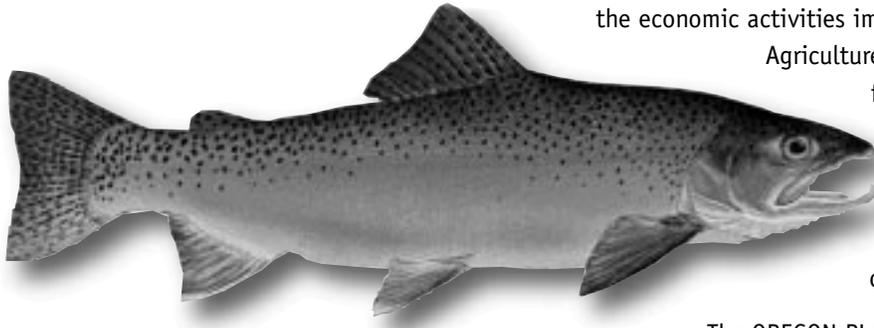


What is THE OREGON PLAN for Salmon and Watersheds



The OREGON PLAN is a user-friendly tool all Oregonians can use to help restore healthy watersheds that will support all the economic activities important to Oregon.

Agriculture, forestry, recreation, fisheries, and industry all need healthy watersheds. In fact, all facets of our communities in some way rely on watersheds to function.

The OREGON PLAN focuses on salmon because they have such great cultural, economic and recreational importance to Oregonians. Plus, they are important indicators of watershed health.

The first year's work on the plan involved organizing participants and creating public and private partnerships. Now the real work of restoring Oregon's watersheds and bringing back our salmon and steelhead moves to the local level. This is where we need your help.

Through local action groups—watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts—important work has begun.

“Restoring our native fish populations—and the aquatic systems that support them—to productive and sustainable levels that will provide substantial environmental, cultural, and economic benefits.”

Why is the plan needed?

Populations of anadromous (or ocean-going) fish have declined dramatically all over the Pacific Northwest. Coho populations in Oregon's coastal basins are at only 1-2% of historic levels. North coast coho numbers are the lowest in the 50 years that records have been kept. While winter steelhead populations in coastal streams seem healthy, summer steelhead numbers are at historically low levels. At the same time, 13,796 miles of Oregon's streams and rivers, and 32 lakes do not meet the water quality standards that support drinking water, recreation and fisheries.

Why are fish populations so low?

There is no single or simple reason. Many factors have combined to reduce the number of ocean-going fish returning to Oregon streams to spawn. These factors are usually characterized as harvest, hatcheries, and habitat changes. They are the result of an historical lack of understanding of how human activities affect salmonids. Natural factors, like predators and ocean conditions, also affect fish populations.

The OREGON PLAN organizes specific actions—called “measures”—around these factors. By addressing the causes of decline, public agencies and private action groups can go to work changing management practices that harm fish and restoring needed habitat.

PRINCIPLES *of* THE OREGON PLAN *for salmon and watersheds*

The OREGON PLAN is designed to restore the healthy function of Oregon's natural aquatic systems. It represents commitments on behalf of government, interest groups, and private citizens from all sectors of the state. While the plan originated as an effort to address declining populations of coastal coho salmon, in the two years since its initiation the plan has engaged new participants, addressed new fish species, attained regional—perhaps national—significance and promoted unique approaches to natural resource issues on a state-wide basis.

Community-based Action:

Efforts to conserve and restore habitat must be planned by communities and landowners with local knowledge of problems and ownership in solutions. Watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other grassroots efforts are vehicles for getting the work done. Government will work to provide the technical support and information needed for communities to prepare and implement local actions.

Government Coordination: Many state and federal agencies administer laws, policies, and management programs that have an impact on fish habitat. These agencies are responsible for

OREGON'S APPROACH: Partnerships, sound science, local actions... results

In contrast to endangered species recovery and environmental protection plans that rely primarily on regulatory approaches, the OREGON PLAN represents a new way of restoring natural systems—the "Oregon Approach."

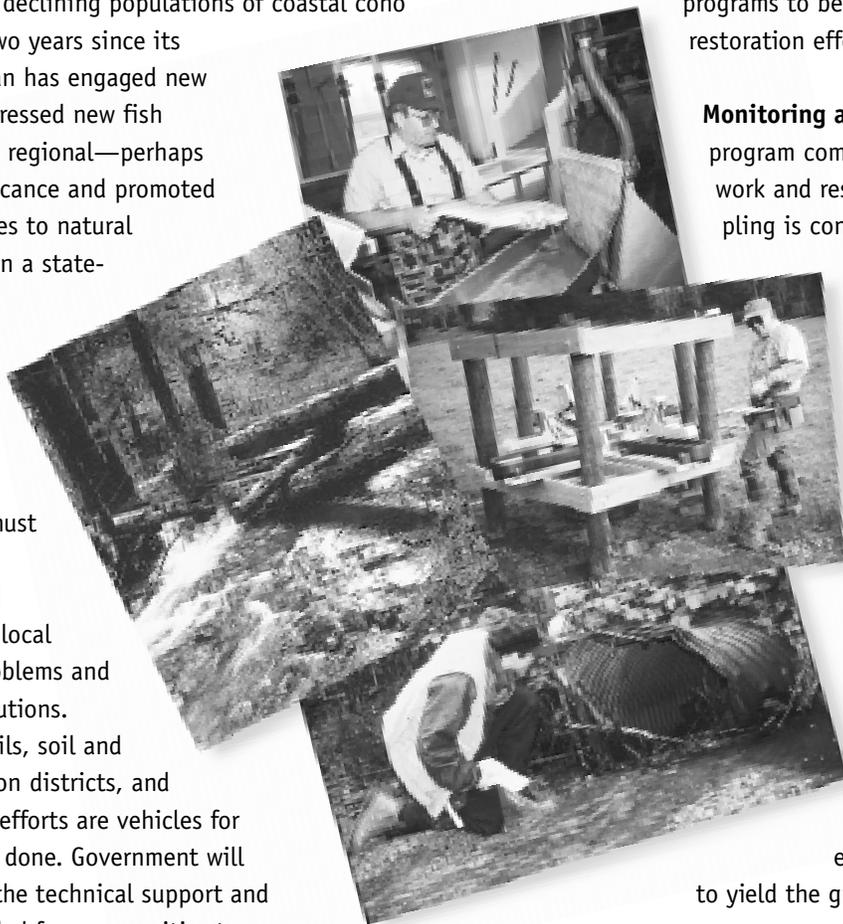
The approach meshes scientific actions with local watershed-based public support. It relies on teamwork between governments and constantly monitors results. Enforcement of current laws is combined with voluntary and cooperative actions.

fishery harvest management, production of hatchery fish, water quality, water quantity, and a wide variety of habitat protection, alteration, and restoration activities. Under the plan, agencies that impact aquatic systems will coordinate programs to be consistent with conservation and restoration efforts.

Monitoring and Accountability: The monitoring program combines an annual appraisal of both work and results. Biological and physical sampling is conducted to determine whether salmon habitats and populations are improving under conservation and restoration efforts.

Adaptive Management: The plan aims to learn from experience. This means discussing alternative approaches and making changes to current programs. The plan emphasizes improving compliance with existing environmental laws rather than arbitrarily establishing new protective laws. Compliance will be achieved through a combination of education and prioritized enforcement of laws that are expected to yield the greatest benefits for fish.

The OREGON PLAN involves a statewide, coordinated effort by local citizens to prepare and implement actions that maintain and improve the health of their watersheds. With the assistance of government and private partnerships, these efforts will be monitored and improved over time.



THE OREGON PLAN
for salmon & watersheds

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