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Subject: TMDL Challenges in Pacific Northwest

Date: 2013/04/22 11:45:51 Start Date: 2013/04/23 15:30:00 End Date: 2013/04/23 16:30:00

Priority: Normal

Type: Schedule.Meeting.Request

Location: 5204-S

Attendees: Boozer, Astor - NRCS, Washington, DC; Alvarado, Ron - NRCS, Portland, OR; Gay, Laura - NRCS, Portland, OR

When: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 3:30 PM-4:30 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: 5204-S

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

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Background:

- Some environmental advocates in the Pacific Northwest want regulatory requirements on non-point sources. Fundamental to engagement from advocacy organizations is ongoing skepticism that agriculture is doing its part to meet water quality objectives. Litigants were recently successful in their effort to vacate the temperature criteria used as the basis for load allocations and waste load allocations in TMDLs. In addition, litigants have also notified EPA Region 10 of their concern about non-point source requirements as they relate to the use of restoration in trading programs – specifically, litigants believe agricultural landowners should be required to make reductions and therefore there is no opportunity to generate credits for trade.
- Our thesis, and what we hope to demonstrate through applied cooperation with state agencies and NRCS is that significantly more reductions are occurring than are being documented in units advocates use to keep score.
- Given the resources currently spent on conservation practices, we think it is demonstrable that more reductions are being achieved from grant and voluntary

investments than the agriculture sector is given credit for simply because those reductions are not being counted in units that match TMDL requirements.

• In Oregon between \$50-60 million is invested in riparian activity through various voluntary grant and incentive based conservation programs. Preliminary analysis shows that an investment of just ~\$4 million per year in the Upper Willamette Basin (a major Oregon watershed), if correctly quantified, would demonstrate nonpoint sources are meeting 100% of their share of that basin's TMDL goals within 20 years. A remarkably encouraging figure in stark contrast to what many environmental advocates believe.

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Miles, Deborah - NRCS, Washington, DC </D=MMS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP **Sender:** (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=MILES, DEBORAH - WAF5C5D941-1D4E-47C3-B4E2-D9A7F87C501A>

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Sent Date: 2013/04/22 11:45:50 **Delivered Date:** 2013/04/22 11:45:51