Dorner, Nisqually Tribe
John Sims, Quinault Nation
Joy Juelson, Chelan County
Bret Nine, Pend Oreille CD
Paul Dorn, Kitsap LE
Richard Brocksmith, Hood Canal Coordinating Council
Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board
Richard Visser, WDFW
Alan Chapman, Lummi Tribe WRIA 1
Mary Jorgenson, WRIA 8 (King)
Amy Hatch-Winecka, WRIA 13 (Thurston) & WRIA 14 (Mason)
Lorin Reinelt, Pierce County LE
Barbara Rosenkotter, San Juan County LE
Cheryl Baumann, NOPLE
Rob Plotnikoff, DOE
Bob Cusimano, DOE
Lauri Vigue, WDFW
Melissa Paulson, WDFW
Tim Smith, WDFW
Steve Penland, WDFW
Doug Hennick, WDFW
Doris Small, WDFW
Leslie Ryan-Connoly, IAC/SRFB

Feedback on Draft Timeline and Process for SRFB 2006 Funding Cycle

- The members of the Review Panel should be determined as soon as possible.

- It may be difficult for lead entities to schedule Review Panel visits of local projects before the regionally prioritized list has been developed. This is particularly problematic for Puget Sound lead entities because the regional list will not be available until late July.
- The schedule does not clearly indicate the evaluation of regional project lists for consistency with regional recovery strategies and plans, whichever is applicable. A draft proposal for clarifying how this could be approached is being developed and may be available for the June SRFB meeting.
- The proposed schedule may not adequately address issues of lead entity involvement in the regional prioritization approach. Funding decisions by SRFB members should take into account the level of involvement of lead entities, addressing questions such as: How were lead entities involved? What level of consensus was reached? Is consensus among the regional council an acceptable substitution for consensus among lead entity citizen committees?
- There is concern that the September 11, 2006, deadline for completion of project applications does not provide adequate time for the regional prioritization process. Some lead entities indicated that the current deadline would present challenges for completion of local lead entity lists, as well.
- The process for SRFB 2006 funding cycle may not square with Washington State statutory requirements. There is concern that the SRFB process reflect both the letter and spirit of legislative language, which is an issue for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to wrangle with.
- There is a strong need for clear understanding on the interactions between regional organizations and lead entities. Questions and concerns on this topic include: Will regions be permitted to reorder local lead entity project lists? Will regions be usurping lead entities in the salmon recovery process, generally? Will regions be held to the same level of accountability as the lead entities? What will ensure that regional project lists respect lead entity lists?

I am not able to attend the meeting of the SRFB in Walla Walla. In my place, Vice-Chair, Paul Dorn, and Jeannette Dorner will tag team in providing the verbal report and participate in the discussion with the Board. Please contact me at doug.osterman@metrokc.gov or 206-296-8069 if you have any questions.