

**INDEPENDENT
MULTIDISCIPLINARY
SCIENCE TEAM
(IMST)**



State of Oregon

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November 12, 1999

The Honorable John A. Kitzhaber
Governor of Oregon
State Capitol
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The Honorable Brady Adams
Oregon Senate President
State Capitol
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The Honorable Lynn Snodgrass
Oregon House Speaker
State Capitol
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The IMST issued Technical Report 1999-1 on forest practices on Sept. 8, 1999. We discussed the report and its recommendations with the Oregon Dept. of Forestry Forest Practices Advisory Committee on Sept. 23, and with the Joint Interim Committee on Stream Restoration and Species Recovery on October 11, 1999. As a result of these meetings we have identified areas we feel should be clarified. We provide the enclosed addendum to Technical Report 1999-1 for this purpose.

The Joint Interim Committee raised two specific questions that are not addressed in the addendum because the IMST considers them primarily explanatory and not substantial changes to the report. The questions are paraphrased below. Specifically:

1. What opportunities are made possible through the utilization of the landscape perspective recommended by the report?

IMST Response: In addition to the increased probability of recovery of depressed stocks of wild salmonids, the IMST cited three opportunities for flexibility in forest management that may be gained through utilization of the landscape perspective. These are cited on page 43 of the Technical Report. They are:

- permit a shift from the current, rigid buffer-width strategy to one providing the historic array of condition at the landscape level
- provide the ability to achieving water temperature goals through control of the proportion of the landscape in a forested condition
- provide greater flexibility in scheduling the extent and frequency of management related disturbance (i.e. concentrate timber harvest and then provide longer periods to stabilize and recover).

These are examples, and are not intended as a complete list of such opportunities. Much work remains to be done in this area.

2. The Report seems to emphasize regulations as the strategy for accomplishing the mission of the Oregon Plan. Is this the intent of the Team?

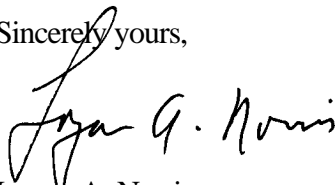
IMST Response: The Team believes that accomplishing the mission of the Oregon plan will require a combination of voluntary and regulatory strategies. Complete reliance on either one is not likely to be successful.

The intent of the team is not to specify how our recommendations should be implemented, or how their objectives should be accomplished. We consider these decisions in the area of policy and therefore beyond the scope of the Team's responsibility. Those who make policy are better positioned than the IMST to make decisions about the balance between regulatory and voluntary measures.

We believe the outcomes expected from implementation of the recommendations in the report are important. In determining precisely how each recommendation is implemented and its objectives accomplished, we suggest policy makers be guided by the outcomes intended by each recommendation.

The IMST is hopeful that this commentary and the enclosed addendum to Technical Report 1999-1 clarify these issues and concerns.

Sincerely yours,



Logan A. Norris

Chair, Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team

Enclosure

cc: JLCRSR
IMST

**Recovery of Wild Salmonids in Western Oregon:
Oregon Forest Practices Act Rules
and the Measures in the
Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds
Technical Report 1999-1**

**Addendum 1
November 3, 1999**

The IMST issued Technical Report 1999-1 on forest practices on Sept. 8, 1999. We discussed the report and its recommendations with the Oregon Dept. of Forestry Forest Practices Advisory Committee on Sept. 23, and with the Joint Interim Committee on Stream Restoration and Species Recovery on October 11, 1999. This addendum to Technical Report 1999-1 was produced to clarify three of our recommendations, based on issues identified at these meetings.

Recommendation 2. Landscape Management

The report emphasizes the importance of utilizing a landscape perspective in accomplishing the recovery of depressed stocks of wild salmonids through the Oregon Plan. We amend the explanation of the recommendation (page 42) report by adding the following statement to clarify what we mean by the term "landscape":

"Landscape means a broader geographic scale than the site. Our use of the term implies managing natural resources at this broader geographic scale. Site-specific management will still be done, but the context for it will be different. The broadness of this scale is likely to vary with the circumstance and the sets of policies within which it is accomplished. Our report focuses on large watersheds (such as the Rogue, Umpqua or Willamette) as the unit of management. This is the relevant scale for recovery of wild salmonids because this is the scale of metapopulations of fish. But it is not the only scale that is relevant to the resource management."

"The concepts can be applied to much smaller areas, including major drainage basins within larger watersheds. Given that the upstream-reach of most basins is forested, the landscape perspective can conceivably be applied to a single larger ownership that dominates a basin. The science and the practice of landscape management is developing and evolving, as is the policy frameworks within which it will work."

Recommendation 5. Conifer Basal-Area Requirements in RMAs

The intent of this recommendation is to increase the supply of large conifer in RMAs as future sources of large wood for streams. We amend the explanation of the

recommendation (on pages 44 and 45 of the report) by adding the following statements:

- “This recommendation is based on the expected volume and number of trees in the riparian forest under current rules at least to the level required for large streams.”
- “During harvest, disproportionately removing the larger diameters from the RMA should not be allowed. The size class distribution and density of conifer-dominated riparian forests should eventually reflect that of an older forest (160 years and greater).”

Recommendation 12. Durable Surfacing of Roads

The purpose of this recommendation is to reduce the delivery of road related sediment to aquatic systems. It focuses on the production of fine sediments from road surfaces. We amend the explanation of the recommendation (on page 47) with the following statement:

- “The recommendation applies to road segments where road drainage water can carry road-related sediments to aquatic systems.”