

Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program

A. The certainty that the conservation effort will be implemented.

1. The conservation effort, the party(ies) to the agreement or plan that will implement the effort, and the staffing, funding level, funding source, and other resources necessary to implement the effort are identified

The Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program (WOSRP) is an important component of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. It is a non-regulatory restoration program that provides direct technical support to watershed councils and private landowners in western Oregon to implement Oregon Plan measures directing the restoration and enhancement of Oregon's salmonid habitats in the region. In addition, the program practices adaptive management through a monitoring program that aims to evaluate the effectiveness of these actions to better inform restoration specialists and managers about the efficacy of their actions

The WOSRP began in 1995 with a single restoration biologist on the north Oregon coast as a cooperative partnership between ODFW, Oregon Department of Forestry, industrial forest landowners and the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Program. Since then, the program has grown to a project leader and seven restoration biologists located throughout ODFW Watershed Districts in western Oregon. Staff currently is located in Clackamas, Tillamook, Newport, Charleston, Gold Beach, Roseburg and Corvallis. The program also has a half-time monitoring specialist and four half-time monitoring biologists. The program is currently funded through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant. The grant amount for the period of November 15, 2003 through June 30, 2005 is \$1,285,401.

2. The legal authority of the party(ies) to the agreement or plan to implement the formalized conservation effort, and the commitment to proceed with the conservation effort are described.

ODFW has a contract with OWEB to implement the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program. The contract specifies the types of activities that will be funded under the grant (see attached Statement of Work).

3. The legal procedural requirements (e.g. environmental review) necessary to implement the effort are described, and information is provided indicating that fulfillment of these requirements does not preclude commitment to the effort.

Waterway permits from the Corps of Engineers (COE) and Department of State Lands (DSL) are typically required for the types of restoration projects performed under the WOSRP. There are general permits from both the COE and DSL for most of the activities. Any activities not covered by general permits will need an individual permit. ODFW has typically not had problems in obtaining permits for habitat restoration activities.

4. Authorizations (e.g., permits, landowner permission) necessary to implement the conservation effort are identified, and a high level of certainty is provided that the party(ies) to the agreement or plan that will implement the effort will obtain these authorizations.

The WOSRP is a non-regulatory program, so all restoration projects implemented under it will have landowner permission. Any required permits will also be received prior to any work being conducted.

5. The type and level of voluntary participation necessary to implement the conservation effort is identified, and a high level of certainty is provided that the party(ies) will implement the conservation effort will obtain that level of voluntary participation.

With current funding for the 2003-2005 biennium, the WOSRP anticipates completing the following tasks. Approximately 80-95 instream habitat and riparian improvement projects are expected to be completed resulting in the improvement of 50-60 miles of habitat. These projects are expected to include the addition of approximately 3,000 logs and whole trees into western Oregon streams, increasing the complexity and productivity of salmon habitat. In addition, another 50-75 road-related projects are anticipated. These projects will include fish passage improvements and the reduction of water quality problems associated with existing road systems.

6. Regulatory mechanisms (e.g., laws, regulations, ordinances) necessary to implement the conservation effort are in place.

There is a Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit (RGP) for the placement of large wood and boulders. The RGP includes a programmatic consultation with NOAA Fisheries and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The permit includes specific standards and criteria that need to be met as well as monitoring requirements.

There is also a state General Authorization for fish enhancement activities that includes the types of actions that are conducted through the WOSRP. The activities covered under the state permit include placement of large wood, boulders, and spawning gravel.

7. A high level of certainty is provided that the party(ies) to the agreement or plan that will implement the conservation effort will obtain the necessary funding.

The contract for the 2003-2005 biennium is currently in place. The Department has included a Policy Option Package in the 2005-2007 budget to make the program permanent with stable funding.

8. An implementation schedule (including incremental completion dates) for the conservation effort is provided.

The projects identified in number 5 above are all anticipated to be in place by June 2005.

9. The conservation agreement or plan is approved by all parties to the agreement or plan.

OWEB and ODFW have signed the 2003-2005 contract funding the program.

B. The certainty that the conservation effort will be effective.

1. The nature and extent of threats being addressed by the conservation effort are described, and how the conservation effort reduces the threats is described.

The loss of instream habitat complexity is well documented as well as the importance of large wood in stream systems. The problem of fish passage is also well documented. The importance of riparian vegetation to stream systems is also very well documented. The WOSRP addresses these threats by working with private landowners to restore these features in the watershed. Over the period of 1996-2003, the WOSRP accomplished 46 instream projects affecting 21.2 instream miles. During this same time period, the WOSRP accomplished 132 riparian projects for a total of 14.36 riparian miles and 849 riparian acres. The WOSRP also increased fish passage by 237.9 miles.

2. Explicit incremental objectives for the conservation effort and dates for achieving them are stated.

As stated above, for the 2003-2005 biennium, the WOSRP anticipates completing the following tasks. Approximately 80-95 instream habitat and riparian improvement projects are expected to be completed resulting in the improvement of 50-60 miles of habitat. These projects are expected to include the addition of approximately 3,000 logs and whole trees into western Oregon streams, increasing the complexity and productivity of salmon habitat. In addition, another 50-75 road-related projects are expected. These projects will include fish passage improvements and the reduction of water quality problems associated with existing road systems.

3. The steps necessary to implement the conservation effort are identified in detail.

The steps necessary to implement the WOSRP are outlined in the attached Statement of Work (SOW).

4. Quantifiable, scientifically valid parameters that will demonstrate achievement of objectives, and standards for these parameters by which progress will be measured, are identified.

The Statement of Work for the project requires ODFW to report each completed project to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory Database as part of the final report. The SOW also requires ODFW to assess pre- and post-project habitat conditions for a portion of the projects to monitor and document the effects of stream restoration projects. ODFW is required to analyze the habitat monitoring data and provide a report of monitoring results to OWEB. The Regional General Permit for Placement of Large Wood and Boulders also requires that this information be provided to the Corps of Engineers, NOAA Fisheries and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

5. Provisions for monitoring and reporting progress on implementation (based on compliance with the implementation schedule) and effectiveness (based on evaluation of quantifiable parameters) of the conservation effort are provided.

As discussed above, the SOW for the WOSRP requires monitoring and reporting progress of implementation. The Statement of Work for the project requires ODFW to report each completed project to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory database as part of the final report. The SOW also requires ODFW to assess pre- and post-project habitat conditions for a portion of the projects to monitor and document the effects of stream restoration projects. ODFW is required to analyze the habitat monitoring data and provide a report of monitoring results to OWEB. ODFW is also required to submit quarterly reports and a final report to OWEB regarding implementation of the program.

6. Principles of adaptive management are incorporated.

The WOSRP has a monitoring component that evaluates the effectiveness of the restoration projects at creating desired habitat conditions. The monitoring project, coupled with ODFW's Oregon Plan Coastal Monitoring Program, have now been implemented for enough years that ODFW can do more integrated analysis addressing the influence of habitat restoration projects on basin-level habitat conditions. To address this, ODFW is dedicating a portion of the Oregon Plan Monitoring Coordinator and the Aquatic Inventories Project Leader to ensure this question receives the level of expertise it needs this biennium.

ODFW uses the results of the monitoring data to adapt its restoration practices. As an example, the last monitoring report indicated that the WOSRP restoration projects were effective at increasing the number of pieces of wood in the project areas. The monitoring results also indicated that more key pieces of wood and additional smaller material were needed. Because of these types of results, ODFW has increased the number of logs used per structure. Projects currently are constructed with more logs and of greater diameter than when the program was initiated. In addition, riparian plantings have shifted from small commercial conifer plantings to older class conifers and to other tree species. These older plantings have an increased survival rate.