

From: MORMAN David A
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 11:21 AM
To: Baugh, Zenobia
Cc: LORENSEN Ted L
Subject: FY 07-09

Attn.: Mark Walker,

Thank you for the chance to comment on the NWPC draft fish and wildlife project funding recommendations to the Bonneville Power Administration for Fiscal Years 2007 and 2009.

While the Oregon Department of Forestry does not have comments on the specific recommendations, we would like to respond to a point made in Section 3 of the Draft decision document. In it the following statement is made: "The Council intends instead to focus program efforts for the at least the near term on a set of broader regional projects to evaluate the effectiveness of on-the-ground habitat activities, improvements in habitat attributes and trends in fish and wildlife populations and habitat conditions.

In this context, the Oregon Department of Forestry would like to make you aware of efforts through the Oregon Board of Forestry's 2003 *Forestry Program for Oregon* to develop a long-term set of Oregon indicators of sustainable forest management that will be used to evaluate conditions and trends on all public and private forests in the state. The development of sustainable forest management indicators is an important step in implementation of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*. The seven strategies of the *Forestry Program for Oregon* form a framework around which forest sustainability issues can be organized and discussed and to identify the outcomes the Board of Forestry wants to achieve from a statewide perspective. The *Forestry Program for Oregon* recommends that Oregonians achieve consensus on a set of indicators as useful tools to measure progress towards the goal of sustainably managed forest resources. Once adopted and in place, indicators can provide the Oregon Board of Forestry, other policy-makers, and the public with information describing the environmental, economic and social conditions of Oregon's public and private forests and provide a cost-effective way to consistently collect important data needed to monitor changes in these conditions over time. More information on the indicators, which are currently in draft form, can be found on the Oregon Board of Forestry web site www.oregonforestry.org (follow the links to "Sustainable Forestry Indicators". These indicators were developed through a public involvement process involving federal partners, other state natural resource agencies, tribal representation, Oregon legislators, academia, NGOs, and forest landowners. Among the 19 indicators are six addressing maintaining and improving water quality, soil productivity, and terrestrial biological diversity. These indicators are:

Forestry Program for Oregon Strategy D: Protect, maintain, and enhance the soil and water resources of Oregon's forests.

- o D.a. Water quality of forest streams (Water quality index)

Metrics:

- Physical/chemical properties (temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, phosphorus, nitrogen, nitrate, ammonium nitrate, total solids)
 - 1 Biological properties (bacteria, macro invertebrates, biological oxygen demand)

- o D.b. Biological integrity of forest streams (Index of biotic integrity)

Metric:

- For macro invertebrates (mostly aquatic insects) and vertebrates (fish and aquatic amphibians): Species richness, percent alien species, percent cool water individuals, percent anadromous individuals, percent coldwater species, number of tolerant individuals, number of native coldwater species & individuals, number of size classes

- D.c. Forest road risks to soil and water resources

Metrics:

- Percent of road system disconnected from the stream network
 - 1 Percent of stream crossings on fish streams providing passage
- Land area in non-forest condition due to roads (road subgrade plus cutslope)

Forestry Program for Oregon Strategy E: Contribute to the conservation of diverse native plant and animal populations and their habitats in Oregon's forests.

- E.a. Composition, diversity and structure of forest vegetation

Metrics:

- Vegetation species diversity: richness, evenness
 - 1 Vegetation structure, percent cover
 - 2 Vegetation change detection: plot #'s, area, percent cover

- E.b. Extent of area by forest cover type in protected area categories

Metrics:

- Amount of area for each forest cover type
 - 1 Ownership/protection category

- E.c. Forest plant and animal species at risk

Metrics:

- Number of species in each federal ESA status ranking
- Number of forest species in Oregon Natural Heritage Program Information Center Lists 1 and 2
- Historic and current distribution of forest species

Indicators D.a. and D.b. are identical to statewide indicators previously recommended for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Much more detail on each of the indicators can be found in the full indicator report on the Board's website.

Oregon indicators of sustainable forest management are intended to address all Oregon public and private forestlands and belong to all Oregonians, regardless of their values and perspectives, and not just the Board of Forestry. Once in place, Oregon indicators of sustainable forest management will help Oregonians reach consensus on what sustainable forestry at a statewide scale means to us. The indicators will be useful as a feedback loop for forest policy implementation; as a tool for public education; and as a framework for organizing and prioritizing future research, monitoring, inventories, and assessments.

To be fully implemented, Indicators D.a., D.b., D.c., and E.a. may require new funding or a reallocation of existing funding. However, data from these indicators will be critical in determining

if Oregon forests, in total, are being managed for environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

The Department of Forestry would like to develop a future partnership with the NWPC to fully implement all Oregon indicators of sustainable forest management and perhaps eventually expand their scope to other western states and link to national sustainable forest management indicators. Please consider this information as you finalize your FY 07-09 recommendations. I would be happy to provide additional information upon request.

Sincerely,

David Morman
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