

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

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February 11, 2003

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Information Bulletin No. OR-2003-078

To: District Managers: Eugene, Prineville, and Spokane

From: Deputy State Director for Resource Planning, Use and Protection

Subject: Reporting of Aquatic Habitat Restoration Accomplishments DD: 02/26/2003

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to identify the aquatic restoration that has occurred on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in high priority subbasins identified in the Basinwide Salmon Recovery Strategy (All H Paper) since its publication in December 2000. An email was sent to the District Managers regarding this topic on February 4, 2003.

Please complete the attached tables for all aquatic habitat restoration projects that have occurred since December 2000 in the following seven high priority subbasins: *McKenzie, Hood River/15 Mile, Wenatchee/Yakima, Entiat, Wind River, and the Middle and South Forks of the John Day*. Return the completed tables to Paula Burgess, Natural Resource Advisor, by close of business on February 26, 2003.

As you may recall, the All H Paper was developed by nine federal agencies to support salmon and steelhead recovery efforts within the Columbia River Basin. An accompanying Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the federal agencies in December 2000. In this MOU, the BLM and Forest Service agreed to implement this strategy on federally managed lands, as funding was available. One of the commitments agreed to by the federal land management agencies was to protect existing high quality habitat and to "accelerate restoration in high priority subbasins" (All H Paper, Table 5, page 50).

At a meeting of the Columbia Basin Federal Executives on January 31, 2003, the issue of possible shortfalls in the 2003 check-in of the federal hydropower Biological Opinion was discussed. The Executives decided to complete a quick assessment of the aquatic restoration called for on federal lands in the All H Paper. The first step in completing this assessment is for BLM and the Forest Service to describe what aquatic restoration has occurred on agency-managed lands in the high priority subbasins since December 2000. BLM and the Forest Service

agreed to provide this information by the end of February 2003. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries will then compare what the agencies have accomplished to the expectations described in the All H Paper and determine whether these actions substantially meet the intent of the All H Paper. This assessment will be completed by the end of March 2003. At their next meeting, scheduled for March 7, the Executives will decide whether to take additional action.

The attached form should be filled out for the seven high priority subbasins only. This form was developed for annual All H progress reporting for nine federal agencies; ***thus, it includes a number of fields that will not be needed by BLM.*** It also goes beyond what currently exists in the Interagency Restoration Database or Rangeland Improvement Project System. The first page is general, asking for information on plans, strategies, and programs.

Please respond in a general way, in the boxes provided, where you are participating in these plans or have strategies or programs underway that may be useful. Shaded columns do not need to be filled in. Beginning on the second page, the form asks for project-level information. ***Please fill out these pages as completely as possible, paying particular attention to the bolded items.***

Thank you for providing this information. If you have any questions, please contact Paula Burgess (503-808-6525).

Districts with Unions are reminded to notify their unions of this Information Bulletin and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by
Cary A. Osterhaus
(Acting)

Authenticated by
Mary O'Leary
Management Assistant

1 Attachment

1 - [Habitat Metric Table](#) (4 pp)

Distribution

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Habitat Tracking Metrics for Federal Fish Recovery Efforts in the Columbia Basin

February 4, 2003

	Federal Actions Supporting Habitat Improvements	Examples	Reporting Metric	Costs and Partners	ESU/ DPU	Subbasin USGS HUC #	Watershed USGS HUC #	GPS Coordinates (if available)
Planning								
	Recovery Plans	NOAA Fisheries/USFWS Recovery Plans	Plans underway, Number completed, Percent completed					
	Subbasin Plans and Assessments	NPPC Subbasin Plans, USFS/BLM Subbasin Plans	Plans underway, Number completed, Percent completed					
	Watershed Plans and Assessments	Identify actions to achieve Subbasin Plan goals	Plans underway, Number completed, Percent completed					
	Other Plans and Assessments	Basinwide Salmon Recovery Strategy, FCRPS BiOp, Federal LRMP/RMP Aquatic Conservation Strategy, NFMA, NEPA, RM&E	Plans underway, Number completed, Percent completed					
Strategies/ Programs/ Initiatives								
	Improve Water Quantity	Implement programs improving transactional approaches, FERC Licensing, Complete subbasin/watershed fish-flow assessment programs	Number underway, Percent completed					
	Improve Water Quality	Participate with states/tribes in TMDL development and implementation, and coordinate with EPA / State 319 nonpoint source projects. Water quality management plans implemented (states); COE Regional Sediment Management plans, COE Section 1135 and 206 Ecosystem Restoration programs	Number underway, Number developed, Number approved, Percent completed					
	Improve Passage Diversions	FS Region 6 culvert removal, prioritization strategy. OR, ID, WA Fish Screening programs, COE Section 1135 and 206 Ecosystem Restoration programs	Number culvert removal, prioritization strategies underway, Number completed					
	Improve Watershed Health	Implementation of salmon beneficial components of the National Fire Plan, Healthy Forest Initiative, COE Section 536 Columbia River Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Program	Number of salmon beneficial program components developed, Number completed					

	Federal Actions Supporting Habitat Improvements (Bold actions indicate core measurable habitat actions derived from FCRPS BiOp Tier 3 effectiveness monitoring categories) ¹	Primary Benefit	Reporting Metrics (per action)	Costs and Partners	ESU/ DPU	Subbasin USGS HUC #	Watershed USGS HUC #	GPS Coordinates (if available)
Actions								
1. Instream-structural	Improve stream structure/reconfigure stream morphology	Stream complexity restoration	Number of stream miles treated (to 0.1 miles)					
2. Instream-passage	Upgrade or eliminate culverts	Barrier removal	Number of miles habitat accessed/action (to 0.1 miles)					
	Upgrade or eliminate fords or low water crossings	Barrier removal	Number completed					
	Eliminate barriers (remove diversions, dams, mine tailings, install fish ladders)	Barrier removal	Size of diversion and number of miles access (to 0.1 miles)					
3. Fish screens	Install/retrofit fish screens to NMFS/USFWS standards	Screen irrigation diversions	Size of each diversion screened					
4. Riparian conservation	Riparian habitat improvement/restoration treatments	Riparian function restoration	Riparian miles (to 0.1 miles) and acres treated, thinned, fenced					
	Secure long-term riparian protection/conservation easements	Riparian function restoration	Number of stream miles (to 0.1 miles) and total acres					
	Acquire productive fish habitat	Riparian function restoration	Number of miles (to 0.1 miles) and acres/action					
	Streambank stabilization treatments	Riparian function restoration	Number of miles (to 0.1 miles)					
5. Water quantity	Lease or purchase instream flows (wet water)	Instream flow restoration	Amount of water (cfs), stream reach improvement (miles), timing (season) of effect; miles meeting ESA needs					
	Water measurement	Assess flows and consumptive use	Number of gauging or demand measurement devices installed, stream reach measured (miles), amount of water (cfs)					

	Federal Actions Supporting Habitat Improvements (Bold actions indicate core measurable habitat actions derived from FCRPS BiOp Tier 3 effectiveness monitoring categories) ¹	Primary Benefit	Reporting Metrics (per action)	Costs and	Partners	ESU/ DPU	Subbasin USGS HUC #	Watershed USGS HUC #	GPS Coordinates (if available)
	Water conservation projects, Special use permits (actual water conserved through modified irrigation application, delivery, change in point of diversion, well, etc) [*]	Instream flow restoration	Amount of water returned to instream use (cfs), stream reach (miles) affected, timing (season) of effect; miles meeting ESA flow needs						
	Water right adjudication	Identify water resource allocations, risk	Percent of rights adjudicated						
6. Water Quality									
	Tributary and Mainstem Wetlands restored/created	Water quality improvement	Number of acres						
	Apply EPA BMPs, federal Standards and Guidelines, to agricultural areas, sivicultural activities, abandoned mine sites, construction sites, and from dams and other hydrologic modifications that generate nonpoint source pollutants	Water quality improvement	Number and size (acres) where BMPs, S&Gs applied; detected water quality improvements; Reaches removed from 303(d) list.						
	TMDL implementation	Water quality improvement	Miles improved, Number and Percent of reaches removed from 303(d) list						
7. Roads									
	Improve roads hydrologically connected to streams	Sediment reduction	Miles of road decommissioned or upgraded						
	Decommission roads hydrologically connected to streams	Sediment reduction	Miles of road decommissioned or upgraded						
8. Estuary									
	Protection/acquisition	Protect habitat	Number of acres wetlands and key habitats protected						
	Restoration	Riparian function restoration	Number of acres wetlands and key habitats restored						
	Passage	Barrier removal	Number of acres/miles habitats opened						
	Predator treatments	Reduce mortality by altering predator abundance/distribution	Number of actions completed						

	Federal Actions Supporting Habitat Improvements (Bold actions indicate core measurable habitat actions derived from FCRPS BiOp Tier 3 effectiveness monitoring categories) ¹	Primary Benefit	Reporting Metrics (per action)	Costs and	Partners	ESU/ DPU	Subbasin USGS HUC #	Watershed USGS HUC #	GPS Coordinates (if available)
9. Upland risk reduction									
	Planting	Reduce sedimentation, improve water quality, improve annual hydrologic runoff cycle	Acres treated						
	Erosion control	Reduce sedimentation, improve water quality	Number of acres treated						
	Stand management	Reduce sedimentation, improve water quality, improve annual hydrologic runoff cycle	Number of acres treated						
	Alternate livestock water supply development	Reduce risk to streams and fish by keeping livestock out	Number of actions completed						
	Slope stabilization	Reduce risk to streams and fish by reducing sediment	Number of acres treated						
10. Research, Monitoring and Evaluation									
	Population status monitoring, environmental status monitoring, effectiveness monitoring, database monitoring, and compliance monitoring as it relates to habitat	Provide information to judge satisfaction of performance standards and ecosystem based benefits from habitat actions	Miles of stream inventory/monitoring/ 5 th field watershed; Resources obligated; Summarize results of implementation and effectiveness monitoring						

¹ These are core measurable habitat actions derived from categories currently proposed for Tier 3 Effectiveness monitoring under the Comprehensive Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Program called for under the 2000 FCRPS Biological Opinion. These categories are 1) screen irrigation diversions, 2) barrier removal, 3) sediment reduction, 4) water quality improvement, 5) nutrient enhancement, 6) restoration of instream flows, 7) restoration of riparian function, and 8) stream complexity restoration. Nutrient enhancement (#5) is included in this table under Research Monitoring and Evaluation.