

Summary

Meeting dates: August 2-3, 2013

Agenda Item: Instream Flow Briefing

Presenter: Hal Beecher, Water Team Section Manager, Habitat Program

Background summary:

Instream flows are legally protected (state or federal law) water rights for the state to protect fish and other instream resources, including riparian habitat and wildlife. Instream flows also provide benchmarks for flow restoration. Without sufficient water in streams, other stream and riparian conservation measures are not effective, so instream flows are fundamental to stream, riparian, and estuarine conservation. With growth of human use of water, as well as climate change, instream resources must be protected if we are to continue to enjoy natural resources and environments.

WDFW instream flow staff (Water Science Team) works with Ecology and others to protect and restore instream flows by (i) water right application review and recommendation (RCW 77.57.020); (ii) technical assistance for setting instream flows (RCW 90.22, 90.54, 90.82); recommending instream flows as conditions of federal hydropower licenses and water quality certifications; (iii) restoring instream flows through trust water right agreements (RCW 90.38, 90.42); and (iv) developing the science to develop and support instream flow recommendations.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

N/A

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

N/A

Action requested:

N/A

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications Plan:

N/A
