

To: Louise Solliday
From: Paul R. Cleary
Subject: Progress Report on Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds
Date: October 10, 2000

Accomplishments: (July 1, 2000 – September 30, 2000)

STATEWIDE

WRD 6 – Streamflow Restoration Priorities

WRD and ODFW have continued work to identify streamflow restoration priorities for Columbia River tributaries and interior basins. The evaluation criteria and methodology have been developed. District biologists and watermasters are ranking streamflow restoration needs and opportunities for each of approximately 1,650 watersheds. By early 2001, WRD and ODFW will combine the need and opportunity rankings to identify flow restoration priorities. Completion of the prioritization process was delayed by a year because of a lack of resources.

Issue: Several agencies are discussing development of habitat and flow restoration priorities. It is unclear what the effect of the other approaches will or should be on the priorities jointly developed by WRD and ODFW. Discussions are needed to reconcile the various priorities under development.

WRD 14 - Municipal Water Management

WRD has scheduled a workshop to aid municipal water suppliers in the development of water management and conservation plans. The workshop will be on November 17. Under the OPSW, WRD has annually conducted the workshop for the last several years.

WRD 20 – Water Use Measurement and Reporting

WRD has identified all surface and ground water permits which include conditions requiring the submittal of annual water use reports. WRD will send water use reporting reminders and forms to each of these permittees concurrently with the annual mailing to public entities who are required to report water use. WRD also is developing a database which will be used in performing field evaluations of the adequacy of measuring devices at each significant diversion in flow restoration priority areas. Progress on these tasks is on schedule.

WRD 25 - Compliance Rate Monitoring

Compliance rates developed during the quarter based on the evaluations of data collected through diversion inventories performed under WRD 10 and other stream surveys as follows:

Stream/Basin	Diversions Inventoried	Authorized Diversions	Compliance Rate
Siletz River/North Coast	22	19	86%
Tualatin River/Willamette	66	63	95%
East Fork Dairy Creek/Willamette	20	16	80%
Catherine Creek/Grande Ronde	35	35	100%

NORTH COAST REGION

WRD 8 - Increased Distribution and Enforcement

WRD watermasters closely monitored streamflows in high priority areas. Flows were sufficient to meet instream water rights throughout most of the summer. However, by late season, streamflows in Deadwood and Lake Creeks in the Siuslaw River watershed, and Little Elk Creek in the Yaquina River watershed were below instream water right levels. The watermasters shut off unauthorized diversions, including those associated with an ODOT construction project, and junior water rights.

WRD 9 - Install Monitoring Stations

The District 16 watermaster assisted the Mid Coast Watershed Council in preparation of an OWEB grant proposal to install measuring devices in areas which are high priorities for streamflow restoration. The measuring devices would allow closer monitoring of streamflows and more expeditious water distribution when instream water rights are not met.

WRD 10 - Inventory Water Diversions

In cooperation with OSP, the District 16 watermaster conducted a survey of water diversions on the Siletz River. Follow-up action was taken to identify ownership for diversions that appeared to be unauthorized and letters were sent to the landowners informing them of water right requirements.

SOUTH COAST REGION

WRD 8 - Increased Distribution and Enforcement

WRD watermasters closely monitored streamflows in high priority areas. In the Umpqua Basin, staff hired under an OWEB grant obtained by the local watershed council performed bimonthly measurements on priority streams to monitor the flows. By late summer, the District 15

watermaster had regulated approximately 200 junior users to provide water for the instream water rights. In the Rogue Basin, junior users on Thompson Creek in the Applegate River watershed, the Little Applegate River, and East Fork Evans Creek were regulated for instream water rights. By late summer, flows in several streams were insufficient to supply water rights with priority dates later than 1900. During water distribution, watermasters also identified unauthorized diversions in the Galice Creek and Pass Creek watersheds and initiated enforcement action.

WRD 9 - Install Monitoring Stations

Southwest Region field staff installed surface water gaging stations on Sucker Creek, Althouse Creek and Little Butte Creeks. The streams are high priorities for flow restoration.

WRD 15 - Instream Transfers and Leases

WRD approved instream transfers, leases, and allocations of conserved water yielding a total of 11.5696 cfs for instream water rights in South Coast basins.

WRD 22 - Modification of Diversion Dams

The District 15 watermaster assisted Craig Ditch water users in converting to pump/sprinkler irrigation, removing the concrete diversion structure which was a barrier to fish passage, and completing the associated transfers of points of diversions. In conjunction with the project, water rights for 31.8 acres of irrigated land were voluntarily cancelled. Craig Ditch is in the South Myrtle Creek watershed, a high priority for flow restoration.

The Rogue Basin Fish Passage Barrier Removal Strategic Plan was completed by WRD and other participating agencies. The plan lists four goals which are: remove or modify all human barriers to fish passage, secure funding for implementation, monitor success of projects, and educate stakeholders and the public on the impacts of fish barriers and methods used to restore fish passage. This objective replaces the gravel push-up dam objective, as all barriers to passage are included in this project.

WILLAMETTE REGION

WRD 7 - Coordinated Enforcement Plan

OSP and WRD field staff conducted a visit to pumps on the Willamette River previously identified as unauthorized. The District 20 watermaster posted nine of the pumps and identified seven new points of diversion which will be checked to determine if there are water rights for the uses.

WRD 8 - Increased Distribution and Enforcement

The District 2 and 16 watermasters regularly measured flows in high priority areas within their districts. By mid-July, streamflows had dropped to levels below the instream water rights in Thomas, Hamilton, and Butte Creeks and junior water users were regulated off.

During distribution activities to provide water for instream water rights, watermasters were involved in several cases involving enforcement against unauthorized uses. After issuing notices of violation to Mount Hood Community College for filling a reservoir using live flow needed to meet the instream right in Beaver Creek in the Sandy Basin, the District 20 watermaster referred the case to the Enforcement Section in Salem. The watermaster also devoted extensive effort to obtaining compliance with live flow bypass requirements for a reservoir in the Johnson Creek watershed.

WRD 10 - Inventory Water Diversions

The District 18 watermaster inventoried water diversions and identified unauthorized uses in the Dairy Creek watershed and a section of the Tualatin River. The watermaster contacted the owners of unauthorized pumps and secured compliance. These streams are high priorities for streamflow restoration.

WRD 15 - Instream Transfers and Leases

WRD approved instream transfers, leases, and allocations of conserved water yielding a total of 11.602 cfs for instream water rights in the Willamette Basin.

CENTRAL REGION

WRD 8 - Increased Distribution and Enforcement

The District 3 watermaster started water distribution activities in July on Fifteenmile and Tygh Creeks south of The Dalles. Several instream water right transfers and leases provide flows which the watermaster is protecting.

WRD 9 - Install Monitoring Stations

South Central Region staff assisted the Trout Creek Watershed Council in preparation of a grant request to continue operation of the gaging stations on Trout and Sagebrush Creeks. The stations have been in operation for two years and the streamflow data are available on WRD's web site.

WRD 15 - Instream Transfers and Leases

WRD approved instream transfers, leases, and allocations of conserved water yielding a total of 6.334 cfs for instream water rights in the Central Region. These included a lease initiated by the

Oregon Water Trust for 1.28 cfs with the oldest priority date (1887) on Trout Creek during August.

WRD 16 - Water Right Forfeiture

The District 3 watermaster mailed noticed of proposed cancellation to landowners with rights of record on Springer Ditch through which water was diverted from Fifteenmile Creek. Cancellation of these rights will remove from the records 85 acres of rights for which there has been no system of delivery for 15 to 20 years.

EASTERN REGION

WRD 7 - Coordinated Enforcement Plan

The District 21 watermaster obtained OSP assistance in serving an inspection warrant on an irrigator on Alder Creek. The warrant allowed the watermaster to access and adjust the water control structure to secure compliance with water right limitations.

WRD 15 - Instream Transfers and Leases

WRD approved instream transfers, leases, and allocations of conserved water yielding a total of 31.868 cfs for instream water rights in the Eastern Region.

WRD 20 - Water Use Measurement and Reporting

The District 6 watermaster inventoried 35 diversion on Catherine Creek and tributaries. The inventory will assist in planning for the replacement of headgates and measuring devices as needed. All diversion were in compliance

WRD 22 - Modification of Diversion Dams

District 4 staff assisted the Grant SWCD in preparation of a grant application for engineering to aid in diversion facilities replacing push up dams.