

June 2-3, 2009 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update #C3: Effectiveness Monitoring

Background

This item provides a progress report about two effectiveness monitoring related initiatives undertaken by OWEB's Monitoring and Reporting Program. At the September 2008 Board Meeting, the Board awarded \$100,000 to determine the effectiveness of fencing and riparian improvement projects completed between 1995 and 1998 in the Grande Ronde and South Coast basins and fish passage projects completed between 1995 and 2001 in the South Coast basins.

Riparian Improvement Effectiveness Monitoring

Since the September 2008 Board Meeting, OWEB staff worked with Shane Langley, an OWEB intern and Portland State University graduate student, to research fencing\riparian projects awarded between 1995 and 1998 in the South Coast and Grande Ronde basins. A total of nearly 500 riparian\fencing project sites were implemented in this time frame using OWEB and GWEB funding. He also developed field indicators and methods to assess the riparian improvement projects. Indicators were developed to answer the following questions:

1. Do projects implemented between 1995 and 1998 still exist on the landscape?
2. Are the projects meeting their original restoration objective to:
 - a. Increase vegetative cover and shade in the riparian zone;
 - b. Reduce livestock access to the riparian area; or
 - c. Increase bank stability/reduce bank erosion?
3. What is the current riparian vegetation structure at project sites?

OWEB staff worked with StatNet at Oregon State University to develop a representative and statistically significant sub-set of 60 projects in the South Coast Basin. All 38 Grande Ronde basin riparian projects completed in this time frame will be assessed. Seven control sites (one for each basin) will be surveyed to determine the conditions of areas without riparian improvement.

OWEB staff posted a 'Request for Proposals' and selected a contractor to perform the field work and analysis. A final report is scheduled to be released in January 2010.

Fish Passage Improvement Effectiveness Monitoring

Since the September 2008 Board Meeting, OWEB staff compiled a list of 97 fish passage improvement projects completed between 1995 and 2001. These barrier improvement projects include culverts, weirs, push-up dam removals, and fish screens. Ninety sites will be surveyed with seven sites previously surveyed by the South Coast Watershed Council to determine the effectiveness of the entire population. Field indicators were developed to answer the following questions:

1. Do passage improvement projects completed in 1995-2001 still meet their original restoration objectives-to provide adequate passage to salmonids?
2. What, if any, juvenile fish are using the stream above the repaired barrier?

OWEB staff developed a 'Request for Proposals' and selected a contractor to perform the field work and analysis. A final report is also scheduled to be released in January 2010.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Greg Sieglitz, at Greg.Sieglitz@state.or.us or 503-986-0194.