

Appendix I

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 12, 1999

FROM: Gordon Haugen, USFS, Interagency Implementation Team Leader

TO: Dave Heller, USFS, Restoration Restoration Task Team Leader

SUBJECT: Restoration Vision from the Interagency Implementation Team

Attached is the final copy of the Interagency Implementation Team's (IIT) vision of multi-year/multi-scale restoration strategies required by the 1998 programmatic biological assessments (BA) and biological opinions (Opinion) on bull trout and anadromous fish in the Columbia River and Klamath River basins. IIT members discussed this approach with you during a February 3, 1999, conference call and shared a draft copy of this vision statement with you on February 9, 1999, for your consideration at interagency restoration task team meetings.

The vision statement closely follows available programmatic direction which is also summarized in the attachment for your convenience. All IIT members have reviewed the attachment and comments where provided have been incorporated. We request that in your task team leader capacity you use the vision statement to guide development of the interagency restoration strategies. We hope you find this vision and the summarized programmatic direction helpful to your assignment.

cc: Interagency Implementation Team Members
Restoration Task Team Members

Development of Multi-year/Multi-scale Restoration Strategies Interagency Implementation Team's Vision March 12, 1999

This is a summary of the Interagency Implementation Team's (IIT) vision of multi-year, multi-scale restoration strategies identified in the programmatic direction for bull trout and anadromous fishes. This vision is framed around interagency provisions conveyed in U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) September 16, 1997, and June 15, 1998, biological assessments (BA) on anadromous fishes and bull trout, and in biological opinions (Opinions) issued by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on June, 19, 1998, and August 14, 1998, respectively. Available direction from these sources is pulled together and attached to this vision statement.

Meeting

As a result of a January 29, 1999, IIT meeting in Portland and a discussion with the Restoration Task Team Leader, the IIT agreed to provide its vision of this assignment to the restoration task team. On February 3, 1999, a subset of the IIT had a follow-up teleconference with the Restoration Team leader and reached further consensus on the following items:

- 1.) subbasin perspective would fit nicely with the approach the restoration team presented at the January 29, 1999, IIT meeting in Portland;
- 2.) the task team would develop a framework to prioritize subbasins solely on biological and aquatic habitat parameters;
- 3.) subbasin priorities would be based on biological parameters;
- 4.) use the Snake River basin to develop the first restoration pilot strategy;
- 5.) the prioritized subbasins would serve as a reference point for directing discretionary funds; and
- 6.) after the IIT and task team reach consensus on the restoration strategy framework, the IIT would facilitate a meeting between the restoration and roads task teams.

IIT Vision: Subbasin-Scale Context

The IIT agreed with the preliminary overview provided by the restoration task team leader at the January 29, 1999, meeting in Portland. The restoration task team's initial approach presented at the meeting appears to be consistent with available direction to address the finer scales (watershed and project). The IIT's vision of the restoration strategy, however, also involves using other task team products to determine where restoration activities should be accelerated *at the subbasin scale (Grande Ronde, Salmon, Clearwater, etc)*. This effort would use and integrate, at a minimum, the following information sources:

- (1) priority watershed maps (mechanism one);
- (2) road inventory information (mechanism two);
- (3) roadless area assessments (mechanism three); and

(4) other information such as metapopulation and subpopulation distributions and Inland West watershed reconnaissance (Regions 1 and 4) to determine where an accelerated restoration program would be most beneficial to the ESA listed species.

In summary, the IIT expects the restoration task team to develop a hierarchical list of *subbasins* where restoration activities should be accelerated when discretionary funds become available. These funds may include: USFS ten percent roads and trails funds (Regions 1, 4 and 6), emergency flood repair funds, BLM restoration add-on dollars, and USFWS and NOAA/NMFS funds to accelerate restoration¹ on non-Federal lands. To develop the hierarchical subbasin list, the task team would use roadless area task team information, considering the importance of roadless areas (connectivity) relative to the distribution of metapopulations and subpopulations of anadromous fish and bull trout; road density maps; and priority watershed information. Because this vision puts the Snake River Basin Restoration Strategy first in line for completion, the IIT expects the restoration task team leader to submit a schedule for the completion of remaining basins.

¹ For FY 1999, the IIT expects field units to actions agencies to prioritize and implement the "Top Ten" list of actions submitted by the roads task team.

Summary of Available Programmatic Direction

1. The September 16, 1997, USFS/BLM anadromous fish BA, Recommendation # 5 states:

“It is important that steelhead habitat restoration be accelerated in the Snake River basin ESU. It is recommended that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management work cooperatively with National Marine Fisheries Service, the State agencies and Tribes to develop priorities and adequately fund Restoration.” The Regional Foresters and State BLM Directors in their September 16, 1997, BA transmittal letter indicated that: “By way of this letter we accept the nine recommendations and hereby direct the National Forests and Bureau of Land Management Districts within the Snake River Basin and Upper Columbia River ESUs to have level 1 Teams use the recommendations as part of the project decision process at a watershed and site-specific level.”

2. The NMFS June 19, 1998, Opinion expanded the September 16, 1997, BA recommendation #5. Mechanism #5 from the Opinion states:

“The USFS and BLM, in cooperation with NMFS, will develop and implement strategies that will integrate and coordinate a wide range of protection, restoration, and evaluation measures to expeditiously achieve restoration and conservation objectives in priority watersheds. The USFS and BLM shall develop and implement these strategies to fulfill recommendations 4, 5 and 7 contained in the BA, and as outlined below:

- b. Recommendation 5 - Accelerate Restoration. By March 1, 1999, the USFS and BLM shall develop, in cooperation with NMFS multi-year strategies to accelerate restoration of habitat for listed anadromous fish in the Snake and Upper Columbia River basins. These multi-year, multi-scale restoration strategies shall:
 - 1) Be dynamic documents modified annually to reflect priorities and opportunities determined through watershed analyses;
 - 2) Include project-specific information; however, they will be developed at the watershed, subbasin, and basin scales;
 - 3) Incorporate road restoration information from mechanism #2;
 - 4) Incorporate restoration opportunities resulting from actions in mechanism #3; and
 - 5) Serve as the source for implementing restoration projects in the 1999 and subsequent annual field seasons.”

3. The June 15, 1998, USFS/BLM bull trout BA lists seven commitments. The first and second commitments provide direction on the development of restoration strategies. These commitments indicate:

A. “Restoration and improvement: The FS and BLM, in cooperation with the NMFS and FWS, will develop and implement strategies that will integrate and coordinate restoration, protection, and evaluation measures (construction/maintenance, flood repair, watershed, and fish habitat improvements, etc.) To expeditiously achieve restoration objectives at multiple scales (DPS, metapopulation, watershed). Restoration opportunities will be identified through an agreed upon approach using existing funding, information and programs, and incorporating new information as it becomes available. Initial strategy development will be completed by March 1, 1999.”

B. “As part of watershed analysis, road inventories, and other appropriate information will be used to collaborate with NMFS and FWS in developing restoration strategies. Restoration strategies will be used to identify key processes needing attention, prioritize key locations and project types, address implementation and scheduling issues and provide a

preliminary estimate of costs. These strategies will serve as the primary framework for implementation of integrated restoration activities."