Bonneville Environmental Foundation Model Watershed Program

Presentation to the Pacific Northwest
Power and Conservation Council
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BEF Model Watershed Program

- Multi-stakeholder, community-based program
- Monitoring-intensive, 10-year approach
- Feedback loops to refine watershed strategies
- 10-year funding for essential M+E
- Independent Peer Review
- Continuity: 10-year institutional oversight, fundraising assistance/coordination

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BEF Model Watershed History

1999-2003:	Conventional Watershed Restoration Project funding (MT, ID, OR, WA)
2003-2005:	Model Watershed Approach (Kootenai, Chinook Programs)
2005:	Coeur D'Alene Model Watershed Added
2006:	Pending Programs in Upper Columbia, Deschutes, mid Columbia,
To date:	$1.6 MM Committed to PNW Watersheds

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BEF's Model Watershed Goals

- 10-12 Model Watersheds (OR, WA, ID, MT)
- Varied PNW ecosystem types
- Partner with local watershed councils, tribes, funders
- Minimum 10-year *mutual* commitments
- Regular peer review; reporting
- Program results documented, disseminated

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Setting Restoration Objectives; Measuring Progress, Learning Lessons

For Each Restoration Objective . . .

- ❑ State Hypothesis (e.g., “statistical downward trend in water temperature to approved TMDL.”)
- ❑ Set Actions by Year
- ❑ Establish Metrics
- ❑ Establish Quantifiable Objectives
- ❑ Identify Limiting Factors
- ❑ Design, Adopt Strategies
- ❑ Apply Implementing Tools
- ❑ Schedule Peer Review

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Regional Watershed Monitoring and Evaluation: A Comparison of Approaches

Current Regional Approach and Practices **ESA-Stock Driven** **Province Level Focus** **(EMAP; PNAMP; IMW)**	**BEF Model Watershed Approach** **Watershed Ecosystem Driven** **Community Level Focus**
Focus on ESA-Listed anadromous species at provincial and sub-basin level Geographic focus below basin blockages	Focus on watershed restoration at a community level; watershed-specific, encompassing *resident and* anadromous fish (and other ecosystem biota) Geographic focus *basin-wide*, above and below blockages
Priority focus is tracking for ESA compliance purposes	Priority focus is *feedback-loop* for informing and guiding community (including tribal) watershed recovery efforts

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Comparison of Approaches (Continued)

Accountability to regional fish management agencies and federal ESA agencies; M&E strategy designed to deliver information back up the agency chain	Accountability is *at community level*, with continuous feedback loops periodically subject to independent peer review; M&E strategy designed to deliver information *back to community and watershed council*
Year-to-year funding, making long-term planning, protocols and commitments difficult	*Ten-year funding commitment*, predicated on year-to-year review, periodic independent peer review, specific biological/ecological benchmarks
Focus on public land remediation; reliance on public land managers	Focus is *watershed-specific*, with *emphasis on private landowner* initiatives mediated through community watershed councils
Scalability down?	Scalability up?

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Complementary Monitoring and Evaluation

Coordinating Approaches

Regional Approach + Community-based approach
Adopt Common or Overlapping M&E language, Protocols, Quality Control
Link Community-Based M&E to Sub-basin Plans
Shared Data, Findings
Expanded Range of Watersheds
Increased Biological and Program Diversity

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Priority Watersheds - Distribution

Emap/IMW	Shared	BEF
John Day	Entiat	Kootenai River
Upper Salmon	Wenatchee	Benewah Creek
Lower Columbia: Abernathy, Germany	Okanogan	Upper Columbia
Juan de Fuca: Stabeck, Big Beef		Deschutes River: Crooked, Wychus, Lake Creek
Oregon Coastal		Chinook River
Scappoose		
Skagit		

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Opportunities for Collaboration

- Coordinate data collection, evaluation, lessons learned especially in IMW, BEF focus watersheds
- Tie Council priority support to community watershed programs with long-term, peer-reviewed M&E
- Consistency between sub-basin and community programs in selecting watershed health indicators, language, protocols = more cost-effective M&E

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