

# ISRP Review of 2009 Wildlife Proposals

Dr. Linda Hardesty presentation to the Northwest  
Power and Conservation Council, June 9, 2009



# ISRP and Peer Review Group (PRG)

## ■ *Independent Scientific Review Panel*

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- Robert Bilby, Ph.D.
- Peter A. Bisson, Ph.D.
- John Epifanio, Ph.D.
- Linda Hardesty, Ph.D.
- Charles Henny, Ph.D.
- Colin Levings, Ph.D.
- Eric J. Loudenslager, Ph.D.
- Katherine Myers, Ph.D.
- Thomas P. Poe, M.S.
- Bruce Ward



## ■ *Peer Review Group*

- R. Scott Lutz, Ph.D.
- Richard Williams, Ph.D.

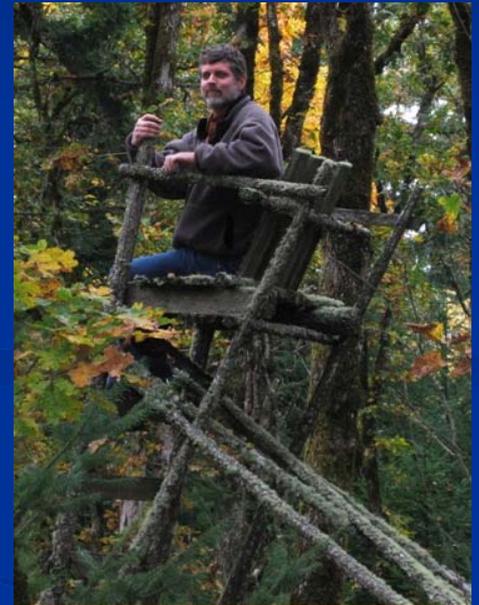
## ■ *Coordinator*

- Erik Merrill, J.D., NPCC

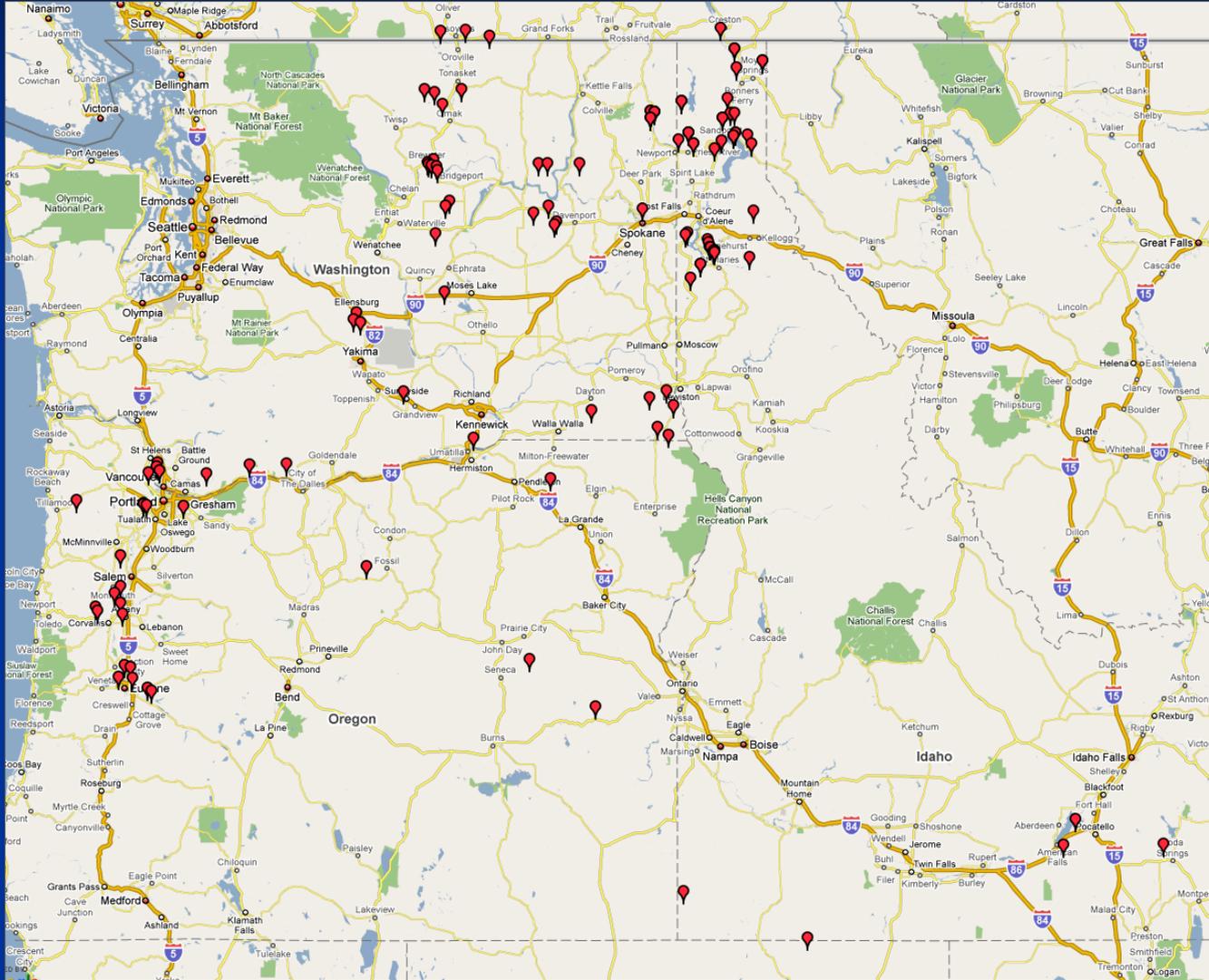


# Wildlife Categorical Review

- Site visits
- Individual project reviews
- Presentations and discussion
- Group review and consensus
- Response loop (21/36)
- Final ISRP review



# Program Overview



# Review Criteria

## 1996 Amendment to the NW Power Act

- Sound science principles
- Benefit fish and wildlife
- Clearly defined objective and outcome
- Monitoring and evaluation of results
- Consistent with the council's program



# Project Outcomes

- **36** Proposals reviewed
  - **23** Meet scientific review criteria
  - **11** Meet criteria with qualifications
  - **2** Do not meet review criteria



# Benefits of Categorical Review

- Programmatic *and* project-specific evaluation
- Ongoing commitments – O&M
- Previously reviewed
  - Follow-up recommendations
  - Adaptive management
  - Plans/results consistent?



# Wildlife Programmatic Issues

## ■ RM&E and crediting

- Crediting & effectiveness monitoring
- M&E/results reporting
- Effectiveness monitoring policy
- Regional M&E

## ■ Restoration and management

- Invasive species
- Agricultural land use
- WMA plans



# Crediting and Effectiveness Monitoring

Crediting: mitigation debt “accounting”

Effectiveness monitoring: “biological  
results”



# Crediting

- Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP)
  - Approximates habitat value
  - Calculated as habitat units (HU)
- Repeated to retain or increase HU
- Habitat surrogate for populations

# Crediting

- Accounting method a policy issue
- Consistency is critical

*but....*



What about actual benefits to fish & wildlife?

*Possible to gain HU for species not even present!*

# HEP a Science Issue...

....When confused with biological effectiveness

- Limited species and habitats
- Best science @ 1980
- Not related to biological outcomes

*There are opportunities to better integrate crediting and effectiveness monitoring*

# Biological Effectiveness Monitoring

- Measured benefits to populations
- Population, habitat management imprecise, site specific
- Knowledge gained via adaptive management



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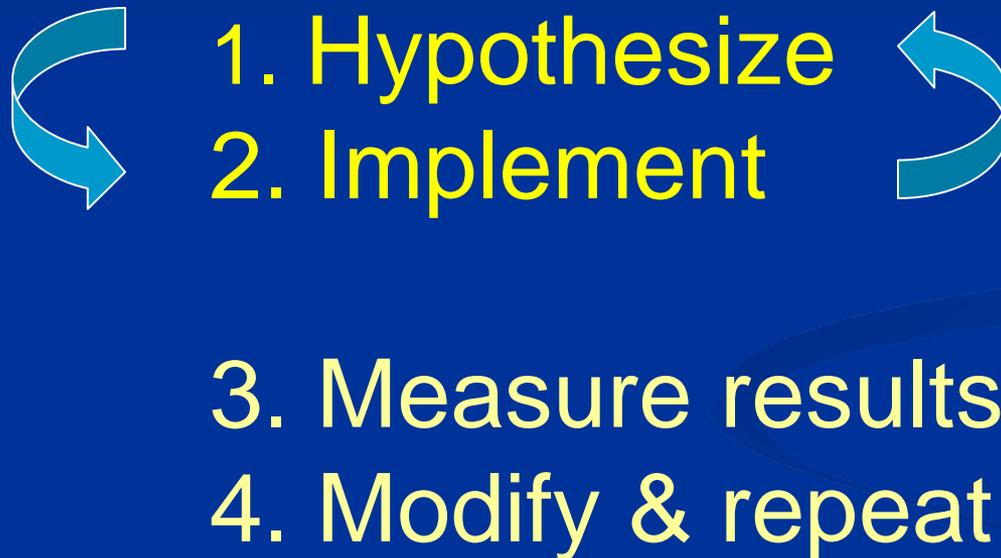
# Adaptive Management

- 
- 
1. Hypothesize habitat/species relationships
  2. Implement management assumptions
  3. Measure, evaluate results
  4. Modify and repeat, build on success



# Adaptive Management

Many sponsors stop at step 2...



...and report actions *rather than* results

# Results Reporting

- Longer funding commitments make results reporting even more critical
- Regional efforts expected to provide better information



# Results Reporting

## Progress since 2007-2009 review

- Some “results needed” have done so
- Some “results urgently needed” same
- Mid-term ISRP review



# Effectiveness Monitoring - Policy Confusion

- “None is allowed”
- “5% limit not practical”
- “Only habitat, not populations”
- Projects committed to monitoring  
find ways to accomplish this
- Urgent need to clarify expectations

# Regional M & E

- Comparable to HEP team
- Independent of implementation
- Analytic expertise
- Larger range of inference
- Coordinate with population monitoring



# Regional M & E

- Examples:
  - Upper Columbia United Tribes Wildlife Management Evaluation Plan (UMWEP)
  - WDFW Wildlife Monitoring Guidelines
- Not for all projects



# Restoration and Management

- Some sites only need maintenance
- Most sites need restoration
- O&M proposals often unclear: focus on actions, not outcomes



# Invasive Species Management

## ■ Spray and Pray

- 2007 Spray
- 2008 Spray
- 2009 Spray.....

- Outdated science
- Limited scale
- Collateral effects
- Large and growing cost
- Rarely effective

## ■ Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- Landscape scale
- Surveillance
- Eliminate pioneers
- Map and monitor
- Coordinate with neighbors
- Establish competitors
- Biocontrols
- Mechanical treatments
- Chemical control

# Encourage IPM

- Threats expanding
- Target species research
- Weed management plans
- CWMAAs
- Education
- Incentives



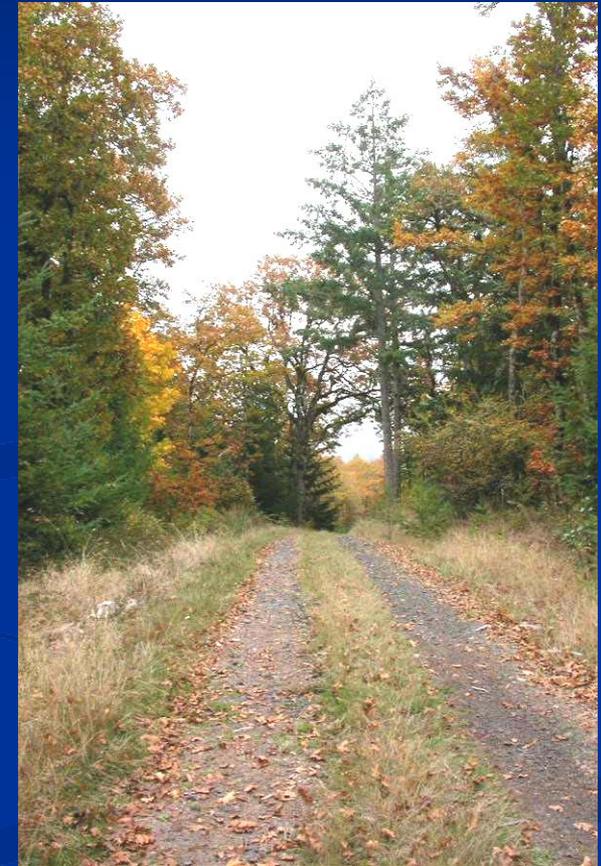
# Agricultural Use of Habitat

- Livestock grazing
- Haying
- Annual crops
- Timber harvest



# Agricultural Use of Habitat

- Site-specific justification
- Benefit to fish and wildlife
- *Detailed* management plan



# Wildlife Management Area Plans

- Review resource?
- Varied purpose, quality
- Essential for M&E



Need detailed, species-specific plans

# In Sum...

- Current program benefits fish and wildlife
- Sponsors committed and creative
- Adaptive management will expand benefits in future

