2010 Columbia River Estuary Conference: Adaptive Management of Ecological Restoration

Introduction

Gary E. Johnson Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Background

- Restoration activities are accelerating.
- Restoration strategies and project selection and prioritization processes are maturing.
- Research on critical uncertainties and action effectiveness is advancing the knowledge base.
- Adaptive management frameworks are in place.
- To maximize cost-effectiveness and biological performance, it's time for routine and deliberate adaptive management of the LCRE ecological restoration effort.

Theme and Purpose

- Bringing together project leaders, program managers, and research scientists to share lessons from ecological restoration and endangered species recovery in the lower Columbia River and estuary (LCRE).
- Provide a forum to develop recommendations for future application of lessons learned from research, monitoring, and restoration of ecosystems in the LCRE.

Previous Events

- 1999 Biological Integrity Workshop
- > 2001 Habitat Conservation and Restoration Workshop
- > 2003 Research Needs Workshop
- 2006 -- Conference on Research, Monitoring, and Restoration in the Lower Columbia River, Estuary, and Nearshore Ocean
- 2008 Conference on Ecosystem Restoration

Format and Documentation

- Invited and contributed talks over six sessions over two days.
- Speaker/audience discussion periods at the end of each session.
- Panelists in Session 1 return for Session 6 to identify lessons learned and recommendations.
- Posters upstairs in the MacTavish Room
- Conference proceedings (notes, abstracts, power point presentations) – available summer 2010.

Acknowledgments

Sponsors

- Bonneville Power Administration
- Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce
- Corps of Engineers, Portland District
- Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership
- Oregon Dept. Land Conservation and Devel.

- Steering Committee
 - Jeff Breckel (LCFRB)
 - Catherine Corbett (LCREP)
 - Heida Diefenderfer and Gary Johnson (PNNL)
 - Blaine Ebberts (COE)
 - Marcy Foster and Tracey Yerxa and (BPA)
 - Scott McEwen (CLT)
 - Patty O'Toole (NPCC)
 - Micah Russell (CREST)
 - Cathy Tortorici (NOAA)

Conference Coordinator: Kathi Ruiz (PNNL) with assistance from Wendy Hovey (LCREP)

Let's not just talk about adaptive management of ecological restoration, let's really do it!