

August 26, 2005

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**FROM:** Tom Byler, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item E: 2005-2007 Non-Capital Fund Spending Plan  
September 13-14, 2005 OWEB Board Meeting**

### **E-3. Allocation of Non-Capital Funds for Monitoring and Assessment**

#### **I. Introduction**

This report seeks Board approval to reserve a total of \$850,000 in non-capital funds for an October 2005 grant offering and to support ongoing statewide monitoring needs under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

#### **II. Background**

The Monitoring Strategy for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds identifies the types of monitoring and a range of needs for monitoring to make sure that restoration and enhancement funds are effectively targeted and used. The Board directed staff to focus on effectiveness monitoring in the past year. Our initial efforts to implement effectiveness monitoring evaluations have been coordinated with regional partners and include drawing on the scientific guidance of the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team.

The staff-proposed spending plan recommends focusing non-capital funds on monitoring. In the near term, staff do not propose offering a grant cycle opportunity for watershed assessments. If additional federal funds become available in 2006, the Board may be asked to consider adding opportunities for assessments and monitoring grants.

#### **III. Monitoring Focus for the First Year of the Biennium**

Staff recommend the Board reserve \$250,000 in non-capital funds for the October 2005 grant cycle to continue local monitoring efforts to assist in problem identification. The announcement and availability of funds to continue monitoring efforts will help to continue ongoing local monitoring work. Staff also propose the Board reserve \$600,000 in non-capital funds to continue investments in state-wide scale effectiveness, status and trends monitoring, and data management and dissemination activities. These types of monitoring actions are currently being drafted and prioritized by the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team. Specific allocation proposals will be brought before the Board when they are fully developed.

#### **IV. Recommendation**

- A. Staff recommend the Board reserve \$250,000 for a targeted grant offering in October 2005 for monitoring projects that continue existing efforts.
- B. Staff recommend the Board reserve \$600,000 to address state agency needs for focused statewide scale effectiveness monitoring, status and trends monitoring, and data management and dissemination activities that are consistent with and further the objectives of the Oregon Plan Monitoring Strategy.