

Public Correspondence

**Public correspondence received
as of May 21, 2010**

From: Steve Stampfli (Hood River Watershed Coordinator)
[mailto:hoodriver@gorge.net]
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 9:55 AM
To: Kevin Goodson
Subject: Comment on Lower Col Plan

Kevin,

Here's quick comments on the 19Apr10 Lower Columbia Plan draft:

- The draft recovery plan references the past version of the Hood River Watershed Action Plan (WAP) (2002), but not the most current WAP version (2008) which is updated considerably. Also, from what I can tell, the plan does not make use of the 2008 update. To see and reference the most recent HRWG action plan, see <http://www.hoodriverswcd.org/HRWG/HRWatershedActionPlan.pdf>. This web citation does not appear in the recovery plan references, and the link to the old (2002) plan in your current references section seems broken.
- All of the HRWG WAP measures listed in Chapter 7 reference 2002 WAP, and not 2008 version projects. The 2002 WAP is no longer used, plus many new measures are listed in 2008 WAP.
- Appendix G does not list the Hood River Watershed Assessment as done with other basins on this table. The references section does list the assessment.
- Page 261 of Chapter 7 (and other tables referencing Hood), list an action item that reads simple "Remove Dam". Does this mean Powerdale Dam? Might be more specific on all these tables. Some might think you are referring to irrigation dams, Hines Dam or ??
- Beaver are not always beneficial to recovering ecosystems, as this action states. If you develop the below action, please word it better in recognition that beaver can be extremely detrimental to watershed restoration, especially if allowed or introduced into areas that are undergoing active or passive plant community restoration. We should not

Jim Scheller
32607 Turlay Ln.
Warrenton, OR 97146
jimscheller@charter.net

May 11, 2010

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Salem, Oregon
Re: Draft Salmon Recovery Plan

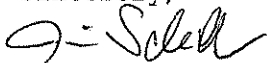
Dear Planning Participants,

This letter is written in response to the draft "Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon populations of Salmon and Steelhead" and represents my personal opinions. I want to gratefully acknowledge the comprehensive and incredible effort in creating the plan and to make two distinct points regarding the Youngs Bay section of the plan.

The Skipanon Watershed Council I cofounded in 1997 has spent years of effort and thousands of dollars to restore habitat, remodel water control structures (dams) and other fish passage obstructions, and deal with the major limiting factors of the Skipanon River Watershed. One of many discussions at our Council is the impact of hatcheries including the Youngs Bay "net pen" projects. The uncertainty and recognized threat to wild fish populations from interbreeding, disease, competition and predation by hatchery fish simply does not square with the plan's statement to "accept higher hatchery risk to maintain terminal/SAFE fisheries." It is completely unacceptable that the colored chart indicators for "Current and desired status of Youngs Bay populations of coho, fall chinook and chum are unchanged in this draft plan. It seems that the plan would then enshrine the current at risk situation as "desired." If this interpretation is accurate then our local efforts and fish will continue to be at risk with the lower Columbia Estuary written off due to political considerations for harvesting hatchery fish.

1999 we identified and surveyed two parcels on the Skipanon Peninsula that contain some of the most restorable habitat in the lower Columbia Estuary. About 70 acres of publicly owned wetlands on the south end of the peninsula are cut off by dikes and tidegates that could be remediated to a more fish friendly status. Not mentioned in the plan is the Oregon LNG project proposed for the Skipanon Peninsula. This LNG project has the potential to further imperil our salmon populations with the construction, dredging, ballast and cooling water uses they envision. The mitigation they propose seems inadequate at best. Obstructions to passage of the fishing fleet in the Skipanon Marina could further imperil the livelihood and safety of this essential industry. We do not need Oregon LNG; it represents a real threat to salmon recovery, wildlife and this community. Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the draft plan and for your consideration of two unacceptable and significant risks to Youngs Bay and the Columbia River Estuary.

Sincerely,



Jim Scheller,

Sandra Fixsen

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 1:40 PM
To: Sandra Fixsen
Subject: FW: Comment on Lower Col Plan
Importance: High

Comments for Commission packet. – Teri Kucera

From: Steve Stampfli (Hood River Watershed Coordinator) [mailto:hoodriver@gorge.net]
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 11:23 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Fw: Comment on Lower Col Plan

----- Original Message -----

From: Steve Stampfli (Hood River Watershed Coordinator)
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community restoration. We should not be promoting the random re-introduction of beaver (citizens trapping and relocating, and allied wildlife agency actions). Beaver need an adequate and well-understood forage base, otherwise they will remove cottonwoods, conifers etc. that are valuable for restoring long-term LWD frequency and addressing high water temperatures. This action is often listed in plans without much thought to the complexities involved. Instead of current wording, you might refer more broadly to the need to restore river ecosystem structure, including processes that enhance hydrology, plant communities, animal populations, etc.

Develop education and outreach materials on the benefit of beaver dams to ecosystem function in general and specifically to juvenile rearing habitat (especially for coho).

- I am not sure of the difference between "low head hydro" and high head hydro. Because of this, I don't know if you are referring to the type of projects we have in the Hood basin. Should you just state it as "hydroelectric projects", since any might have this adverse impact?

Ensure that low head hydro projects do not adversely impact winter base streamflows.

Thanks for your efforts, and for appearing in Hood River recently.

sms

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