



# Oregon Plan *Teamwork*

Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

December 1998

*This monthly publication is written and distributed by Mikell O'Mealy, Oregon Sea Grant Fellow in the Governor's Natural Resources Office. It presents her observation of the evolving roles and activities of supporting teams and oversight bodies of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.*

***In this issue:   Monitoring Workshop Demonstrates Progress  
Healthy Streams Partnership Affirms Charge  
Joint Legislative Committee Questions Federal Enforcement  
Outreach Team Discusses Possibilities for 1999  
Restoration and Production Task Force Continues Important Oversight  
December Meeting Schedule***

## **Monitoring Workshop Demonstrates Progress**

Over seventy scientists, managers and stewards packed a Corvallis conference room on November 19 and 20 to share and hear progress in monitoring for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Those present who helped lay the framework of the Oregon Plan Monitoring Program experienced a sense of encouragement and accomplishment in witnessing progress made in new partnerships and in salmon and watershed monitoring. Important first steps have been made in this long, complex task of coordinating monitoring efforts and interpreting results.

Representatives from state and federal agencies, regional monitoring groups, conservation organizations and watershed councils presented their work and shared their monitoring strategies. Achievements were highlighted, obstacles discussed, and questions raised regarding the use and implications of monitoring results. Some examples of significant progress include:

- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have worked with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure randomization of sampling sites and to integrate agency monitoring projects. Now, ODFW's stream habitat surveys, adult salmon abundance surveys and juvenile salmon abundance surveys are coordinated and compatible with DEQ's biotic index monitoring; enabling sharing of the information collected.
- Division of State Lands (DSL) has begun to investigate and document compliance with removal-fill permits, as called for and supported by the Oregon Plan. For the first time, DSL data on compliance rates is available so that agency resources can be prioritized to better track, and where possible, improve compliance with environmental protections.
- Monitoring protocols, essential to training local volunteers and ensuring quality control of data collected, are in development. Draft water quality protocols are now available for sampling pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, turbidity, sediment, toxics and macroinvertebrates. These are valuable tools for agencies, watershed councils and other local groups to help standardize and share collected data.

The real intent of the workshop was achieved as discussion turned toward "*so what?*" – or, what can be learned from all of this work? Participants discussed goals of monitoring, gaps in current efforts, funding needs, the importance of education and outreach, and opportunities for monitoring to affect policy decisions. The Monitoring Team plans to follow up on workshop discussions at their December meeting.

## **Healthy Streams Partnership Affirms Charge**

In response to recent concerns regarding the function of their group, the Healthy Streams Partnership Committee (HSP) has carefully reexamined and articulated the importance of their role. Charged by the 1997 Legislature in Senate Bill 924, the HSP reports to the Joint Legislative Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement, bringing a local and regional perspective on implementation of the Oregon Plan. The HSP strives to report progress and recommend changes to improve implementation of the Plan and its programs at the local level. In a presentation to the Joint Legislative Committee, members of the Partnership affirmed this important role and described their progress.

Comprised of members with diverse backgrounds and priorities, the HSP Committee has made considerable headway in learning about each other and developing trust and respect. This being a prerequisite to functioning as a united group, the HSP feels it is now poised to address important issues that may surface as implementation of the Oregon Plan proceeds. Future focuses of the HSP could include improving communications between all Oregon Plan stakeholders, resolving conflict between landowners and agencies, providing diverse options for resource management, and recommending legislative action to reduce areas of conflict. Members of the HSP remain committed to utilizing their diversity and partnership to find solutions to these and other issues.

## **Joint Legislative Committee Questions Federal Enforcement**

At their November meeting, the Joint Legislative Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement heard a National Marine Fisheries Service proposal for an enforcement policy in Oregon to protect salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act. The NMFS West Coast Coordinator of Enforcement briefed the Committee on preliminary budget requests for five additional enforcement positions in Oregon. Members of the Committee expressed apprehension over having federal officers actively enforcing the ESA in Oregon, and voiced strong concern for lack of coordination with state enforcement efforts. NMFS representatives emphasized that coordination with state enforcement would be a priority, and that a mainstay of the federal enforcement policy would be outreach and education on ESA regulations.

## **Outreach Team Discusses Possibilities for 1999**

Looking back over an ambitious 1998 workplan, the Outreach Team reviewed accomplishments and tasks not yet tackled. A tally of completed outreach projects includes creation and upgrade of the Oregon Plan web site, coastwide local government briefings on the Oregon Plan, an interactive Oregon Plan booth at the State Fair, a news tabloid circulated statewide entitled *A Snapshot of Salmon in Oregon*, a newsletter featuring local articles entitled *Oregon Plan News*, and a monthly electronic update on the Plan entitled *Oregon Plan Teamwork*. Education tools developed by the Outreach Team include a *Directory of Groups Involved in Salmon and Watershed Education in Oregon*, an Oregon Plan brochure, a series of guides on ways to restore salmon and watershed health, and an Oregon Plan CD ROM containing information for local groups and landowners involved in restoration.

The Team now looks toward possible tasks for 1999. New ideas for outreach priorities included initiating a statewide media campaign to support the Oregon Plan, working to build and strengthen partnerships with local governments, counties and cities, and focusing education efforts toward classrooms. At their next meeting, the Team will prioritize both new and pending projects to develop a 1999 workplan.

## **Restoration and Production Task Force Continues Important Oversight**

The Coastal Salmon Restoration and Production Task Force was originally formed by Senate Bill 1127 in 1995 to develop a restoration and production strategy for coastal salmon. Recommendations of the task force were heard by the 1997 Legislature, including the recommendation to enact a comprehensive salmon/watershed recovery program funded at approximately \$30 million through the 1997-99 biennium. Senate Bill 924 reestablished the task force in 1997 as an oversight body of the Oregon Plan, providing more specific direction and expanding its membership.

The task force came together in November, with both new members and vacant seats at the table. The group planned to follow up on recommendations made previously in their 1997 report, including the development of “conservation hatcheries”. New issues were suggested as priorities for the task force in the upcoming legislative session. Among these, were overseeing the present ODFW Hatchery Audit, addressing obstacles in the new Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, exploring stable funding sources for watershed council coordinators, and continuing attention toward artificial production of coastal salmon. The group plans to further develop these ideas and elect new officers at their December meeting.

### **December Meeting Schedule**

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| Dec. 9, 10  | Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team<br>Conference Room 200, Forest Science Lab, Oregon State Univ., Corvallis.<br>Time: 8:30am to 5:00pm each day |
| Dec. 10     | Healthy Streams Partnership<br>Associated Oregon Industries, 1149 Court St. NE, Salem<br>Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm   |
| Dec. 10     | Joint Legislative Committee on Salmon and Stream Enhancement<br>Hearing Room A, State Capitol, Salem.<br>Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm                          |
| Dec. 11     | Coastal Salmon Restoration and Production Task Force<br>Room 350, State Capitol, Salem<br>Time: 9:00am to 5:00pm (tentative)                             |
| Dec. 17     | Implementation Team<br>Mill Creek Room, Division of State Lands, 775 Summer St. NE, Salem.<br>Time: 9:00am to 1:00pm                                     |
| Dec. 17     | Monitoring Team<br>Mill Creek Room, Division of State Lands, 775 Summer St. NE, Salem.<br>Time: 1:00pm to 4:00pm   |
| Not meeting | Outreach Team  |