

Council of Regions (COR) Report
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
September 27, 2007
prepared and submitted by COR Chair, Steve Martin

The Council of Regions has met twice since the last SRFB meeting. Our subjects have focused on monitoring and implementation schedules, participation in the Monitoring Forum, work plan and vision of COR, RCO contracting and reporting guidelines, and exploring a new Interior Columbia Basin partnership.

- **Monitoring**

Monitoring is a critical component of recovery planning and implementation, and there is a challenge getting adequate monitoring funding. We are exploring options for the Forum's consideration, including requesting that the SRFB make effectiveness and status/trends monitoring an eligible expense; possible legislative requests in the next biennium; and other avenues that will meet our monitoring needs.

- **Implementation schedules**

COR expressed an interest in evolution of the HWS from a habitat implementation tracking system to one that can serve as the repository of more diverse and inclusive information from regional implementation actions/programs/assessments/policies, etc; Nisqually is currently participating in a pilot project to assess this potential.

- **Contracts, Reporting, and Guidelines**

Brian Abbott presented *A Guide for Regional Organizations* and reminded everyone that SRFB expressed a desire for increased accountability in regional contracts. All biennial regional contracts are now in place.

Regions will work with RCO and GSRO on a statewide workshop of regional board members sometime in October/November of 2008.

- **Vision of COR**

Vision and strategic priorities of the COR are near completion.

- **Columbia Basin update**

The BiOp on the operation of the Columbia River hydropower system is due late October and the State of Washington is pursuing an MOU with the Action Agencies. Regional organizations have worked closely with the State negotiators in this process and the Action Agencies are coordinating with regional organizations.

Basin organizations are assessing formation of a Columbia Basin partnership.

- **Coordination with LEAG**

COR Chair updated LEAG on August 29th in Wenatchee on the items contained in this report as well as indicating COR support for WDFW supplemental request to the 2008 Washington State legislature to increase the support for lead entities, and a commitment to collaborate with LEAG in welcoming and acquainting new SRFB members.