

Lead Entity Advisory Group Report

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

December 2008

prepared and submitted by LEAG Chair, Richard Brocksmith

The following are some highlights from our recent Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) meeting in Lacey on November 4th, as well as other updates on lead entity activities.

Lead Entity Program

At our last meeting we had a packed agenda and room, with 35 folks in attendance. We've scheduled a follow-up conference call to discuss the December SRFB meeting outcomes for December 18. We've also scheduled our first video conference for our January 13, 2009 LEAG meeting.

Recreation and Conservation Office

Lead entities continue to work with RCO staff and SRFB Review Panel to review and improve projects from the 2008 grant round before the SRFB funding meeting in December. We are also working with RCO staff and others on the Allocation Task Force, Salmon Habitat Projects Conference in April 2009, 2009 State of the Salmon Report, and soon the SRFB Biennial Report.

LEAG, COR, and SRFB Strategic Planning

RCO staff gave a review of their October SRFB presentation on Strategic Planning to LEAG at our meeting in order to bring everyone up to speed and relay policy guidance outlined so far by SRFB. Key discussions of LEAG focused on the definition of core functions needed to meet salmon recovery and the human infrastructure coordination needed by lead entities and regional recovery organizations.

Generally, there was recognition that salmon recovery must be more than just habitat projects given the relevance of all-H effects on salmon, though there were definitely questions about what form that should take for lead entities, regions, and SRFB and the effects of diluting our shared work on habitat. Roles and responsibilities have expanded in all areas and scales, as evidenced by the surveys presented by RCO staff. Most folks expressed that there was comfort level that for the most part we were well coordinated in implementing those between regions and their relevant lead entities, but also recognition that this was probably not clearly communicated externally and may thus be confusing. One outcome was the idea of a need to further those specific discussions regionally and communicate that as SRFB continues their Strategic Planning effort. This will be a basis for identifying overlaps and gaps in implementing functions within SRFB's Strategic Plan. LEAG and COR are continuing to pursue this topic.

Salmon Recovery Monitoring

There is still much discussion to be had, but the results of our internal survey and past discussions seems to be pointing to the idea that lead entities should have two areas of focus when it comes to monitoring. First, that as the "on-the-ground" watershed-level organizations across the state responsible for connecting people and science to move salmon recovery forward, we should be more clearly engaged in communicating the

results of salmon recovery monitoring being conducted at all levels of government and our progress in meeting our mission. This will require much improved coordination which we hope to pursue through a continual series of focused presentations and discussions at our upcoming LEAG meetings, so that we are informed enough to share that with local citizens and decision-makers.

Second, as the responsible parties for developing and implementing habitat projects across the state, we should have a focus on monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of our projects. This will not only allow us to state our progress in implementing salmon recovery plans and habitat strategies, but also to do a better job of adaptively managing subsequent generations of habitat projects by more fully incorporating lessons learned from across the state. To that end, the SRFB's contractor for project effectiveness, Jen O'Neil of Tetra Tech/Foster Wheeler, gave a presentation at our November meeting on types of projects being monitored, monitoring protocols, and recent significant results. She also presented initial lessons learned. LEAG then began a discussion on how we can do a better job of both qualitative and quantitative monitoring, documentation of that possibly through the Habitat Work Schedule, and adaptive management of projects.

Lead Entity Outreach Committee

The committee is focusing on two issues currently, including Lead Entity Day at the State Capitol on March 10, 2009 and improving coordination with RCO on press releases for funded SRFB projects. They are considering two themes for the LE Day this year, including celebrating the 10 year anniversary of our programs and "salmon recovery is everyone's business."

Large Woody Material Pilot Project

There is consistent support to pursue a systematic large woody material streamlining program to connect wood supply to project demand, recognizing that it has the potential to increase wood quality, wood quantity, and number of projects constructed while decreasing staff time if done correctly.

Lead entities and project sponsors in northeast Puget Sound are working together with GSRO, RCO, WDFW, and DNR staff to explore a pilot scale approach to further develop the feasibility and logistics of such a process, before scaling up across the state and into other wood supply arenas (federal, local, private, etc). We would like to encourage SRFB to fully support this effort.