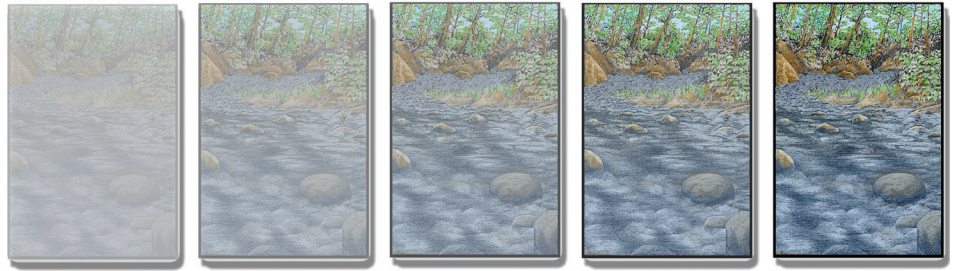


SUBBASIN PLANNING

IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN



WHAT'S A SUBBASIN?

The geographic area drained by a river and its tributaries is called a basin. The Columbia River Basin drains parts of seven states and the province of British Columbia, a vast area encompassing 259,000 square miles. For planning purposes, 62 subbasins of the Columbia River are designated in the United States. Some are tributaries and others are parts of the main Columbia and Snake rivers.

WHAT'S A SUBBASIN PLAN?

Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife populations have declined over time as the result of habitat losses, overharvest, ocean conditions and other causes. Subbasin plans direct actions to improve survival and increase the diversity and number of fish and wildlife populations in subbasins.

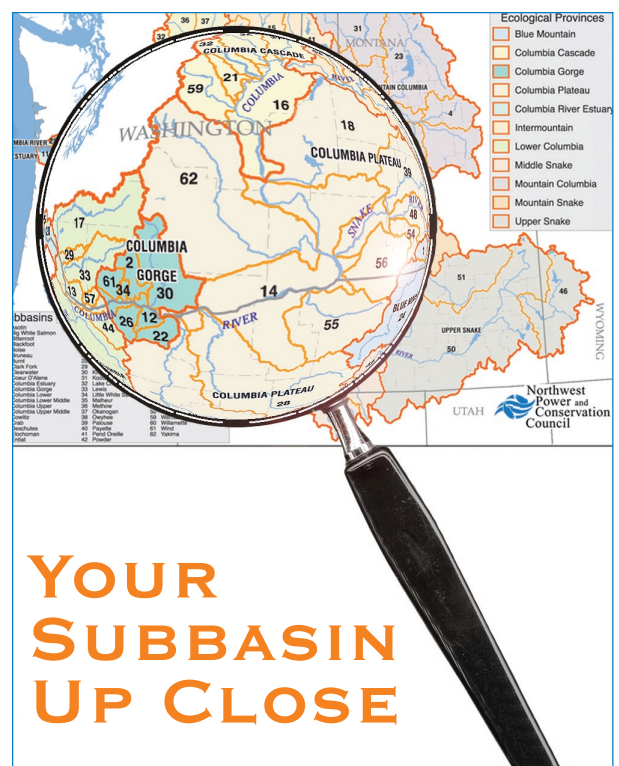
A SUBBASIN PLAN HAS THREE PARTS:

1. The **inventory** includes all the information on existing fish and wildlife programs, activities and management plans.
2. The **assessment** is a biological analysis of the potential for fish and wildlife survival improvements.
3. The **management plan** sets the course for future action — 10 to 15 years into the future. The management plan includes 1) a vision of the desired environment in the subbasin; 2) biological objectives to measure and quantify fish and wildlife populations and environmental conditions; 3) strategies, or actions needed to achieve the biological objectives; and, 4) a plan for research, monitoring and evaluation of the actions and results.

WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS?

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council, an interstate compact of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, has specific responsibility in the Northwest Power Act of 1980 to mitigate the effects of hydropower dams on fish and wildlife of the Columbia River Basin. The Council does this through its Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, which is funded and implemented by the Bonneville Power Administration. In 2000, the Council established in the program a vision, goals and objectives for all fish and wildlife of the Columbia River Basin.

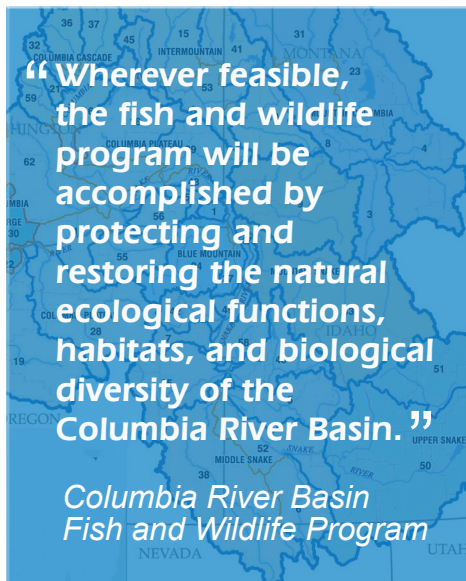
The Council also decided it made sense to implement the program principally at the subbasin level through locally developed subbasin plans. Subbasin plans have the support of NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the federal agencies that implement the Endangered Species Act for fish and wildlife. Thus, subbasin planning coordinates fish and wildlife recovery efforts and improves their efficiency and effectiveness.



WHY SUBBASIN PLANS?

Many types of projects implement the fish and wildlife program. These include protecting habitat, improving fish passage at dams, rebuilding naturally spawning fish populations through the careful use of experimental hatcheries, researching factors that limit fish and wildlife survival.

Subbasin plans will direct these projects and project funding, and provide the context for public and scientific review of project proposals and, ultimately, the Council's project-funding recommendations to Bonneville.



WHAT'S IN IT FOR GOVERNMENT?

Subbasin plans will help state and federal agencies that deal with fish and wildlife, water, land, hydropower, and endangered species build better relations and deeper understanding with the public about complex and controversial environmental issues. Subbasin plans will promote improved, collaborative planning consistent with local and regional goals and direct a limited amount of funding to fish and wildlife projects with the highest probability of success.

WHO DEVELOPED SUBBASIN PLANS?

Local landowners and experts affiliated with state and federal fish and wildlife agencies collaborated to develop the plans. In each subbasin all of these interests collaborated to develop a plan that reflects unique circumstances, goals and objectives. The Council selected lead entities for each subbasin or, in some cases, groups of subbasins to organize the effort. Bonneville provided about \$15 million to pay for the work.

Many public meetings were conducted in the subbasins. It was a long and, at times, difficult process. But importantly, the work was done with broad participation. The plans were submitted to the Council on May 28, 2004.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE?

Improved habitat and greater abundance of species and genetic diversity. Subbasin plans will give context to where mitigation projects should occur and also provide assurance that the most beneficial projects are being undertaken in the right places at the right time to improve conditions for fish and wildlife.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR PEOPLE?

The draft plans are available for public review and comment from June 4 through August 12. After the Council adopts the plans as draft amendments to the fish and wildlife program in November, another period of public comment and review will take place.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The plans will be available for public review and comment this summer. The Council will adopt the plans as draft amendments to the fish and wildlife program in November, conduct another public comment period, and then amend the plans into the program. Over time, the plans will be updated periodically.

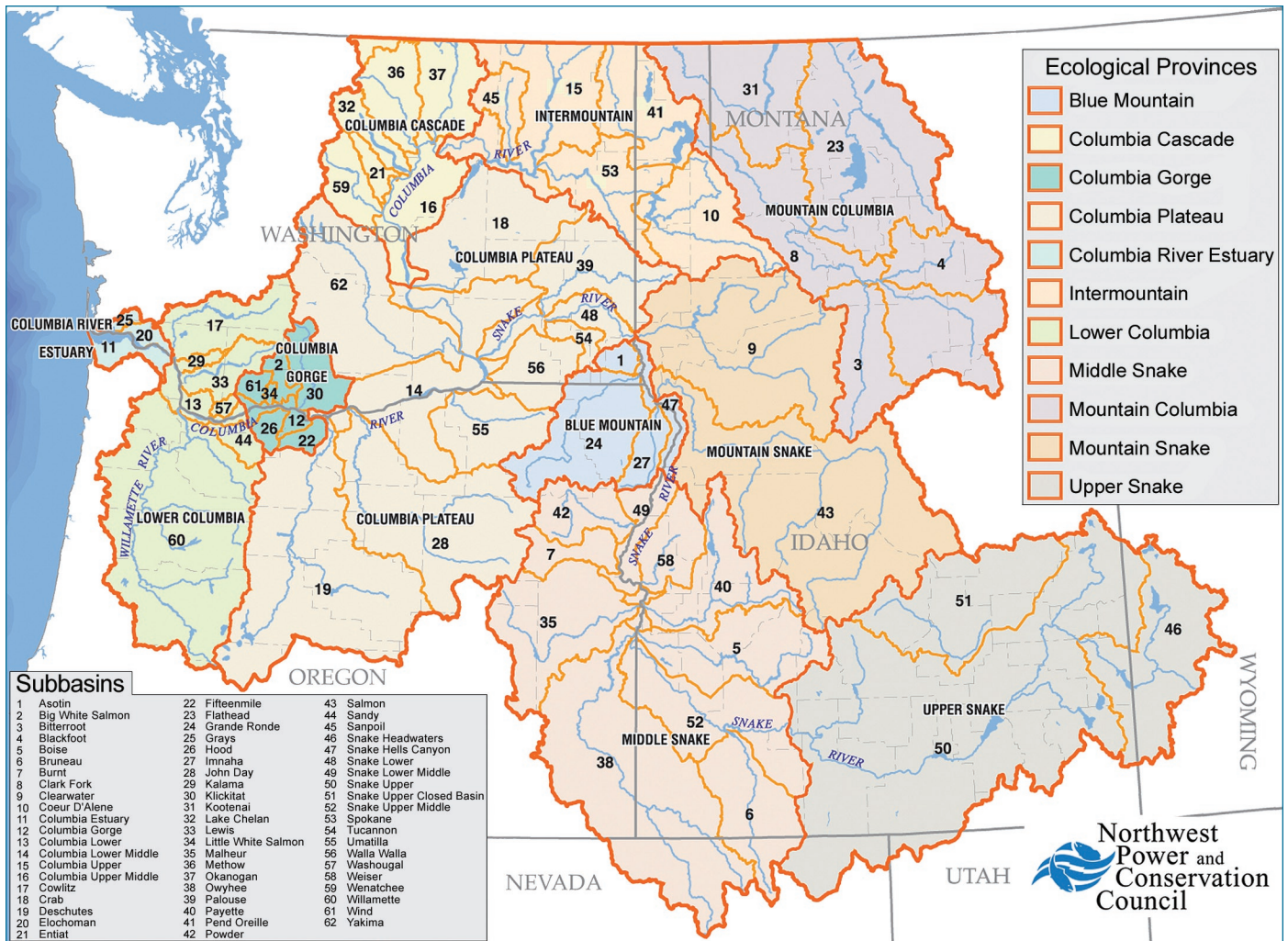
HERE'S HOW TO COMMENT:

Go to www.subbasins.org and find your subbasin in the pull-down list of subbasins on the left side of the page. Choosing the subbasin will call up its homepage. Download those portions of the plan you wish to read. Send your comments to the Council either by e-mail or by regular mail.

Address e-mail comments to:
info@nwcouncil.org

Address written comments to:
Mark Walker
Public Affairs Division
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204

Deadline for comments is August 12, 2004.



KEY SUBBASIN PLANNING 2004 DATES

May 28th

Subbasin Plans submitted

June 4 - August 12

Independent Scientific Review and Public review

August 13 - 17

Council develops "key issues" list based on your comments

August 17 - October 15

Plan response period. Planners develop responses to comments for Council

November

Council adopts draft amendments

November - December

Public hearings/comments on draft amendments

December - January

Council adopts subbasin plans into program



Northwest
Power and
Conservation
Council

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Idaho Subbasins

Boise
Bruneau
Clearwater
Coeur d'Alene
Kootenai
Lower Middle Snake Mainstem
Owyhee
Palouse
Payette
Pend Oreille
Salmon
Snake Headwaters
Snake Hells Canyon
Spokane
Upper Snake Closed Basin
Upper Middle Snake Mainstem
Upper Snake
Weiser

Montana

Kerry Berg (Council, Helena), 406-444-3952
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Montana Subbasins

Kootenai
Flathead

Oregon

Karl Weist (Council, Portland), 503-229-5171
kweist@nwcouncil.org

Oregon Subbasins

Burnt
Columbia Estuary
Columbia Gorge
Deschutes
Fifteenmile Creek
Grande Ronde
Hood
Imnaha
John Day
Lower Columbia Mainstem
Lower Middle Columbia Mainstem
Lower Middle Snake Mainstem
Lower Snake Mainstem
Malheur
Owyhee
Powder
Snake Hells Canyon
Umatilla
Upper Middle Snake Mainstem
Walla Walla
Willamette

Washington

Tony Grover (Council, Vancouver), 360-513-6801
tgrover@nwcouncil.org
Intermountain Province coordinator:
Alison Squier, 509-747-5804
alison@softridge.net

Washington Subbasins

(listed by coordinating group)

Intermountain Province Oversight Committee

Pend Oreille
San Poil

Spokane
Upper Columbia Mainstem

Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Asotin
Lower Snake Mainstem
Tucannon
Walla Walla

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Entiat
Lake Chelan
Methow
Okanagon
Upper Middle Columbia Mainstem
Wenatchee

Yakima Salmon Recovery Board

Yakima

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

Columbia Estuary
Columbia Gorge
Cowlitz
Elochoman
Grays
Kalama
Lewis
Little White Salmon
Lower Columbia Mainstem
Washougal
Wind

Other Washington Subbasins

Big White Salmon
Crab Creek
Klickitat
Lower Middle Columbia Mainstem
Palouse
Snake Hells Canyon

Web site: www.nwcouncil.org

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