



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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TO: Jeff Breckel, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board
Jim Kramer, Shared Strategy for Puget Sound
Steve Martin, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
Julie Morgan, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
Jay Watson, Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Dear Regional Salmon Recovery Board Directors,

It has come to my attention that there is some question regarding the role of the regional recovery plans in the draft Statewide Steelhead Management plan and environmental impact statement.

I am committing to you that it will be addressed in the Final EIS and final statewide management plan. In the meantime, let me be very clear concerning the importance and role of regional recovery plans in steelhead management.

Regional recovery plans, where we have them, establish the recovery goals, objectives and priorities for those steelhead populations. WDFW participated in these plans and is committed to supporting and taking steps under our jurisdiction to move those plans forward.

The WDFW statewide plan does not take the place of any recovery plan. It will, however, provide guidance to WDFW as we are called on to assist in the development of recovery plans in areas that don't yet have plans.

WDFW has been and continues to be committed to recovery plan development and implementation. I assure you that as WDFW begins reviewing or where needed, developing, regional harvest and hatchery strategies and actions, WDFW staff will work with recovery boards to ensure consistency and progress toward the goals we have all established for the recovery of steelhead.

Sincerely,

Jeff P. Koenings, Ph.D.
Director

cc: Chris Drivdahl, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Phil Anderson, Deputy Director
Lew Atkins, Fish Program Assistant Director
Sara LaBorde, WDFW Salmon Recovery Coordinator
Heather Bartlett, Salmon And Steelhead Division Manager
Jim Buck, Statewide Steelhead EIS Manager
WDFW Regional Directors
Lauri Vigue, Lead Entity/Watershed Steward Coordinator
Watershed Stewards
Lead Entity Coordinators