

**Annotated Agenda**  
*MAFAC Meeting, San Diego, CA*  
*April 28-30, 2015*

- 1. Title of Discussion:** Recovery of Protected Species
- 2. Presenters:** Therese Conant, Recovery Coordinator  
Office of Protected Species, Headquarters  
Nora Berwick, Senior Natural Resources Specialist,  
Office of Protected Species, West Coast Region
- 3. Objective/Purpose:** Informational and to support Subcommittee work

Goal is twofold -- to (1) provide a description of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery process and what is required in recovery plans and recovery actions, and to (2) use one species recovery plan, the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Trout, as an example to lay the foundation and provide context of the Protected Resources Recovery Project for the entire Committee.

**4. Background/Synopsis:**

Therese Conant will provide the first part of the presentation and will review how species recovery is defined, what the ESA requires regarding recovery, what factors are considered in recovery planning, the goal of a recovery plan are how they are developed and used, and what is required of individual recovery actions.

Nora Berwick will be discussing the Middle Columbia River (MCR) steelhead, one of the seven species chosen for the Recovery Project by the Subcommittee. In 1999, NOAA Fisheries listed the MCR steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) distinct population segment (DPS) as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, and reaffirmed that designation in 2006. The spawning range of the 20 MCR steelhead populations covers approximately 35,000 square miles of the Columbia River Plateau in south-central Washington and north-central Oregon.

Recovery of MCR steelhead necessitates development and implementation of recovery plans which include the goals, objectives, actions, and monitoring programs to track and report progress. Plans are only as good as the level of commitment to implement them. Coordination of the actions of diverse private, local, tribal, state and Federal parties is critical to success. This model exists in the MCR recovery plan that spans Washington and Oregon.

NOAA worked with the State of Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife to form a Sounding Board comprised of local stakeholders to help write and implement the MCR Steelhead Recovery Plan. In Washington, NMFS coordinated with the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, and the Washington Gorge Implementation Team to provide the local technical and stakeholder base to write and implement the MCR Steelhead Recovery Plan.

Recovery boards in Washington are sanctioned by the state and coordinated through the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. The Washington Gorge Implementation Team was developed in an area of the Middle Columbia where no recovery board exists. The Washington Gorge Implementation Team is comprised of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Yakama Nation, Klickitat County, and local stakeholders from the Washington Lead Entity Process, Conservation Districts, and various other state and local habitat and watershed organizations. The Walla Walla River contains the only MCR steelhead population located in both Washington and Oregon. Recovery of the Walla Walla steelhead population necessitates close coordination between the Snake River Recovery Board in Washington and the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council in Oregon.

The Middle Columbia River Forum, supported by both local and regional science teams, provides the organizational structure for communication and coordination of the recovery actions of these many players on a bi-state and multi-tribal level across the entire DPS. The Middle Columbia River Forum is guided by a Steering Committee made up of management unit leads, Executive Directors from the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board and the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, representatives from the Oregon and Washington governors' offices, NOAA Fisheries, Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian reservation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Klickitat County.

**5. Options listed from 1 to n:** N/A

**6. Preferred Recommendation:** N/A

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Record of Decision:

Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:

Assigned to:

Due Date: