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STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

September 12, 2007

TO: SRFB Members and Designees

PREPARED BY: Bruce Crawford, Special Assistant to the Director *BC*

SUBJECT: Department of Ecology Intensively Monitored Watersheds Budget Request

The Department of Ecology requested at the July 2007 meeting that the SRFB approve funding for this item, including an increase of \$380,000 to the regular \$1,090,000 annual IMW funding. This will address increased operational costs at all sites, and expansion of activities associated with monitoring chinook salmon in the Lower Columbia River IMW. The SRFB deferred its decision until the September 2007 meeting.

Background

The Intensively Monitored Watershed program is a basin-scale validation monitoring effort to evaluate the effectiveness of salmon habitat restoration activities in increasing the production of salmon. This method is recommended in the Washington State Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and by the Independent Science Panel, and is also part of the monitoring program implementing federal PCSRF performance reporting. The base program is funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SFRB), administered through the Washington Department of Ecology, and implemented by the IMW partners.

The premise of the IMW program is that the relationships controlling salmon response to habitat conditions can be understood by concentrated monitoring efforts at a few locations. The data required to evaluate fish response to management actions that affect habitat quality or quantity are difficult and expensive to collect and require data collected over multiple years (at least 10). Focusing efforts at a few locations enables enough data on physical and biological attributes to be collected to develop the relationship between restoration actions and salmon production in freshwater.

The IMW Program consists of four elements:

- Studies at two complexes in the Puget Sound area of three or four watersheds each focusing on coho salmon and steelhead trout,



- Study at one complex of three streams in the Lower Columbia River focusing on coho and chinook salmon as well as steelhead,
- Evaluation of the effects of estuary restoration on juvenile chinook salmon growth and survival on the Skagit River Estuary.
- Coordination with a Pacific Northwest-wide landscape classification intended to guide the application of IMW results to other watersheds. The classification is based on similarity of physical and biological characteristics to the watersheds included in the IMW project. Watersheds which have biophysical characteristics and patterns of human activities comparable to IMW sites will be locations where IMW results can be extended with the greatest degree of certainty. This effort is led by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center.

Action Request: The SRFB take action on this agenda item so that IMW personnel can either proceed at current level of activity or take action to reduce the scope of the IMWs. Options for reducing costs include:

1. Reducing scope of activities at each site. This harms all of the projects and reduces the chance of detecting the changes desired by the IMW monitoring.
2. Eliminating an entire IMW complex. The IMW Scientific Oversight Committee, for a possible savings of \$412,000, suggested the Lower Columbia IMW if needed, because it has the shortest data record and has some of the higher costs to place restoration actions. However, it is the only IMW outside Puget Sound area funded by SRFB and it also addresses chinook.
3. Dropping a single basin from each complex. Only saves a few thousand dollars.

Draft Resolution #2007-02 is attached for Board consideration.

APPENDIX

Table 1. Total IMW SRFB expenditures and Authorizations

Year Sampled	Contract #	Contract Amount	Actual Expenditure	Closing Balance	Remaining Authority
2004, 2005	03-1205	\$1,740,000	\$1,650,673	\$89,327	\$89,327
2006	05-1232	\$1,090,000	\$980,256	\$109,744	\$199,071
2007	06-2161	\$1,090,000	\$1,200,000*	\$-110,000	\$89,071
	TOTAL	\$3,920,000	\$3,830,929		\$89,071
2008	07-1752	Pending	Pending		

* Contract modified to allow for unspent balance from previous year.

Table 2. Other state IMW efforts not funded by SRFB.

Year Sampled	Contract	Contract Amount	Actual Expenditure	Closing Balance	Remaining Authority
2007	07-1230 * PSMFC Contract Yakima Basin SRR	\$52,958			
2007	07-1231* PSMFC Contract Lower Columbia SRR	\$100,000			
2007	07-1222* PSMFC Contract Snake River SRR	\$187,345			
	TOTAL	\$340,303			

* Contract in progress

Table 3. Total Non-IMW SRFB Smolt Expenditures and Authorizations

Year Sampled	Contract	Contract Amount	Actual Expenditure	Closing Balance	Remaining Authority
2003-04	02-1202	\$1,100,000	\$1,099,996	\$4	\$4
2005-06	03-1208	\$500,000	\$463,754	\$36,246	\$36,250
2007*	07-1042	\$358,044	\$230,638	(To date) \$127,406	\$163,656
	TOTAL	\$1,958,044	\$1,794,388		163,656
2008	07-1752	Pending	Pending		

* Contract in progress

**SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD
RESOLUTION #2007-02**

Funding for Intensively Monitored Watersheds

WHEREAS, Congress, the State Legislature, the Independent Science Panel, the *Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy*, and numerous other reports have indicated the importance of monitoring the effect of salmon recovery efforts on salmon and salmon habitat; and

WHEREAS, intensively monitoring select watersheds is necessary, along with project effectiveness monitoring and status and trends monitoring, to monitor and validate the effect of salmon recovery efforts on salmon and salmon habitat; and

WHEREAS, the SRFB has previously provided the Washington Department of Ecology funding for implementing the intensive watershed monitoring program For FY 2004-2007, in collaboration with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and others; and

WHEREAS, a long-term multi-year commitment to intensively monitored watersheds is necessary to obtain the desired results and to secure the benefits of the program; and

WHEREAS, added inflationary costs and larger scope of the Lower Columbia IMW to include chinook salmon monitoring has increased costs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the SRFB provide grants of \$1,466,989 for FY 08 and \$1,466,989 for FY 09 to the Department of Ecology to continue implementing the intensive watershed monitoring program through the 07-09 biennium; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that before April 2009 the Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife will present to the Board a summary of findings and conclusions at all of the IMWs to date. The SRFB anticipates additional IMW implementation grant applications may be made for FY 2010 and thereafter. However, the Departments should also consider seeking a direct appropriation from the legislature for such future funding. Based upon the 2009 report and available funds, the Board will determine funding of the IMW program in FY 2010 and beyond.

_____ Moved _____

_____ Seconded _____

MOTION CARRIED / FAILED