

# **Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) Report**

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

December 13, 2007

prepared and submitted by LEAG Chair, Jeanette Dorner

Since your last meeting Lead Entities have been working with RCO staff and the Review Panel to provide additional information and address any concerns raised by the Panel about proposed SRFB projects.

At our most recent LEAG meeting in November in Tukwila seventeen of the lead entities were represented as well as many of our agency partners and this report summarizes some of the key discussions we had that day as well as other recent Lead Entity news.

## **New Lead Entity coordinator**

We welcome Rich Osborne, the new North Pacific Coast Lead Entity Coordinator. Rich comes to the North Pacific Coast lead entity with considerable experience in marine biology and was the former director and research curator with the Whale Museum in the San Juan Islands. The North Pacific Coast Lead Entity is our youngest lead entity – established officially earlier this year by WDFW by dividing out the coastal region portion of the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity.

## **Lead Entity Program 2008 supplemental request**

Lead Entities and LEAG are continuing to work to develop support for the WDFW supplemental budget request for \$400,000 in state money to the 2008 Washington State legislature. We are considering a proposal for changes to legislative language that would capture the additional tasks that are now expected of lead entities but were not in the original legislation. WDFW drafted some initial language and handed it off to Lead Entities to redraft and finalize as our own proposal to the legislature. We plan to finalize a LEAG proposal to the legislature by mid-December that would include the legislative language and a cost estimate of what the real cost of those tasks are. We expect that the cost will be greater than the \$400,000 currently requested.

The Washington Association of Counties recently unanimously supported the proposed supplemental budget request, thanks to the leadership of San Juan County Commissioner Kevin Ranker. We are hopeful that other organizations will follow suit.

## **Regional Allocation Discussion**

We had a difficult discussion at our last LEAG meeting about the possibility of reopening the regional allocation discussion at your December meeting. There was not a Lead Entity consensus at the meeting about whether the allocations should remain the same or be altered. However, there was a strong sentiment among many that our time would be better used finding ways to support increased funds to all parts of the state.

## **Potential Year Round Review Panel and Streamlining of the SRFB process**

SRFB staff requested LEAG input at the last meeting as to whether the concept of a year round review panel would be a good one to pursue. Many lead entities at the meeting liked the idea of having a consistent year round group of people with specific project type expertise that would be available to work with project sponsors and lead entities early on and consistently during project and application development. This concept was especially supported if it helps increase early and more regular communication about projects between the Review Panel and Lead Entities. The hope is that it would result in fewer draft and final Projects of Concern and reduce time spent trying to quickly address any technical concerns of the Panel at the very end of the grant cycle.

## **Lead Entity Outreach**

Cheryl Baumann from NOPLA is continuing to work with a committee of other lead entities to develop some ideas to build on the success of our Lead Entity legislative day organized by WDFW earlier this year. The committee has proposed a series of local lead entity outreach days next year that would be staggered in timing to allow for extended media coverage and local community and elected official participation. The committee will be working to develop a time table, template press releases, invitations and public service announcements that all follow a common message about the role and value of salmon recovery lead entities with the opportunity for each lead entity to tailor that message for their local event. They are also looking at providing some media/outreach training for lead entities to support them in developing their events.

We are also looking at having a Lead Entity Day in the Legislature in the 2009 session. We plan to schedule it soon so that we can get a room and a time that works well for legislator participation.

## **Habitat Work Schedule**

Lead entities are beginning to enter projects into the new Habitat Work Schedule on-line database that Interlocking Software has been developing with WDFW for the last year. Most lead entities were able to participate in training courses offered this fall to learn the new system. We are looking forward to having an easily accessible public website that will make our project lists and project progress more visible to the public and funders.