



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
2725 Montlake Boulevard East
Seattle, WA 98112-2097

March 12, 2010

Dear Interested Parties:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Fisheries Science Center is soliciting nominations for additional members of the Puget Sound Recovery Implementation Technical Team (PSRITT). The PSRITT was formed in January 2008 to provide review of products related to recovery plans and technical guidance for strategy development and adaptive management for three ESA listed salmon species: Puget Sound Chinook salmon, Hood Canal Summer Chum salmon, and Lake Ozette sockeye salmon. The group originally consisted of eight members. We are currently seeking to expand the group to ten to twelve members due to the workload involved in helping to implement the salmon recovery plans.

A critical part of recovery plan implementation is adaptive management, a process to plan, assess, and adapt recovery actions over time, all based on sound science. The PSRITT has played a key role in this process by providing critical scientific support for the creation of individual adaptive management plans for Puget Sound watersheds. Each PSRITT member is a liaison to one or more individual watersheds, and as such attends watershed recovery meetings as well as PSRITT meetings. Members are also expected to work on various other projects and reviews undertaken by the PSRITT as appropriate to their individual areas of expertise. Please see the attached PSRITT Mission Statement for a complete description of the roles and responsibilities of this team.

NMFS believes it is critically important to base ESA recovery implementation action plans on the many state, regional, Tribal, local, and private conservation efforts already underway throughout the region. Local support of recovery implementation plans by those whose activities directly affect the listed species, and whose actions will be most affected by recovery requirements, is essential. NMFS therefore supports and participates in locally led collaborative efforts to develop recovery implementation plans, involving local communities, state, Tribal, and Federal entities, and other stakeholders. NMFS reviews any locally produced plans to determine whether adoption is merited, whether additional information or amendments to the original Salmon Recovery Plan are necessary, and whether clarifications or qualifications are needed.

The PSRITT consists of experts in salmon and steelhead biology, population dynamics, conservation biology, ecology, and other disciplines relevant to Puget Sound recovery planning. Members must meet the first three criteria below (numbers 1-3) and at least one of the remaining three criteria (numbers 4-7).

1. High achievement in a relevant discipline, which may include ecology, genetics, fisheries, hydrology, river geomorphology, or other appropriate disciplines.
2. High standards of scientific integrity, independence, and objectivity.
3. A demonstrated interest in and ability to work effectively in an interdisciplinary team setting and a willingness to devote approximately 25% of their time to this effort for two or more years.
4. Extensive knowledge of West Coast salmonid biology, status, or habitat.
5. Experience in environmental conservation as pertaining to salmon, such as habitat restoration and addressing climate changes to the processes.

6.A record of scientific accomplishment documented by contributions to the scientific literature or other evidence of success in a creative scientific endeavor.

7.A demonstrated ability to forge creative solutions to complex problems.

We are particularly interested in seeking nominations with the following areas of technical expertise:

- Habitat processes (e.g., hydrology, geomorphology)
- Landscape ecology (especially with a forestry focus)
- Monitoring and/or statistical skills
- Technical, on the ground experience with habitat restoration
- Urban ecology
- Oceanography
- Climate change effects on marine and freshwater processes.

An independent panel will evaluate all nominations to ensure that they meet the above criteria. Scientists who already have been selected for other NMFS TRTs will not need to be evaluated again, and thus automatically are eligible for consideration. The panel will provide a list of qualified candidates to the Science Director of the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center who—in consultation with the NMFS Northwest Regional Administrator—will make final appointments to the team.

We appreciate your interest and assistance in this important effort. Please forward your nominations to Norma Sands at the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center (2725 Montlake Blvd. East, Seattle, WA, 98112) or by email to Norma.Sands@noaa.gov by April 9th. To facilitate the evaluation, please provide a Curriculum Vita for each nominee, and a short explanation of how the nominee meets the selection criteria.

If you have any questions, please contact Norma Sands at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (206-860-5607), or Elizabeth Babcock at the Northwest Regional Office (206-526-4505). Additional information on recovery planning for West Coast salmon, including information on current members of the PSRITT, is also available on the internet at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/index.cfm> and <http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/trt/index.cfm>.

Very truly yours,



Usha Varanasi, Ph.D.
Science and Research Director
Northwest Fisheries Science Center

and



Barry A. Thom
Acting Regional Administrator
Northwest Region

Puget Sound Recovery Implementation Technical Team

December 18, 2009

Mission Statement

The mission of the Puget Sound Recovery Implementation Technical Team is to aid in the recovery of Pacific salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by providing scientific support (e.g., original design and analyses, independent review, literature review, and scientific interpretation of other studies) to state and federal agencies, tribes, watershed recovery groups and other organizations who are working to implement the salmon recovery plans within the Puget Sound domain, including Ozette Lake.

Roles and Responsibilities

Puget Sound Recovery Implementation Technical Team (PS RITT) members participate as independent scientists, not as advocates for their agency, employer, or any other organization's position. The Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), the scientific arm of NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that formed the PS RITT, recognized in the welcoming letter that members who work for federal, state, tribal, or local government agencies bring unique scientific expertise and relationships to this effort and can help facilitate communication about scientific issues among agencies, tribes, and the PS RITT.

Because many scientific issues are shared by different domains, the NWFSC also established the Recovery Implementation Science Team (RIST) to address common issues of salmon and steelhead recovery throughout the Pacific Northwest. Therefore, the RIST will include members of the PS RITT, and the PS RITT will use RIST products where applicable for Puget Sound and Lake Ozette.

The PS RITT may ask for and receive direction from the Northwest Regional Office (NWRO), the regulatory branch of NMFS, regarding prioritization of tasks if needed or desired. It may consult with the Northwest Fisheries Science Center and other scientific bodies for scientific expertise on specific issues. Facilitating this will be the responsibility of the chair of the PS RITT.

An important, ongoing role of the PS RITT is to advise individual watersheds within the Puget Sound and Lake Ozette and the region in developing and refining adaptive management plans. Another ongoing role is to review salmon recovery funding requests for consistency with the salmon recovery plans.

The PS RITT will work with other teams and organizations in the region who also work on implementation of listed salmonid recovery, including but not limited to:

1. The Puget Sound Steelhead Technical Recovery Team (PSSTRT), which was formed in 2008 to identify populations and develop viability criteria for Puget Sound steelhead listed under ESA. The PS RITT may assist with development of a Puget Sound steelhead recovery plan and provide scientific advice regarding the implementation of that plan once it is adopted, as requested by the NWRO.



2. The Puget Sound and Lake Ozette Domain Team, which is the NMFS NWRO group responsible for regulation under the ESA of actions implemented in the region that affect listed salmonid recovery, including all substantial actions proposed in approved salmon and steelhead recovery plans. The PS RITT will advise the Domain Team on technical and scientific issues relating to implementation of the recovery plans upon request.
3. The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), which addresses the recovery of the Puget Sound ecosystem, including, but not restricted to, the recovery of listed species within the sound. Both the PS RITT and the PSP have liaisons to each watershed and action area; PS RITT liaisons will work with PSP liaisons in providing watersheds with consistent advice and technical support on recovery implementation.
4. The Hood Canal Coordinating Council, which is responsible for coordinating and implementing salmon recovery in the Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca regions. The PS RITT will work with this council on implementation of recovery plans for the Hood Canal summer chum salmon and the Puget Sound Chinook salmon, and for Puget Sound steelhead, when that recovery plan is completed.
5. The Lake Ozette Sockeye Steering Committee, which is responsible for coordinating implementation of the Ozette Lake Sockeye Recovery Plan.

