

May 14, 2010

TO OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

FROM: STAKEHOLDER TEAM

SUBJECT: **RECOMMENDATION FOR ADOPTION
LOWER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY PLAN**

A 26-member Stakeholder Team has been advising the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) since its appointment in March 2006 on the preparation of a conservation and recovery plan for Oregon populations of salmon and steelhead in the Lower Columbia Domain. The Stakeholder Team represents a diverse range of interests, including agriculture, forestry, soil and water conservation districts/watershed councils, conservation/recreation, fishing, economic development, utilities, and local and federal government.

At its February 23, 2010 meeting, the Stakeholder Team agreed to endorse forwarding the Draft Plan to the Commission for approval. By consensus, the team agreed to the following statement of support:

The Stakeholder Team has been working in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and NOAA Fisheries since March 2006 to develop the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan. As a group, the Stakeholder Team:

- *Recognizes that the Plan is based on a robust body of science that continues to evolve and will always be subject to debate;*
- *Supports the Plan's recovery goals and desired population statuses;*
- *Supports the strategies and actions included in the Plan, although individual members may have specific concerns about the adequacy of actions and their ability to achieve recovery goals;*
- *Commits, within each member's ability, to assist in implementing Plan strategies and actions and to advocate for Plan implementation with their constituencies; and*
- *Supports continued monitoring of Plan implementation and a commitment to periodically evaluate the Plan's success in achieving recovery and to revisit the Plan if it is not achieving desired results.*

Stakeholder Team groups have been, and will continue, implementing Plan strategies and actions to recover salmon and steelhead populations. Stakeholder Team members have agreed to actively participate in Plan implementation, including service on an Implementation Team to be established.

Of note about the planning process:

- Over the four-year timeframe, there has been an exceptionally high level of continuity of involvement by Stakeholder Team members.

- An informal consensus approach has been successfully used throughout the Stakeholder Team's deliberations.
- The dedication, openness and responsiveness of staff has been repeatedly noted and appreciated.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and for this opportunity to participate in this proactive effort to conserve and recover salmon and steelhead in the Lower Columbia system.

Submitted on behalf of the Stakeholder Team by:

Jim Owens, Facilitator
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