

# Minutes of the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) Advisory Committee (STAC)



**Date:** January 8 – 9, 2010  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Siuslaw Public Library – Main Branch  
 1460 Ninth Street  
 Florence, Oregon 97439

<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee
<b>STAC Members in Attendance:</b>	Tod Jones, Pat Gefre, Tom Petersen, Mike Brochu, Armand Peña, Rich Heap, Gary Enoch, Rosemary Furfey, Norm Ritchie, Bill Hastie, Leslie Wade, Sammie Mosley, Dave Dunahay
<b>ODFW Staff:</b>	Karen Hans, Rhine Messmer, Laura Jackson, Andrea Rangeloff, John Spangler, Debbi Farrell, Kevin Herkamp
<b>Public:</b>	Bill Henning, Roy Hager, Jack Armer, Valerie Pena, Becky Goehring, Ron Caputo

## Agenda

Initial Agenda Items:

### Friday, January 8, 2010

- Call to Order and Introductions
- Agenda Approval
- Approval of October 2009 Meeting Minutes
- Administrative Updates
- Coho Pedigree Study Presentation
- Role of STAC and STEP
- Area STEP Reports
- Knowles Creek Presentation
- Volunteer Recognitions
- STAC Mini-Grant Application Review
- 2011 STEP Conference
- 25-Year Angling Enhancement Plan Implementation Update
- Public Comment

### Saturday, January 9, 2010

- Tour of Florence STEP Propagation Facility and Bailey Creek

## Call to Order, Introductions, and Agenda Approval

Tod Jones, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Introductions were made.

Chair Jones presented today's agenda for review. Agenda approved as written.

## **Approval of April 2008 Meeting Minutes**

The October 30, 2009 STAC meeting minutes were reviewed.

### Motion

D. Dunahay motioned to approve the October 30, 2009 meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 13-0.

## **Administrative Updates**

Rhine Messmer, ODFW Recreational Fisheries Program Manager introduced Kevin Herkamp as the new STEP Program Coordinator. Kevin's first day will be January 18, 2010.

Welcome to Pat Gefre, the new North Coast STAC member out of the Tillamook area. Pat will be working with Ron Rehn, the North Coast STEP Biologist.

## **Umpqua Coho Pedigree Study**

Laura Jackson, ODFW District Fish Biologist and Andrea Rangeloff, EBA Roseburg Office presented the Coho Pedigree Study to the Committee. This nine-year project was just completed January 7<sup>th</sup>. Data and genetic samples have been forwarded to OSU; final results are expected by the end of 2010.

## **Role of STAC and STEP**

T. Jones shared that several individuals/groups have voiced concern over the focus of STEP. The Committee discussed similar situations among members. It was agreed that the Committee will work on clarifying the misperceptions. The differences and/or inconsistencies among the STEP Biologists could also be a part of the problem.

STEP Propagation permits were also identified as a source of negative feedback. A flow chart of the process will be created by staff to identify the steps and criteria to be included in the review process, to assist in accountability.

STAC should also be familiar with the STEP Biologist duties and the concerns of the local STEP groups.

The Committee agreed that some programs are not successful in all areas. Research and conducting surveys need to be used to identify the success of a program and identify habitat enhancements needed. A lack of communication and information is a source for a large amount of the misperceptions. Feedback is focused regularly on the science aspect, which is always changing. R. Messmer shared that there are limiting factors that will be identified in the Conservation Plan for the individual areas/habitats which will be helpful.

All members will identify the top asked questions/misperceptions and return to staff to be compiled for the April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Forest Grove meeting. Jessica Sall, ODFW Fish Division Communication Coordinator will be invited to identify ways the Information and Education Section will be able to assist in creating a handout of some sort to distribute.

## **Area Reports**

STAC members reported on activities in their area.

Tom Petersen – Mid Coast

Siuslaw fourth graders recently visited Honeyman Park in Florence hosted by Honeyman State Park Rangers and members of the Florence STEP group. Transportation is still a major expense

with the schools.

#### Gary Enoch – Upper Rogue

Savage Rapids Dam has been removed; unfortunately a few casualties followed its removal as people rushed to float that stretch. It's been found that the gravel is shifting rapidly, changing day-by-day. This last week approximately 40,000 cubic feet of gravel accumulated against the intake. A high water event should move the gravel farther down the river.

There are several ongoing stream inventory projects for resident trout populations. Gary is hoping to use some of his students for trapping on an Illinois Valley tributary around Cave Junction. A member asked if the removal of Gold Rey Dam has progressed. Gary shared that it's still being discussed; he's guessing work will begin within the next 12-24 months.

#### Rosemary Furfey – Lower Willamette

Jeff Fulop provided a handout of activities.

#### Leslie Wade – Upper Willamette

Erik Moberly took Leslie on a tour of a project on Cedar Creek to increase water flow. Erik Moberly provided a handout of activities.

#### Rich Heap – Lower Rogue

Returning numbers are higher than predicted. Fish appear to be larger, could be a result of the lack of commercial fishing the last two years. They acclimated fish for the first time this year, which worked extremely well with only two deaths. The Oregon South Coast Fishermen are working with ODFW on a scale sampling project; over 200 samples have been collected to date. Will begin broodstock collection soon, the goal is to collect 100.

The Oregon South Coast Fishermen are working on creating an urban fishing pond for youth fishing. The pond will be seasonal and will be stocked with rainbow trout.

#### Mike Brochu – Umpqua

Greg Huchko provided a handout of activities.

#### Tod Jones – North Coast

The evaluation of fish food use at the STEP facilities is close to being done. Once the last interview is complete he will work on the report. Tod would also like the Committee to have a handout or poster created to highlight STEP which could be displayed at the various conferences and to distribute to the public.

#### Norm Ritchie – Lower Willamette

Jeff Fulop provided a handout of activities.

#### Sammie Mosley – Eastern Oregon

Attended training on urban fishing in Utah this last October. While at the training, Sammie met an individual who volunteered to come to La Grande once their pond is up and running. The ponds visited while in Utah were very popular, a large number of people were present on a work day.

#### Dave Dunahay – Eastern Oregon

Stimulus funds were received which assisted with finishing the fish passage at Pelton Round Butte. Kokanee Karnival completed the first round of training this fall.

Armand Peña – Tenmile, Coos, Coquille

This years fall Chinook salmon broodstock collection was a success.

Bill Hastie – Mid-Willamette

Bill provided a copy of House Bill 2544, which creates the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan.  
Karen Hans provided a handout of activities.

### **Knowles Creek Presentation**

Tom Petersen shared a video which was aired by OPB of Knowles Creek. The video was filmed in the Spring of 2009.

### **Volunteer Recognition**

The Mid Coast District recognized the Siuslaw School District, Becky Goehring, Bill Henning and Jack Armer.

The Committee commended the teachers and employees of the Siuslaw School District for their willingness to forego pay increases in order to maintain existing funding levels. The Winners are our Children. A big thanks to you all.

Becky Goehring was recognized for the wonderful job creating the Florence STEP Group's Newsletter.

Bill Henning was instrumental in the trap planning and construction.

The Group recognizes Jack Armer for his operation of the hatchery.

### **STAC Mini-Grant Application Review**

#### **Mini-Grant 09-18 Hanging Scales & Tripods**

The original application has been modified to request one hanging scale and tripod.

Motion: A. Peña motioned to approve MG 09-18 in the amount of \$750. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 13-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-19 Angler Catch Survey of Trout in the Upper Willamette District**

The Committee questioned the amount of pages and if there would be enough volunteers to distribute the surveys. L. Wade shared that the District does feel they have an adequate number of volunteers for distribution. There was some discussion in regards to the lack of matching funds and the dedication/commitment of the volunteers.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to table MG 09-19. The motion was seconded and the project was tabled by the Committee 13-0. The Committee would like to confirm that a wide range of volunteer groups will be represented and that the project is consistent with current creel surveys. L. Wade will share with the applicant the concerns of the Committee.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-20 ODFW Spring Creek Site**

The Committee voiced concerns that the property owners don't appear to be contributing.

Motion: N. Ritchie motioned to deny MG 09-20. The motion was seconded and the project was denied by the Committee 13-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-21 PT4ION D.O. Monitoring System**

R. Heap shared that this will work with the system recently installed.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to approve MG 09-21 in the amount of \$1,200. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 13-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-22 Classroom Aquarium Units**

Karen Hans presented this application to the Committee. The amount of funds requested has been modified to a total of \$900. K. Hans will loan these set-ups out to Middle School and High School teachers. The question was asked if these set-ups will be clearly marked as ODFW property and the applicant replied, yes. The Committee asked the number of fish that will be in each tank, the reply was approximately 300.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 09-22 in the amount of \$900. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 13-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-23 Windmill Aerator**

Karen Hans presented this application to the Committee. The aerator is needed when the water quality drops, schools in the area release fry at the pond. The original unit purchased through R&E didn't work as planned but will be moved and used some where else.

A concern was voiced by the Committee that the 4-H Center pond isn't open to the general public.

Motion: D. Dunahay motioned to deny MG 09-23. The motion was seconded and the project was denied by the Committee 13-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-24 Update to Equipment for Salmon Watch**

This program is state wide, with a total of 10 kits – 6 kits are in use every day with 4 in transit to next location.

Motion: S. Mosley motioned to approve MG 09-24 in the amount of \$2,000. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 13-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-25 Dehooker Production, Training & Distribution**

This device allows the fish to remain in the water while the hook is being removed. Concern was stated with providing funds to reserve a booth at Sportsman Shows.

Motion: L. Wade motioned to approve MG 09-25 in the total amount of \$835 for the dehookers, instructional sheets and stuffed fish for demonstration; this amount includes a not-to-exceed amount of \$100 to be used towards marking/stamping the dehookers with the ANWST or STEP logo. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 13-0.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-26 Nestucca Connections Equipment**

P. Gefre shared that this group is always available when needed; they're a very valuable group. The group has been working for 10 years in the area, the equipment is wearing out and the items being purchased will be bought at wholesale. Concern was shared about the lack of match funds; the applicant will be encouraged to list volunteer time as match funds in future requests. There was discussion on the actual need of hydration packs.

Motion: R. Heap motioned to approve MG 09-26 in the amount of \$1,569. The motion was seconded and approved by the Committee 12-1.

#### **Mini-Grant 09-27 Goat Island Riparian Restoration**

The Committee shared concern with the lack of information in regards to native plants being used. The

Committee would also like to see the applicant's follow-up and maintenance plan for the vegetation.

Motion: G. Enoch motioned to table MG 09-27. The motion was seconded and the project was tabled by the Committee 13-0. The applicant will be able to reapply if an inventory of native plants being purchased is included along with a follow-up plan identified.

### **2011 STEP Conference**

The Florence STEP group is unable to host the 2011 STEP Conference. The time of year was discussed by the group, deciding early fall or spring would more than likely be best. A. Pena will ask the Coos Bay STEP group if they are interested in hosting the conference.

### **25-Year Angling Enhancement Plan Update**

Rhine Messmer reported that several Restoration & Enhancement project applications have been received that support the Plan. The fall stocking program was well received by the public which was a result of the Plan.

The Inland Sport Fishing Advisory Committee had their first meeting which focused mainly on introductions. Dave Dunahay is member of ISFAC.

### **Round Table**

N. Ritchie discussed the issues surrounding angler access on the Willamette around Newberg. The situation has been controversial; Rhine Messmer will research issues and report back.

A. Pena shared concern with the 3-day shellfish license in which the days must be consecutive. Having the days consecutive isn't always convenient.

Rhine Messmer shared that there are studies being conducted regarding shellfish. R. Messmer suggested everyone view the shellfish portion of ODFW's website, they've put a lot of work into it.

Possible April STAC meeting agenda items:

- District update – Tualatin Basin
- Report on the state of the Columbia River's Chinook stocks
- Ocean conditions update – several groups suggest keeping first 2 coho caught due to the number of casualties from handling
- Legislative updates, position updates, EBAC update
- A presentation on purpose and need of punch cards
- Discussion from ODFW on the percentage of tags turned in
- Update on Conservation and Recovery Planning
- Update on sturgeon populations
- Coho update in Willamette Valley
- Possible tours on Saturday: Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, Tillamook Forest Center

### **Public Comment**

No comments at this time.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.