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TO: SRFB Members and Designees

FROM: Laura Johnson, Director

PREPARED BY: Bruce Crawford, Monitoring Program Manager

SUBJECT: Intensively Monitoring Watersheds (IMW) Report

In 2003, the Office of Financial Management ended funding for Index Watersheds that had previously been directly appropriated to the Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology. The budget proviso directed the agencies to apply to the SRFB for any future funding. Consequently, the two agencies collaborated to develop a sophisticated approach to validating whether habitat restoration actions were actually creating more salmon. This approach was an extension of recommendations by the Independent Science Panel, Monitoring Oversight Committee and the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy. It also addressed guidance received from NOAA Fisheries in response to congressional inquiries about the effectiveness of the restoration actions undertaken with Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds.

In June 2003, Dr. Bob Bilby and Dr. Bill Ehinger presented the IMW concept to the SRFB and provided options. The SRFB passed a resolution to fund Option 1. First year work was to begin IMW work in Lower Columbia and Hood Canal and explore other IMW sites as well.

On June 25th, 2004, Mr. Steve Leider and Dr. Bob Bilby reported on the IMW monitoring efforts. The Board discussed the request for an additional $650,000 to add a couple more basins into the monitoring effort for a total request of $1.09 million. The Board adopted Resolution #2004-05 providing a total of $1.09 million for work in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Skagit, as well as the previously proposed Hood Canal and Lower Columbia River sites.

Since that date, IMW work has progressed well. However, the need to cluster restoration actions into the Hood Canal Streams and the Lower Columbia treatment streams in order to detect response in fish populations has encountered some coordination problems that are being addressed. This update to the SRFB will:

- Provide a summary of IMW findings to date;
- Identify IMW restoration projects needing funding in 2007
- Discuss current funding levels