

Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society  
Freshwater Habitat Committee  
Bill Wall - Committee Chair  
Work Plan for May 1, 2013 through April 30, 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 will:

- A. Encourages implementation and improvement of existing regulations and activities that protect the State's waters.
- B. Works to ensure adequate consideration of fishes by public entities whose actions affect Oregon's waters.
- C. Reviews and comments on plans, policies, criteria, and rules affecting aquatic habitats.
- D. Promotes public awareness of the importance of healthy aquatic habitats and the hazards of poor habitat conditions.
- E. Networks with similar aquatic habitat committees of the Western Division and Parent Society.
- F. Conducts periodic habitat workshops at annual meetings.
- G. Submits a written report of committee activities to the External Director every six months in November and April.
- H. Submits annual work plan and budget to the External Director by April 1st before the spring ExCom planning meeting or retreat. The Freshwater Habitat Committee Chair prepares these materials.

### **Proposed 2013-14 Work Plan**

- Increase membership participation in the habitat committee through communication of activities, needs, and opportunities through emails, the Chapters Facebook page, and Chapter newsletter.
- Continue with subcommittee's work on a habitat restoration workshop that will be in conjunction with AFS 2015 national meeting in Portland (objective f). Provide last year's subcommittee's

notes on the make-up of this subcommittee to the Committee members along with a tentative schedule for tasks needed.

- Convene a session on the risks and benefits of thinning and prescribed burning in riparian buffers (riparian reserves and riparian habitat conservation areas) for the 2014 annual meeting (objective f).
- Be prepared to respond to these Oregon bills (bill references from 2013 legislative session) which are likely to resurface in 2014 (objectives b, c, d):
  - Bill(s) relating to changes in Land Management Plans regarding Riparian Reserves or Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas.
  - HB 4101, water storage and withdrawal from Columbia River
  - SB 1511 Expands state policy relating to ecosystems
  - SB 1513 Allows water right lease to split use of water between existing right and in-stream right within same year.

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.**

- Follow up on Mark Viller's request (Coos Bay) to review a restoration project by the habitat committee. There are both pre and post project areas. Consider other freshwater habitat restoration projects requests for review in Oregon (objective d).

### **Budget request for 2013-14**

**\$555** for mileage reimbursement for committee members to review proposed habitat projects around the state (assumes 4 committee members drive 250 miles round trip to review projects and the current mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.555/mile).