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**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE**

July 2008

**Item #11: Programmatic Funding**

**Prepared By:** Jim Fox, Special Assistant to the Director

**Presented By:** Jim Fox, Special Assistant to the Director

**Approved by the  
Director:**

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**Proposed Action: Discussion and Direction**

**Summary**

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board awards most grant funds for on-the-ground habitat protection, restoration, and assessment projects brought to the Board through the competitive processes. However, the Board often is asked to provide funding outside of its annual grant cycle or to implement congressional earmarks; these requests are generally referred to as "programmatic" contracts. Due to the increase in these types of requests and awards, the Board may want to consider establishing application and selection policies, processes, and criteria to bring more discipline to the process.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Board consider establishing application and selection policies, processes, and criteria.

**Background**

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) awards most grant funds for on-the-ground habitat protection, restoration, and assessment projects brought to the Board



through the lead entity process. However, the Board often is asked to provide funding outside of its annual grant cycle. This has typically been for salmon recovery programs or activities that are not eligible for funding in the annual grant cycles, do not fit into any specific lead entity area, do not fit in to the timing of the annual grant cycle, or relate to congressional or federal grant conditions.

A wide range of activities are included in these programs, many of which are not currently eligible in the Board's annual lead-entity-based grant cycle or by their nature do not do well in that process.

Some examples of current programmatic funding under contract:

- Forest and Fish program
- Regional recovery organization support
- Lead entity support
- Hatchery and harvest marking and tagging
- Department of Ecology Intensively Monitored Watersheds
- National Fish and Wildlife (NFWF) small grants program
- TetraTech monitoring
- Department of Fish and Wildlife smolt monitoring

## **Analysis**

Staff will present and discuss data about Board funding sources and the trends in funding for "programmatic" contracts at the July Board meeting.

If the Board wants to establish policies, processes, and criteria for awarding grants outside the annual lead entity-based grant cycle, it should consider several questions:

- What types of programs and activities should be eligible for Board funding?
  - What types should not be eligible?
  - What discretion does the Board currently have?
- What criteria should the Board use in deciding whether to fund a program or activity?
- What processes should the Board use to determine the eligibility of a program for funding and to evaluate how the program meets the Boards criteria?
- Should the Board continue to consider funding programs on an ad hoc basis or should there be set schedule or periodic solicitations for proposals?

## **Next Steps**

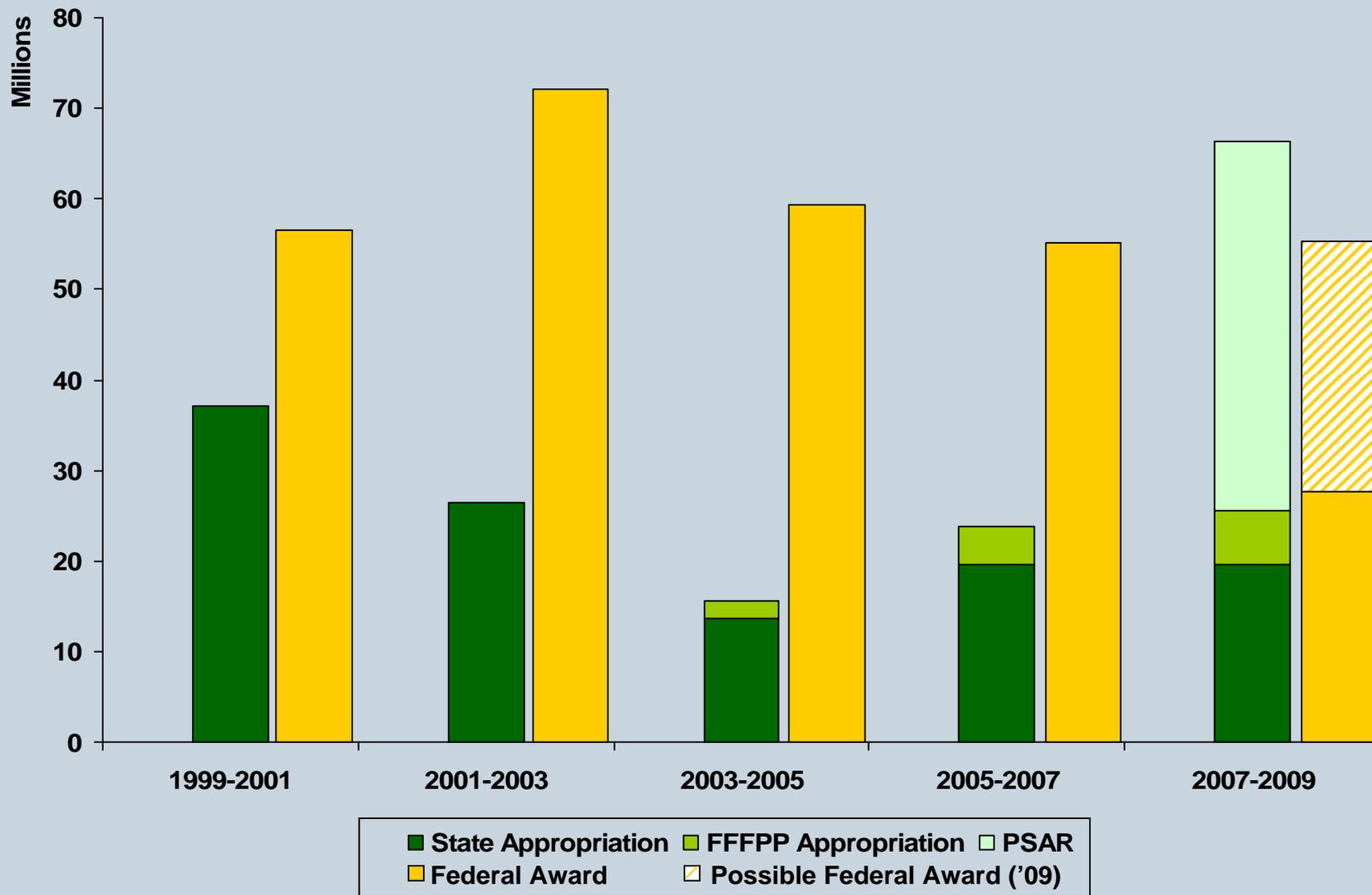
Staff believes it is very important to establish a process for considering requests for funding outside the lead entity process. If the Board wants to establish application and selection policies, processes, and criteria, then staff will prepare draft documents for discussion at the October 2008 meeting.

# **Overview of Programmatic Funding**

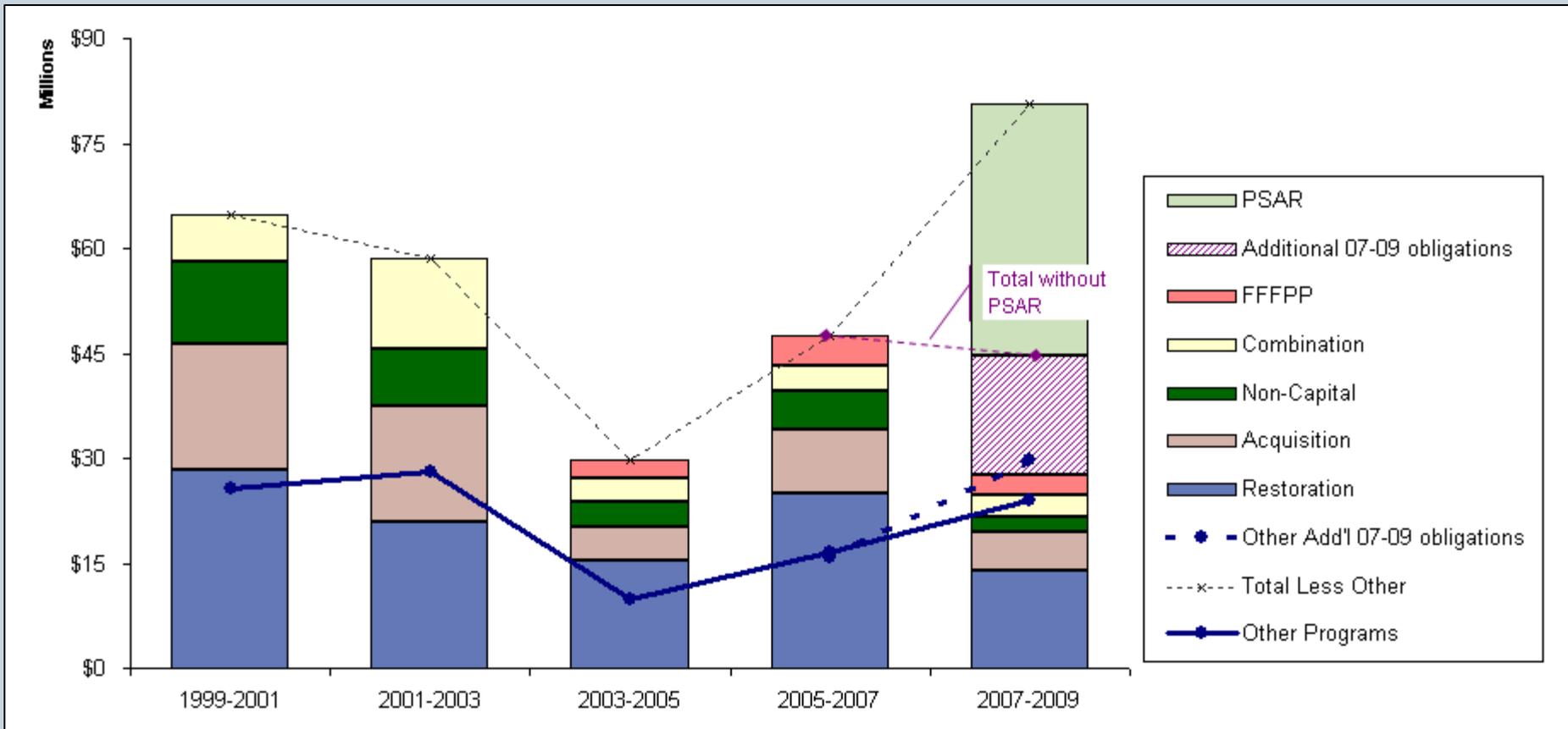
**Presentation to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board**

**July 11, 2008**

# Federal Awards and State Appropriations for Salmon Recovery

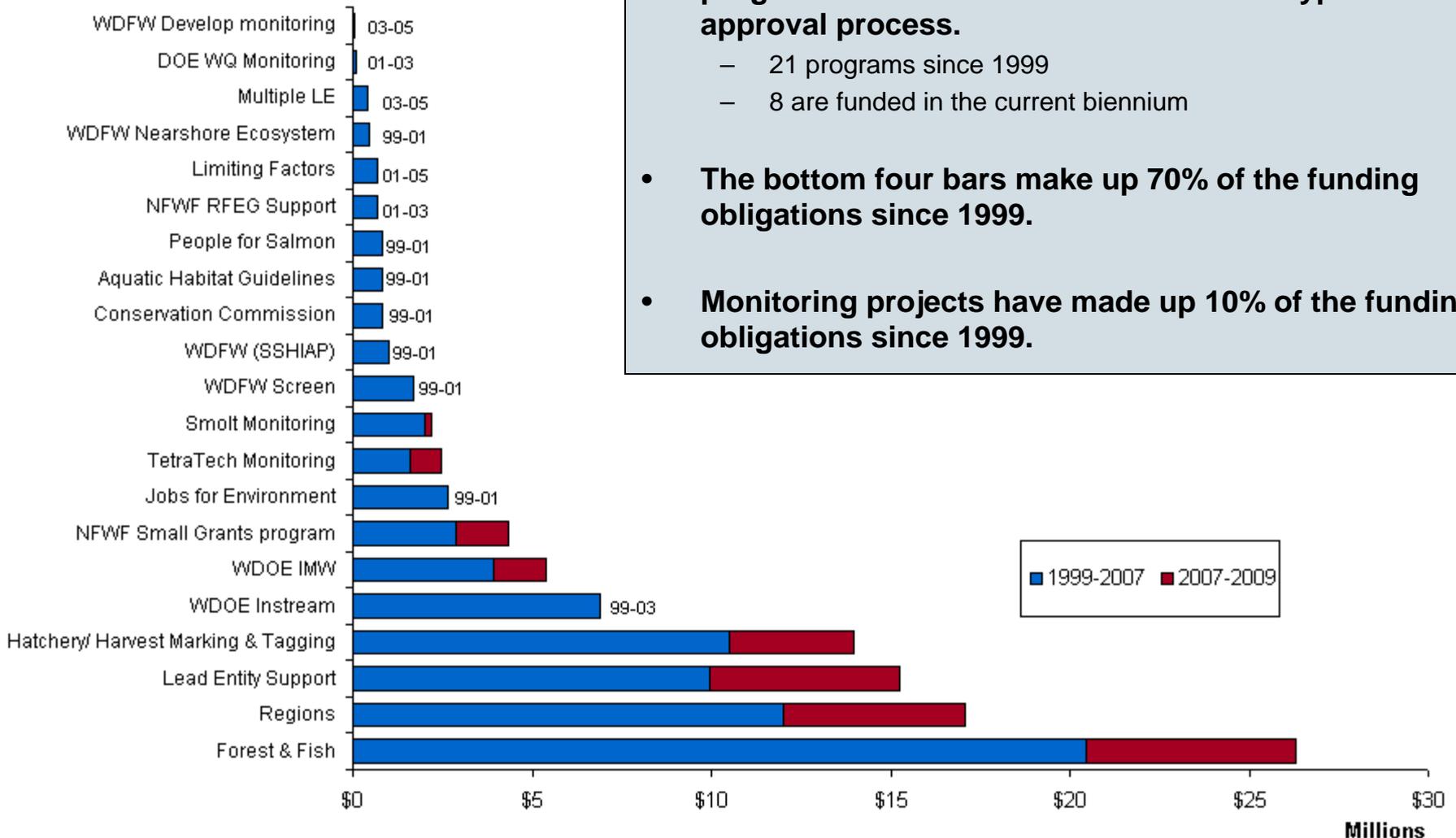


# Comparison of "Other Program" Funding vs. Funding for Other Categories



- Obligations for programmatic contracts tracked with those for all other categories until the current biennium.**
  - If you exclude PSAR funding, the anticipated total obligation for all other categories was slightly below that of the previous biennium.
  - However, expected obligations for programmatic contracts increased.

# Other Program Funding, Comparison of Program Totals (99-09) and Funding in Current Biennium



- **“Programmatic contracts”** describes a wide variety of programs that receive funds outside the typical SRFB approval process.
  - 21 programs since 1999
  - 8 are funded in the current biennium
- **The bottom four bars make up 70% of the funding obligations since 1999.**
- **Monitoring projects have made up 10% of the funding obligations since 1999.**

# Board Discretion in Programmatic Funding

- **Board discretion includes programs for which the Board has options regarding funding.**
  - The Board has had discretion over about 40% of programmatic funding since the start of the 2003-2005 biennium.
  - Some programs started as mandates or “strongly recommended,” but have become discretionary.

