

Department of Ecology
White Paper on Forming the Columbia River Technical Advisory Group

12/05/2006

Background: Ecology's Columbia River Unit is planning the formation of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to aid the department in funding sound conservation projects that will advance the goals of the program. The role of the TAG will be to review and evaluate conservation project applications using criteria set by the EIS and the Policy Advisory Group (PAG), in order to provide Ecology with funding recommendations.

Composition and Organization of the TAG:

Size: The size of the groups should be kept to a workable number being that members will have to be focused on reading applications and applying the funding criteria. Proposal: Approximately 10 members.

Qualifications & Desired Skills: To ensure a diverse and experienced group, Ecology will identify expertise from several topic areas in the Columbia River Basin for appointment to the TAG, including those experienced in fisheries, irrigation, and municipal issues. Ecology will also work to achieve a balance of expertise among state government and other partners. Each representative should have technical skills and/or on-the-ground implementation experience in engineering, hydrogeology, conservation, irrigation system design/implementation, salmon recovery efforts or a related field. A preliminary list of TAG members includes:

- Jon Culp, Conservation Commission, TAG Chair
- Dan Haller, Ecology, Irrigation and Municipal Engineering
- David Cummings, Ecology, Dam Safety Program
- Lynn Coleman, Ecology, Conservation Lead
- Peggy Miller, WDFW, State Fisheries Interests
- To Be Named, WACD Irrigated Agriculture Expertise
- To Be Named, Salmon Recovery Expertise
- To Be Named, Environmental Protection and Restoration Expertise
- To Be Named, Watershed Planning Expertise
- To Be Named, Municipal Water Supply Management Expertise

Timeline: To develop a list of projects for this legislative session, some compressed scheduling goals must be met:

December -	present PAG with ideas and goals about TAG
Dec to Jan-	select members of the TAG and extend invitations
January-	first TAG meeting to introduce members and identify responsibilities
February-	Review of 2007 Project List

Ecology Leadership: Dan Haller will coordinate TAG activities with Jon Culp for 2007. Additional Ecology Columbia River staff or external expertise may be leveraged based on requirements for specific projects.