

# Conservation Plan

Oregon Coast Coho ESU

*Second Draft*

# Morning Agenda

- New Schedule (*extended time for review*)
- Broad overview of second draft
- Respond to questions

# Timeline

- Coho Assessment – *6/04 to 5/05*
- Begin Conservation Plan – *6/05*
- First Draft – *5/06*
- Second draft – *7/26*
- Comments due on 2nd draft – *8/25*
  
- Goal: OFWC presentation in December & adoption in January

# Relation to Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

## *Maturation of Oregon Plan*

- Viability analysis
- Priorities: Limiting factors & populations; CWHIP
- Better monitoring
- Early Warning system
- Leadership accountability/reporting
- Expanded non-regulatory participation

# NFCP Requirements

## *Review:*

- Describe management unit
- Current (Viability) status
- Desired status
- Gaps
- Strategy/management action
- Monitoring & evaluation

## *Additional Elements of Plan*

- Leadership/accountability
- Cost estimate – *incomplete*
- Implementation Detail – *incomplete*



# What's new in this draft?

- Almost everything except the Desired status Section

# New Content

- Exec Summary & Introduction
- Historical Perspectives, future vision
- Desired Status *Habitat Component*
- Conservation Strategy
- Population Action Plan
- Prioritizing Investments
- Adaptive Management
- Leadership/ & Accountability
- Uncertainty & Critique
- Basis for Optimism

# Front Page News

## Conservation Plan

- Is staged for *immediate implementation* – action that will improve the effectiveness of conservation actions and investments
- Sets the stage for further refinement of within-population strategies & action
- Monitoring will establish trends to detect effectiveness and need for future revision



# Key Actions – *Preview*

- Leadership & accountability
- Private Lands Initiative
- Hatchery program changes
- Priorities: limiting factors & populations
- Conservation tools – CWHIP
- Monitoring
- Early warning system

# Historical Perspectives

- *Salmon Conservation Plans* – were not effective – focused almost exclusively on hatcheries to provide for harvest
- *Spawner densities* – circa 1900 densities may have been 200 -500 coho per mile. Have been as low as 5 -10 per mile; at desired status spawners should be 20 - >100 per mile.

# ESU

- Structure: 21 independent Populations in 5 strata; many dependent populations (6% of coho habitat)
- ESU is viable

# Desired Status *Principles*

- *First*: don't lose ground – then get all populations viable
- *Core* of D.S. is spawner abundance and ability of habitat to produce smolts
- *Other criteria*: are primarily safety-net parameters to be evaluated under very poor ocean conditions

# Desired Status

*(What is new in this draft?)*

- Desired Status vision
- Commitment to include habitat criterion (it is under development)
- Criteria applied to recent years as examples (retrospectives)
- Other criteria similar to 1<sup>st</sup> draft



# Conservation Strategy

## 1. *General Approach*

### Sequential stages:

1. Ensure that independent pops are viable
2. Improve status of all 21 populations
3. Achieve desired status across the ESU

# Conservation Strategy

## 2. *Simultaneous Actions*

- Maintain regulatory framework
- Selective changes to hatchery programs
- Harvest management
- Implement priorities for LF and populations
- Conserve and improve habitat
- Research impact and control of predation

# Conservation Strategy

## 3. *Integration*

- Integrate science based conservation principles across the landscape within practical constraints (land ownership, infrastructures, etc.)
- Address all life cycle issues (harvest, hatchery, habitat)

# Within Population Strategy

## *Plan Encourages Local Conservation Strategies*

- Ground-verify CWHIP
- Map high quality habitat
- Map dispersal corridors
- Map best restoration sites
- Local limiting factors
- Sequenced action plans
- *When?* – January 2008
- *How?* – local entities with support from Implementation Team

# RM & E

- Monitoring at population scale
- Better ability to detect trends in habitat
- Annual Report on coho and habitat status
- *Early Warning System*
- 6 yr formal re-assessment
- 12 yrs to evaluate trend in habitat
- Informed adaptive management



# Early Warning System

- Annual Report (Core Team)
- Test understanding/predictions regarding ESU and environment
- Consider all available data (coho adults, juveniles, habitat, Life-cycle data, ocean survival, harvest rates)

# Research Priorities

## Top tier

- Verify CWHIP
- Effectiveness monitoring
- Predators -- effects and control methods
- Beaver

## Middle Tier

- Within-population priorities and limiting factors
- Salmon River re-introduction

# Implementation

- Ready to make immediate improvements in conservation investments
- Allows for local investments to consider other policies/species/goals
- Encourages within population strategy development by January 2008

# Leadership Accountability

- Past system has not reached full potential
- Recommends more accountability (specific assignments) in Core and Implementation teams
- Requires Annual report on coho and habitat status ;and trends – serves as *early warning system*

# Key Actions – *Summary*

- Leadership & accountability
- Private Lands Initiative
- Hatchery program changes
- Priorities: limiting factors & populations
- Conservation tools – CWHIP
- Monitoring
- Early warning system



# Time Frames: Reaching Desired Status

- Five Decades
- Primary Limiting factor: Stream complexity
- Habitat conditions have been systematically/inadvertently altered for over 100 years
- Some spatial areas will not be restored
- It will take time to double the productive capacity of habitats across the ESU

# Uncertainty & Review Critique

- Have we missed key elements?

# Oregon is Optimistic *(Cautiously)*

- ESU is at least close to viable
- All 21 independent populations occupied; all showed positive response when ocean improved
- Primary limiting factor is addressed by action
- Track-record of private landowners
- Private Lands Initiative
- New tools to increase effectiveness (CWHIP, priorities)
- Better monitoring; early warning system
- Ability to track progress in 12 years

Questions?