



STATE OF WASHINGTON

GOVERNOR'S SALMON RECOVERY OFFICE

Natural Resources Building, PO Box 43135 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3135 • (360) 902-2216

April 18, 2007

TO: William Ruckelshaus, Chair
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

FROM: Chris Drivdahl *Chris*
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

SUBJECT: March-April Activities of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

NOAA Permit Streamlining Approved – NOAA Fisheries' Regional Administrator Bob Lohn approved Washington's request for the Limit 8 permit streamlining under the ESA 4(d) rule (letter attached). We have worked with Lead Entities and Regional Organizations on the certification process, and IAC is notifying project sponsors of its availability. Our next steps – already underway – are to add Puget Sound steelhead, should they be listed, and some other funding processes that offer similar scientific and public review. Upper Columbia Chinook, listed endangered so they are not covered by this Limit, are also on our list to pursue.

State of Salmon in Watersheds Report – We received a request from the Wenatchee Valley Community College to use the report as a textbook for their course in natural resource policy; a course at The Evergreen State College will also be using it. Additionally, it has been broadly distributed at community days in several areas.

Regional Organization 2007-2009 Budget Requests – We spent additional time with regional organizations working to refine budget requests, work plans, and accountability for plan implementation.

Potential Steelhead Listing – Response to the potential listing by NMFS of Puget Sound steelhead is under discussion.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, Washington 98115

April 5, 2007

Chris Drivdahl
Salmon Team Leader
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
PO Box 43135
Olympia, WA 98504-3135

Dear Ms. Drivdahl:

This letter is in response to the State's Submittal Package for Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance of certain salmon habitat restoration projects under the ESA Section 4(d) Rule Limit 8. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) appreciates the comprehensive and restorative approach described in the Habitat Restoration Program (HRP).

All the necessary process steps have been satisfied, and I am pleased to approve the State's Submittal Package for coverage under our ESA Section 4(d) Rule Limit 8. The covered species of salmon and trout are: Snake River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*); Middle Columbia River steelhead (*O. mykiss*); Lower Columbia River steelhead (*O. mykiss*); Upper Columbia River steelhead (*O. mykiss*); Lower Columbia River Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*); Puget Sound Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*); Snake River spring/summer run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*); Lower Columbia River coho salmon (*O. kisutch*); Columbia River chum salmon (*O. keta*); and Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon (*O. keta*). The State may request an amendment of this Limit if another species becomes listed or a designation changes for critical habitat.

NMFS commends the initiative and efforts of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office to pursue the HRP coverage under the 4(d) Limit 8 and agrees that there will be significant savings of time and money, compared to separate project reviews currently associated with many of these habitat restoration projects.



If you have any questions about implementing the HRP, please contact Matt Longenbaugh, (360) 753-7761, matthew.longenbaugh@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



D. Robert Lohn
Regional Administrator

cc: Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Bill Ruckelshaus
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jeff Koenings, Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ken Berg
Lead Entities Group, Doug Osterman
Army Corps of Engineers, Michelle Walker, Regulatory Branch Chief

