

Nick Fish, Commissioner Michael Stuhr, P.E., Administrator

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#### IMPACT STATEMENT

Date:

January 15, 2016

**Council Date:** 

February 24, 2016

**Legislation Title:** 

Authorize the Water Bureau to execute a Collection Agreement with

the U. S. Forest Service for \$200,000 to fund juvenile fish monitoring activities required by the Bull Run Water Supply Habitat Conservation

Plan (Ordinance)

**Contact Name:** 

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**Contact Phone:** 

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**Presenter Name:** 

Steve Kucas

# Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The Water Bureau has worked with federal, state, local government agencies and a non-governmental organization called the Sandy River Basin Partners to develop the Bull Run Water Supply Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The Water Bureau completed a five year Collection Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in 2015 for juvenile fish monitoring and is requesting to enter into a new Collection Agreement with the USFS to partially fund the staffing and operation of rotary fish traps and to provide for necessary supplies in the Upper Sandy River Basin for the purposes of juvenile fish monitoring.

The HCP was approved by City Council through Ordinance No. 182235 and was formally approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in April 2009. The HCP was created to bring the City of Portland (City) in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act for impacts due to operating the water supply facilities in the Bull Run watershed. The HCP is a 50-year plan to protect and improve aquatic habitat in and around the Bull Run River while continuing to manage the Bull Run watershed as a water supply for the City. The HCP commits the City to provide funding each year to support juvenile fish monitoring.

The HCP served as the official application for a federal Incidental Take Permit under the Endangered Species Act. The NMFS granted the City an Incidental Take Permit for its water supply operations in spring 2009 on the basis of the restoration commitments described in the

HCP. The HCP also contains a Temperature Management Plan that describes specific actions for addressing the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act.

Implementation of the projects defined in the HCP allows the City to comply with the Federal Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act.

#### Financial and budgetary impacts:

The funds will be distributed to the USFS for a period of five years beginning in FY 2015-16. The total amount of the Collection Agreement will not exceed \$200,000. Funding of \$38,011 is available in the FY 2015-16 Budget. The remaining funds of \$161,989 will be requested in the FY 2016-17 through FY 2019-20 Budgets.

### Community impacts and community involvement:

Project impacts of the HCP include financial impacts to the rate-payers of the Water Bureau and construction impacts from some measures on communities in the Sandy River Basin, where HCP projects will occur. Positive impacts include habitat improvements in the lower Bull Run River and Sandy River Basin benefitting anadromous fish and other species, and long-term regulatory compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act for Portland's drinking water utility.

Since 2002, the Water Bureau and NMFS have conducted multiple forms of public involvement related to the HCP as described below.

- 1) From 2002 to 2008, the Water Bureau communicated with key stakeholders and the public about its application for an Incidental Take Permit, namely the draft HCP. The Water Bureau staff completed the following:
  - Presented or met with six local government agencies 10 times.
  - Engaged 10 national and local non-profit organizations in discussions about the HCP.
  - Presented to seven community, civic and advisory organizations.
  - Conducted additional public education and outreach activities consisting of:
    - four educational events about the HCP and the effects of the drinking water system on salmon (118 participants);
    - 71 water supply facility tours during which information on the HCP was presented (approx. 1,400 participants);
    - three public open houses on the HCP (approx. 45 participants); and,
    - Sent out information on the HCP to 171,000 households and 15,000 commercial accounts (three separate times, as inserts in water bills).

- 2) As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the NMFS conducted a public comment process for the draft HCP and the accompanying Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This involved:
  - Two formal scoping meetings held in June 2006; 15 members of the public attended.
  - Two formal public comment meetings held in May 2008; 21 members of the public attended.
  - An extended 60-day public comment period; 14 comment letters were received.

Organizations and agencies that participated in the public involvement activities include:

- \* Portland Business Alliance
- \* Water Bureau Wholesale Customers
- \* Portland Large Water Users Coalition
- \* City of Troutdale
- \* City of Gresham
- \* East Multnomah SWCD
- \* Clackamas County Commission
- \* Multnomah County
- \* National Marine Fisheries Service
- \* Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- \* Oregon Trout
- \* Sandy Basin Watershed Council
- \* U.S. Forest Service
- \* U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- \* American Rivers
- \* NW Steelheaders Sandy Chapter
- \* Frank Gearhart
- \* Ed Hopper
- \* Oregon Natural Resource Council
- \* Multnomah County Commission
- \* State Representatives:
- Dingfelder, Metzger, Smith, Minnis

- \* Columbia Corridor Association
- \* Portland Utility Review Board
- \* Bull Run Community Planning Org.
- \* City of Sandy
- \* Metro Council
- \* Oregon Congressional Delegation
- \* Clackamas County
- \* The Nature Conservancy
- \* Northwest Steelheaders
- \* Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality
- \* Portland General Electric
- \* Bureau of Land Management
- \* Mt. Hood National Forest
- \* Western Rivers Conservancy
- \* Trout Unlimited
- \* Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe
- \* Citizens Interested in Bull Run, Inc.
- \* The Resort at the Mountain
- \* Council Native Fish Society
- \* Clackamas County SWCD

The proposed HCP was shaped over a 10 year planning process with the participation of a wide range of non-governmental agencies, public agencies and community interest groups. These groups provided key input that directly influenced the proposed set of measures the Water Bureau included in the proposed HCP which was then evaluated by NMFS through NEPA.

Per the requirements of NEPA, NMFS was required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to examine the proposed HCP. One of the key steps in the EIS process was NMFS's consultation with the public to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the EIS. When the EIS and draft HCP were completed, there was an announcement and a public review and comment period for that draft.

NMFS received 14 comment letters and these comments were addressed when determining the environmental impacts of the final HCP. The public involvement process for the HCP was conducted according to the regulations outlined in the NEPA and was conducted by NMFS.

Additional public involvement was designed and conducted by Water Bureau Public Involvement staff and consisted of community education, watershed tours, community events, presentations to local special interest, neighborhood and community groups and agencies, and media outreach.

## **Budgetary Impact Worksheet**

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Michael Stuhr, P.E., Administrator		
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APPROPRIATION UNIT HEAD (Typed name and signature)