

Executive Summary

This Executive Summary is intended to highlight some of the main issues and initiatives discussed in greater detail in the Regional Plan, which covers our work priorities through 2008.

Goal 1: Clean Air and Global Climate Change: All historical areas designated nonattainment for violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) have come into attainment. In addition, based on the most recent three years of ambient air quality data, there are no violations of the current PM_{2.5} and 8-hour ozone NAAQS. Facing projections for continued dramatic population growth with its concomitant increase in motor vehicle emissions, the Region is focusing on air toxic and particulate matter impacts from diesel.¹ The Region is also focusing on significant human health related air quality issues involving smoke from various burning activities including prescribed burning of forest residues after harvest and burning from our large agricultural sector. In 2003, the Region underwent an intensive effort involving more than 200 stakeholders to develop eight regional air quality priorities on which the Region will focus resources in the upcoming years.

Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water: Of the many factors that significantly influence the water program, Tribal interests, protection of endangered species (and resultant lawsuits), and a heightened need for watershed protection are paramount. We work closely with Tribes to protect and restore their extensive usual and accustomed fishing areas. Because the region is home to the majority of endangered salmonid and trout species listed in the United States, endangered species concerns are a major focus of water quality management. Consultation with resource protection agencies, states and Tribes on water program issues such as water quality standard reviews, permit reissuance, and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) approval is a high priority activity for Region 10.

Region 10 is increasingly reliant on water program integration. We are focusing on the integration of standards, permits, TMDLs, nonpoint source, and monitoring activities in specific geographic areas. We have also developed sector approaches for our most prevalent industrial sectors including oil & gas, mining, forestry, and agriculture (our sector approach is discussed under goal 4).

We are increasingly targeting our grants resources towards key strategic priorities and objectives. Region 10 is the only region to have 100% of our states using integrated priority setting processes to make Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund decisions. Ninety-one percent of Region 10 community water systems are meeting all health-based standards.

The Region is a national leader in the development of TMDLs. Region 10 has also taken the unusual initiative to create guidance for temperature water quality standards. This guidance was the culmination of significant negotiations with states, tribes and federal resource protection services. Meeting temperature standards in watersheds, however, is not a short term goal. We rely heavily on integrating the activities of the water programs with our external partners to attaining water quality standards. Strategic deployment of state-based operations office and field based personnel to continue to strengthen relationships and leverage opportunities with our external partners.

We are concerned, however, that the current watershed subobjective goal to demonstrate rapid recovery will be difficult to reach in Region 10 because of the long time frame required to deal with temperature and sediment problems, both of which have a huge negative impact on meeting CWA beneficial uses. To meet this challenge, we are integrating EPA's water programs and leveraging

¹Diesel and forestry and agricultural burning are one of the Region 10's Six Priorities (see Region 10's Six Priorities document). It is also one of the four joint planning initiatives Region 10 is conducting with the States of Idaho, Oregon and Washington (see the Appendix in this plan).

opportunities with our external partners.

Goal 3: Land Preservation and Restoration: Region 10 continues to make progress at some extremely complicated long-term clean up sites such as Bunker Hill, the Lower Duwamish Waterway, Commencement Bay, the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and Portland Harbor. In addition, we will continue to complete rapid cleanup actions at smaller sites and prepare for final cleanup at others. We are committed to attaining cleanup progress at all sites. In all endeavors, we will work in partnership with the states, tribes, and local governments.

Clean-up of contaminated sites is a priority for the Region.² Region 10 will continue to support waste management and clean-up program goals and objectives outlined in the national plan. Of the Region's 95 Superfund sites, 60 have been cleaned up and deleted from the National Priorities List or have all achieved construction completion and are undergoing long-term remediation. The Region anticipates being able to meet the 2005 strategic targets for RCRA clean-ups, however there is not much margin for delay or unanticipated problems.

In addition to corrective action and clean-up, the Region is committed to overseeing the implementation of the waste programs. Additionally, Region 10 has direct implementation of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste program in Alaska.

Goal 4: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems: Region 10's approach to sustaining and supporting communities and ecosystem protection goes beyond the national strategic targets. The Region has invested extensively in collaborative outreach and partnership-based approaches. This investment is evident even in our organization structure: we have operations offices in each of our four states, place-based staff located in target communities throughout the region, and staff dedicated to tribal work. The broad approach required by Goal 4 is reflected in the wide range of EPA programs described under the Goal including: Wetlands, Brownfields, Pesticides, Community Involvement, the National Estuary Program, Toxics Release Inventory, PCBs, Lead, Asbestos, Environmental Justice, Smart Growth, and others.

Goal 4 describes the Region's comprehensive, cross-media, partnership approach to solving environmental problems. The Region recognizes importance of pursuing integrated ecosystem approaches. Three of the Region's Priorities focus on cross-program, cooperative, ecosystem protection: the Columbia River Basin, the Coeur d'Alene Basin, and Alaska Oil and Gas. The Columbia River Basin Initiative, for example, is working to protect public health, aid in the recovery of Pacific salmon, meet water quality standards, reduce sources of toxic contamination, and improve habitat quality. These efforts require close coordination within EPA as well as vibrant partnerships with States, Tribes, communities and other agencies.

Goal 5: Compliance and Environmental Stewardship: Region 10 is in the process of reorganizing to create the Office of Compliance and Enforcement to better align our work with the national programs, and to provide coordinated direction of our enforcement resources. The Region is interested in pursuing innovative solutions for compliance and enforcement, as is exemplified with our joint planning work with the States of Idaho, Oregon and Washington on the Permitting and Compliance Initiative.

Region 10 is home to almost half of all the federally recognized Tribes in the United States. The concerns of the 271 Tribes in our Region affect all aspects of environmental management, human health and resource protection. We are committed to working with the tribes to develop tribal infrastructure and to provide technical support and direct implementation, where appropriate. Extensive discussion of our

²Clean up of Contaminated sites is one of Region 10's Six Priorities.

proposed work can be found in Goal 5.3 and in the Tribal Health component of Region 10's Six Priorities.

We are committed to pollution prevention and waste minimization in both the public and private sectors. Region 10 is focusing its innovation work in two ways: working more effectively with states to support our innovation partnership and driving innovation more fully into core programs. Our principal innovation activities geared towards supporting our innovation partnership with states will be launching four ECOS Innovation Projects, providing funding through the State Innovation Grants program and brokering requests for support through the Regional Innovation Council. Emphasis areas for core program innovations are market-based incentives, permit innovations and adoption of Environmental Management Systems.

