

Washington Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Forum on Monitoring Salmon
Recovery and Watershed Health

2010 FACT SHEET

Authorizing Laws

Revised Code of
Washington

- 77.85.250

Forum Members

Local Organizations

City of Bellevue

Hood Canal
Coordinating Council

Lead Entity Advisory
Group

Lower Columbia
Fish Recovery Board

Regional Fisheries
Enhancement Group
Coalition

Snake River Salmon
Recovery Board

Upper Columbia
River Salmon
Recovery Board

Washington Coastal
Salmon Recovery
Board

Yakima Basin Fish
and Wildlife
Recovery Board

State Agencies

Department of
Agriculture

Department of
Ecology
Department
of Health

Continued on back

Why Was the Forum Created?

Overview

In 2001, the Legislature created a monitoring oversight committee, managed by the Recreation and Conservation Office, and tasked it with developing a comprehensive strategy and action plan for measuring success in recovering salmon and maintaining watershed health. A primary recommendation was to create a council where monitoring could be coordinated.

In 2004, an executive order formally created the monitoring forum, which later was codified in law by the 2007 Legislature.

While numerous organizations monitor a wide range of watershed activities, the Legislature recognized a greater need for coordination of these efforts. The forum's main objectives are to:

- Provide for more efficient and effective use of monitoring resources among agencies.
- Recommend and standardize a set of

measures to report progress towards salmon recovery and watershed health improvement.

- Guide, and improve accountability for, investments in salmon recovery and watershed health improvement.

Forum Tasks

The forum's main tasks are:

- Implementing the *Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery*.
- Providing a multi-agency venue for coordinating technical and policy actions related to monitoring salmon recovery and watershed health.
- Working with federal, tribal, regional, and local organizations to coordinate and standardize measures.
- Recommending how to improve state agency monitoring programs.
- Recommending agency budget requests for monitoring.
- Adopting high-level indicators for salmon recovery and watershed health.
- Adopting protocols for monitoring those high-level indicators.



Washington Forum on Monitoring

Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Telephone: (360) 902-3000
TTY: (360) 902-1996
E-mail: info@rco.wa.gov
Web: www.rco.wa.gov

2009-2011 Budget
Operating...\$301,000
Capital\$0



Measuring stream flow in the Chiwawa River in Chelan County

Accomplishments

The early monitoring oversight committee identified gaps in information needed to help make critical salmon recovery decisions and to improve watershed health.

After being established, the forum adopted the *Framework for Monitoring Salmon Populations Listed Under the Federal Endangered Species Act*. The framework guides what kind of data should be collected, where, and when. Specifically, the framework:

- Recommends collection of data on numbers of fish and habitat quality in targeted places.
- Recommends collection of habitat and water quality information statewide.
- Identifies specific indicators and protocols for monitoring.
- Incorporates existing information and guides new efforts.

- Relies on partnerships among agencies and volunteers to collect and share data using the framework approach.

Since 2007, the forum has been helping agencies coordinate and better target funding requests to implement the framework and comprehensive monitoring strategy.

The forum also has been assisting the Salmon Recovery Funding Board by reviewing and making recommendations on how to best allocate federal funds for monitoring salmon recovery.

In 2009, the forum adopted high-level indicators for salmon recovery and watershed health. This will help significantly to standardize the scientific data collected by state and local organizations.

The forum is working to identify and adopt the protocols for monitoring those indicators to ensure the state's monitoring efforts will be capable of reporting consistent results across agency boundaries and jurisdictions.

Members, continued

State Agencies

Department of Agriculture
Department of Ecology
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Health
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Transportation
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Puget Sound Partnership
Recreation and Conservation Office
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Washington Conservation Commission

Federal Agencies

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Environmental Protection Agency
Fish and Wildlife Service
Forest Service