

OREGON PLAN FOR SALMON AND WATERSHEDS
CORE TEAM CHARTER AGREEMENT
Revision: April 2010

I. FUNCTION and PURPOSE

The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (OPSW, ORS 541.351 to 541.420, and Executive Order No. 99-01 acknowledge the critical role that State agencies play in achieving the goals of salmon recovery and watershed restoration. To most efficiently and effectively achieve the goals and objectives of this comprehensive program, it is crucial for State agencies to coordinate in a more systematic and strategic manner. The Oregon Plan “Core Team”, comprised of key natural resource agencies, was formed in 1997-98 to provide a forum for interagency coordination and cohesive oversight of the OPSW activities and policies of the varied agencies. This Charter was first formed in 2002 to help guide and codify this coordination effort.

With the advent of Endangered Species Act listings for multiple fish and wildlife species due, in part, to habitat loss and degradation, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds formed the foundation for securing the necessary improvement in watershed health and water quality. In addition, the Oregon Conservation Strategy, completed in 2006, focuses on long-term conservation of Oregon’s native fish, wildlife, invertebrates, and plants. The Oregon Plan Core Team plays an important role in coordinating relevant agencies, integrating policies and practice, and supporting the implementation of habitat actions for the many listed, at-risk, and declining species statewide, as articulated in the State’s conservation and recovery plans and the Conservation Strategy.

Facilitating and advancing restoration and freshwater health has also necessitated a strengthened relationship with the State’s public and private restoration partners. To that end, the Oregon Plan Core Team also serves as a forum for communication and collaboration around critical OPSW issues with private, quasi-governmental, non-governmental, and governmental entities and tribes involved in restoration. It also serves as a forum for strengthening the State’s relationship with Federal natural resource agencies, and as such, representatives from these agencies will be members of Core Team.

Evolution of the Oregon Plan, a maturing of Core Team, and development of other “road-map” plans for restoration necessitated a revision to this Charter. This 2010 revision reflects the expanded Core Team roles, responsibilities, and membership, and recognizes the importance of providing a forum for a larger conversation with the State’s restoration partners.

The mission of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds is: *to restore our native fish populations – and the aquatic systems that support them – to productive and sustainable levels that will provide substantial environmental, cultural, and economic benefits.*

II. ORGANIZATION and OPERATIONS

The Oregon Plan Core Team serves as the forum for State and Federal natural resource agencies to collaboratively discuss, develop, and recommend watershed protection and restoration strategies and policies that are central to implementation of the OPSW. The Core Team is chaired by the Governor's Natural Resources Office (GNRO; policy advisor or designee) and staffed by the Governor's Office staff. Members include senior management representatives from the State agencies of Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), Oregon Department of State Lands (ODSL), Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish and Wildlife Division, Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ), and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Federal members include senior management representatives from Federal natural resource agencies, including US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Federal Highway Administration (FHA).

Tribal governments are encouraged to participate in Core Team meetings and in collaborative efforts given the strong role Tribes play in habitat restoration and fish management, as well as the goal for effective Government to Government relations between sovereigns. The Oregon Plan Core Team will also interface with other watershed restoration partners and entities (e.g., Stream Restoration Partnership) to improve implementation of restoration actions, identify issues hindering implementation, and assist in resolving them in an appropriate and timely manner.

Meetings of the full Core Team will be conducted monthly. The Chair (Governor's Office) will facilitate Core Team meetings, work with Core Team members to set meeting agendas, and designate co-chairs, if desired. Meetings will usually be held in Salem, but should rotate to other locations to facilitate meeting attendance. Core Team may establish workgroups, as necessary, to facilitate problem solving or issue resolution. Workgroups will meet with subject area specialists and other individuals as necessary, and shall bring their products to the entire Core Team for review. Decisions of the Core Team will be made by general consensus.

Members of Core Team should act as liaisons to the other OPSW teams and communicate with their respective members on these teams. Specifically, Core Team members will be encouraged to maintain a connection with the State's individual Regional Management Teams (and visa versa) to assure consistent contact and effective communications regarding program coordination, field operations, and project implementation. The GNRO will serve as a central link to all teams to strengthen these teams' ties in a more cohesive manner.

Core Team will annually present to the Natural Resources Cabinet its progress and accomplishments, as well as policy issues and recommendations (annually or as needed) requiring direction and decisions from agency directors.

On a biennial basis, Core Team will assess whether modifications to the Charter are needed.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Policy and Guidance

The Core Team will be a forum for developing the policy and strategic foundation for implementing the OPSW, and the State's conservation and recovery plans. In this capacity, Core Team will:

- Collectively develop the overarching OPSW vision, goals, and objectives for the State natural resources agencies.
- Develop programmatic strategies, actions, and subgroups, as necessary, that will produce outcomes facilitating and supporting coordinated landscape-scale restoration. This includes creation of a Core Team workgroup or another structure that includes Oregon Stream Restoration Partnership members and other relevant State and federal restoration partners to address concerns surrounding systemic or bureaucratic processes and policies for advancing OPSW-relevant restoration work.
- Resolve cross-agency policy and implementation issues.
- Present issues or recommend policies and practices to the Governor's Natural Resource Agency Cabinet for deliberation, direction, and resolution, when necessary.

B. Oversight and Coordination

The Core Team will be the forum for facilitating interagency, multiagency, and public/private/tribal communication and coordination to further support the OPSW mission. In this capacity, Core Team will:

- Foster implementation of the OPSW by ensuring interagency coordination through, and by providing guidance and outreach to, Regional Management Teams, Monitoring Team and Outreach Team.
- Support OWEB's responsibility to report to the Governor and the Legislators on the progress of the OPSW by providing a forum for development, coordination, and review of the Biennial Report, or other agency reports supporting the OPSW, and of annual and periodic reporting of conservation and recovery plan implementation progress.
- Provide interface between members of the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST) and State agencies in aggregate.
- Include Federal agencies as member partners of Core Team to facilitate communications and collaboration for ensuring support for and success of the OPSW and strengthen the State/Federal partnership.
- Develop a multiagency, coordinated state-level response to issues or needs, as necessary.

- Engage local government and tribal representatives in Core Team discussions, as needed, to exchange information, coordinate efforts, develop strategies, or resolve conflicts.
- Through periodic meetings, coordinate with the Oregon Stream Restoration Partnership workgroup, whose purpose will be to incentivize the pace of restoration at the on-the-ground level (incentivizing restoration will occur by improving agency coordination, integrating processes and priorities, performing education and outreach, and increasing efficiency of regulatory and funding processes, including technological usage, data improvements, and public-private partnerships). Coordinate with the Oregon Conservation Strategy staff in conduct of actions and objectives, to benefit Conservation Opportunity Areas and bolster overall landscape-scale restoration.
- Assure participation, coordination, and accountability among State and Federal agencies to support the “habitat strategy” in the Coast Coho Conservation Plan and other strategies in other conservation and ESA recovery plans.
- Provide a forum for general information exchange and discussion.

C. Funding

The Core Team members will individually secure State, regional and/or Federal resources to collectively ensure effective implementation of the OPSW. In this capacity, Core Team will:

- Coordinate State agency budget development related to the Oregon Plan, including development of policy option packages for coordinated interagency efforts such as coordinated and integrated monitoring.
- Coordinate State agency proposals for OWEB grants and Federal or regional funding opportunities.
- Foster opportunities for joint State/Federal funding to facilitate restoration projects and support restoration programs.
- Identify grant funding opportunities for restoration partners (e.g., watershed councils and SWCDs)

This Charter is a statement of good faith, support and commitment and represents the general consensus of the member State and Federal agencies. The Charter is not a binding legal document and actions of Core Team are only recommendations to its members and others. This Charter does not obligate any State or Federal agency to take any action that substantially affects the interest of the public or that is beyond its available resources. This Charter will remain in effect unless replaced by another Charter, or is terminated by mutual consent of all member State and Federal agencies and the Governor’s Office or by order of the Governor.