Oregon Chapter American Fisheries

Freshwater Habitat Committee 2014-15 Work Plan

Submitted by Committee Chair Bill Wall, 8 July 2014

Approved by Excom, 9 Sept 2014

**Mission of Oregon AFS:**

*To improve the conservation and sustainability of Oregon fishery resources and their aquatic ecosystems for long‐term public benefit by advancing science, education and public discourse concerning fisheries and aquatic science and by promoting the development of fisheries professionals.*

**Objectives of Freshwater Habitat Committee**

The Freshwater Habitat Committee is responsible for advocating for the protection and restoration of surface and ground waters in Oregon, promoting the advancement of techniques to protect and restore water bodies, documenting problems in Oregon's waters, and developing strategies for their solution. Concerns of the Freshwater Habitat Committee include physical habitat and water quality and quantity in estuarine and fresh waters. The Freshwater Habitat Committee:

1. Encourages implementation and improvement of existing regulations and activities that protect the State’s waters.
2. Works to ensure adequate consideration of fishes by public entities whose actions affect Oregon’s waters.
3. Reviews and comments on plans, policies, criteria, and rules affecting aquatic habitats.
4. Promotes public awareness of the importance of healthy aquatic habitats and the hazards of poor habitat conditions.
5. Networks with similar aquatic habitat committees of the Western Division and Parent Society.
6. Conducts periodic habitat workshops at annual meetings.
7. Submits a written report of committee activities, annual work plan, and budget to the External Director by June l, before the summer ExCom planning meeting or retreat. The Freshwater Habitat Committee Chair prepares these materials.

**2014-2015 Work Plan**

1. Increase membership participation in the habitat committee through communication of activities, needs, and opportunities through emails, the Chapters Facebook page, and Chapter newsletter. This will be the Committee Chair’s focus for this year.
2. Continue with subcommittee’s work on a habitat restoration workshop that will be in conjunction with AFS 2015 national meeting in Portland (objective 6). Provide coordination and a committee to work with the national meeting committee to identify restoration sites, transportation, and objectives for the workshop. Work with the national committee to provide a tentative schedule for tasks needed by the end of this summer.
   1. Sites will be within 2 hours of Portland
   2. Focus on innovative structures in both main stem channels headwaters with a whole watershed approach.
   3. Some sites will be of a more historic nature (10 - 30 years) to provide insights into long term function.
3. Be prepared to respond to these Oregon bills which are likely to resurface in 2015 (objectives 2, 3, and 4):
   1. The above information will be updated as new information is received from the Legislative Committee. Response could come in the form of a white paper, position statement, or testimony on these informational hearing dates: Will notify members when dates are established.

**Budget request for 2014:**

No items. Mileage request for planning of potential 2015 National Meeting Workshop on Habitat Restoration will be addressed in next year’s budget that starts May 1, 2015.