

Orielly Patti

From: Cindy Myers <cricks@currywatersheds.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 12:00 PM
To: Orielly Patti
Subject: policy option package WQ122

Dear Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee,

Watershed health is important to all Oregonians, and even those involved in activities that may pollute our waters need credible information for management decisions. I support the proposed statewide biomonitoring program because it will provide a link between land use activities and the condition of aquatic habitat, so critical for salmon and other species we depend on. Here on the South Coast of Oregon, we have found biomonitoring data and analyses to be extremely helpful in prioritizing technical and financial resources for restoration, contributing to project design (for example, is the habitat more affected by fine sediment or by elevated temperatures?), measuring project effectiveness, and educating citizens and landowners about links among management practices, water quality, food webs, and the salmon they care about.

In addition, having DEQ personnel in the biomonitoring program benefits watershed councils, agencies, tribes, and landowners, by managing a state database and providing technical advice on analysis of samples collected by grass roots groups at a finer scale than the state can afford. Thus, the funds that are spent by the state are then multiplied by these groups that are able to strategically fund restoration activities that will achieve the best aquatic conditions, as well as educate Oregonians.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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