

Staff summary of Issues and Recommendations The Willamette Subbasin

*Preliminary draft, please refer to full recommendations for complete review

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2009 Fish and Wildlife Program Section:

The Willamette has its own subbasin plan adopted by the Council in 2004. The 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program acknowledged the Willamette Biological Opinion chiefly in Section D. Mainstem Strategies Subsection 2 Strategies in Specific Areas and in particular for those areas pertaining to Juvenile Fish Passage and Adult Fish Passage.

Overview

Recommendations from the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bonneville, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service all propose incorporating additional planning and legal documents into the Council program. Both the Biological Opinions from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries on the operation of the Willamette projects and the Upper Willamette Recovery Plan received recommendation for incorporation into the program. Detailed measures from those plans were also recommended for inclusion into the Council's program by ODFW and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Funding figured prominently in recommendations from ODFW and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for completion of biological opinion measures and the operations and maintenance of passage and other structural improvements in the Willamette system.

I. Recommendation summary and synthesis:

1. Incorporate various plans and agreements for the Willamette into the Council Program.

- a. Bonneville Power Administration (35) recommended the Program include the Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Wildlife Protection and Enhancement
- b. Bonneville (35) and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (18) (Recommendation 47) recommended adopting The NOAA Fisheries and US Fish and Wildlife Service BiOps on the Willamette into the Program.
- c. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (18) (Recommendation 47), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (3)(9.2) and NOAA Fisheries (30) (Subbasin Measure 3) recommended incorporating the Upper Willamette Recovery Plan into the Program, through either updates to the Willamette Subbasin Plan or through the inclusion of specific measures articulated in the Recovery Plan. ODFW and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde also recommended adopting the ESA delisting goals and the broader goals of the Upper Willamette Recovery Plan. (ODFW 9.2, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Recommendation 47).

2. **Add High-level indicator data for the Lower Columbia Province.**
 - a. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (18) recommended developing High Level Indicators for the Lower Columbia Province. The Tribe believed that data derived from the operation of the Minto Adult Collection Facility on the North Santiam River could serve as a metric for incorporation into the HLIs. (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Recommendation 18)
3. **Fully fund the passage improvements in the NOAA Fisheries Willamette Biological Opinion**
 - a. Both Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (18) and ODFW (3) recommended revising the language under the Strategies in Specific Areas on page 44 of the current Program that they believed placed a lower priority on the funding of capital improvements necessary to implement the Willamette Biological Opinion. (ODFW 9.2; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Recommendation 32)
4. **Fund long-term O&M of passage facilities, collection facilities, hatcheries and other structures.**
 - a. Recommendations from ODFW (3) and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (18) stressed including long-term O&M, and short-term O&M for ODFW, for facilities in the Willamette that address fish collection and transport. (ODFW 9.2; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Recommendation 33)
5. **Incorporate implementation measures recommended by the managers**
 - a. Both the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (18) and ODFW (3) called for the inclusion of a detailed table of measures derived from the Upper Willamette Recovery Plan be included as an update to the Willamette Subbasin Plan. (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Recommendation 49 tables C-H; ODFW 9.2.2-9.2.6)
 - b. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (18) also recommended including Tribal specific measures within the Implementation Provisions of the current Program for 2008-2018. Those Measures include: Pacific lamprey reintroduction, evaluating the effects of hydro operations on lamprey spawning and rearing, Evaluating re-programming anadromous production in Willamette westside tributaries, Grand Ronde coordination, and reintroduction of anadromous fish in blocked areas. (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Recommendation 48, Table B)
6. **Lamprey passage, abundance, and distribution**

- a. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (33) recommended revising the lamprey bullet on page 37 of the current Program to include using regional approaches to evaluate passage, abundance distribution and population structure of lamprey in the Willamette (US Fish and Wildlife Service - Addition of Pacific lamprey to various sections.) The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (18) offered specific recommendations on lamprey (included in Tables B -G of their recommendation).