



STREAMNET WORK PLAN BRIEFING

Fiscal Years 2007 – 2009

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Foreword

The following pages describe the status of the revised fiscal year 2007-2009 Statement of Work for the StreamNet project, as of November 30, 2006. It's our understanding that a decision will be made at the January Council meeting. This briefing is provided for your information during the December Council meeting.

Background

The StreamNet project has been the only source of regionally standardized, geo-referenced fish data from the Columbia River Basin for almost 20 years. The project is funded through the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) Fish and Wildlife Program and is administered by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. We serve as a neutral broker for disseminating scientifically-based, regionally standardized data to the Columbia Basin region with primary emphasis on the raw data used by the region's fish management agencies to support ongoing management programs.

StreamNet is committed to the goal of universal data discovery and dissemination. StreamNet's GIS data are already available through the national Geospatial One Stop portal (www.geodata.gov) and we are participating in development of the Northwest Environmental Data-network Portal. StreamNet is also a node on the National Biological Information Infrastructure. We stand committed to assisting the Columbia region achieve a consolidated, coordinated approach to data management and dissemination.

BPA tentatively funded the 2007-2009 StreamNet project at its 2006 level, pending further review and decisions by the NPCC. Based on recommendation by the Mainstem Systemwide Review Team (MSRT), the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority sponsored a data workshop on Sept. 20-21, 2006 to review the project and recommend priorities.

Our efforts to craft a revised 2007-2009 Statement of Work for the StreamNet Project are ongoing. Our approach is to use the summarized comments provided from the Data Workshop, and the individual and shared perspectives of the StreamNet cooperators about the guidance provided by all those in attendance. This approach recognizes that the Data Workshop did not result in consensus on critical StreamNet tasks or assign priorities to the tasks discussed. While we believe the majority of the work plan is in final stages of development, a few final choices remain among ongoing and new work. Ultimately, the work items included in the work plan submitted to the Council will reflect the StreamNet cooperators good-faith attempt to meet regional needs.

The set of work items described in this document reflects our understanding of important regional needs based on the summarized comments provided from the Data Workshop. Prior to the January Council meeting, the StreamNet Steering Committee will continue to pursue consensus on project priorities and will submit a final Executive Summary of our proposal, along with a more detailed introductory document and work plan outline for Council consideration.

Work Plan Considerations and Potential Direction

The following list of potential work plan tasks reflects the discussions and guidance from the Data Workshop, as described in the draft Data Workshop Summary.

1. Improve data coverage and services (especially tribes and natural resource agencies)

StreamNet will contact tribes and state and federal natural resource agencies to determine their data holdings, data management capabilities, and interest in regional data sharing.

Work in the pilot subbasins may facilitate these contacts. Plans to acquire data will be developed based on interest and capabilities. Data acquisition may be dependent on other funding proposals to provide adequate data management capability to the tribal programs.

2. Improve data timeliness

StreamNet partners will work within their agencies to explore means to automate data flow, demonstrating how applications and systems can assist internal data management and speed external data transfer. The project will explore means of improving or automating data flow from the source agencies to the StreamNet database. We will also explore capturing provisional data that could be provided to appropriate agencies or programs before the data become “official” for release by the agency.

3. Assess data/services to support future subbasin planning, the current set of draft core and/or high level indicators, or other regional monitoring and evaluation programs

StreamNet will work with NPCC staff and regional scale programs, beginning in the pilot watersheds, to determine long term data management needs and to plan for a hierarchical data system to serve future planning efforts. This effort will move forward on an opportunistic basis until the next round of subbasin planning.

4. Acquire population scale fish abundance indicators

StreamNet will collaborate with ongoing efforts such as the Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Program, the Collaborative System-wide Monitoring and Evaluation Project (CSMEP), and the Intensively Monitored Watersheds to acquire abundance and productivity data necessary for calculation of high level indicators in select pilot subbasins or watersheds. We will develop means of acquiring, standardizing to a regional format and disseminating these data. Where available in the pilot watersheds, StreamNet will capture existing population scale fish abundance and productivity estimates and make them available with necessary metadata.

Other work being contemplated for inclusion in the work plan reflects additional workshop recommendations: These include:

- Quality assurance documentation
- Metadata services
- PNAMP monitoring effort
- CSMEP data support
- Support for the Status of the Resource Report

Data Types

The Revised StreamNet Work Plan Proposal will contain a detailed list of data types that StreamNet has been asked to provide or has provided in the past. To perform the new work requested at the data workshop under level funding, however, it will be necessary to drop or defer work on several existing data types. Also, new types of data have been requested, but addressing them would require additional funding or dropping additional existing data types. These tradeoffs will be described in the final StreamNet Work Plan Proposal.

Funding Options

During the review process, the MSRT combined all StreamNet proposals and recommended a total FY-07 budget amount of \$2,500,000. Table 1 describes potential work plan items at the funding level recommended by the MSRT, and based on guidance from the Data Workshop and subsequent discussions by StreamNet cooperators. Discussions underway are focused on how those tasks would change if the project were only funded at 2006 levels (\$2,261,033). It is important to keep in mind that the initial StreamNet submission for the 2007-2009 solicitation was for a FY-07 base level of \$2,901,154 that included additional work to develop tribal data, fish barrier, water diversions and screening, and increased resident fish data and to increase focus on data development and data automation tools. The project also submitted four additional proposals for development of specific data types as follows: Data to support restoration planning (including CSMEP work); Hatchery releases by location; Harvest (comprehensive); and Habitat restoration project tracking. These data types and other work will be considered in discussions of the final work plan tasks.

Table 1. Potential StreamNet work. This list is provided as work to prioritize.

MSRT Recommended Funding Level		
New	Pilots to develop population-level abundance and productivity data.	
	Work with tribes to identify data flow and transfer capabilities and needs.	
	Explore availability of fisheries data from federal natural resource agencies.	
	Determine means to increase timeliness of data development, including improved data flow in agencies, improved processes in StreamNet, and through increased automation of data flow.	
	Work with regional entities to identify future subbasin planning data needs.	
	Formally document StreamNet's quality assurance processes, initially in pilot basins.	
	Expand development of metadata, initially in pilot basins.	
Continue	Continue most data development, data services and library services from past years, except for data types dropped or deferred, as described in the work plan.	
Additional Options	Begin capture of tribal data.	
	Work closely with the CBFWA Status of the Resource Project to help obtain access to information needed by that project	
	Begin working with a select group of projects within the Fish and Wildlife Program to develop methods and tools to efficiently transfer information from BPA funded projects to the StreamNet database, or assist in making their data web accessible.	

	Support PNAMP monitoring effort.
	Restore work to develop hatchery release data by release location.
	Harvest, inclusive (freshwater, estuary & marine; sport & commercial).
	Habitat restoration project tracking (comprehensive, region wide).
	Pick up annual production of <i>Columbia Fish Runs and Fisheries</i> report, which has been dropped by the agencies.
	Assistance to CSMEP for data inventories by subbasin.
	Expand resident fish data compilation.
	Other specific data types as listed in the table in the draft work plan.