

## IMST Members

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Information about current and past members can be obtained at  
[www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/members.html](http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/members.html)

## IMST Public Meetings

IMST meetings generally occur once per month, and are open to the public.

Agendas and minutes are posted at  
[www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/meetings.html](http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/meetings.html) Audio recordings can be obtained by contacting the IMST at 541-737-6551 or OWEB at 503-986-0058.

**More information on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds can be found at [www.oregon.gov/OPSW/](http://www.oregon.gov/OPSW/)**

Brochure designed by K. Maas-Hebner

Cover Photo: K. Maas-Hebner, Oregon State University, Fall Creek in Coos County

### Contact Information

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Oregon Plan for  
Salmon and  
Watersheds

## Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team

## Accomplishment Highlights July 2006–June 2007



June 2007

[www.fsl.orst.edu/imst](http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst)

## IMST at a Glance

The Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST) is an impartial scientific review panel charged with advising the State of Oregon on matters of science related to fish recovery, water quality improvements, and enhancing watershed health (Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 541.409) within Oregon. The IMST provides independent, scientific analysis and evaluation of state actions and policies under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Oregon Plan). The charge of the IMST is to focus on science, maintain its independence, operate by consensus, and report its findings and conclusions in written reports and reviews.

### The goals of IMST activities are to foster:

- Enhanced credibility of the Oregon Plan through recognition that actions taken under the Plan are based on best available science.
- Improved design, implementation, and monitoring of actions by Oregon Plan partners to achieve specific outcomes related to Plan goals.
- Increased exposure to and understanding of relevant science on the part of salmonid and watershed restoration communities.

This brochure highlights the IMST's accomplishments during the fiscal year July 1, 2006–June 30, 2007. The full report documenting IMST's activities, accomplishments, and operations during the year is available at

[www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/reports.html](http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/reports.html)

As the Oregon Plan's principle science advisory Team the Team:

- Provided scientific reviews on key initiatives in Oregon including a feasibility assessment to reintroduce bull trout (USFS), Rogue River spring Chinook conservation plan (ODFW), and a federal guidance document on instream aggregate mining (NMFS, USFWS)
- Developed scientific and technical information regarding, restoration effectiveness monitoring, the role of urban and rural residential areas, and central and eastern Oregon ecosystems in accomplishing the goals of the Oregon Plan (reports in progress).

Additional information on the IMST, its members, and products is provided at the IMST website at

[www.fsl.orst.edu/imst](http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst)

## IMST Highlights July 1, 2006–June 30, 2007

During this reporting period IMST's work focused on meeting state agency needs for scientific reviews of key programs, assessments, and initiatives. Progress continued on two ongoing IMST reports and efforts to increase public awareness of IMST's work and its products.

### Highlights and Completed Products

Review of ODFW's draft Rogue Spring Chinook Conservation Plan. At the request of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the IMST provided scientific review for the agencies draft conservation plan for naturally produced spring Chinook in the Rogue River. Based on its review the IMST issued seven formal recommendations to ODFW. Six of the recommendations were designed to assist ODFW in better documenting the scientific foundations and analyses used in the agency's native fish conservation and recovery plans. Read the review at <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/reviews.html>

Review of US Forest Service's Bull Trout reintroduction feasibility assessment. At the request of ODFW the IMST reviewed a multi-agency study evaluating the feasibility of reintroducing bull trout into upper tributaries of the Clackamas River. The review focused on areas of the assessment that the authors could modify to increase the scientific credibility of the assessment. The IMST did not take position on whether or not bull trout should be reintroduced because that decision involves not only science but also management, policy, and societal goals. The review can be found at <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/reviews.html>

Review of Oregon's draft Conservation Plan for Oregon Coast Coho. The IMST conducted an independent review of the State of Oregon's draft Conservation Plan for Oregon Coast Coho. This was an extension of a previous review of the State's draft Coastal Coho Assessment (2004 review requested by the Governor's Natural Resource Office). In consultation with ODFW, the IMST focused its review on technical and scientific issues related to the overall plan and Appendix 2: Desired Status – Measurable Criteria for the Oregon Coast Coho ESU. Both the 2006 and 2004 reviews can be seen at <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/reviews.html>

Review of federal guidance document "Sediment Removal from Active Stream Channels in Oregon". Based on its 2002 review of instream aggregate mining managed through the Oregon Department of State Lands, the IMST reviewed the federal guidance document. The IMST issued a letter report to the Oregon Plan Core Team suggesting ways the State of Oregon could assist federal agencies in developing more complete background information and monitoring methods to document instream aggregate mining effects on aquatic and riparian habitat, fish, and wildlife. Both the 2002 and 2006 reports can be found at <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/reports/gravel.html>



Effectiveness Monitoring Workshop Synthesis. On April 18 and 19, 2006 the IMST jointly held a technical workshop with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) on incorporating effectiveness monitoring into watershed and aquatic habitat restoration efforts across the state. The IMST synthesized workgroup deliberations to serve

as a basis for other IMST reports on effectiveness monitoring and for OWEB's efforts to develop a new effectiveness monitoring program. See "Ongoing Projects" for information on these other reports. The synthesis can be viewed at <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/workshops.html>

Increasing public awareness of IMST's work. In 2005, the IMST began a new effort to increase public awareness of the IMST. As part of The IMST revised its website to allow members of the public, state legislature and agencies to find IMST reports and reviews more efficiently and has worked with the Oregon Plan Communication Coordinator to distribute meeting announcements more widely across the state. The IMST has also developed brochures to highlight annual accomplishments and to describe how the IMST operates and its enabling legislation. The general brochure can be seen at <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/> look for link in first paragraph.

### Ongoing Projects

Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring. The IMST is preparing companion reports to the 2006 IMST/OWEB effectiveness monitoring workshop and workshop synthesis. The first report will be available July 2007 and focuses on the use of ecological indicators in evaluation restoration effectiveness at broad landscape scales. A second report will examine issues related to determining effectiveness of restoration when analyzing and interpreting data from various spatial and geographical scales. Additionally these reports will also integrate information on using status and trend monitoring in effectiveness evaluations. After completion these reports will be posted at <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/reports.html>

Urban and Rural Residential. The IMST's urban land use project focuses on populated areas within the state. Four focus areas of the project are water quality, water quantity, aquatic

and riparian habitat structure, and fish passage. The goal of the project is to define the scientific basis by which urban lands can be managed to accomplish the goals of the Oregon Plan. More information, including a draft report outline can be found at <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/projects.html>



Eastern and Central Oregon Resources. This project frames a conceptual model that integrates ecosystem components affecting aquatic habitat and watershed functions in the regions east of the Cascade crest. Work on the project was delayed to allow the IMST to focus on reviews for agencies but work will resume summer 2007. More Information can be found at <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/imst/projects.html>

### The Future

During the 2007-2009 Biennium, the IMST is committed to complete the ongoing projects listed above. The IMST has also agreed to review five salmonid recovery plans for ODFW pending availability of Team members and technical support staff. Other reviews have not yet been identified but the IMST expects to receive other review requests as well as initiate independent reviews.

### Public involvement

Members of the public are invited to attend all public meetings and workshops held by the IMST. The Team discusses draft material and review requests at its public meetings. Public oral comments may be made at the meetings during designated times or submitted in writing anytime to the IMST (see contact section).