



STATE OF WASHINGTON

GOVERNOR'S SALMON RECOVERY OFFICE

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June 28, 2007

TO: William Ruckelshaus, Chair
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

FROM: Chris Drivdahl
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office *Chris*

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

NOAA Permit Streamlining – We have submitted a request to NMFS to amend our permit streamlining approval to include four additional fund sources which are used by our Lead Entities for projects to restore and protect salmon and their habitat:

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (Habitat Conservation Account and Riparian Protection Account categories only)
- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (restoration category only)

Lead Entities regularly receive these grants to implement recovery plans for salmon and steelhead, and we believe the same rigorous standards of science review and public participation are part of these funding processes, so it is reasonable and expedient to include them in our approval. Consistent with the existing process, any project would need to meet the following standards to qualify for this coverage:

1. Habitat projects must be undertaken for the purpose of habitat restoration; and
2. Are part of a habitat portion of a salmon recovery plan approved by a Regional Salmon Recovery Organization and the State of Washington and published in the Federal Register by NMFS; and
3. Are part of an adopted Implementation Schedule developed by a Regional Organization to implement the habitat portion of a Salmon Recovery Plan; and
4. Are projects that fit within a specific list of eligible actions.

Regional Organization Activities – We assisted regional organizations and SRFB staff to complete work plans and contracts for plan implementation, and supported the coastal deliberations on regionalizing.

ESA Listing Activities – Puget Sound steelhead were listed as threatened, and Upper Columbia River steelhead returned to their endangered listing.

GSRO staff changes – We have bid “good bye” to Bob Bugert, who is going to the Chelan Douglas Land Trust as Executive Director, and Steve Martin who is returning full time to the Snake River Salmon Recovery Region as Executive Director. They have been terrific staff and we will sorely miss their contributions – although Steve won’t be too far from our grips!