

OREGON CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
FRESHWATER HABITAT COMMITTEE 2015-2016 WORK PLAN

Submitted by Committee Chair Bill Wall  
Approved by Ex Com: Oct. 8, 2015

**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 1, before the summer Ex Com planning meeting or retreat.

**Proposed 2015-2016 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 continue to be the Committee Chair's focus for this year.

2. Continue with work on a riparian habitat restoration session that will be in conjunction with the Oregon AFS 2016 chapter meeting (objective 6). Focus could be on the following topics:
  - a) Are thinning activities to enhance growth of large trees for future instream large wood appropriate in the riparian reserves and if so, what are the limitations?
  - b) Are thinning activities to enhance deciduous riparian trees for improved shade and instream productivity appropriate in the riparian reserves and if so, what are the limitations?
  - c) Are there times when mechanical thinning within the riparian reserves is appropriate?
  - d) How intense should prescribe fire be allowed to intrude in to the riparian area and what factors should be used to control the intrusion?
  
3. Be prepared to respond to Oregon legislative bills which are likely to resurface in 2016 (objectives 2, 3, 4):
  - a) 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.

### **2015-2016 Proposed Budget**

None