

O'rielly Patti

From: CindyThieman <cindy@hooddriverswcd.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 10:26 AM
To: O'rielly Patti
Subject: DEQ Oregon Plan Monitoring Request (#122)

To: Oregon Ways & Means Sub-committee (ORiellP@leg.state.or.us)
Date: 4/4/2013

Dear Ways & Means Sub-committee

I am writing to support DEQ's Oregon Plan Monitoring Request (#122). The DEQ's aquatic biological monitoring program has been a critical component of the agency's efforts to evaluate and monitor the health of Oregon's streams. Information about the type and quantity of the organisms, be they fish or aquatic insects, living in a stream is key to understanding its health. DEQ's high quality biological monitoring program has generated solid baseline data, but needs to continue in order to track changes in stream health over time. Given the millions of dollars being spent on watershed restoration in the state, it is vital that we have high quality data to document success of our efforts and target basins that still need help.

I have worked with staff from this program for over 10 years and have always been impressed with the quality and significance of the work they accomplish. During my tenure with the Long Tom Watershed Council (southern Willamette Valley), we conducted an intensive macroinvertebrate monitoring program. DEQ monitoring staff provided invaluable support in helping to develop the study and analyze results. DEQ's support of watershed council monitoring projects like this leverages thousands of volunteer hours and enables community members to participate in collecting and understanding biological monitoring data.

Respectfully,

Cindy Thieman
Coordinator
Hood River Watershed Group