



STATE OF WASHINGTON

GOVERNOR'S SALMON RECOVERY OFFICE

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November 20, 2006

**TO:** William Ruckelshaus, Chair  
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

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

**SUBJECT: Activities of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office October-November 2006**

**Permit Streamlining for SRFB-funded Projects.** NOAA encountered some staffing and contracting problems, so to keep on schedule with this "Limit 8" process, we have reassigned Bob Bugert to the federal agency to complete the biological opinion. We expect to meet our self-imposed deadline for federal register publication and presentation at the January SRFB meeting.

**Funding Coordination.** Also, we've begun work on funding coordination among SRFB, NPPC/BPA, mid-Columbia HCP Tributary Fund, NFWF, and USFS Challenge Cost Share. There will be a meeting in early January of the key participants in this process. Our hope is to help develop a system that will allow project applicants to easily access information about these different fund sources, reduce duplication in grant applications, and ensure that the highest priority projects for implementing recovery plans are funded.

**State of Salmon Report.** This was an unusually difficult document, but it is now in the design and layout phase. We anticipate it will go to the printer before Christmas. Some of the difficulties we encountered were due to the new sections we have added to the report, including harvest and spawner abundance by Major Population Group and Evolutionarily Significant Unit, and a "Watershed Watch" which focuses on indicators at the WRIA scale for each region. Also new this year are sections on the Northeast and Coastal Washington Salmon Recovery Regions and a short piece on future threats to salmon recovery.

**Monitoring Salmon Recovery.** With the departure of Bruce Crawford, much of his monitoring work has settled in the GSRO. We are shepherding the budget request for status and trends monitoring, renewing permits for SRFB monitoring projects, coordinating with the federal agencies on future PCSRF reports, participating in PNAMP, and assisting with housekeeping for the Governor's Forum on Monitoring.

**SRFB Science Review Panel.** We chaired and helped the Science Review Panel through their work for the SRFB on projects for this grant round.

**Columbia River Biological Opinion.** Responsible federal agencies, states, and tribal governments are attempting to reach agreement on a new Biological Opinion under the Endangered Species Act that will analyze effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System on listed salmon, and commit to mitigate those effects in a manner and extent that can be accepted by presiding Federal District Court Judge James Redden. There is, potentially, a significant relationship between this FCRPS BiOp and the funding and implementation of regional recovery plans in the Columbia River Basin. For this reason, GSRO has been working with regional salmon recovery organizations and federal action agencies (BPA, Corps, and Bureau of Reclamation) to link recovery plans, particularly planned habitat actions, with the BiOp. The goal is to estimate what habitat improvement has been and will be accomplished in the near term from federal action agency funding, and relate it to the total, long-term need for habitat improvement included in recovery plans. This process is well underway for tributary habitat in Washington and the lower Columbia River and Estuary, and should be completed by early 2007.

**Northeast and Coastal Washington Salmon Recovery Regions.** GSRO staff provided assistance to both regions as they work towards developing regional approaches to recovery.

**Integrating Washington Plans with Other States.** We worked with NMFS Idaho staff to integrate and reconcile inconsistencies between the Washington Snake River Recovery Plan and the part of the ESU in Idaho. It is our goal to ensure that the Washington areas/populations covered by the full NMFS ESU plan are consistent with our regional recovery plan.