

Charter of the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership

ESTABLISHMENT

The participating entities signing this Charter hereby establish the **Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP)** on September 3, 2004. The Charter entities include federal, state, and tribal governments with a common interest in coordinating monitoring efforts of watershed condition, fish population, and project effectiveness monitoring.

This Charter formally establishes the foundation of **PNAMP** including principles; structure and participation; business practices; and reporting.

BACKGROUND

Federal, state, tribal, local, and private aquatic monitoring programs in the Pacific Northwest have evolved independently in response to different organizational mandates, jurisdictional needs, issues and questions. Planning and coordination of federal, state and tribal monitoring activities have evolved slowly but steadily over the past ten years. In 2003 leaders of aquatic monitoring programs formed an alliance as the *ad hoc* Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (**PNAMP**) group. The geographic area of this coordination includes the Pacific Northwest region from Northern California to Canada where the participating entities are implementing monitoring efforts. The basis of this group is that monitoring will be improved if: all programs use consistent monitoring approaches and protocols; follow a scientific foundation; support monitoring policy and management objectives; and collect and present information in a manner that can be shared.

BENEFITS

PNAMP:

- Provides a forum to coordinate monitoring activities and develop common monitoring approaches.
- Acknowledges different mandates, jurisdictions, issues and questions of its partners.
- Focuses coordination effort on shared interests and needs.
- Coordinates programs and schedules to avoid duplication.
- Applies common guiding principles to provide significant support to policy and management with scientifically valid monitoring.
- Provides the framework for coordinated monitoring that each **PNAMP** partner may implement within its legal and jurisdictional boundaries.

- Partners decide their own individual management questions, which then guide development of **PNAMP** monitoring strategies.
- Partners will make reasonable efforts to incorporate **PNAMP** recommendations into their respective programs.
- Partners support the partnership through allocation of staff time to participate in **PNAMP** and by contributing resources for administration of the effort, as appropriate.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Resource Policy and Management: The purpose of monitoring efforts is to provide the most important scientific information needed to inform public policy and resource management decisions.
2. Efficiency and Effectiveness: Cooperative monitoring will enhance efficiencies and effectiveness of our respective and collective efforts.
3. Scientifically Based: Environmental monitoring must be scientifically sound.
4. Shared Information: Monitoring data must be accessible to all participants on a timely basis.

STRUCTURE AND PARTICIPATION

1. The structure of **PNAMP** will include existing **Executive** partners, a **Steering Committee**, and workgroups deemed warranted by the **Steering Committee**.
2. The **Executive** partners are the executives of participating federal, state, and tribal entities signing this Charter. The **Executive** partners will provide policy direction and support to **PNAMP** through the **Steering Committee** as needed.
3. The **Steering Committee** functions as an advisory group to the **Executive** partners.
4. The **Steering Committee** consists of an appointee for each partner signing the Charter, and workgroup leads. Appointees represent their respective **Executive** partners on matters of coordinated monitoring policy and planning.
5. The **Steering Committee** forms workgroups as needed to perform tasks consistent with **PNAMP**'s principles. The **Steering Committee** will solicit appropriate expertise for the workgroups.

ADMINISTRATION

1. The **Steering Committee** will establish procedures for setting meeting times, developing agendas, communications, selecting leadership of workgroups, making and completing work assignments, and making and publishing Committee products (See **PNAMP Business Practices**).
2. The **Steering Committee** will oversee establishment and administration of the **PNAMP** coordination function.
3. The **Steering Committee** will function as an advisory group to the executive partners regarding decisions needed for the achievement of **PNAMP** goals and strategies. In addition, the Steering Committee will serve as a vehicle for communicating executive partner decisions.
4. The **Steering Committee** will develop proposals for annual funding and staff support for consideration by **Executive** partners each year.
5. The **PNAMP** Charter will be reviewed periodically as the **Steering Committee** or the **Executive** partners deems appropriate.

REPORTING

1. The **Steering Committee** will complete a written report annually to the **Executive** partners on development and implementation of activities in support of **PNAMP**'s strategic objectives.
2. The **Steering Committee** will make recommendations as needed to **Executive** partners in a timely manner.
3. Workgroups will report to the **Steering Committee** as needed.



Signatory



Name and Agency