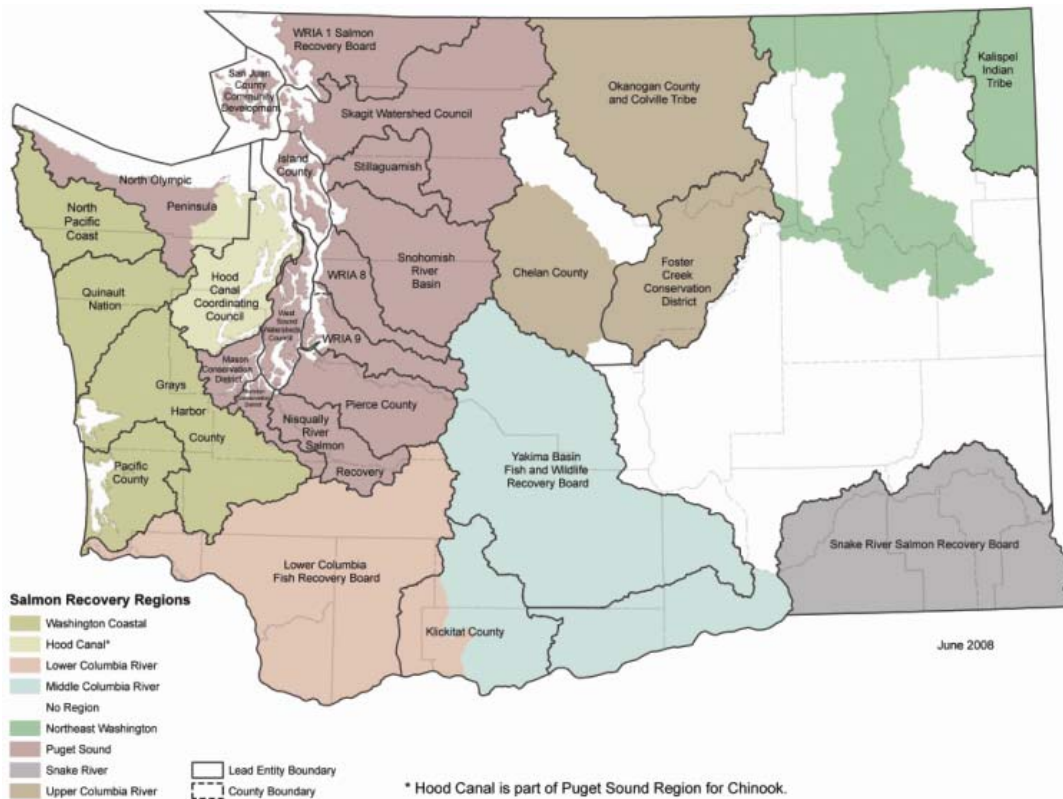




Executive Summary

Salmon Recovery Plan Implementation

A Report on High-Priority State and Federal Actions Needed to Implement Salmon Recovery Plans





SECTION 1

Introduction

Background and Purpose

This report provides information on state and federal actions that are a high priority to implement salmon recovery plans in the 2007–09 and 2009–11 biennia.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has approved regional recovery plans for Washington’s salmon and steelhead populations listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). These plans were developed and are being implemented through open, collaborative processes led by regional salmon recovery organizations. These partnerships of local and tribal governments and citizens are working with federal and state governments to restore salmon and steelhead to a healthy status that supports de-listing under the ESA, as well as sustainable fisheries.

Regional salmon recovery organizations are working with the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and other partners, transitioning from writing plans to implementing them. Regional organizations use implementation schedules to provide information about actions, sequencing, timelines, estimated costs, and responsibilities for actions.

The implementation schedules are a key tool for monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management of the regional recovery plans.

Implementation schedules contain high-priority actions necessary to achieve goals laid out in the recovery plans. Some of these actions are the responsibility of state and federal agencies, and involve continuation, modification or expansion of programs and activities now in place. In addition, local and tribal governments, special purpose districts and private sector organizations have responsibilities in recovery plans.

The primary purpose of GSRO is to coordinate and assist in development, implementation and revision of regional salmon recovery plans, ensuring a coordinated and consistent approach to salmon recovery. GSRO also is to report specific needs identified in regional recovery plans for state agency actions, as well as work with federal agencies on implementation of federal commitments in recovery plans.



SECTION 2

Implementation of Recovery Plans

Statewide Framework

The statewide strategy to recover salmon is organized around eight regions (see cover map). These regions were delineated to correspond to Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) and Distinct Population Segments (DPSs) which are the scale at which salmon and steelhead are listed under the ESA. Salmon recovery regions are also recognized in the Salmon Recovery Act (Chapter 77.85 RCW).

There are significant distinctions among the salmon recovery regions and salmon recovery organizations within them. These include:

- The Puget Sound Partnership, established as a state agency in 2007, replaced the Shared Strategy for Puget Sound Salmon Recovery as the regional salmon recovery organization for this region. The Partnership has released a Puget Sound Action Agenda that incorporates the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan.
- The Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership was established in 2007 as the regional organization for the Washington Coast region. A recovery plan for Lake Ozette sockeye is nearing completion. Development will begin soon on a salmon plan for the entire Washington Coast region.
- The Northwest Washington region has ESA-listed bull trout, but has neither a regional salmon recovery organization nor recovery plan.

Seven regional salmon recovery organizations have been recognized, as allowed by the Salmon Recovery Act (Chapter 77.85.090 RCW):

- Three are recognized in statute: the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, Puget Sound Partnership and Hood Canal Coordinating Council.
- Four have been recognized by GSRO: Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board and Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership.

NOAA Fisheries has approved six regional recovery plans developed by these organizations. Common elements in these plans include:

- Status assessments of ESA-listed fish populations and their freshwater habitat;
- Biological objectives to meet science-based criteria for viable populations and ESA de-listing;
- Strategies and actions for achieving biological objectives, with an emphasis on actions to achieve measurable habitat improvements;
- Commitments to developing implementation schedules;
- Commitments to monitoring and evaluating results; and
- An adaptive management process with check-ins to report progress and revise the plan as needed.

TABLE 1
Regional Salmon Recovery Plan
Timeframes and Cost Estimates from Recovery Plans (August 2008)

Region	Regional Organization	Plan Approved ¹	Listed Species Covered	Plan Timeframe	Total Cost Estimate ²
Upper Columbia	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	October 2007	UC spring Chinook UC steelhead	10-30 years	\$526 million
Middle Columbia	Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board ³	May 2006	MC steelhead	15 years	\$211 million
Snake River	Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	March 2006	SR Chinook MC steelhead SR steelhead	15 years	\$115 million
Lower Columbia	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	February 2006	LC Chinook LC coho LC chum LC steelhead	25 years	\$545 million ⁴
Washington Coast	Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership ⁵	NA	Lake Ozette Sockeye	10-12 years	\$46 million
Hood Canal (summer chum)	Hood Canal Coordinating Council	May 2007	HC summer chum	12 years	\$136 million
Puget Sound (Chinook)	Puget Sound Partnership	June 2006	PS Chinook	50 years	\$1.4 billion ⁶

Total \$3.1 billion⁷

- ¹ Recovery plan approval date is the date of formal plan adoption or approval as interim recovery plan by NOAA Fisheries.
- ² Estimates of total cost reflect regional variations in scope of plans, level of detail, and regional relationships to existing and potential fund sources.
- ³ Yakima Basin organization and recovery plan do not cover entire Middle Columbia region. A draft plan for this area (WRIA 30/31) has been developed by NOAA Fisheries. Total plan cost is only for Yakima Basin recovery plan.
- ⁴ Total plan cost for Lower Columbia does not include costs for protection and restoration of lower Columbia River mainstem and estuary.
- ⁵ Washington Coast is developing a regional plan. Thus, plan cost estimates are for Lake Ozette sockeye plan scheduled for adoption 12/08.
- ⁶ Recovery plan for Puget Sound Steelhead is under consideration and costs are not reflected in this information.
- ⁷ Costs of plan implementation reflected here do not necessarily correspond or equate to relative regional benefits to fish populations, ESUs or DPSs of specific investments in recovery plan implementation.

Regional organizations, in partnership with NOAA Fisheries, state and federal agencies, local and tribal governments, lead entities, and other stakeholders, provided leadership and coordination for creation of the recovery plans. In areas where regional salmon recovery organizations are not established (Lake Ozette and the Klickitat/Rock Glade Water Resource Inventory Area), NOAA Fisheries developed recovery plans in consultation with local and state partners and stakeholders.

The recovery planning process for bull trout is different. Unlike the salmon recovery plans, which were written by regional organizations in consultation with NOAA Fisheries, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is in charge of writing bull trout recovery plans. However, USFWS has agreed to consider provisions included in Washington's recovery plans as it completes writing of federal plans.

Recovery Plan Implementation Schedules

Each regional salmon recovery plan calls for monitoring progress toward meeting goals as part of an adaptive management process. An important tool in this effort is an *implementation schedule*. The implementation schedule provides details on responsibilities, tasks, sequence, and costs for actions. It is a flexible tool that can be revised without the formal processes required for an adopted recovery plan.

All regional salmon recovery organizations are using an initial implementation schedule to coordinate implementation of their plan. There is considerable variation in the detail included in individual implementation schedules and in the approach for using them to track and report progress.

TABLE 2
Regional Salmon Recovery Plan Implementation Schedules (IS)
Timeframes and Cost Estimates Based on Recovery Plans and Regional IS (August 2008)

Region	Regional Organization	IS Timeframe	IS Total Cost in Timeframe	Habitat Project Costs¹	Habitat Project Funding 2007-09²
Upper Columbia	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	3 years	\$75 million	\$50 million	\$18 million
Middle Columbia	Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board ³	5 years	\$92 million	\$22 million	\$11 million
Snake River	Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	3 years	\$36 million	\$19 million	\$15 million
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Washington Coast⁵	Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	NA	NA	\$19 million	\$7 million
Hood Canal (summer Chum)	Hood Canal Coordinating Council	3 years	\$69 million	\$32 million	\$51 million
Puget Sound (Chinook)⁶	Puget Sound Partnership	3 years	\$360 million	\$240 million	\$156 million

Statewide Total \$760 million \$401 million \$270 million⁷

- 1 Habitat project costs reflect estimated needs by region for 2009–11 from all fund sources for habitat projects only, consistent with recovery plan implementation.
- 2 Habitat project funding for 2007–09 is estimated total available for only habitat projects from all fund sources.
- 3 Yakima Basin organization and recovery plan do not cover entire Middle Columbia region. A draft plan for this area (WRIA 30/31) has been developed by NOAA Fisheries. Total IS cost is for Yakima Basin recovery plan only. Regional total for habitat costs and funding are based on estimates for the basin and an assumption that it represents 65 percent of total need for the Middle Columbia region.
- 4 Estimated costs for Lower Columbia IS and habitat project costs do not include costs associated with implementation of lower Columbia River mainstem and estuary plans.
- 5 Washington Coast is developing a regional plan. Thus, estimates of habitat costs and funding are based on habitat strategies of four lead entities in region.
- 6 Recovery plan for Puget Sound steelhead is under consideration, and costs are not reflected in this information.
- 7 Relative habitat project needs/costs reflected in these numbers do not necessarily correspond or equate to relative regional benefits to fish populations, ESUs/ DPSs of investing in habitat projects.

Relation To State And Federal Actions

GSRO provided statewide guidance (January 2008) for coordination of regional salmon recovery plan implementation. The guidance outlines parameters for implementation schedules and clarifies expectations for data management and reporting. Key elements are:

- A functional network of responsible state, federal, tribal and regional/local partners and contacts;
- Statewide and regional processes for identifying priorities and coordinating implementation of actions;
- Consistent, organized and accessible compilation of information on implementing actions; and
- The means and capacity for providing regular reports to key partners and the public on progress and results.

Early in 2008, regional salmon recovery organizations identified high-priority salmon recovery actions needed from state and federal agencies through the 2007–09 Biennium. GSRO used this information to organize regional meetings to discuss these priority actions and options for follow-up. The agencies were encouraged to follow through with action or coordination. Examples of the issues discussed include:

- **SNAKE RIVER REGION** – NOAA Fisheries and USFWS completing biological opinions required by ESA for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' operations on Mill Creek and implementation of mitigation.
- **LOWER COLUMBIA REGION** – Instream flow rules developed and implemented, and unauthorized water withdrawals curtailed by Department of Ecology.
- **UPPER COLUMBIA REGION** – Continuing and expanding efforts to manage forest road impacts on stream habitat in the National Forests by U.S. Forest Service in coordination with salmon recovery priorities.
- **YAKIMA BASIN IN MID-COLUMBIA REGION** – NOAA Fisheries and USFWS completing biological opinions for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Yakima Project.
- **HOOD CANAL REGION** – Coordination with the Washington State Department of Transportation to identify priorities, options and opportunities to address impacts on summer chum habitat from U.S. Highway 101 and associated bridges along Hood Canal.

GSRO consulted with salmon recovery organizations through the Council of Regions to identify priorities for actions by state and federal agencies to implement salmon recovery in the 2009–11 Biennium. These priorities were also discussed with each agency to clarify actions and their relation to current programs, policies and implementation capacity, as well as to budget resources and agency staff. These discussions provided an opportunity to explain the importance of maintaining existing capacity for many actions, as well as expanding capacity for some actions needed to achieve goals. Priorities are identified by agency and topic in Table 3. This table also indicates whether implementation is expected to require a continuation or expansion of agency capacity, or development of agency policies, or of a new program.

Overall there is convergence between the actions and authorities identified as necessary to implement recovery plans with existing authorities and actions of state and federal agencies. A need for just one new program is identified in the compilation of priority actions by state and federal agencies.

It is important to note this report focuses only on priority salmon recovery actions by state and federal agencies. There are many other recovery plan partners, such as tribal and local governments, lead entities, special districts, and private sector stakeholders who have key roles in implementing regional plans.

TABLE 3
Recovery Plan Priority Actions for State and Federal Agencies
Statewide in 2009–11 (August 2008)

State Agency	Action Topic/Objective	Status/Need
Fish and Wildlife	Hatchery reforms for salmon recovery	Expand
	Harvest management for salmon recovery	Expand
	Technical assistance for habitat projects	Expand
	Streamline habitat restoration project approval	Continue
	Monitor ESA- listed fish status and trends	Continue
	Coordinate habitat protection	Expand
	Monitor essential fish habitat status and trends	Expand
Ecology	Water resource management for salmon recovery	Continue
	Technical and funding assistance for watershed plans	Expand
	Technical and funding assistance for shoreline management plans	Expand
	Monitor water quality and quantity status and trends	Expand
	Total Maximum Daily Load development and implementation	Expand
	Stormwater management program development and implementation	Continue
	Floodplain management program	Expand
Recreation and Conservation	State and federal funding for Salmon Recovery Funding Board	Expand
	Funding to overcome critical gaps in monitoring	Expand
	Support regional salmon recovery organization operations	Continue
	Support salmon recovery lead entity operations	Expand
Natural Resources	State forest lands Habitat Conservation Plan	Continue
	Forest Practices HCP	Expand
	Small forest landowner program	Policy
	HCP implementation and effectiveness information at recovery plan scale	Expand
	Aquatic lands HCP implementation	Continue
Transportation	Correct fish passage barriers	Expand
	Highway right-of way maintenance	Expand
	Watershed-based project impact mitigation	Policy
Conservation Commission	Programmatic and technical assistance funding for conservation districts	New
	Programmatic funding for riparian restoration program	Continue
	Monitoring of implementation of conservation practices and sharing of best practices	Expand
Community, Trade and Economic Development	Technical assistance to local governments	Continue
	Local government land use management funding	Expand

TABLE 3
Recovery Plan Priority Actions for State and Federal Agencies
Statewide in 2009–11 (August 2008)

Federal Agency	Action Topic/Objective	Status/Need
NOAA Fisheries	Maintain or enhance Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funding	Continue
	Report use and effectiveness of PCSRF	Continue
	Monitor and evaluate at ESU/DPS scale	Expand
	Conduct species status reviews	Continue
	Communicate and transfer research results	Continue
Forest Service	National forest road management	Expand
	Stream and watershed restoration	Expand
	Coordinate monitoring and data sharing	Continue
	Implement Clean Water Act MOU	Expand
Fish and Wildlife Service	Coordinated bull trout recovery planning	Continue
	Habitat restoration funding	Expand
	Hatchery operations and monitoring	Expand
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Ecosystem restoration studies and implementation	Expand
	Specific USACE-related regional issues and actions	Continue
Environmental Protection Agency	Assist Columbia River and Puget Sound estuary programs	Expand
	Managing monitoring data	Policy
	Assisting state Clean Water Act and Total Maximum Daily Load implementation	Continue
	Assist National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits implementation	Continue
Bonneville Power Administration	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program	Expand
Northwest Power and Conservation Council	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program	Continue
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Technical and funding assistance for interior Columbia Basin salmon recovery	Expand
Natural Resources Conservation/ Farm Service	Technical and funding assistance for salmon recovery actions related to agricultural and forest lands	Continue



SECTION 3

Summary and Conclusions

NOAA Fisheries has approved regional recovery plans for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead. Seven regional salmon recovery organizations have been established and recognized in Washington state and are focused on coordinating recovery plan implementation. These organizations have developed implementation schedules with information on responsibilities, timelines, sequence and estimated costs of actions. In essence, the planning stages have been completed. Attention and resources are now focused on how these organizations can coordinate and collaborate among themselves.

Timeframes for recovery plan implementation vary from 12 to 50 years, with an estimated total statewide cost of \$3.1 billion. Implementation schedules vary in duration, from 3 to 6 years, and in cost. The estimated total statewide cost of implementation for all schedules is \$760 million; \$270 million was provided for habitat projects in 2007–09 and \$401 million is needed for projects in 2009–11.

Sixteen state and federal agencies (seven state, nine federal) are responsible for high-priority actions to implement plans. Many of these actions are under way and important to continue. Full implementation would require expanding agencies' capacity. Very few new state or federal programs are needed to implement recovery plans. However, there is a need to improve coordination of priorities among state, federal and regional plan implementation efforts.

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**If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format, please contact the
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office at the address listed above.**



Salmon Recovery Plan Implementation

A Report on High-Priority State and Federal Actions Needed to Implement Salmon Recovery Plans

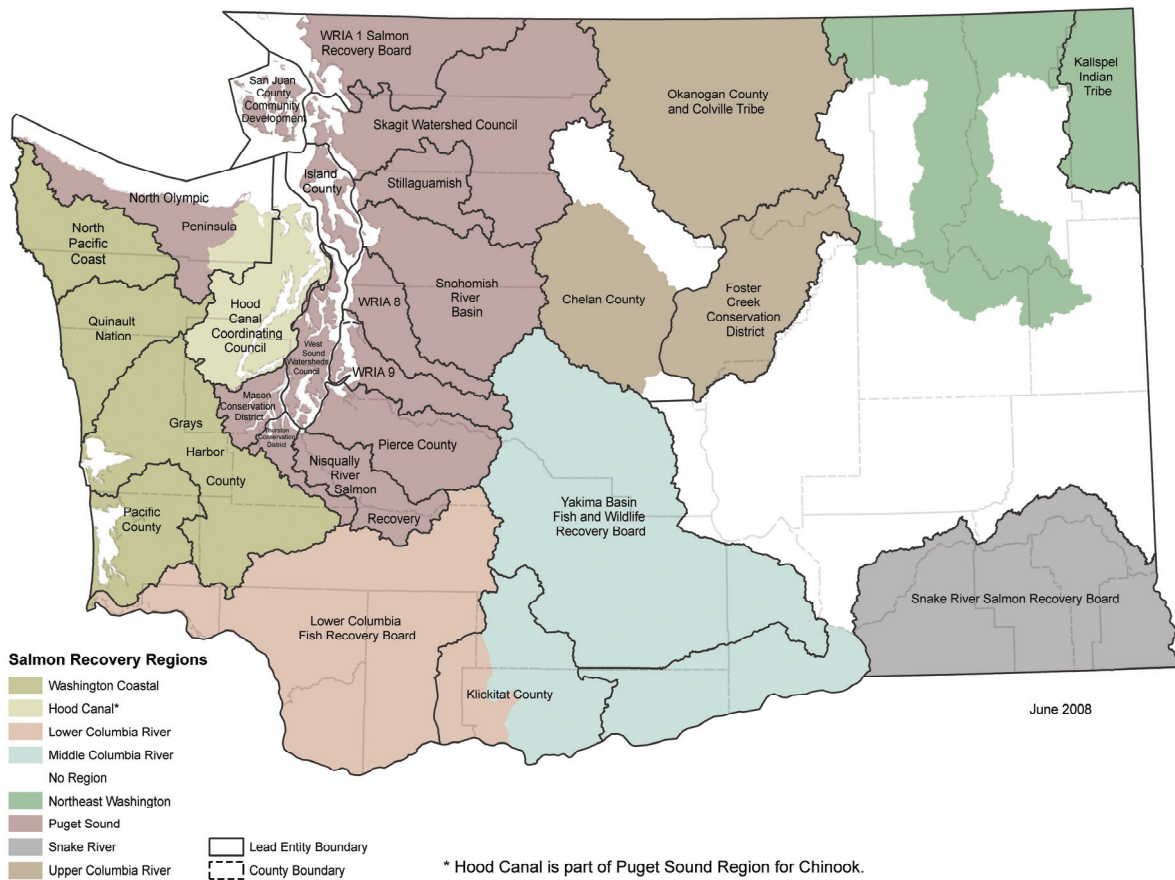




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SECTION 1 Introduction

Background and Purpose

Recovery plans for Washington's salmon and steelhead populations that are listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) have been adopted or are close to adoption by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). These plans were developed and are being implemented through open and collaborative processes led, in most cases, by regional salmon recovery organizations-partnerships of local and tribal governments and local citizens working with federal and state governments to restore salmon and steelhead and their habitat to a healthy status that supports de-listing of species under the ESA, as well as sustainable fisheries.

Since the first approvals and adoption of regional recovery plans by NOAA Fisheries in 2006, regional salmon recovery organizations have been working with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and recovery planning partners to transition from writing plans to implementing them. Regional organizations are developing and using *implementation schedules* that provide more detailed information about planned actions, sequencing, timelines, estimated costs, and responsibilities for actions. Because they can also track their progress, these implementation schedules are a key element of commitments to monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management that are built into the regional recovery plans.

Many state and federal agencies have responsibilities and programs with significant relationships to salmon recovery.

These programs often include actions that are a high priority for implementation in order to achieve goals and objectives of regional salmon recovery plans. Implementing state and federal actions called for in recovery plans most often involves continuation, modification or expansion of current programs and activities. Local and tribal governments, special purpose districts, and private sector organizations and individuals also have key roles in recovery plan implementation and are responsible for many high-priority actions in recovery plans.

Amendments to the Salmon Recovery Act (Chapter 77.85 RCW) in 2007 clarified the primary purpose of the GSRO is to coordinate and assist in development, implementation, and revision of regional salmon recovery plans as an integral part of a statewide strategy for salmon recovery. The Legislature directed GSRO to work with regional salmon recovery organizations to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to salmon recovery. GSRO was asked to cooperate with regional salmon recovery organizations to prepare implementation schedules that identify specific actions in regional recovery plans for state agency actions and assistance necessary to implement those plans. GSRO was also directed to work with federal agencies to accomplish implementation of federal commitments in recovery plans. The primary purpose of this report is to provide information on state and federal actions that are a high priority for implementation of recovery plans in the current (2007-09) and next (2009-11) biennia.

Approach and Content

State and federal programs and actions play significant roles in implementation of regional salmon recovery plans. These roles can occur at both statewide and regional (i.e. local) scales. Actual implementation of specific decisions and tasks occurs in local watersheds that are within recovery planning areas of regional salmon recovery organizations. Therefore, a coordinated approach to implementing state and federal actions in regional salmon recovery plans requires focus and attention at both statewide and regional scales.

In the process of working with regional salmon recovery organizations and the responsible state and federal agencies to develop this report, GSRO focused on both statewide and regional scales of implementing salmon recovery plans. Section 2 of this report focuses on the process and information compiled for the statewide scale, and Section 3 summarizes more detailed information at the regional scale. Additional information on state and federal programs and actions that are important to implementation of recovery plans in the 2009-11 Biennium is provided in Appendices A and B.

There are major distinctions among the eight salmon recovery regions and the regional salmon recovery organizations operating within them. These include:

- In January 2007, the Puget Sound Partnership became a state agency that replaced the Shared Strategy for Puget Sound Salmon Recovery as the regional salmon recovery organization for the Puget Sound Region. The Puget Sound Partnership has a mandate to prepare a Puget Sound Action Agenda by the end of 2008 that will incorporate the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan. This report uses information from the Puget Sound Action Agenda development process to the extent it has been available.
- The Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership (WCSSP) has just been established as the regional salmon recovery organization for the Washington Coast Region. Although a recovery plan for Lake Ozette Sockeye is nearing completion and development of a regional salmon plan for the Washington Coast Region is beginning, there is no regional salmon plan at this time.
- The Northeast Washington Region has ESA-listed bull trout, but has neither a regional salmon recovery organization nor recovery plan at this time.



SECTION 2

Statewide Implementation of Recovery Plans

Statewide Framework

The statewide strategy to recover salmon is organized around eight regions. These eight regions were delineated to generally correspond to the Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) and Distinct Population Segments (DPS) that represent the scale at which salmon and steelhead are listed under the ESA. The salmon recovery regions are also recognized in Washington's Salmon Recovery Act (Chapter 77.85 RCW).

All recovery regions have one or more lead entities, the groups responsible for developing habitat project lists and priority rankings. Within seven of the salmon recovery regions, regional salmon recovery organizations have been recognized as provided by the Salmon Recovery Act (Chapter 77.85.090 RCW). Three regional salmon recovery organizations are specifically created or recognized by the statute: the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, Puget Sound Partnership, and Hood Canal Coordinating Council. Four additional regional salmon recovery organizations have been recognized by GSRO as provided by the statute: Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, and Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership.

Six of the regional salmon recovery organizations have developed recovery plans that have been accepted for use as federal recovery plans by NOAA Fisheries. Common elements in all of these plans include:

- 1) Status assessments of ESA-listed fish populations and their freshwater habitat;
- 2) Biological objectives to meet science-based criteria for viable populations and ESA de-listing;
- 3) Strategies and actions for achieving biological objectives with an emphasis on actions to achieve measurable habitat improvements;
- 4) Commitments to developing plan implementation schedules and monitoring and evaluating plan implementation and results; and
- 5) An adaptive management process that incorporates periodic check-in points to evaluate and report progress in plan implementation and to adapt and revise the plan as needed.

The regional plans differ in scope and extent of their planning area, as well as coverage of limiting factors in addition to freshwater habitat; i.e. nearshore marine and estuary habitat, hydropower, hatcheries and harvest. Table 1 provides information on the salmon recovery regions and organizations and their recovery plan timeframes and costs.

TABLE 1
Regional Salmon Recovery Plan
Timeframes and Cost Estimates from Recovery Plans (August 2008)

Region	Regional Organization	Plan Approved¹	Listed Species Covered	Plan Timeframe	Total Cost Estimate²
Upper Columbia	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	October 2007	UC spring Chinook UC steelhead	10-30 years	\$526 million
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- ⁷ Costs of plan implementation reflected here do not necessarily correspond or equate to relative regional benefits to fish populations, ESUs or DPSs of specific investments in recovery plan implementation.

In regions where regional salmon recovery organizations were established, recovery plans were developed through the leadership and coordination efforts of regional organizations in partnership with NOAA Fisheries, state and federal agencies, local and tribal governments and other stakeholders. In the few areas in Washington where regional salmon recovery organizations were not established when recovery plans were being developed (Lake Ozette and WRIA 30/31, also known as the Gorge Management Unit), NOAA Fisheries developed recovery plans in consultation with local and state partners and stakeholders.

The recovery planning process for bull trout, which are present in all of Washington's salmon recovery regions, is distinctly different. Bull trout are an ESA-listed species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). While most of the regional salmon recovery plans developed in Washington have included substantial bull trout recovery provisions that were developed in coordination with USFWS, the USFWS has kept lead responsibility for developing ESA recovery plans and has agreed to consider the regional recovery plans on an advisory basis pending the federal agency's development of bull trout recovery plans.

Recovery Plan Implementation Schedules

Each regional salmon recovery plan calls for monitoring and reporting on efforts to implement the plan and for periodically reviewing progress toward meeting recovery plan goals as part of an adaptive management process. An important tool for monitoring, reporting and adaptively managing plan progress is an *implementation schedule*. The implementation schedule provides details on responsibilities, tasks, sequence or schedule, and costs for actions that are included in the recovery plan. The implementation schedule is a flexible tool that can be easily revised and updated, without the formal processes required for revising an adopted recovery plan.

All approved regional recovery plans now have an initial implementation schedule that is being used by the regional salmon recovery organization as a tool in coordinating recovery plan implementation. Most regional implementation schedules are still in the process of being further developed and revised. There is considerable variation in the level of detail included in these implementation schedules and in the approach for using the

implementation schedule to track and report progress in recovery plan implementation. Table 2 summarizes key information on timeframes and costs associated with the implementation schedule for each regional organization. The timeframe or duration of each implementation schedule and total estimated costs of plan implementation during that timeframe are indicated. Cost estimates consistent with the recovery plans and implementation schedules are also indicated for habitat project costs in the 2009-11 Biennium and for expected habitat project funding in the current biennium. The estimates of habitat project costs represent the total cost for on-the-ground habitat preservation and restoration projects needed to implement the recovery plan in the next biennium. Estimates of habitat project funding represent the total funding provided or expected from all fund sources for on-the-ground habitat preservation and restoration projects to implement the recovery plan in the current biennium. The current status of recovery plan implementation schedules is indicated for each regional recovery plan in Section 3.

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Regional Salmon Recovery Plan Implementation Schedules (IS)
Timeframes and Cost Estimates Based on Recovery Plans and Regional IS (August 2008)

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- 7 Relative habitat project needs/costs reflected in these numbers do not necessarily correspond or equate to relative regional benefits to fish populations, ESUs/ DPSs of investing in habitat projects.

Statewide Relations to State and Federal Actions

Statewide guidance for coordination of regional salmon recovery plan implementation was developed by GSRO and provided to the regional salmon recovery organizations in January 2008. The guidance outlines statewide parameters for recovery plan implementation schedules and clarifies expectations for the data management and reporting needed to organize and communicate information on recovery plan implementation. Key elements of the guidance and statewide approach to coordination and communication of regional recovery plan implementation are:

- Functional networks of responsible state, federal, tribal and regional/local partners and contacts;
- Statewide and regional processes for identifying plan implementation priorities and coordinating implementation of recovery plan actions;
- Consistent, organized and easily accessible compilations of key information on implementation of recovery plan actions; and
- The means and capacity for providing regular reports to key partners and the public on progress in recovery plan implementation and results.

These elements of the statewide approach underlie the recovery plan implementation processes and products reflected in this report. The guidance document, *Regional Salmon Recovery Plan Implementation Monitoring: Statewide Outline and Guidance (January 2008)* is provided as Appendix C of this report.

Early in 2008, regional salmon recovery organizations identified high priority actions from recovery plans and schedules that they recommended state and federal agencies undertake in the current (2007-09) biennium.

Working with regional organizations, GSRO used this information to organize meetings with relevant agencies to discuss these priorities, their current implementation status, and options for follow-up actions. Written summaries of these discussions were provided to meeting participants and regional organizations, and responsible agencies were encouraged to follow-through on a regional basis with action or further coordination as needed. Highlights of the actions identified as 2007-09 priorities for state and federal agencies are included in Section 3 of this report. Some examples of the issues and actions that were identified and discussed are:

- **SNAKE RIVER REGION.** Emphasized completion of NOAA Fisheries and USFWS Biological Opinions required by ESA for USACE operations on Mill Creek and implementation of required mitigation actions by USACE. Reforestation of burned federal forest lands by USFS and burned state lands by WDFW was also emphasized.
- **LOWER COLUMBIA REGION.** Emphasized need for Department of Ecology to develop and implement instream flow rules and to curtail unauthorized water withdrawals.
- **UPPER COLUMBIA REGION.** Emphasized continuing and expanding efforts to manage forest road impacts on stream habitat in the National Forests by USFS in coordination with salmon recovery priorities.
- **YAKIMA BASIN IN MID-COLUMBIA REGION.** Emphasized completion of NOAA Fisheries and USFWS Biological Opinions for the USBR Yakima Project and opportunities for coordinating with Department of Ecology on relating salmon recovery priorities to Columbia Basin Water Program initiatives.
- **HOOD CANAL REGION.** Emphasized coordination with WSDOT to identify priorities, options and opportunities to address the impacts on summer chum habitat from U.S. Highway 101 and its associated bridges along Hood Canal.

In the spring of 2008, regional organizations used their recovery plans and implementation schedules to identify priority actions for state and federal agencies in the 2009-11 Biennium. There were many priority actions that regional salmon recovery organizations across the state had in common, but they also had significant variations in their applicability on a regional scale. GSRO consulted with the regional salmon recovery organizations as a group through their Council of Regions to identify common, statewide and multi-region priorities for action by state and federal agencies to implement salmon recovery in the 2009-11 Biennium. These priority actions for 2009-11 are identified by agency and topic in Table 3. This table also indicates whether implementation of an action in the 2009-11 Biennium is expected to require a continuation or expansion of current agency capacity, development or clarification of agency policies, or development of a new program. Brief descriptions of each action topic for each agency are provided in Appendix A for state agency actions and in Appendix B for federal agency actions.

The lists of statewide priority actions to implement salmon recovery in the 2009-11 Biennium were distributed to each state and federal agency in April 2008. GSRO had follow-up discussions with each agency to clarify the priority actions and their relation to current agency programs, policies and implementation capacity. The relation of these salmon recovery action priorities to existing and potential budget resources and agency staff work planning were also discussed. For some actions, opportunities were identified to target existing or expanded agency resources to specific areas, consistent with salmon recovery plan priorities.

These interactions also provided an opportunity to explain the importance of maintaining existing capacity for many actions and expanding capacity for other actions as needed to achieve salmon recovery plan goals and objectives.

Overall, there is substantial convergence between state and federal actions incorporated within recovery plans and the existing authorities and programs of the responsible state and federal agencies. In the statewide compilation of priority actions by state and federal agencies, only one new program is called for as a priority action. More details of regional variations and specific regional priorities for state and federal agency actions in the 2009-11 Biennium are provided for each region in Section 3 of this report.

It is also important to note that this report focuses only on priority actions for salmon recovery by state and federal agencies. There are many other recovery plan partners, such as tribal and local governments, special districts, salmon recovery lead entities, and private sector stakeholders that have important roles in implementing regional salmon recovery plans. Therefore, this report provides only a partial picture of the recovery plans actions and priorities. Some of these other key partners in salmon recovery in the regions are acknowledged for each regional area in Section 3.

TABLE 3
Recovery Plan Priority Actions for State and Federal Agencies
Statewide in 2009–11 (August 2008)

State Agency	Action Topic/Objective	Status/Need
Fish and Wildlife	Hatchery reforms for salmon recovery	Expand
	Harvest management for salmon recovery	Expand
	Technical assistance for habitat projects	Expand
	Streamline habitat restoration project approval	Continue
	Monitor ESA- listed fish status and trends	Continue
	Coordinate habitat protection	Expand
	Monitor essential fish habitat status and trends	Expand
Ecology	Water resource management for salmon recovery	Continue
	Technical and funding assistance for watershed plans	Expand
	Technical and funding assistance for shoreline management plans	Expand
	Monitor water quality and quantity status and trends	Expand
	Total Maximum Daily Load development and implementation	Expand
	Stormwater management program development and implementation	Continue
	Floodplain management program	Expand
Recreation and Conservation	State and federal funding for Salmon Recovery Funding Board	Expand
	Funding to overcome critical gaps in monitoring	Expand
	Support regional salmon recovery organization operations	Continue
	Support salmon recovery lead entity operations	Expand
Natural Resources	State forest lands Habitat Conservation Plan	Continue
	Forest Practices HCP	Expand
	Small forest landowner program	Policy
	HCP implementation and effectiveness information at recovery plan scale	Expand
	Aquatic lands HCP implementation	Continue
Transportation	Correct fish passage barriers	Expand
	Highway right-of way maintenance	Expand
	Watershed-based project impact mitigation	Policy
Conservation Commission	Programmatic and technical assistance funding for conservation districts	New
	Programmatic funding for riparian restoration program	Continue
	Monitoring of implementation of conservation practices and sharing of best practices	Expand
Community, Trade and Economic Development	Technical assistance to local governments	Continue
	Local government land use management funding	Expand

TABLE 3
Recovery Plan Priority Actions for State and Federal Agencies
Statewide in 2009–11 (August 2008)

Federal Agency	Action Topic/Objective	Status/Need
NOAA Fisheries	Maintain or enhance Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funding	Continue
	Report use and effectiveness of PCSRF	Continue
	Monitor and evaluate at ESU/DPS scale	Expand
	Conduct species status reviews	Continue
	Communicate and transfer research results	Continue
Forest Service	National forest road management	Expand
	Stream and watershed restoration	Expand
	Coordinate monitoring and data sharing	Continue
	Implement Clean Water Act MOU	Expand
Fish and Wildlife Service	Coordinated bull trout recovery planning	Continue
	Habitat restoration funding	Expand
	Hatchery operations and monitoring	Expand
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Ecosystem restoration studies and implementation	Expand
	Specific USACE-related regional issues and actions	Continue
Environmental Protection Agency	Assist Columbia River and Puget Sound estuary programs	Expand
	Managing monitoring data	Policy
	Assisting state Clean Water Act and Total Maximum Daily Load implementation	Continue
	Assist National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits implementation	Continue
Bonneville Power Administration	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program	Expand
Northwest Power and Conservation Council	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program	Continue
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Technical and funding assistance for interior Columbia Basin salmon recovery	Expand
Natural Resources Conservation/ Farm Service	Technical and funding assistance for salmon recovery actions related to agricultural and forest lands	Continue



SECTION 3

Regional Recovery Plan Implementation

Regional Frameworks

Regional recovery plans share many things in common. They report on current conditions, examine options for addressing factors causing declines in salmon and steelhead populations, set goals for recovery, and suggest actions that, if implemented, would help achieve these goals. This section provides summaries of the status of each regional recovery plan and implementation schedule and highlights of priority state and federal actions to implement recovery plans in the current and 2009-11 biennia.

Key public sector partners in recovery plan implementation in each region are also listed. While private sector, non-government organizations, landowners, businesses and citizens also have key roles in recovery plan implementation, they are not the focus of this report. Note that because bull trout recovery planning is being approached differently by the USFWS, information on bull trout is generally not included in the information provided for each region.

Upper Columbia Region

Listed Salmon and Steelhead

- Upper Columbia River Spring Chinook.
- Upper Columbia River Steelhead.

Recovery Plan Status

NOAA Fisheries formally adopted the recovery plan for Upper Columbia River Spring Chinook and Steelhead in October 2007.

Implementation Schedule Status

An implementation schedule with timeframes of 3 years, 6 years, 10 years, and beyond 10 years, and with more detailed information on recovery plan actions and costs, is being used by the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board and its plan implementation partners.

Highlighted Priority State and Federal Actions in Current Biennium

- Manage roads in National Forests to reduce impacts on habitat and to correct barriers to fish passage.
- Implement Entiat Water Resources Program.
- Assess reconnection of side channels affected by Highway 2 and options for addressing habitat impacts of Weeman Bridge on Highway 20.
- Reduce brook trout in any waters connected to bull trout habitat.
- Improve intakes and screens at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery.
- Coordinate implementation of 2008 FCRPS BiOp with implementation of Upper Columbia salmon recovery plan.
- Permit and manage selective fisheries (e.g. Spring Chinook) consistent with recovery plan goals.

Selected Priority State and Federal Actions in 2009-11 Biennium

- All-H coordination of habitat actions with hydropower, harvest and hatchery actions and improve modeling of All-H integration.
- Infrastructure capacity (e.g. permit review, project design) to support plan implementation.
- Implementation of 2008 FCRPS BiOp.
- Riparian conservation and road maintenance in national forests.
- Assess and correct culverts for improved fish passage.
- Complete a bull trout recovery plan consistent with Upper Columbia salmon recovery plan.
- Replace inadequate fish screens at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery.
- Reduce or eliminate negative species (e.g. brook trout, pike, minnow) interactions.
- Manage selective fisheries consistent with recovery goals.
- Implement and evaluate pilot approaches to beaver reintroduction and nutrient supplementation.
- Implement water resources program for Entiat and Wenatchee basins and water quality actions for Methow and Okanogan basins.
- Work with local processes to increase stream flows for fish.
- Assess stormwater runoff and pollution effects in small tributaries.
- Assess groundwater/surface water interactions.
- Engage in cooperative design and implementation of fish habitat restoration related to transportation infrastructure.
- Replace Highway 7 culvert obstructing passage in Loup Loup Creek.
- Evaluate road relocation/reconstruction options to address habitat impacts of Highway 20.

Additional Plan Implementation Partners

- Yakama Nation.
- Confederated Colville Tribes.
- Chelan, Okanogan and Douglas counties.
- Chelan and Douglas counties Public Utility Districts.
- Cascadia Conservation District, Foster Creek Conservation District, South Douglas Conservation District and Okanogan Conservation District.

Mid-Columbia Region

Listed Salmon and Steelhead

- Middle Columbia River Steelhead.

Recovery Plan Status

- NOAA Fisheries approved an interim recovery plan for listed populations in the Yakima River Basin in March 2006. An updated Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan was released in August 2008.
- NOAA Fisheries, working with the Yakama Nation and other recovery planning partners, has drafted recovery plans for steelhead populations in the Gorge Management Unit of the Middle Columbia River Steelhead DPS.
- Adoption by NOAA Fisheries of a complete recovery plan for the Middle Columbia River Steelhead DPS in Washington and Oregon is expected in 2009.

Implementation Schedule Status

Basic elements of a 6-year implementation schedule are completed providing details of planned actions, key partners, link of actions to limiting factors and plan strategies, time to implement and achieve benefits and estimated costs. Additional information fields and a tracking and reporting system for the implementation schedule are being developed.

Highlighted Priority State and Federal Actions in Current Biennium

- Coordinating and addressing gaps in steelhead monitoring programs.
- Completing an ESA Section 7 BiOp for the USBR Yakima Project.
- Implementing key Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program projects.
- Identify preferred passage alternative for USBR dams.
- Coordinating steelhead recovery actions related to bull trout pending USFWS development of a bull trout recovery plan.
- Implementing priority actions to restore habitat in Little Naches River and Swauk Creek in relation to priorities for the national forests.
- Correcting passage barriers at Deep Creek road crossings.
- Coordinating Columbia River Water Program and steelhead recovery plan priorities.
- Provide technical and funding support to “Gap-to-Gap” Yakima River floodplain projects.

Selected Priority State and Federal Actions in 2009-11 Biennium

- Assist habitat project development, funding and implementation.
- Continue support for Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program and YRBWEP.
- Yakima Basin bull trout population monitoring.

- Steelhead spawning surveys in Naches Basin and Upper Yakima River.
- Education and enforcement on protective fishing regulations.
- Participate in key recovery planning and implementation efforts.
- Participate in Yakima Fisheries Project research and hatchery programs.
- Develop long-term water management options for Yakima Basin.
- Continue funding for Irrigation Efficiencies, Agricultural Water Supply and Yakima Basin Water Metering Programs.
- Continue to streamline water right change process for habitat restoration projects.
- Coordinate implementation of highway projects and related mitigation consistent with habitat needs and projects identified in recovery plan.
- Continue state and federal support of Conservation District engineering programs.
- Determine and then design and implement passage improvements at USBR dams.
- Coordinate national forest focus watershed priorities with recovery plan habitat priorities and support development of restoration project proposals.

Additional Plan Implementation Partners

- Yakama Nation.
- Yakima, Benton and Kittitas counties.
- 18 of 22 city governments in the Yakima Basin.
- Benton Conservation District, Kittitas County Conservation District, North Yakima Conservation District and South Yakima Conservation District.

Snake River Region

Listed Salmon and Steelhead

- Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook.
- Snake River Fall Chinook.
- Snake River Steelhead.
- Middle Columbia River Steelhead.

Recovery Plan Status

- NOAA Fisheries approved an interim recovery plan for listed populations in the Snake River Region of Washington in March 2006.
- Adoption by NOAA Fisheries of a complete recovery plan for the Middle Columbia River Steelhead DPS in Washington and Oregon is expected in 2009.
- Adoption by NOAA Fisheries of a complete recovery plan for the Snake River Spring/Summer and Fall Chinook ESUs and the Snake River Steelhead DPS in Washington, Oregon and Idaho is expected in 2009 or 2010.

Implementation Schedule Status

An implementation schedule with a 3-year timeframe and with more detailed information on recovery plan actions and costs is being used by the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board and its plan implementation partners.

Highlighted Priority State and Federal Actions in Current Biennium

- Complete Mill Creek ESA Section 7 BiOp and initiate implementation.
- Complete Walla Walla River Flow Enhancement Study.
- Complete Bennington Dam Feasibility Study.
- Support flow enhancement projects for Mill Creek, Walla Walla and Touchet Rivers.
- Assess and design improvements in Walla Walla River dikes.
- Support funding and assist in addressing key gaps in fish and habitat monitoring.
- Improve road and right-of-way management near spawning areas.
- Complete reforestation of burned federal and state forestlands.

Selected Priority State and Federal Actions in 2009-11 Biennium

- Implement actions in Mill Creek BiOp and Mill Creek Fish Passage Assessment.
- Continue funding support for assessment and implementation of habitat projects.
- Support collection of core biological and habitat data consistent salmon viability criteria.
- Implement preferred alternative for Walla Walla River flow enhancement.
- Implement Bennington Dam passage improvements.
- Preserve open space and farmland to protect floodplain and riparian habitat.
- Implement projects for Asotin spawning area as Intensively Monitored Watershed.
- Implement riparian area protection and restoration through CRP, CREP and other programs.

Additional Plan Implementation Partners

- Confederated Umatilla Tribes.
- Nez Perce Tribe.
- Asotin, Garfield, Columbia and Walla Walla counties.
- Asotin County Conservation District, Columbia Conservation District, Pomeroy Conservation District and Walla Walla County Conservation District.

Lower Columbia Region

Listed Salmon and Steelhead

- Lower Columbia River Chinook.
- Lower Columbia River Coho.
- Columbia River Chum.
- Lower Columbia River Steelhead.

Recovery Plan Status

- Except for coho populations and populations in the Big White Salmon River Subbasin, NOAA Fisheries approved an interim recovery plan for listed populations in the Lower Columbia Region of Washington State in February 2006.
- NOAA Fisheries, working with the Yakama Nation and other recovery planning partners, has drafted a recovery plan for listed Chinook and coho populations in the Big White Salmon River Subbasin.
- Adoption by NOAA Fisheries of a complete recovery plan for the Lower Columbia River Chinook, Coho, and Chum ESUs and the Lower Columbia Steelhead DPS in Washington and Oregon is expected in 2009.

Implementation Schedule Status

A detailed 6-year habitat work schedule has been completed for implementing habitat actions in the recovery plan. A comprehensive tracking and reporting system for all recovery plan actions has been developed and basic information for all planned actions has been entered into the system.

Additional information is being entered into the tracking and reporting system to make it fully operational and to complete the recovery plan implementation schedule for all planned actions.

Highlighted Priority State and Federal Actions in Current Biennium

- Completed recovery plan Implementation Work Schedules by all partner agencies.
- Assist completion of Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for salmon recovery and identify critical gaps in current information.
- Participate in bi-state “roll-up” of federal recovery plan for listed Lower Columbia

species including a recovery plan; supplement for more recently listed coho salmon.

- Implementation of harvest and hatchery actions in recovery plan.
- Develop and implement minimum stream flow rules.
- Curtail unauthorized surface water withdrawals.
- Integrate Lower Columbia Recovery Plan during development of WDFW Lower Columbia Regional Steelhead Management Plan.

Selected Priority State and Federal Actions in 2009-11 Biennium

- Implement hatchery facility upgrades and hatchery operational reforms consistent with recovery plan.
- Implement harvest management consistent with recovery plans including mark selective fisheries, improved live capture methods and management of harvest impact rates.
- Provide technical assistance for habitat project planning and design.
- Participate in and coordinate habitat protection programs.
- Fund salmon recovery Lead Entity operations and habitat project tracking capacity.
- Monitor listed fish population and habitat status and trends.
- Provide funding to coordinate monitoring and address critical monitoring data gaps.
- Expand funding for habitat projects and integrate project review, management and monitoring processes.
- Develop and implement stream flow rules, curtail unauthorized water use, and provide technical assistance and grant funding for high priority Watershed Plan actions.
- Provide technical assistance and funding to local governments in support of shoreline programs, comprehensive land use plans and critical areas ordinances.
- Implement forestlands Habitat Conservation Plans and provide related implementation and effectiveness information relevant to salmon recovery plans.

Selected Priority State and Federal Actions in 2009-11 Biennium (cont.)

- Correct highway fish passage and habitat impacts and manage right-of-ways to reduce impacts to habitat.
- Implement watershed-based mitigation of transportation project impacts on habitat.
- Increase funding for Conservation District capacity for project design and outreach.

Additional Plan Implementation Partners

- Cowlitz Tribe.
- Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties.

- 20 cities.
- Clark Public Utilities, Cowlitz County PUD, Lewis County PUD, PacifiCorp and Tacoma Power.
- Port Districts.
- Clark Conservation District, Cowlitz Conservation District, Lewis County Conservation District, Underwood Conservation District and Wahkiakum Conservation District.
- Lower Columbia Regional Fish Enhancement Group.
- Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership.

Washington Coast Region

Listed Salmon and Steelhead

- Lake Ozette Sockeye.

Recovery Plan Status

- NOAA Fisheries, working with a Lake Ozette Sockeye Recovery Planning Steering Committee, has published a draft recovery plan for Lake Ozette Sockeye and adoption of a Lake Ozette Sockeye Recovery Plan is expected in late 2008 or early in 2009.
- WCSSP has formed and is recognized as a regional salmon recovery organization. It is beginning the process of developing a regional plan to sustain Washington Coast Region salmonid species and populations.

Implementation Schedule Status

An implementation schedule for the Lake Ozette Sockeye Recovery Plan will be developed after the recovery plan is adopted by NOAA Fisheries.

Highlighted Priority State and Federal Actions in Current Biennium

Not Applicable.

Selected Priority State and Federal Actions in 2009-11 Biennium

Not Applicable.

Additional Plan Implementation Partners

Not Applicable.

Hood Canal Region

Listed Salmon and Steelhead

- Hood Canal Summer Chum.

Recovery Plan Status

NOAA Fisheries formally adopted the recovery plan for Hood Canal Summer Chum in May 2007.

Implementation Schedule Status

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) and its plan implementation partners are using an implementation schedule with a 3-year timeframe and with more detailed information on recovery plan actions and costs.

Highlighted Priority State and Federal Actions in Current Biennium

Same priority actions as identified for 2009-11 Biennium (see below).

Selected Priority State and Federal Actions in 2009-11 Biennium

- Correct U.S. Highway 101 impacts on fish passage and habitat in numerous drainages.
- Decommission or stabilize logging roads in Olympic National Forest to address habitat impacts.
- Work with state and federal landowners for easier and cheaper access to large woody material.
- Increase engineering and technical capacity to assist habitat project development.
- Implement high priority actions to restore stream wood structure on public lands.
- Implement status and trends monitoring for fish and habitat.
- Continue progress on hatchery supplementation program effectiveness monitoring and reporting.

- Maintain harvest management tracking and reporting capacity.
- Share information on proposed Hydraulic Project Approvals that are relevant to salmon recovery.
- Continue assistance for Community Nearshore Restoration Program.
- Complete development and implementation of Habitat Work Schedule as an online habitat data system.
- Maintain streamlining of habitat project permit processes.

Additional Plan Implementation Partners

- Skokomish Tribe.
- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe.
- Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe.
- Jefferson, Kitsap and Mason counties.
- Jefferson County Conservation District, Kitsap Conservation District and Mason Conservation District.
- Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group.

Puget Sound Region

Listed Salmon and Steelhead

- Puget Sound Chinook.
- Puget Sound Steelhead.

Recovery Plan Status

- NOAA Fisheries formally adopted the recovery plan for Puget Sound Chinook in June 2006.
- A Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan supplement for Puget Sound Steelhead listed in May 2007 is under consideration by the Puget Sound Partnership but does not have a schedule for completion.

Implementation Schedule Status

A regional 3-Year Work Program for the Puget Sound Chinook recovery plan has been developed. Additional information for the work program from the 14 watershed organizations involved as partners in recovery plan implementation has been compiled by the Puget Sound Partnership and is being reviewed with each watershed group as part of the process to complete the 3-Year Work Program.

Highlighted Priority Actions in Current Biennium for Chinook

Nooksack Watershed

- South Fork spring Chinook conservation supplementation program (captive brood stock program).
- Implement highest priority instream restoration projects in North and South Forks (i.e., lower South Fork active channel log jams and lower North Fork reach stable side channel restoration).
- Monitoring to support adaptive management.

Skagit Watershed

- Protect existing habitat across Skagit Watershed.
- Restore habitat and river processes within middle-Skagit.
- Restore habitat and estuarine process of Skagit Delta.

Stillaguamish Watershed

- Reduce impact of peak flows and associated sediment entering river on egg to fry survival by reducing amount of immature forestland in the upper watershed.
- Continue to fund and implement a captive brood stock program in both the South and North Fork Stillaguamish until habitat is restored enough to sustain harvestable numbers of fish.
- Protect the best remaining fish habitat across the basin.
- Restore, protect and acquire land as possible for floodplain, estuary, and nearshore.

Snohomish Watershed

- Restore at least 600 acres within Snohomish estuary, including breaching and/or setting back dikes, restoring riparian areas and edge habitat and improving fish passage.
- Refine and implement an adaptive management and monitoring program, including maintaining existing monitoring.
- Provide targeted and empowering education and outreach.

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed

- Advance low-impact development outreach and education.
- Identify stable funding to sustain habitat protection and restoration efforts.
- Advance monitoring, including habitat status and trends, tracking “fish in, fish out” and determining how to address concern that monitoring competes with capital project implementation.
- Outreach and education to increase awareness and support for salmon recovery.

Green/Duwamish Watershed

- Implement habitat capital and programmatic projects and reporting results.
- Public education and involvement; stewardship; Lead Entity coordination.
- Fund raising for project implementation.
- Manage inter-local agreement among 17 local governments for providing watershed coordination services across WRIA 9.

Puyallup/White and Chambers/Clover Creek Watersheds

- Implement capacity grant allocation, focusing on marketing recovery goals and efforts to project sponsors and landowners, as well as a media campaign to raise awareness and promote work.
- Advance H-integration with collaborative work group, including representatives from Pierce County, WDFW, and Puyallup and Muckleshoot tribes.
- Conduct project development to advance robust projects for funding.

Nisqually Watershed

- Implement identified high priority restoration and protection projects.
- Finish adaptive management plan.
- Expand watershed sustainability, including focus on health of watershed ecosystem, community and economy.
- Advance hatchery reform, including initiating use of a seasonal weir to remove hatchery strays during Chinook runs.

South Sound Watersheds

- Acquire land for habitat protection.
- Conduct targeted nearshore landowner outreach, emphasizing need to protect and restore habitat.
- Continue developing the collaborative organizational structure of the South Sound region.

West Sound Watersheds

- Continue advancing formal organization of West Sound with creation of West Sound Watershed Council.
- Determine how to articulate integration of efforts to protect and restore habitats benefiting multiple species with nearshore protection and restoration efforts focused on Chinook recovery.

Island County Watershed

- Acquisition for protection and develop protection plan to assess protection and restoration opportunities and priorities on the landscape/watershed scale.
- Implement restoration projects.
- Fill data gaps by integrating assessment results into project ranking criteria.

San Juan County Watershed

- Protect priority habitat across San Juan Islands.
- Two priority habitat protection actions are:
 - 1) Ensure Critical Areas Ordinance is updated in a manner that supports salmon recovery and protection of habitat; and
 - 2) Complete and implement results of San Juan Initiative which is currently showing the amount of impact on nearshore habitat is much greater than what has been documented.
- Complete Big Picture assessment project to understand what fish are where and when in order to direct restoration and acquisition projects to priority habitats.

Hood Canal

- Implement near term actions identified in the Skokomish Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan, including creating ecological conditions that allow for preserving and enhancing existing Chinook stock, as well as restoring extirpated spring Chinook stock.
- HCCC and its partners will continue to implement identified high priority restoration and conservation projects that restore ecosystem processes, while fine-tuning the next generation of projects through robust assessment and feasibility studies.
- Continue work with governments to implement and measure performance of programmatic actions (i.e. land use, regulatory programs, etc.) committed to in the HCCC Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan.

North Olympic Peninsula: Elwha and Dungeness Watersheds

- In the Elwha, restoration of habitat will be needed before and after dam removal scheduled for 2012. In the near term, restoration includes floodplain habitat restoration and removal of fish passage barriers.
- In the Dungeness, river function restoration, including the estuary and floodplain, is a priority through dike set-back, channel re-meandering and engineered log jam placement.
- In the nearshore along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, priority actions include protection and restoration of estuaries and the shoreline

Selected Priority State and Federal Actions in 2009-11 Biennium

These actions will be identified as part of the Puget Sound Action Agenda published after completion of this report.

Additional Plan Implementation Partners

- 16 tribal governments.
- 12 county governments.
- Many city governments.
- 11 Conservation Districts.
- 7 Regional Fish Enhancement Groups.
- 14 Watershed and Salmon Lead Entity Groups.



SECTION 4

Summary and Conclusions

Seven regional salmon recovery organizations have been established and recognized in the state of Washington. Recovery plans for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead in all seven regions have been completed and approved as final or interim federal recovery plans by NOAA Fisheries or are near completion and adoption by NOAA Fisheries. Six regional salmon recovery organizations have transitioned from a focus on planning to a focus on coordinating recovery plan implementation. These organizations have developed or are developing recovery plan implementation schedules that provide more information on planned actions, entities responsible for actions, timelines and sequence for actions, and estimated costs of actions. The implementation schedules are also tools for tracking and reporting progress in recovery plan implementation.

The timeframes for recovery plan implementation vary from 12 to 50 years. The estimated total statewide cost of completing recovery plan implementation is \$3.057 billion. Implementation schedules being used in the regions vary in duration from 3 to 6 years. The total estimated costs of each regional implementation schedule for their duration period varies significantly among the regional recovery plans. The total statewide cost of all implementation schedules for their duration period is estimated to be \$759.6 million. The estimated total statewide need for the habitat project costs portion of plan implementation for the 2009-11 Biennium is \$401.2 million. This compares to an estimated statewide level of funding for habitat project costs during the 2007-09 Biennium of \$269.81 million.

Seven state and nine federal agencies have responsibilities for actions that are a high priority for implementation of salmon recovery plans. Many of these priority actions are being implemented now and are a high priority for being continued. Full implementation of many actions consistent with recovery plans and schedules would require expanding the capacity of existing state and federal agency programs. Very few entirely new state or federal programs are needed to implement recovery plans. A pervasive and ongoing need is to continue to improve the coordination of existing or expanded state and federal program capacity with the implementation priorities of the regional salmon recovery plans. In addition to state and federal agencies, the regional salmon recovery organizations work closely and coordinate with many other key tribal and local governments and public and private entities as partners in salmon recovery.

Coordinating recovery plan implementation is an ongoing responsibility of regional salmon recovery organizations. At the statewide and regional scale, GSRO will provide assistance to help in the coordination process with state and federal agencies. Coordination issues and opportunities are most often addressed more effectively and efficiently at the regional scale between regional salmon recovery organizations and their network of field office or headquarters points of contact with state and/or federal agencies. The regional salmon recovery organizations, along with their regional recovery plans and implementation schedules, are essential ingredients of salmon recovery. These regional processes must be effectively linked with state and federal agency priorities if we are to achieve salmon recovery.



Appendix A

State of Washington Agency Actions Identified in Regional Salmon Recovery Plans 2009-11 Biennium Priorities - July 2008

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) was asked by the Legislature (Chapter 77.85.030 RCW) to identify state agency actions and budgets needed to implement regional salmon recovery plans and to recommend any additional technical or financial assistance to implement recovery plans that may be needed in the succeeding biennium. The following agencies and topics were identified by GSRO, working with regional salmon recovery organizations, as having high priority for action by state agencies to implement regional salmon recovery plans during the 2009-11 Biennium. Under each state agency, a description of each topic for which the agency has responsibility provides a brief clarification of the action and the reason for its priority.

This information was intended to help inform the agencies' strategic decisions during development of 2009-11 Biennium budget requests. Additional information on these topics is available in the regional salmon recovery plans and implementation schedules. GSRO has initiated discussion of these topics with the responsible agency(s) and is encouraging ongoing discussion and coordination with the regional salmon recovery organizations. There are other baseline and core activities that make significant contributions to salmon recovery. It is important that such core programs continue to make their contributions to salmon recovery. The agencies and topics are not listed in priority order.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (WDFW)

Hatchery Reforms for Salmon Recovery

Operating hatchery facilities and implementing hatchery management practices consistent with Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) recommendations, regional recovery plan biological objectives and strategies, and approved Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) will facilitate reaching recovery plan biological objectives. Assure involved regional salmon recovery organizations are kept informed of planning for such changes in hatchery operations and practices and are provided the opportunity to participate.

Expand WDFW capacity for timely implementation of capital and non-capital hatchery reforms.

Harvest Management for Salmon Recovery

Regional recovery plans identify biological objectives and strategies for salmon and steelhead recovery. Harvest management changes consistent with these objectives and strategies, as well as hatchery reform will assist in achieving recovery goals. Assure involved regional salmon recovery organizations are kept informed of planning for changes in harvest management and are provided the opportunity to participate.

Continue evaluation of selective harvest and other harvest management tools and expand capacity to implement those shown to be most effective at reducing harvest impacts on ESA-listed species.

Technical Assistance for Habitat Projects

Projects to protect and restore habitat are a key element of all regional salmon recovery plans. Habitat project design assistance from WDFW watershed stewards, habitat biologists and project engineering experts is needed by a wide range of current and potential project sponsors.

Expand WDFW's capacity for providing technical assistance for project design in all regions, particularly in regions where substantial increases in project funding are targeted.

Streamline Habitat Restoration Project**Approval**

Habitat restoration projects that implement recovery plans are required to obtain Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permits from WDFW. Further streamlining of the HPA process or expanded capacity to process HPAs will likely be needed to ensure the timely and effective progress of habitat restoration efforts.

Maintain or increase progress in streamlining the HPA process for habitat restoration projects, particularly in regions where substantial increases in project funding are targeted.

Coordinate Habitat Protection

The long-term effectiveness of projects implementing recovery plans depends upon the effectiveness of programs to protect existing habitat functions. The HPA is one of several state and federal permitting programs with responsibility to protect fish habitat. These programs are most effective when they are coordinated during and after the permitting process. DFW technical assistance capacity is also important in assisting local governments with development and implementation of habitat protection programs, such as critical areas ordinances and shoreline master programs.

Expand WDFW's capacity to carry out its HPA responsibilities and effectively coordinate with and assist other habitat protection programs.

Monitor ESA-Listed Fish Status and Trends

Generating reliable and understandable information on the status and trends of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead populations is an essential element of regional recovery plans. Measuring adult spawner and juvenile out-migrant abundance, as well as fish productivity in freshwater habitat, are keys to evaluating progress in implementing recovery plans. Most current fish status data comes from harvest monitoring. Translating the data into status assessments and reports is complex and can be difficult, but is vital.

Continue WDFW's existing capacity to monitor ESA-listed fish status and trends and expand where necessary to fill critical information gaps at the ESU/DPS or Major Population Group (MPG) scale as identified in regional recovery plans and associated monitoring plans.

Monitor Essential Fish Habitat Status and Trends

Monitoring the status and trends of key habitat attributes is also an element of regional recovery plans. Much of this responsibility is shared by WDFW with other agencies.

Expand WDFW's capacity to participate with other agencies and regional salmon recovery organizations in compiling and sharing habitat information, evaluating habitat status and trends, identifying critical gaps in information and determining strategies for addressing such information gaps that are consistent with regional recovery plans and associated monitoring plans.

Water Resource Management for Salmon Recovery

Several water resource management activities have significant roles in implementation of regional salmon recovery plans. These activities include: promulgating and implementing instream flow rules; regulating and supporting water rights and authorized water use; developing the scientific analyses and programs, such as instream flow and hydraulic continuity studies, to support management decisions; and, providing technical and funding assistance to restore flows needed to provide fish habitat.

Substantially expand Ecology's capacity to implement their water resource management activities related to salmon recovery.

Technical and Funding Assistance for Watershed Plans

Activities to implement approved watershed plans and salmon recovery plans are becoming more integrated within areas where both plans co-exist. A Memorandum of Understanding among state agencies provided for coordination during development of watershed and salmon recovery plans and needs to be updated for coordinating implementation of plans.

Maintain capacity to provide technical and funding assistance for watershed plan implementation to continue progress in integrating and coordinating implementation of watershed and salmon recovery plans.

Technical and Funding Assistance for Shoreline Management Plans

Technical and funding assistance for scheduled revisions of local Shoreline Master Programs and program implementation is an important element of habitat protection for salmon recovery.

Expand Ecology capacity to provide technical and funding assistance to update Shoreline Master Programs, including a focus on relating shoreline and wetlands protection to the broader context of land-use management needs that support salmon

recovery and other environmental benefits.

Monitor Water Quality and Quantity Status and Trends

Monitoring and evaluating progress in salmon recovery will require that we know the status and trends of key attributes of healthy watersheds, such as water quality, stream flows and habitat. Much of the responsibility for monitoring is shared with other agencies, such as WDFW. Ecology uses status and trends information to identify critical gaps in information and determine strategies to address gaps that are consistent with regional recovery plans and associated monitoring plans.

Expand Ecology's capacity to coordinate and participate with other agencies and regional salmon recovery organizations in collecting water quality, stream flow and habitat data; evaluating status and trends; identifying critical gaps in information; and determining strategies to address gaps that are consistent with regional recovery plans and associated monitoring plans.

TMDL Development and Implementation

Developing and implementing TMDLs are primary strategies for restoring and maintaining water quality that contributes to salmon recovery.

Expand Ecology's capacity to: fully implement TMDL approaches for clean water; provide technical and funding support for early implementation of TMDLs; and integrate watershed and salmon recovery plan priorities through implementing TMDL approaches.

Stormwater Management Program Development and Implementation

Alteration of hydrological processes and aquatic habitat from inadequate stormwater management is a key limiting factor for habitat affecting Western Washington salmon recovery.

Expand Ecology capacity to assist local governments and others in developing and implementing stormwater management programs and practices (e.g. stormwater ordinances, NPDES permit programs, and low impact development practices).

Floodplain Management Program

This program supports salmon recovery by providing technical and financial assistance from the Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP). This assistance supports the capacity of local governments to reduce habitat loss from development in floodplain areas through local adoption and enforcement of floodplain development regulations. Benefits to salmon habitat also occur through Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plans (CFHMPs).

These plans include projects for channel migration, wetlands, floodplain restoration and flood damage reduction. FCAAP planning grants lead to grants for projects to mitigate flood hazards that can restore natural floodplain functions and contribute to salmon habitat.

Maintain Ecology's capacity to assist local governments and landowners in the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program and to continue development and implementation of CFHMPs.

WASHINGTON RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE (WRCO)

Federal and State Funding for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

Federal funds, through the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, and matching state funds for projects to protect and restore habitat are an essential ingredient for implementing regional salmon recovery plans.

Maintain, and possibly increase, federal and state funds provided to the SRFB for grants to habitat project sponsors, consistent with recovery plans and strategies and regional and SRFB processes for technical review of proposed projects.

Funding Critical Gaps in Monitoring

Monitoring and evaluating status and trends of fish populations, particularly ESA-listed salmon and steelhead, habitat conditions that are essential for supporting those populations and effectiveness of actions are critical tasks in all regional salmon recovery plans. It is important to maintain the capacity of agencies responsible for salmon recovery related monitoring. The capacity of regional salmon recovery organizations to coordinate monitoring activities in their region is also important and includes: using monitoring information to evaluate fish and habitat status and trends; identifying critical gaps in information; and developing strategies to address such information gaps.

Work with agencies and regional organizations represented on the Forum for Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health to expand federal and state funds provided to the SRFB for grants needed to address critical statewide or regional gaps in monitoring, evaluation and related data management capacity.

Support Regional Salmon Recovery Organization Operations

Funding for basic operations of regional salmon recovery organizations within salmon recovery regions is necessary to implement salmon recovery plans and strategies over the long-term.

Continue capacity to maintain current level funding through the 2009-11 Biennium.

Support Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Operations

Funding for operations of salmon recovery lead entities that focus on the habitat within the salmon recovery regions is necessary to implement habitat protection and restoration strategies and projects.

Expand funding for the functions of salmon recovery lead entities during the 2009-11 Biennium.

State Forest Lands HCP

The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for forest lands owned or managed by DNR is relied upon in salmon recovery plans to mitigate the effects of timber harvest on ESA-listed species. Implementation of the HCP provides conservation benefits that contribute to salmon recovery by maintaining or restoring freshwater habitat. The riparian conservation strategy in the State Forest lands HCP covers approximately 1.6 million acres of DNR-managed lands in western Washington.

Continue full implementation of the State Forest Lands HCP.

Forest Practices HCP

The HCP for private and public forest practices regulated by DNR is relied upon in salmon recovery plans to mitigate the effects on ESA-listed species of timber harvest on these forest lands. Implementation of the HCP provides conservation benefits that contribute to salmon recovery by maintaining or restoring freshwater habitat.

Continue full implementation of the Forest Practices HCP.

Small Forest Landowner Program

The Forest Practices HCP and state laws provide alternative approaches for small forest landowner forest practices and addressing impacts on ESA-listed species. The focus is to reduce the impacts on fish habitat of forest roads and the effects stream crossings may have on fish passage, as well as to obtain 50-year conservation easements to maintain riparian habitat for salmon. Special procedures and financial assistance are provided to lessen the economic burden of HCP implementation on small forest owners, but it is generally insufficient for timely implementation of the related habitat restoration needed for salmon recovery.

Expand DNR's capacity for outreach and to provide technical and financial assistance to small forest landowners that is consistent with regional salmon recovery plans and implementation priorities.

HCP Implementation and Effectiveness Data Sharing at Recovery Plan Scale

Given the degree of reliance on the implementation and effectiveness of the forest lands HCPs by salmon recovery plans, it is important that information on the implementation and effectiveness of the HCPs be available at the ESU/DPS and Major Population Group scales of the regional salmon recovery plans. Such information is a fundamental requisite for periodically evaluating overall progress toward salmon recovery at the scale at which the fish are listed under the ESA (i.e. an ESU or DPS).

Evaluate DNR's monitoring and data management capacity related to implementing the HCPs and small forest landowner programs and determine means to use or expand that capacity as needed to regularly provide implementation and effective information to regional salmon recovery organizations in a clear and usable format.

Aquatic Lands HCP Implementation

Developing and implementing an HCP for the state aquatic lands program provide an opportunity to address potential impacts of aquatic lands leases on salmon habitat and salmon recovery. It is important that implementation of the HCP be consistent with regional salmon recovery plans.

Expand DNR's capacity to implement the aquatic lands HCP and to coordinate with regional salmon recovery organizations to ensure consistency of HCP implementation with salmon recovery plans.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (WSDOT)

Correct Fish Passage Barriers

Fish passage barriers associated with state and federal highways are identified in all recovery plans as factors contributing to the listings of fish.

Expand implementation of corrections to fish passage barriers in a manner consistent with regional salmon recovery plan priorities while also addressing other related fish habitat impacts.

Highway Right-of-Way Maintenance

Operations and maintenance activities within highway right-of-ways can impact and/or benefit salmon habitat.

Expand current capacity, working with regional salmon recovery organizations to manage right-of-way improvements that will benefit aquatic habitat consistent with regional salmon recovery plan priorities wherever possible.

Watershed-Based Project Impact Mitigation

Watershed-based mitigation of transportation project impacts on fish habitat and water quality is recognized as having great potential to benefit salmon recovery. In this approach, actions to mitigate transportation project impacts to fish habitat and water quality are targeted towards areas having the highest value in providing salmon habitat and other aquatic ecosystem benefits, consistent with regional salmon recovery plans, where possible.

Enhance WSDOT's capacity to develop and implement policies that promote watershed-based mitigation through integration with regional salmon recovery plan objectives, strategies and priorities and coordination with regional salmon recovery organizations.

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (COMMISSION)

Programmatic and Technical Assistance for Conservation Districts (Districts)

Districts have a unique role in salmon recovery. They have worked for decades to build relationships with private landowners to educate, provide technical assistance and seek funding in support of salmon recovery and watershed health. These relationships and the assistance provided by Districts are vital to the success of salmon recovery, since private lands comprise much of the land that borders salmon streams. Districts are local partners with regional salmon recovery organizations and also sponsor many habitat projects. Regional salmon recovery organizations rely on Districts to provide technical assistance to private landowners and other sponsors of habitat protection and restoration projects that implement regional salmon recovery plans. Districts rely upon technical assistance funds from the state through various programs to conduct these activities.

The Commission administers several programs that provide funding through Districts to landowners to implement actions to improve salmon habitat and watershed health (e.g. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program). These programs use scientifically based Best Management Practices developed by the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Districts inspect and monitor implementation of practices to increase accountability and ensure success.

Work to expand pass-through funding assistance the Commission provides to Conservation Districts to increase the Districts' technical capacity to design and implement high priority habitat projects and provide education and outreach to landowners. Maintain and expand the funding programs administered by the Commission and through Districts to implement actions that benefit salmon habitat and watershed health consistent with regional salmon recovery plans.

Programmatic Funding for Riparian Restoration Program

Urban and some rural lands are not eligible for federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program funds. Where such lands are located in critical areas with a high priority for improving riparian function, a new program for riparian restoration is needed. A specific program for this purpose would focus on improving riparian functions, follow NRCS standards and be maintained and monitored for success. Riparian habitat projects need continuing maintenance for several years to ensure successful tree growth and control of invasive plant species. The Commission and Districts already have riparian expertise, standards for practices and maintenance and monitoring and data management experience in order to administer and implement such a program.

Work toward development and state funding of a riparian restoration program administered by the Commission and implemented by Districts to improve salmon habitat and watershed health consistent with regional salmon recovery plans.

Conservation Practices Implementation Monitoring and Data Sharing

Districts implement on-the-ground projects to improve and protect salmon habitat and natural resources, and in doing so leverage additional federal funds that benefit salmon recovery efforts. Implementation of these projects must be monitored to measure the effectiveness of actions and account for salmon recovery funding. Project monitoring and effectiveness information can then be used to report on progress toward regional salmon recovery goals.

Work to increase participation in the Commission's watershed data system and continue working with other entities, including the regional salmon recovery organizations, in data sharing related to salmon recovery.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CTED)

Technical Assistance to Local Governments

Local governments have a key role in implementing regional salmon recovery plans. They provide technical assistance and regulatory guidance to landowners and developers with aquatic and riparian habitat to avoid, minimize or mitigate the impacts of land-use activities on habitat functions. CTED provides technical assistance to local governments in support of local government land-use management actions that help implement salmon recovery plans (e.g. land use data and information management).

Continue or expand CTED's capacity to provide such assistance.

Local Government Land-Use Management Funding

The capacity of local governments to provide technical assistance and regulatory guidance to landowners and

developers to avoid, minimize or mitigate the impacts of land use activities on habitat functions is an important part of the foundation for implementing regional salmon recovery plans. The technical capacity of local governments to design and implement land-use regulations or guidance for which they are responsible, can often be a key factor limiting progress in protecting remaining or restored habitat quality and function.

Expand the pass-through funding assistance CTED provides to local governments to increase local government capacity to design and implement high-priority, land-use regulations (e.g. critical areas ordinances) or guidance consistent with implementation of regional salmon recovery plans.



Appendix B

Federal Government Agency Actions Identified in Regional Salmon Recovery Plans 2009-11 Biennium Priorities - July 2008

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) was asked by the Legislature (Chapter 77.85.030 RCW) to work with federal agencies to accomplish implementation of actions identified in regional salmon recovery plans for which federal agencies are responsible. GSRO has identified, working with regional salmon recovery organizations, that the following topics have high priority for action by the responsible federal agency to implement regional salmon recovery plans during the 2009-11 Biennium. Under each federal agency, a description of each topic for which the agency is responsible provides a brief clarification of the action and reason for its priority. This information is intended to help inform the agency's strategic decisions during development of 2009-2011 work

plans and any related budget development as part of federal budget requests.

Additional information on these topics is available in the regional salmon recovery plans and implementation schedules. GSRO has initiated discussion of these topics with the responsible agency(s) and is encouraging ongoing discussion and coordination with regional salmon recovery organizations. There are other baseline and core activities that make significant contributions to salmon recovery. It is also important that such core programs continue to make their contributions to salmon recovery. These agencies and topics are not listed in priority order.

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE (NOAA FISHERIES)

Maintain or Enhance PCSRF

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) is administered by NOAA Fisheries, which passes through funds appropriated by Congress to five Pacific Coast states. PCSRF has been a principal source of federal funds for Washington's salmon habitat projects and for the development and implementation of regional salmon recovery plans through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Work to increase PCSRF monies for continued and coordinated implementation of salmon recovery plans.

Report Use and Effectiveness of PCSRF

NOAA Fisheries prepares annual reports to Congress on the use and effectiveness of PCSRF in implementing actions to recover Pacific salmon species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This report includes key, high-level indicators of the status and trends of listed salmon populations and the actions that have been funded and implemented through PCSRF to recover these listed populations to a viable status.

Continue work on report and maintain the ongoing capacity to refine these indicators of progress, compile and assess the supporting information and prepare effective and timely reports.

Monitor and Evaluate at ESU/DPS Scale

Monitoring and evaluating status and trends of listed salmon and steelhead populations and their habitat are essential to determining effectiveness of recovery actions and gauging progress towards achieving goals established in recovery plans. Adequate monitoring and evaluation at the scale at which species are listed (i.e. ESU/DPS) and also at the scale that viability is required for de-listing (i.e. Major Population Groups) is a prerequisite for effective adaptive management of regional salmon recovery plan implementation.

Continue and expand NOAA Fisheries' capacity to provide technical and funding assistance for needed monitoring and evaluation at the ESU/DPS and MPG scales.

Conduct Species Status Reviews

The ESA calls for review of the status of listed species every five years.

These status reviews compile valuable information for those implementing regional salmon recovery plans for evaluating progress toward meeting viability criteria, addressing limiting factors and threats, and achieving recovery goals.

Continue NOAA Fisheries capacity to conduct timely 5-year status reviews.

Communicate and Transfer Research Results

NOAA Fisheries, primarily through its Northwest Science Center, conducts important research to address critical uncertainties relevant to salmon recovery.

Maintain capacity and procedures for sharing and communicating significant research results with the regional salmon recovery organizations and other partners engaged in implementing and adaptively managing salmon recovery plans.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE (USFS)

National Forest Road Management

Roads in the national forests can be a major source of sediments and can also have adverse effects on stormwater flow and fish passage that impact ESA-listed salmon and steelhead in all salmon recovery regions. Current funding and capacity for USFS to maintain or decommission roads and correct barriers to fish passage is very limited in relation to the needs identified in forest management plans and regional salmon recovery plans.

Expand capacity of USFS to address impacts of national forest roads on ESA-listed salmon and steelhead in a timeframe consistent with salmon recovery plans. Coordinate USFS actions with regional recovery plan priorities.

Stream and Watershed Restoration

Restoration of stream habitat on a watershed scale within the national forests and adjacent lands is an important strategy in forest management plans and regional salmon recovery plans. USFS has technical and financial resources that are devoted to restoring habitat in selected watersheds. These resources are effective but are very limited.

Expand USFS' capacity to restore stream habitat in watersheds within National Forests and adjacent lands in a timeframe consistent with regional salmon and steelhead recovery plans. Coordinate use of these USFS resources with regional salmon recovery plan priorities.

Coordinate Monitoring and Data Sharing

USFS does substantial monitoring of habitat status and trends and the effectiveness of habitat restoration on national forest lands. Continued coordination of these USFS monitoring efforts and sharing the resulting data with similar and related efforts of state agencies and the regional salmon recovery organizations is needed. In Washington, these efforts are coordinated through the Monitoring Forum on Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health, in which USFS participates.

Continue to coordinate monitoring and data sharing through the Monitoring Forum and with the regional salmon recovery organizations.

Implement Clean Water Act Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Implementation of Clean Water Act requirements on national forest lands, including development and implementation of TMDLs, is addressed through a MOU between USFS and the Washington State Department of Ecology. Implementation of this MOU is being relied upon in regional salmon recovery plans to address water quality issues affecting salmon recovery in the national forests.

Maintain and expand USFS capacity to implement the CWA MOU.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS)

Coordinated Bull Trout Recovery Planning

The USFWS is engaging in a review of the ESA listing of bull trout and delineation of bull trout populations and DPSs before undertaking further work on federal bull trout recovery plans. Provisions related to recovery of bull trout populations are incorporated in several regional salmon recovery plans.

Continue capacity to coordinate with regional salmon recovery organizations as those organizations coordinate implementation of salmon recovery plans and as the USFWS carries out its responsibilities related to bull trout.

Hatchery Operations and Monitoring

USFWS has responsibility for maintenance and operation of a number of hatchery facilities. These hatcheries may be operated to enhance fishing opportunities or to supplement and conserve species that may be listed under ESA.

Expand capacity to modify hatchery facilities or operations as needed to be consistent with regional salmon recovery plans and recommendations for hatchery improvements to reduce any adverse impacts on ESA-listed salmon or steelhead.

Habitat Restoration Funding

USFWS administers several programs that provide technical and financial assistance for habitat protection and restoration for ESA-listed species.

Work to expand programs that provide this assistance, and continue to coordinate with regional salmon recovery organizations to ensure consistency with regional salmon recovery plan priorities.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

Ecosystem Restoration Studies and Implementation

The USACE uses authorization for General Investigation Studies and other programs to examine the feasibility and environmental effects of alternative approaches to ecosystem restoration for key areas within several salmon recovery regions, consistent with priorities identified in regional salmon recovery plans (e.g. Columbia River Estuary, Puget Sound Nearshore). These types of studies are an important tool for assessing options for restoring key, high-priority ecosystems and generating the information needed to justify federal funding authorizations and appropriations, and any required cost sharing, for the most cost-effective actions.

Maintain and expand USACE's capacity to undertake and complete in a timely manner, ecosystem restoration studies as authorized by Congress and supported by specific appropriations.

Specific USACE-Related Regional Issues and Actions

The USACE is an important source of technical assistance and funding for implementing regional salmon recovery plans. Recovery issues relating to USACE capabilities and responsibilities arise on an ad hoc basis in most salmon recovery regions.

Maintain USACE's capacity to respond and assist in addressing high-priority issues affecting salmon recovery and that can involve USACE responsibilities and capabilities.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (USEPA)

Assist Columbia River and Puget Sound Estuary Programs

A healthy Columbia River Estuary ecosystem is an important component of all regional salmon recovery plans in the Columbia River Basin, and the health of Puget Sound is critical to the Hood Canal and Puget Sound salmon recovery plans. Both the Columbia River Estuary and Puget Sound are in USEPA's National Estuary Program and are identified as national priorities in USEPA's National Strategic Plan. In particular, USEPA is leading development of a Toxics Control Strategy for the Columbia River Basin. In Puget Sound, USEPA has received increased funding in the past two years for priority estuary restoration actions. Timely implementation of salmon recovery and other ecosystem plans for the Columbia River Estuary and Puget Sound

will require technical and financial assistance from USEPA.

Maintain and expand USEPA's capacity for technical and financial assistance for implementation of salmon recovery and ecosystem restoration plans for both the Columbia River Estuary and Puget Sound.

Managing Monitoring Data

USEPA has an interest in and capacity for coordinating data management associated with monitoring water quality, habitat status and trends and other information related to watershed and ecosystem health. Large-scale data management tools will be increasingly needed for use by regional organizations.

Maintain and develop USEPA policy and other capacity for assisting or coordinating regional ecosystem data management capabilities.

Assisting State CWA and TMDL Implementation

Timely implementation of the federal Clean Water Act, particularly the development and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), is an important strategy supporting salmon recovery.

Continue, and enhance federal funding support from USEPA for CWA responsibilities delegated to the Washington Department of Ecology, particularly for development and implementation of TMDLs.

Assist NPDES Permits Implementation

NPDES permits can have a significant effect on local water quality and regional salmon recovery.

Continue USEPA’s capacity to provide technical assistance to support local capacity to design and implement NPDES permits that are a priority action in salmon recovery plans.

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION (BPA)

Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

BPA has a primary role, through its Fish and Wildlife Program, in funding mitigation of effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) on fish and wildlife resources in the Columbia Basin. Specific funding levels and project funding decisions are made in concert with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program, implementation of the FCRPS Biological Opinion and other related funding agreements.

BPA also funds related research, monitoring and evaluation efforts and maintains data management capacity to report on project implementation and the effectiveness of funded projects. These BPA funding and related responsibilities are very significant for implementation of regional salmon recovery plans in the Columbia River Basin.

Maintain enhanced BPA funding and capacity to coordinate BPA activities related to salmon recovery with Washington’s regional salmon recovery organizations in the Columbia Basin.

NORTHWEST POWER AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL (NPCC)

Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

NPCC has a primary role through its Fish and Wildlife Program in mitigating the effects of the FCRPS on fish and wildlife resources in the Columbia Basin. NPCC developed and regularly amends its Fish and Wildlife Program, which provides the framework for BPA funding decisions to mitigate the effects of the FCRPS on Columbia Basin fish and wildlife. NPCC also administers a process to solicit, review and recommend projects and programs for BPA funding, including on-the-ground

projects to improve fish and wildlife habitat and projects and programs for research, monitoring and evaluation related to fish and wildlife affected by the FCRPS. These NPCC responsibilities are very significant for implementation of regional salmon recovery plans in the Columbia River Basin.

Maintain NPCC’s capacity to coordinate its activities related to salmon recovery with Washington’s regional salmon recovery organizations in the Columbia Basin.

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (USBR)

Technical and Funding Assistance for Interior Columbia Basin Salmon Recovery

USBR is a key federal action agency for many major programs providing land and water use and hydropower benefits in the Columbia River Basin, including the Federal Columbia River Power System, the Yakima Basin Project and the Okanogan Basin Project. In addressing the effects of these programs on fish and wildlife resources, USBR also plays a major role in providing technical and financial assistance for programs to protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat. This includes activities, particularly technical assistance, that support implementation of salmon and steelhead recovery plans for the Upper Columbia Region and the Yakima Basin.

These USBR responsibilities and capabilities are very significant for implementation of these regional salmon recovery plans.

Maintain and expand, as opportunities arise, USBR's capacity to provide assistance and to coordinate its activities related to salmon recovery with Washington's regional salmon recovery organizations in the Columbia Basin.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) AND FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)

Technical and Funding Assistance for Salmon Recovery Actions Related to Agricultural and Forest Lands

The NRCS and FSA have substantial capacity for providing technical and funding assistance to agricultural and forest landowners who are addressing the effects of agricultural or forest practices on ESA-listed salmon and steelhead and other aquatic resources. This assistance is often provided through other agencies, such as local Conservation Districts, but some types of assistance may also be provided more directly to landowners and other organizations. The role of the NRCS and FSA has been particularly prominent in the Snake River Salmon Recovery Region, given the predominance of agricultural lands in that region.

NRCS and FSA responsibilities and capabilities, in coordination with local Conservation Districts, are very significant for implementation of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan in Washington.

Maintain NRCS' and FSA's capacity to provide assistance and to coordinate their activities related to salmon recovery with local Conservation Districts and Washington's regional salmon recovery organizations.



Appendix C

Regional Salmon Recovery Plan Implementation Monitoring Statewide Outline and Guidance January 2008

Introduction

Regional salmon recovery plan implementation monitoring is a component of the overall monitoring and evaluation of the status of salmon recovery and is a means of emphasizing accountability for progress. Recovery plan implementation schedules and progress reports are essential components of monitoring and adaptively managing implementation of Washington's regional salmon recovery plans. Monitoring implementation of recovery plans is called for in Washington's Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy (December 2002) and in the Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health (Monitoring Forum) recommendations to the salmon recovery regional organizations (December 2005).

The statewide approach for recovery

plan implementation scheduling and reporting includes:

- 1) Network of responsible local/regional, state, tribal and federal contacts.
- 2) Statewide and regional processes for identifying plan implementation priorities and coordinating implementation of recovery plan actions.
- 3) Consistent, organized and easily accessible compilation of key information on recovery plan actions.
- 4) Means and capacity for providing regular reports to key partners and the public on progress in recovery plan action implementation.

The purpose of this document is to outline statewide parameters for recovery plan implementation schedule information and clarify expectations for the data management systems and reports that organize and communicate recovery plan implementation monitoring information.

Implementation Network

A network of contacts for local/regional, state, tribal and federal recovery plan partners responsible for recovery plan actions and for coordinating action implementation will be used to support development and use of recovery plan implementation schedules and related implementation status reports. This network will function at both statewide and regional and/or watershed scales to support recovery plan implementation within each region

and across the state. At the statewide scale, the Monitoring Forum and the Council of Regions (COR), with support from the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), have key roles in coordinating identification and resolution of recovery plan implementation and monitoring issues. At the regional scale, the regional salmon recovery organizations, along with any bi-state coordinating forum(s) created to coordinate implementation of recovery plans with Oregon and/or Idaho, are the hub of the coordination network.

Attachment 1 provides the principal contacts for federal, state and tribal recovery plan implementation partner agencies. Designated contacts are indicated for these four categories of coordination activities:

- 1) Coordinating policy for recovery plan implementation and plan revision.
- 2) Providing and/or reviewing implementation monitoring information.
- 3) Developing and evaluating status, trends and effectiveness monitoring information.
- 4) Developing and using data management tools and methods that support recovery plan implementation.

Statewide agency contacts, as well as agency contacts for each regional organization recovery planning areas, are indicated in Attachment 1. Since this information will change over time, it will be a shared responsibility of the GSRO, the regional salmon recovery organizations and the partner agencies to periodically update this information. Each regional organization is also encouraged to develop and maintain equivalent contact information for the regional and local agencies and organizations that are also their partners in recovery plan implementation.

Priority Setting and Coordination Process

Each regional recovery plan identifies actions needed to achieve recovery goals within that region over time. It is important to identify key recovery plan actions that have the highest, most urgent priority and the lead responsibility for implementing those actions. The priority of actions can be phased or sequenced over time, but should be synchronized with the state's biennial budget cycle and also related to the annual development of the federal budget. Initial priorities need to be identified for the near-term (i.e. present-June 30, 2009) and for the mid-term (i.e. July 2009-June 30, 2011). The information needed for identifying and coordinating implementation of near-term and mid-term priority actions, and securing funding commitments, includes: action objectives, limiting factors affected, lead responsibility, action scope or scale, estimated cost or level of effort required for implementation and existing or proposed fund source. Templates for use in organizing and compiling such information are illustrated in Attachment 2.

The regional salmon recovery organizations have lead responsibility for recommending near-term and mid-term priorities, in consultation with policy coordination contacts for agencies with lead implementation responsibilities for the priority actions. Regional organizations also have responsibility for initially providing the information called for in the templates. The GSRO has responsibility for compiling regional information into a statewide format, and in coordination with the COR and each region for facilitating discussion with statewide and regional policy contacts to clarify agencies' responses to action recommendations. GSRO also has responsibility for recommending to the Legislature the state agency actions in the 2009-11 Biennium that would further the success of regional salmon recovery plans, including any need for expanded technical or financial assistance from state agencies or the Legislature.

Implementation Schedule Information

Implementation schedules may include all actions in a recovery plan or a selected set of actions in the plan. However, all actions in the plan that are needed to achieve recovery goals and objectives

should be included in the implementation schedule. The following information should be provided for each action in the implementation schedule.

- 1. Action Name and Unique Identification Number**
- 2. Action Category:**
 - a. Program or Project
 - b. Limiting Factor-Habitat, Hatchery, Harvest or Hydropower
- 3. Project Type (habitat projects, using PCSRF Framework, Appendix E)**
- 4. Action Description**
- 5. Action Purpose**
 - a. Scope and Objective(s) of Program
 - b. Scale and Outcome(s), with Metric(s) of Projects
- 6. Geographic Detail:**
 - a. Program Location (county, subbasin, watershed, stream reach and/or site)
 - b. Project Location (GPS latitude/longitude for site or center of area)
- 7. Lead Responsible Implementing Entity (and key supporting partners)**
- 8. Implementation Status:**
 - a. Start Date
 - b. Completion Date.
- 9. Estimated Direct Cost (for all or only selected actions)**
- 10. Funding Status:**
 - a. Planned Only
 - b. Partial Funding
 - c. Full Funding
- 11. Fund Source(s)**

Action information may be supplemented with information on sub-actions or tasks. The information listed above, as applicable, may or may not be provided for each sub-action or task.

In organizing and structuring the implementation schedule, careful attention should be given to consistency in:

1. Use of geographic scale for actions.
2. Identification of limiting factors.
3. The linkage or relationship among programs, projects and actions.

The geographic scale of program or project actions may be quite variable

(i.e. basin, subbasin, watershed, sub-watershed, stream reach or site) but should be consistently within the framework of the Water Resource Inventory Areas. The identification of limiting factors and project types, particularly habitat limiting factors and projects, should be consistent with the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund Framework (December 2006). The hierarchal linkage or relation among programs or initiatives, larger-scale projects and more site-specific projects or actions should be clear and internally consistent within each recovery plan implementation schedule.

Data Management and Related Reports

Each regional recovery plan implementation schedule will need to be supported by a data management system capable of tracking the status of action implementation, providing access to action information for planning partners and the public and generating regular reports that are well-organized and easily understood. The primary clients for implementation reports will generally be regional boards, the GSRO, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and other involved planning partners. The reports will be used to support overall progress reports, such as the GSRO State of Salmon Report, the NOAA Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund Annual Report, related SRFB reports and any similar or equivalent reports by regional or watershed organizations.

It is important that regional or watershed data management systems are set up to efficiently contribute to these related reporting needs.

Different systems may be used to accomplish these data management and reporting objectives, such as the Lower Columbia Salmon PORT, Verification and Accountability System for Puget Sound and regional applications of the WDFW Habitat Work Schedule. However, any system developed for these purposes must be compatible with sharing data (i.e. upload and/or download data) with key statewide systems, such as the Habitat Work Schedule and the RCO PRISM.

Related Systems

There are several related tracking and reporting systems in use or under development in Washington and/or the Pacific Northwest. As regional recovery plan implementation monitoring evolves within Washington it will be important to examine the relationships and the potential for constructive linkages with state, tribal, federal and regional data management systems for programs and projects relevant to salmon recovery.

Such systems include:

1. WDFW-Habitat Work Schedule and Managing for Success System.
2. RCO-PRISM.
3. NOAA-Pacific Northwest Salmon Habitat Project Tracking System;
4. Bonneville Power Administration-PISCES.
5. Washington Conservation Commission-Watershed Data Project.

Relating and linking regional recovery plan implementation to other salmon recovery monitoring efforts is also vitally important. Key monitoring efforts related to action effectiveness, intensively monitored watersheds, and biological and habitat status and trends (e.g. SRFB Reach-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Program, NPCC/BPA ISEMP/STEM) will need to be linked to implementation monitoring through the adaptive management processes within the regional planning areas and through the coordination efforts of the Monitoring Forum. A key effort for coordinating salmon recovery-related data management in the Pacific Northwest is the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP).

Washington (i.e. GSRO, RCO, and WDFW) is actively engaged in the PNAMP and other regional coordination processes.

The GSRO will coordinate with the COR and assist in the examination and

constructive resolution of the relationships and potential linkages between regional salmon recovery plan implementation monitoring and relevant state, tribal and federal monitoring programs and data management systems.

Regional Development Status

Each regional recovery organization is expected to submit quarterly progress reports during the biennium (i.e. every six months) to the RCO under its contract with the SRFB. The status of development and use of recovery plan implementation schedules and reports should be included in the quarterly reports to the RCO.

These quarterly reports should describe the region's progress and status for:

- 1) Compiling implementation schedule action information (e.g. started, incomplete or completed).
- 2) Developing and using an implementation schedule data management and reporting system (e.g. started, under development or functional).

Tasks and Timeline

Steps in implementing this guidance document are outlined below:

- Statewide guidance and implementation network contact information distributed as a working document (January 2008).
- Complete 2007-09 Biennium priority action information (February 2008).
- Complete 2009-11 Biennium priority action information (May 2008).
- Complete regional implementation schedules (2008).
- Complete links of implementation schedules with WDFW Habitat Work Schedule and/or other data system(s) (2008).
- Submit report to the Governor and the Office of Financial Management on recommendations for state agency actions and assistance needed to support regional recovery plan implementation in the 2009-11 Biennium (October 2008).

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Governor's Salmon Recovery Office at the address listed above.**