

species of salmonids do not apply to routine road maintenance activities of a state, county, city or port that complies with a program that is substantially similar to that contained in the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Routine Road Maintenance Water Quality and Habitat Guide Best Management Practices (Guide, July 1999), and that is determined to meet or exceed the protections provided in the ODOT Guide. NMFS may approve a routine road maintenance program of any state, city, county or port that contains management practices that are equivalent to or better than those in the ODOT Guide. Prior to final approval of a routine road maintenance program, NMFS must publish notification in the **Federal Register** announcing the program's availability for public review and comment.

The City of Portland RMP submittal includes a cover letter addressed to D. Robert Lohn, Regional Administrator of NMFS, and a statement of commitment from the City of Portland to implement the RMP. In Part 1, the RMP provides the responsible entity and legal authority for the program and provides a description of the program, including a comparison with ODOT's best management practices. In Part 2, the RMP provides a description of the geographic area to which the program applies, including an analysis of the environmental baseline of the watersheds of the lower Columbia River and the lower Willamette River, and tributaries to the Willamette River within the City of Portland. Part 2 also includes maps and tables that depict various habitat parameters such as culverts that block fish passage, riparian condition, and water quality condition. In Part 3, the RMP describes the listed species distribution and status, including distribution maps for steelhead and chinook. The RMP also provides information on fish use within lower Willamette River and its tributary. A bibliography of relevant reports are provided in Part 4. In Part 5, the RMP makes an affirmative conclusion that the program is substantially similar to or better than ODOT's program, and summarizes the training, monitoring, and reporting elements of the RMP.

The RMP defines what activities are routine road maintenance. These consist of maintenance activities that are conducted on currently serviceable structures, facilities, and equipment, involve no expansion of or change in use, and do not result in significant negative hydrological impact. The City of Portland best management practices (Part 1b) includes three activities that differ from ODOT's. Best management

practices for surface work, sweeping/flushing, and snow/ice removal/sanding differ from ODOT's best management practices. The RMP provides information to support the assertion that the City of Portland's practices for these activities are as effective or more effective than ODOT's practices at protecting fish and their habitat. Approval or disapproval of the RMP will depend on NMFS findings after public review and comment.

Authority

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce is required to adopt such regulations as he deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) rule (65 FR 424222, July 10, 2000) identifies specific categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. The rule further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the rule do not apply to activities associated with routine road maintenance provided that a state or local program has been approved by NMFS to be in accordance with the salmon and steelhead 4(d) rule (65 FR 424222, July 10, 2000).

Dated: April 28, 2003.

Phil Williams,

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No.: 000616180-3103-07]

RIN 0648-ZA91

NOAA Climate and Global Change Program, Program Announcement

AGENCY: Office of Global Programs, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Climate and Global Change Program represents a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) contribution to evolving national and international programs designed to improve our ability to observe, understand, predict, and respond to changes in the global environment. This program builds on NOAA's mission requirements and long-

standing capabilities in global change research and prediction. The NOAA Program is a key contributing element of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), which is coordinated by the interagency Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources. NOAA's program is designed to complement other agencies' contributions to that national effort.

All proposals must be submitted in accordance with the requirements below. Failure to heed these guidelines will result in proposals being returned without review.

DATES: Unless otherwise noted, strict deadlines for submission to the FY 2004 process are: Full Proposals must be received at the Office of Global Programs no later than 5 p.m. EDT 60 Business Days after the Announcement appears in the **Federal Register**. Letters of Intent should be received at the Office of Global Programs no later than 5 p.m. EDT 20 Business Days after the Announcement appears in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Full Proposals must be submitted to: NOAA Office of Global Programs; 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1210; Silver Spring, MD 20910-5603. It is important to note that Full Proposals may not be submitted via facsimile or e-mail.

General Information Contact: Diane Brown at the above address, or diane.brown@noaa.gov 301-427-2089 ext. 107, fax: 301-427-2222.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Funding Availability

NOAA believes that the Climate and Global Change Program will benefit significantly from a strong partnership with outside investigators. Please be advised that actual funding levels will depend upon the final FY 2004 budget appropriations. In FY 2002, approximately \$6,000,000 in first year funding was available for approximately 60 new awards.

This Program Announcement is for projects to be conducted by investigators outside the Federal Government, primarily over a one-, two- or three-year period. The NOAA Climate and Global Change Program has been approved for multi-year funding up to a three-year duration. The funding instrument for awards will be a grant unless it is anticipated that NOAA will be substantially involved in the implementation of the project, in which case the funding instrument should be a cooperative agreement. Examples of substantial involvement may include, but are not limited to, proposals for collaboration between NOAA or NOAA