

# **Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) Report**

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

September 27, 2007

prepared and submitted by LEAG Chair, Jeanette Dorner

Lead Entities have been working hard all summer with their local communities to shape a list of strategic salmon recovery projects for your consideration for funding in December. This has involved lots of meetings, fieldtrips, and discussions to ensure that the list submitted to you are well-designed projects that address the scientific and community priorities in their area. While they have been doing that they have continued to participate in regional and statewide meetings including our most recent LEAG meeting in August in Wenatchee. Nineteen of the lead entities were represented at this LEAG meeting as well as many of our agency partners and this report summarizes some of the key discussions we had that day as well as other recent Lead Entity news.

## **Election of LEAG Officers, appointment of new Executive Committee members**

In August WDFW Director Jeff Koenings approved four LEAG Executive Committee nominees: Char Beam (Okanogan – new member), Kathleen Werr (Pend Oreille– new member), Alex Conley (Yakima– new member) and Jeanette Dorner (Nisqually-previous term expired). These members join the existing committee members whose terms are continuing: Doug Osterman (WRIA 9), Paul Dorn (West Sound Watersheds), John Sims (Quinault), Barbara Rosenkotter (San Juan), and Joy Juelson (Chelan).

At the LEAG meeting the lead entities voted to appoint Jeanette Dorner for a second year as LEAG Chair and appointed Barbara Rosenkotter as Vice-Chair.

## **Washington Forum on Monitoring**

After a long period with no representation LEAG approved at our last meeting a new representative for lead entities at the Monitoring Forum. Dr. Pete Schroeder has been an active member of the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for many years, is an experienced scientist, and has graciously volunteered to be the voice for lead entities at Forum meetings and to bring back issues for consideration to LEAG meetings.

## **Lead Entity Program 2008 supplemental request**

WDFW has prepared a supplemental request to the 2008 Washington State legislature to increase the support for lead entities. The request is for \$400,000 in state money to match \$450,000 in federal money for the second half of the current biennium. This amount would reflect an adjustment for lead entity funding based on inflation and the consumer price index since the first year of funding in 1999. This would return LE funding to a comparable base amount of funding as in 1999 but does not address funding needs associated with the increased/expanded roles of the Lead Entities.

As part of the preparation for the request WDFW conducted a survey of lead entities to evaluate their current workload, types of activities, and costs. This information will also be used by the LEAG Executive committee to work with WDFW staff in drafting a possible revised statutory description of lead entities that addresses the additional work and tasks that lead entities are now undertaking. This would not be forwarded as an agency request but may be a legislative request of the lead entities if there is consensus on a revised description and if there is a legislator willing to submit the request.

The Executive Committee will also be looking at the capacity survey to develop an estimate of how much beyond the base request of \$850,000 would be needed for lead entities to increase their capacity to meet the current demand.

### **Lead Entity Outreach**

Cheryl Baumann from NOPLA is working with a committee of other lead entities to develop some ideas to build on the success of our Lead Entity legislative day organized by WDFW earlier this year. We are discussing ways that lead entities might host events within their areas that would highlight the good salmon recovery projects that are happening and would educate citizens and legislators about the work that lead entities do.

### **Habitat Work Schedule**

Lead entities are preparing to begin using the new Habitat Work Schedule on-line database that Interlocking Software has been developing with WDFW for the last year. They are participating in training courses this month and next month to learn the new system. A presentation and update on the system was given by Interlocking and WDFW at our last LEAG meeting. This will be a major step in enabling lead entities to make their project lists and project progress more visible to the public and funders.