



STATE OF WASHINGTON

GOVERNOR'S SALMON RECOVERY OFFICE

Natural Resources Building, PO Box 43135 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3135

TO: Steve Tharinger, Chair
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

FROM: Chris Drivdahl
Salmon Team

DATE: April 23, 2009

SUBJECT: February through April Activities of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Federal Economic Stimulus Projects – We coordinated federal economic stimulus grant applications for the Columbia Basin and Coastal salmon recovery regions. From an initial round of 84 potential projects requesting in excess of \$56 million, we submitted 17 projects for \$24,854,794 for the Governor's endorsement, all of which received a letter.

Salmon Habitat Conference – Staff participated in the Salmon Habitat Conference, providing support and chairing two sessions.

09-11 Budget Preparations – We assisted RCO staff and regional organizations with budget preparations; material on this subject is provided in another section of the Board's notebook.

Completion of Multi-state Recovery Plans – NOAA-F previously approved regional recovery plans, prepared by our recovery regional organizations, as interim management unit plans. NOAA-F is now incorporating these plans into multi-state recovery plans, working with the regional salmon recovery organizations, GSRO, Oregon and Idaho. The Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan, covering steelhead in the Yakima and Snake River recovery plans as well as steelhead in Oregon and Klickitat County, was proposed by NOAA-F in September 2008 and is scheduled for final adoption in August 2009. The Lower Columbia Recovery Plan for Chinook, steelhead, coho and chum incorporates the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board's regional recovery plan and includes recovery plans for Oregon and White Salmon River; it is scheduled for release by NOAA-F by December 2009. Final adoption of the plan by NOAA-F is expected by summer 2010. Finally, the Snake River Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan – which will incorporate Washington's Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan along with plans for Oregon and Idaho salmon and steelhead – is now underway, with publication expected during 2010 and final adoption in early 2011.

State of Washington and FCRPS Action Agencies Memoranda of Agreement – A draft Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Washington and the Federal Columbia River Power System Action Agencies (i.e. Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) providing funding for habitat projects and related

activities to benefit salmon and steelhead using the Lower Columbia River and Estuary was released for a 30-day public comment period in early April. Through the nine-year term of this MOA, BPA will provide an additional \$40.5 million for habitat work in the Lower Columbia River and Estuary, as well as funding to support implementation activities by the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership. This additional commitment together with existing funding commitments in the 2008 FCRPS Biological Opinion will total approximately \$150 million for Lower River and Estuary habitat improvements. While the Estuary MOA is out for public comment, intensive discussions are also underway to consider another potential MOA involving Washington's broader interests in the Columbia Basin related to implementation of the 2008 FCRPS BiOp and other associated activities.

Looking Back – GSRO has provided policy and technical support to the SRFB since its inception, and the office will continue to do so as it transitions to its new location under the administrative wing of the Recreation and Conservation Office. As a principal staff member for this period, I have been writing these activity reports for you since the very first one in January 2000 (attached). While the “what’s hot” topics have changed over the years, the enthusiasm, devotion, and knowledge GSRO staff have provided will continue to be solid anchors for regional organizations and SRFB members in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the salmon resources of Washington.

Council of Regions Report

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

May 14, 2009

Prepared and submitted by COR representative, Steve Martin

COR will be meeting on meeting April 27th with the purpose of discussing COR mission, vision, and structure followed by an afternoon meeting with RCO and GSRO to discuss the process and outcomes for transitioning GSRO into the RCO. COR is strongly committed to working with the RCO and GSRO on the transition and to help ensure that the needs of all parties are understood and addressed to the extent practicable as we continue our working partnership.

The regional salmon recovery organizations completed their 2009-2011 proposed scope of work and operating budgets in April and submitted them to GSRO and RCO for review and transmittal to the SRFB. This information package includes a Program Overview for each region. The Program Overview includes: (1) Operations Plan, (2) Performance Assessment, (3) Strategic Assessment, and (4) Performance Measures and Milestones. The Operations Plan provides accomplishments and upcoming priorities. The Performance Assessment is a self-evaluation of how the organization performed with respect to its 07-09 scope of work. The Strategic Assessment outlines what needs to be done, how it will be accomplished and challenges. The Performance Measures and Milestones provide a list of the major deliverables and dates. In addition to the Program Overviews, all regions developed a scope of work and budget which identify tasks, deliverables and milestones based on an 8% reduction from the 2007-2009 SRFB grants.

Recently, regional organizations took a leadership role across the State of Washington to identify projects, facilitate and coordinate the process to assist sponsors to apply for funding for salmon habitat projects for consideration through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This unanticipated “new” funding opportunity was both a blessing and a challenge. The work had to be completed within roughly 30 days and required mobilization and coordination of partners and sponsors with unprecedented speed and urgency. The success with which regional salmon recovery projects were pulled together in a deliberate, disciplined and inclusive manner emphasizes the value of the statewide framework for salmon recovery plans and actions, and the value of maintaining our partnerships. These projects had to be “shovelready” in terms of design, costs, landowner support, permitting being in place or feasible within the time frame, and they had to be consistent with an approved salmon recovery plan. Implementation work plans provided the starting point, in most regions, for the projects that ended up on the list of project applications submitted by the state. The list of projects submitted for funding consideration, all of which were personally endorsed by Governor Gregoire, is attached.

Also, Columbia Basin regions are coordinating processes to identify completed, on-going, and future planned projects for funding as part of implementing the tributary habitat elements of the 2008 Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion. The regions’ implementation work schedules help to identify future projects and provide the detail necessary for commitment by the Action Agencies to habitat productivity increases needed to meet the federal agencies obligations under the 2008 FCRPS BiOp.

Sponsor	Project Name	Location	Description	Amount Requested
SNAKE RIVER SALMON RECOVERY REGION				
Columbia Rural Electric Association	Tucannon River Instream and Riparian Protection and Restoration	Tucannon River, Columbia County	Protect and restore riparian areas and floodplain by relocating overhead electric lines on a 7 mile priority reach	\$1,216,542
Walla Walla County Conservation District	Bergevin-Williams/Old Lowden (BWOL) Consolidation and Garden City Piping	Walla Walla River Watershed, Walla Walla County	Consolidate 2 points of diversion and pipe 15 miles of open ditch (Garden City, Old Lowden and Bergevin-Williams)	\$2,682,731
Walla Walla County Conservation District	Touchet River McCaw Reach Habitat Rehabilitation	Touchet River, Walla Walla County	Restore (increase length, install LWD, develop point bars and floodplain, and revegetate/ protect) approximately 0.5 miles of Touchet	\$726,465
Steve Martin, Executive Director, (509) 382-4115, steve@snakeriverboard.org			Snake River Total	\$4,625,738

YAKIMA (MIDDLE COLUMBIA RIVER REGION)				
Kittitas County Conservation District	Manastash Creek Restoration	Yakima River, Kittitas County	Provide fish screening and passage; enhance instream flow conditions in Manastash Creek. Consolidate 3 diversions into 1 and pipe from consolidated diversion back to water right holders. Also change earthen unlined ditch to pipe.	\$1,306,487
Kittitas Conservation Trust	Cle Elum River Flow and Habitat Restoration	Cle Elum River, Kittitas County	Construct two large engineered log jams in the Cle Elum River to deflect perennial flows into the Domerie side-channel, creating 2 stream miles of aquatic and riparian habitat.	\$521,150
Yakima County	Eschbach Park Levee Removal	Naches, Yakima County	Expand floodplain, allow river to re-enter avulsed channel with existing excellent riparian zone characteristics, increase side channel habitats, improve sediment transport; re-deck bridge in Eschbach Park to allow access; and install new Yakima Valley Canal Company headgate, also set back from the river 1100'.	\$644,000
So. Central WA Resource Conservation and Development Council	Reecer Creek Floodplain Project	Yakima River, Kittitas County	Create steelhead and salmon rearing habitat in Ellensburg's Reecer Creek, tributary to Yakima River at RM 153.7. Relocate currently diked creek into recontoured floodplain, revegetate habitat, add instream rock and woody debris, increase channel length. Existing dike will be set back to allow meander.	\$1,443,709
North Yakima Conservation District	Cowiche Creek Barrier Removal and Trust Water Project	Cowiche Creek, Yakima County	Eliminate irrigation diversion dam, eliminate need for fish screening at two points of diversion, build pressurized irrigation delivery system and stream gauging, and site restoration.	\$865,957
Yakama Indian Nation	Toppenish Creek Restoration	Toppenish Watershed, Yakima County	Restore part of Toppenish Creek altered by irrigation development that resulted in channel and floodplain disconnection, wetland habitat loss, fish passage barriers, channel incision, and groundwater depletion. This is phase two of a multi-year effort to remove irrigation infrastructure from Toppenish Creek, and restore natural functions of floodplain.	\$2,543,267
Alex Conley, Executive Director, (509) 453-4104, aconley@ybfwrp.org			Yakima Total	\$7,327,570

Sponsor	Project Name	Location	Description	Amount Requested
UPPER COLUMBIA SALMON RECOVERY REGION				
Colville Confederated Tribes	Bonaparte Creek Channel Rehabilitation and Legacy Park Habitat Improvements	Okanogan River Tributaries, Okanogan County	Reestablish natural channel to abate sediment transport and promote highway safety; remove invasive species and replant with natives; install education signs	\$625,910

Sponsor	Project Name	Location	Description	Amount Requested
Washington Rivers Conservancy	Restore Instream Flow Wenatchee Sub-basin	Wenatchee River, Chelan County	Upgrade Pioneer Water Users Association irrigation delivery system and change point of diversion (POD) from the Wenatchee River, near Monitor to new POD on Columbia River. Increase instream flow for Beaver Creek, tributary to the Wenatchee River. This is a source switch to completely eliminate a diversion, which will improve instream flow	\$3,389,950
Julie Morgan, Executive Director, (509) 662-4710, julie.morgan@ucsr.com			Upper Columbia River Salmon Region Total	\$4,015,860
LOWER COLUMBIA SALMON RECOVERY REGION				
Clark County	Lewisville Park Stream Habitat Enhancement	East Fork Lewis River, Clark County	Reconnect side-channels; instream habitat enhancement; bank stabilization and restoration	\$1,648,000
Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	North Fork Lewis River Restoration Project	Lower North Fork Lewis River, Clark and Cowlitz Counties	Construct engineered log jams and other structures; remove culvert; reconnect existing channel; restore riparian habitat; stabilize banks; remove invasive plants	\$2,388,346
Clark County	East Fork Lewis River Floodplain Restoration	Lower East Fork Lewis River, Clark County	Restore floodplain function through levy removal, reconnecting floodplain parts, removing invasive weeds, and revegetating streambank and floodplain	\$1,628,000
Jeff Breckel, Executive Director, (360) 425-1555, jbreckel@lcfrc.gen.wa.us			Lower Columbia River Total	\$5,664,346
WASHINGTON COAST SALMON RECOVERY REGION				
Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	Coastal Rivers Barrier Removal and Instream Habitat Improvement	Sol Duc Watershed, Camp Creek; and Hoh Watershed, Brandeberry Creek, Jefferson and Clallam Counties	Remove and replace an under-sized, perched 10 foot culvert with a 70 foot long bridge. Create instream habitat and reduce sediment through LWD	\$650,714
Clallam County Conservation District	Lake Ozette Forest Road Fish Passage Improvement	Lake Ozette Watershed, Clallam County	Eliminate or reduce sediment production and delivery from road surfaces through road abandonment and culvert replacements	\$1,266,674
Quinault Indian Nation	Marine Debris Removal and Habitat Restoration Project	Quinault Coastline, Grays Harbor County	Remove marine debris and derelict fishing gear from Quinault and Queets River estuaries and QIN Reservation coast	\$1,303,892
Nancy Allison, Executive Director, (360) 289-2499, ext. 113, wcssp@coastaccess.com			Coast Salmon Recovery Region Totals	\$3,221,280
PUGET SOUND SALMON RECOVERY REGION				
Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation	Derelict Gear	Puget Sound, San Juan, Island, Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce, Thurston, Mason, Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties	Remove derelict fishing gear from marine habitats of Puget Sound; Restore benthic habitat; eliminate a direct source of mortality to salmon and other marine species by removing derelict fishing nets from marine waters	\$4,776,055
Puget Sound Restoration Fund	On-the-ground Recovery of Pinto abalone, Olympia oysters and Bull kelp in Puget Sound	Puget Sound, San Juan, Pierce, Thurston, mason, Kitsap and Clallam Counties	Produce healthy, genetically diverse animals and plants for outplanting, and increase densities in the wild to stabilize and then build viable populations for the future.	\$1,680,850
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association	South Fork Nooksack River and Tributaries Restoration Project	Nooksack Watershed, Whatcom County	Fish passage to 2.4 miles of upstream habitat; restored instream habitat along 3900 feet of stream channel; revegetation of 128 acres of riparian habitat; and improved salmonid productivity	\$540,000
Lummi Nation	Smuggler's Slough	Nooksack Watershed, Whatcom County	Reconnect Lummi and Nooksack River through the historic floodway of Smuggler's Slough. Project will initiate in-water work to enhance wetlands in preparation for levee and dike breaches	\$1,740,023
The Nature Conservancy	Fisher Slough Freshwater Tidal Marsh Restoration	Skagit Watershed, Skagit County	Install self-regulating floodgate, re-route a drainage canal, build setback levee, remove existing levee and restore marsh habitat features to restore stream and tidal processes and fish access to 60 acre site on the S. Fork Skagit River. Benefits will also include improved drainage and decreased flooding on surrounding farmland.	\$5,900,000

Sponsor	Project Name	Location	Description	Amount Requested
Seattle Public Utilities	Lower Tolt River Floodplain Reconnection Project	Snohomish Watershed, King County	Restore 40 acres of floodplain at the mouth of the Tolt River. Plant native riparian plants on other Tolt River Seattle-owned properties.	\$1,000,000
City of Issaquah	Issaquah Integrated Fish Passage	Lake Washington/ Cedar/ Sammamish Watershed, King County	Dam removal to restore unhindered adult fish passage of Chinook, coho, and other salmon to 10 miles of high quality upstream habitat and provide channel connectivity for other aquatic species. Remove Issaquah Fish Hatchery Intake Dam and replace with series of boulder weir structures and a new screened water intake structure located in a fish-passable channel constriction.	\$3,200,000
King County	Big Spring/Newaukum Stream and Wetland Restoration	Green/ Duwamish Watershed, King County	Relocate 2,800 lineal feet of Big Spring Creek from agricultural and roadside ditches to historic floodplain location. Restore floodplain functions and habitat in 80 acres of surrounding wetland currently dominated by Reed Canarygrass.	\$2,588,356
Duck's Unlimited	Nisqually Estuary Restoration	Nisqually Watershed, Thurston County	Restore 762 acres of salt marsh habitat. This is the highest priority restoration action in the Nisqually Basin, the largest marsh restoration project in Puget Sound, and will increase South Puget Sound salt marsh area by 50%.	\$6,800,000
Nisqually Indian Tribe	Mashel Eatonville Restoration Phase 2	Nisqually Watershed, Pierce County	This 2nd Phase of the project will continue the effort and built upon the very successful Phase 1 restoration project which was completed within the same reach of the river in 2007. The main focus of this project will be the construction of 11 additional log structures. This project will also continue the protection of riparian habitat, through purchases of easements and fee simple acquisitions in addition to reforestation of several acres. This phase will also capitalize on bank protection project that is underway by the WA DOT and the Tribe which includes the installation of 6 log structures to stop bank erosion and provide fish habitat. Combining the two efforts will expedite the permit process, bring cost savings, and result in a total of 17 new structures for 2009.	\$1,170,000
City of Olympia	Ellis Creek Fish Passage	Deschutes Watershed, Thurston County	Total replacement of a fish-barrier culvert at the mouth of a productive salmon stream with intact and protected upstream riparian areas.	\$1,500,000
Mason County	McLane Cove Estuary Reconnection	Kennedy/ Goldsborough Watersheds, Mason County	Remove existing blocking culvert restoring natural tidal flow into a small 1.5 acres pocket estuary. When reconnection occurs, forage and refuge provided for ESA-listed Puget Sound Chinook and winter Steelhead. Potential revegetation of the site by Mason County jail trustees.	\$525,000
Kitsap County	Chico Creek Instream Restoration	West Sound Watersheds, Kitsap County	Remove weirs blocking fish passage and restore habitat and floodplain for approximately 540 linear feet of creek. Also restores habitat and floodplain for approximately 200 linear feet of creek and provides bank stabilization downstream	\$1,975,000
Kitsap County	Carpenter Creek Estuary Restoration	West Sound Watersheds, Kitsap County	This project will restore over 30 acres of undeveloped habitat of the Carpenter Creek estuary, by removal of a tidal-restricting, undersized culvert. It will increase natural tidal hydrologic fluctuations (inundation and frequency) in sufficient quantities to restore and enhance the following functional ecosystem processes and habitats: Intertidal mudflats and salt marsh habitat Nearshore sediment delivery and transport, Barrier-free fish passage, Eelgrass and microalgae beds, Marine riparian and tidal-freshwater forests, Reduction of watershed/estuary/shoreline fragmentation, Protection of prey base, salmon feeding areas for state and federally endangered Orca Whales	\$2,702,522
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Little Quilcene River Delta	Hood Canal Watersheds, Jefferson County	Remove approximately 8 acres of aggraded delta cone; Stream channel restoration of 1,800 feet; functional link between freshwater and saltwater physical processes; instream complexity via	\$1,111,732

Sponsor	Project Name	Location	Description	Amount Requested
			placement of wood enhancements in 1 mile of stream	
Mason Conservation District	Regional Riparian Successional Strategy Implementation	Hood Canal Watersheds, Clallam, Jefferson, Mason and Kitsap Counties	Inventory and removal of invasive species along anadromous streams in four counties: Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, and Kitsap	\$1,238,000
Skokomish Tribe	Skokomish Estuary	Hood Canal Watersheds, Mason County	Restore 214 acres of intertidal estuary and 2.42 miles of tidal river shorelines: obliterate levees, borrow ditches, and tidegates on Skokomish Estuary Island	\$1,752,078
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Elwha Floodplain Bundled Package	North Olympic Peninsula Watersheds, Clallam County	Lower Elwha hatchery outfall & berm removal, Griff Creek culvert replacement, revegetation, exotic species removal, Elwha ELJ's	\$2,739,000
Clallam Conservation District	Dungeness River Streamflow Improvement	Dungeness Watershed, Clallam County	Approximately 13 miles of open irrigation canals will be replaced with buried pipelines to save an estimated 6 cubic feet per second (1,850 ac-ft/yr) of Dungeness River flows.	\$2,940,000
Tulalip Tribes	Qwuloot Estuary Restoration	Ebey Slough, Snohomish County	Restore historic tidal processes and functioning estuary intertidal marsh system to 350 acres of isolated floodplain. Restore natural hydrologic connection and functions to two stream systems and provide unrestricted access to 16 miles of upstream habitat. Remove levee, install setback levee, fill ditches, excavate stream and tidal channels and native riparian planting	\$4,142,413
Joe Ryan, Salmon Recovery Program Director, (206) 383-9887, joe.ryan@psp.wa.gov			Puget Sound Recovery Region Totals	\$50,021,029
Total Number of Projects		37	Overall Total	\$74,875,823

Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG)
Draft Meeting Summary
Girl Scouts Center, DuPont, WA
April 14, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Attendance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mike Johnson, Pacific 2. Mike Nordin, Pacific 3. Lauri Vigue, WDFW 4. Dan McCarty, Klickitat 5. Amy Hatch-Winecka, WRIA 13&14 6. Angie Begosh, YBFWRB 7. Char Schumacher, Okanogan 8. Barbara Rosenkotter, San Juan 9. Kathy Peters, West Sound Watersheds 10. Joy Juelson, Chelan 11. Jenna Norman, WDFW 12. Joe Maroney, Pend Oreille 13. Nick Bean, Pend Oreille 14. Peter Schroeder, Forum on Monitoring, LEAG rep 15. Jeanette Dorner, Nisqually 16. Lorin Reinelt, Pierce 17. Alex Conley, YBFWRB 18. Mary Jorgensen, WRIA 8 19. Morgan Schneider, PSP 20. Kris Buelow, SRSRB 21. Bob Burkle, WDFW 22. Megan Duffy, RCO 23. Brian Abbott, RCO 24. Rachael Langen, RCO 25. Richard Brocksmith, HCCC 26. Sara LaBorde, WDFW 27. Shirley Solomon, Skagit Watershed Council 28. Mary Raines, Skagit Watershed Council 29. Chris Luerkens, Island County 30. Rich Osborne, NPCLE 31. Cheryl Baumann, NOBLE 32. John Sims, Quinault 33. Erik Neatherlin, WDFW
General Announcements	<p>The draft January and February LEAG notes were approved as written.</p> <p>Announcements Richard Brocksmith announced that Lead Entity Day at the Capitol was a success. It was well attended, and a great celebration/recognition of everyone involved in salmon recovery.</p>
Reports and Updates	<p>Council of Regions Update ** See handout Alex Conley gave a brief update on the discussions and work accomplished by the Council of Regions. This update included working with Lead Entities to develop the 8% budget reduction, developing individual regional operational budget proposals for SRFB, identifying potential federal stimulus projects, identifying key regional monitoring needs that could be supported by the Washington Monitoring Forum, and providing input to RCO and tracking changes in the state's salmon recovery structure.</p>

	<p>WDFW Update **See handout</p> <p>Sara LaBorde, WDFW, explained the handout she developed for LEAG regarding the roles and potential staff cuts of WDFW in the salmon recovery system in relation to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and lead entities/regions. The handout included Technical Assistance, Permitting, Habitat Work Schedule, Nearshore/Estuary, Hatchery Reform, and Accountability. The range of FTEs cut will be determined by the outcome of the legislative session. Other potential sources of revenue are being investigated by the agency to offset FTE cuts. LEAG responded that this was a beneficial report and assisted in understanding the capacity issues and impacts on lead entities.</p> <p>Lauri Vigue announced that not all lead entities have submitted their estimates of potential unspent lead entity funds for the end of the fiscal year. In previous years these funds were pooled and made available to lead entities in need to be spent out by June 30, 2009. To date, most lead entities have reported they will be spending all of their funds, so pooling for “bonus” funds is not expected this year.</p> <p>**Please note: current PSAR 5 % capacity funds will be reallocated by RCO and are available until June 30, 2011.</p>
<p>Managing for 8% budget reduction</p>	<p>Richard Brocksmith gave a brief summary of the budget reduction process to date. LEAG went through a round table exercise to give each lead entity an opportunity to share relevant updates to the transition discussion, how they are working with regional organizations in co-managing the process in their regional areas, and how reductions would be manifested. There was a variety in the different approaches and outcomes to this 8% budget reduction. Ideas included losses of quality, complete, timely responses to requests, reducing in-person meetings, cuts across the whole program, requesting interns for HWS support, a few counties/tribes will cover the cut, some regions will support the LEs who are unable to take a cut, and finally LEs have and will continually change to be the most efficient and effective as possible. Written responses have been provided to RCO staff for SRFB review, and will be presented and discussed at the upcoming SRFB meeting.</p>
<p>Future of Lead Entity Program in RCO</p>	<p>Future of LEAG ** See handout</p> <p>Rachael Langen, RCO's deputy director, went through the handout on "Lead Entity Transition" and asked for LEAG input on the different concerns and challenges. Rachael noted everyone's appreciation of Lauri Vigue's outstanding work as the Lead Entity program coordinator for WDFW.</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>The Legislature has passed ESSB 3157 which moves the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and the coordination of Lead Entities to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Lead Entity Coordination is currently a function of the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). The intent of the consolidation of salmon recovery activities in RCO is increased coordinated and efficiency. The transfer of Lead Entity Coordinator functions to RCO saves \$140,000 and RCO will manage the program with 1.0 FTE.</p> <p><u>Opportunities, Fears, Challenges</u></p> <p>Lead Entity Coordinators expressed both concerns and hope for the transfer of the program’s administration to RCO. The Lead Entities have built a very strong network of organizations. This is an opportunity to re-form the Lead Entities Advisory Group (LEAG) building upon this strong foundation. Commitment is high and it is hoped that RCO can assist maintain the enthusiasm.</p>

Lead Entities are concerned that the technical support and partnership they've developed with DFW will diminish. To-date, DFW has supported the Lead Entities locally through watershed stewards. In addition, the work of the Lead Entities and other programs within DFW have been well-connected given the level of communication fostered by the Lead Entity coordinator with other relevant DFW programs. How will that happen under RCO? There needs to be clarity with respect to what services will be continued or discontinued and with respect to the nature of the relationship between RCO and the lead entities.

While RCO is a great grant management organization, its core mission is not to promote or advocate for Lead Entities or local projects. This is a role that was appropriate for DFW but not necessarily for RCO. Who will provide that level of advocacy and support?

Will RCO give LEAG the support it needs to continue to function as a strong network and organization? Lead Entities do not have the capacity to coordinate the logistics for LEAG and are concerned that the organization will weaken.

What Lead Entities and LEAG needs from RCO to be Successful

As indicated above, Lead Entities need advocacy and coordination with DFW both locally and at the state level from RCO. Keep the connections strong. They also seek a stronger connection with the entire office at RCO. There are other programs that may benefit from knowledge of what Lead Entities do at a local level.

The Lead Entities will need understanding and support from RCO for those LE functions that may be outside of the scope of the RCO's traditional role. Lead Entities have a policy role and are outspoken as independent organizations. Their job is to advocate and push the envelope. RCO might not be able to support this role at times, but it must be clearly understood that this is a critical function of the Lead Entities.

Lead entities will need support in their public outreach role at the local, grassroots level.

Lead Entities need an identity that is separate from RCO. But they also need the support as a network of organizations with a common mission. They need training opportunities, policy/procedural manuals, and administrative support to continue as a network. New Lead Entity Coordinators need a special level of support and would benefit from a "Lead Entity 101" orientation and mentoring opportunities.

Practically-speaking, Lead Entities and the staff in their organizations who do the billing and accounting need to know what it means to contract with RCO:

- Terms and Conditions
- Billing procedures
- Costs eligible for reimbursement

Staffing/Contracts

RCO does not yet know who the Lead Entity Coordinator will be. It may be July 1 or later before this is determined. There will be a contract available for Lead Entities to sign that will be effective July 1 that will have no major changes from the contract currently in place with DFW. Within 6 to 12 months, a new contract will be developed with new deliverables that are reflective of changes related to on-going discussions with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

	<p>Questions If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rachael Langen, Deputy Director of the Recreation and Conservation Office. (360) 902-3005 or Rachael.Langen@rco.wa.gov</p> <p>Rachael mentioned that contracts need to be in place by July 1, 2009. Lauri might be able to provide support for the program on a minimal basis through June. Jenna Norman will most likely be out of the program by the end of May.</p> <p>ACTION: Rachael Langen will send out the boiler plates for the contracts and respond to LEAG suggestions today.</p> <p>The WDFW is in the process of updating the Lead Entity Coordinator Welcome Packet. The final document will be provided to lead entity coordinators and RCO by the end of May 2009.</p>
Jeff Koenings Award	Sara LaBorde introduced and presented WDFW's previous director Jeff Koenings with an award from Lead Entity Day at the Capitol. The award was in recognition of his support and dedication to the last 10 years of successful salmon recovery.
SRFB / RCO Update	<p>2009 Grant Update Brian Abbott gave a power point presentation on RCO/SRFB updates. RCO is waiting for the final state budget. \$25 - \$30 million in PCSRF funds will be available for the next biennium. Currently the totals are \$17.2 million for habitat projects, and \$3.0 million for monitoring. SRFB will decide in May what is available for this grant round.</p> <p>Manual 18 2009 grant application materials are on RCO's website. Application workshops will be held May 20 in Yakima, May 27 in Olympia, and May 28 in Mt. Vernon. The next SRFB meeting will be held in Camas, WA on May 14th and 15th.</p> <p>Review Panel Appointments Please schedule your review panel time. Review panel request forms (for appointments) are available on RCO's website. New this year is the use of Share Point to communicate and coordinate site visits, share documents and follow up on project review issues. An account/password will need to be set up through Access Washington to use Share Point. RCO hopes to have this working by the middle of May.</p> <p>It is time again to update the review panel qualification list. RCO will be sending out an RFQQ in May and make a selections in late June. We expect to add one to two new members to the review panel team. We will be putting together a small review group to make those selections which will include a lead entity representative.</p> <p>Project Conference Update The conference will be held April 15th and 16th at the Little Creek Events Center. There are 510 participants registered and over 75 presenters.</p> <p>Handouts for RCO updates can be found by clicking on the following links: http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/Manuals&Forms/srfb/8th_rnd/PermitStreamlining.pdf http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/Manuals&Forms/Manual_18.pdf</p>
LEAG elections	<p>LEAG Executive Committee Representation Lauri reported there will be three Executive Committee Members terms that expire in July 2009: Paul Dorn, Barbara Rosenkotter and Charlene Schumacher. The northeast coordinator position is also still vacant.</p>

	<p>Northeast Vacancy Joe Maroney agreed to represent the northeast region for LEAG, his term will expire in July 2010.</p> <p>Kathleen Peters reported Paul Dorn was not available to continue due to time limitations. Barbara Rosenkotter agreed to continue as long as she had travel support from RCO, and Char agreed to continue.</p> <p><u>Motion</u> Jeanette Dorner [moved], Richard Osborne [seconded]</p> <p>To nominate Joe Maroney, Char Schumacher, and Barbara Rosenkotter (conditional) as LEAG representatives on the Executive Committee. Char and Barbara's terms will expire in July 2012.</p> <p>There is still one Puget Sound vacancy on the executive board.</p> <p>ACTION: Nominations for Puget Sound EXCOMM should be given to Richard Brocksmith by May 29th.</p> <p>The motion was carried unanimously. Officer elections will be held in July.</p> <p>These terms will be effective on July 1, 2009.</p> <p>Under the current LEAG Mission and Structures document, nominated Executive Committee members are submitted to the Director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for approval. Given the impending transition over to RCO, that process for final approval is no longer valid. LEAG agreed that we should nominate and approve our own Executive Committee. Therefore the positions were approved by LEAG by unanimous vote. The LEAG Mission and Structures document will have to be updated with this change in 2009.</p> <p>ACTION: Richard will determine if RCO will provide travel support for LEAG EXCOMM members beginning in July 2009.</p> <p>ACTION: LEAG/RCO to update the LEAG Mission and Structures Document FY 09.</p> <p>Prior to LEAG Jenna had sent out the 2008 LEAG Representation, primary and secondary, designees document to the lead entity coordinators for updating.</p> <p>ACTION: LE coordinators send updated representation information to Jenna</p>
Habitat Work Schedule Update	<p>HWS Licensing and Contract Language Update Erik Neatherlin provided an update for HWS. The funding for the remaining HWS user licenses is secured. Lauri will initiate amendments beginning within the next two weeks. The leftover funds from the last fiscal year were used to pay for the first 6 licenses. The individual \$10,385.00 license fee will be a yearly cost. RCO staff expressed their intent to keep HWS, improving coordination between PRISM and HWS. One LEAG suggestion was to use the Share Point resource on HWS website. Erik clarified that he is planning to continue working on HWS, and the database has RCO and federal support to continue. Alex Conley mentioned that LEAG should review the long term business model, and be prepared to use the export tool to extract data if/when moving the database to another system. This</p>

	<p>could be a future discussion topic between LEAG and RCO.</p> <p>Erik mentioned that the monthly HWS Advisory Group has been a successful coordination tool. He is currently working on aligning the updated PCSRF dictionary with HWS language (which will not require data entry efforts from LEs). Erik reviewed the recent enhancements including the data export tool (which includes .html files available to link to your webpage), the export tool for the 3-year work plan, and the project validation tool.</p> <p>Erik announced that he would be at RCO's project conference in the help section to answer any questions regarding HWS.</p>
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LEAG ACTION ITEM PROGRESS REPORT

Action Item	Issued/Updated	Whom	Status
Monitoring Survey will be re-sent with due date to all lead entity coordinators	9/23/08	Richard Brocksmith	Completed
At a future LEAG include on the agenda a discussion of land acquisition barriers, possibly inviting WWRP and others	9/23/08	Richard Brocksmith	Future discussion
Nominations for Puget Sound EXCOMM should be given to Richard Brocksmith by May 29th.	4/14/09	LE Coordinators	In Process
Richard will determine if RCO will provide travel support for LEAG EXCOMM members beginning in July 2009	4/14/09	Richard Brocksmith	In Process
LEAG/RCO to update the LEAG Mission and Structures Document FY 09	4/14/09	LEAG, RCO	In Process
LE coordinators send updated representation information to Jenna	4/14/09	LE Coordinators	In Process
Send LE's boiler plates for contracts and respond to LEAG's suggestions.	4/14/09	Rachel Langen	In Process