



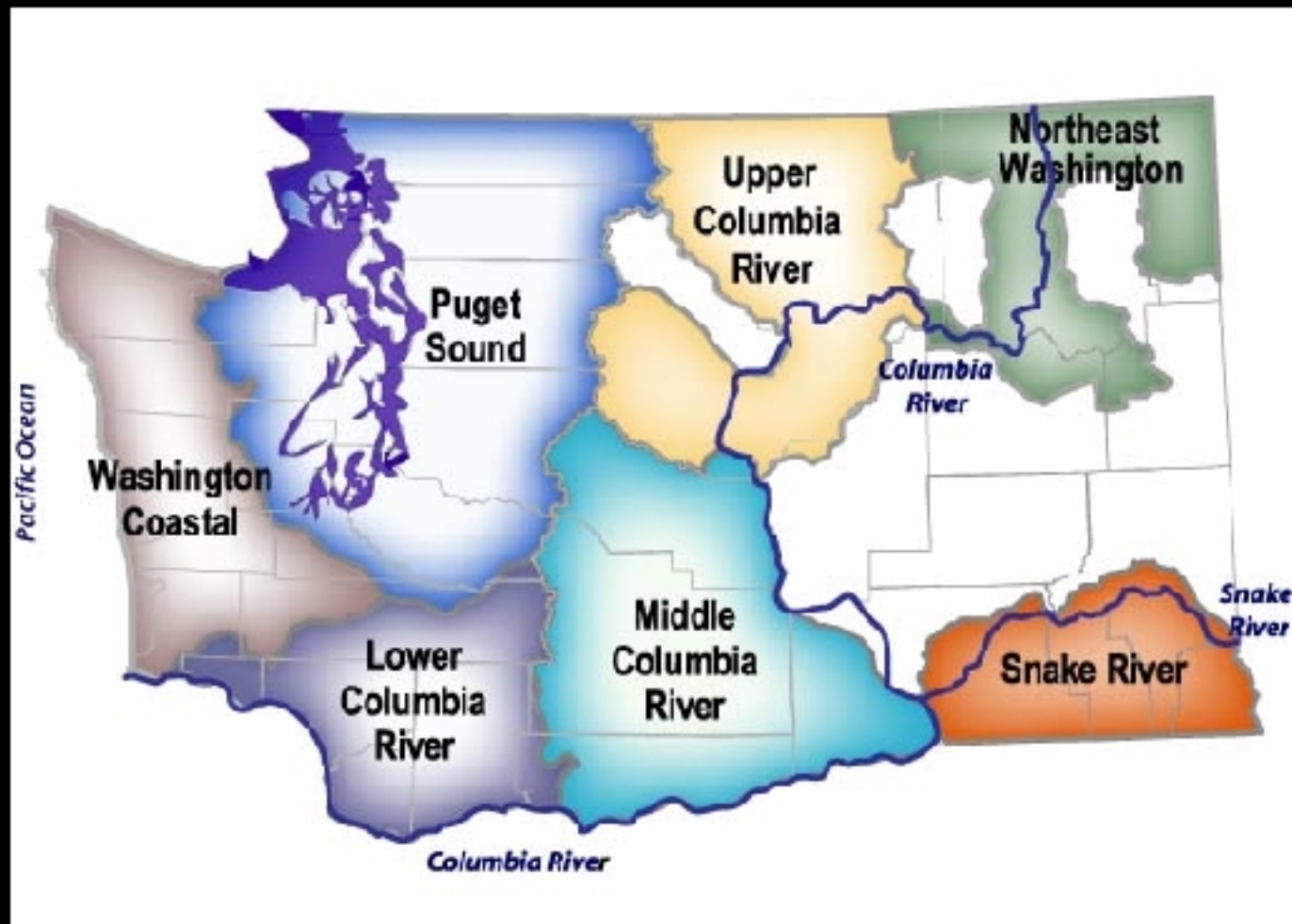
YAKIMA SUBBASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
PLANNING BOARD

Update : Yakima Basin Salmon Recovery Plan

Yakima Basin Aquatic Science and Management Conference

June 15, 2005

State Salmon Recovery Regions



Recovery Plans are Required

- 4 (f) RECOVERY PLANS.-The Secretary shall develop and implement plans (hereinafter in this subsection referred to as "recovery plans") for the conservation and survival of endangered species and threatened species listed pursuant to this section, unless he finds that such a plan will not promote the conservation of the species. The Secretary, in development and implementing recovery plans, shall, to the maximum extent practicable-
- (A) give priority to those endangered species or threatened species, without regard to taxonomic classification, that are most likely to benefit from such plans, particularly those species that are, or may be, in conflict with construction or other development projects or other forms of economic activity; and
 - (B) incorporate in each plan-
 - (i) a description of such site-specific management actions as may be necessary to achieve the plan's goal for the conservation and survival of the species;
 - (ii) objective, measurable criteria which, when met, would result in a determination, in accordance with the provisions of this section, that the species be removed from the list; and
 - (iii) estimates of the time required and the cost to carry out those measures needed to achieve the plan's goal and to achieve intermediate steps toward that goal.
- (2) The Secretary, in developing and implementing recovery plans, may procure the services of appropriate public and private agencies and institutions, and other qualified persons. Recovery teams appointed pursuant to this subsection shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
- (3) The Secretary shall report every two years to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives on the status of efforts to develop and implement recovery plans for all species listed pursuant to this section and on the status of all species for which such plans have been developed.
- (4) The Secretary shall, prior to final approval of a new or revised recovery plan, provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment on such plan. The Secretary shall consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of the plan.
- (5) Each Federal agency shall, prior to implementation of a new or revised recovery plan, consider all information presented during the public comment period under paragraph (4).

Salmon Recovery Act of 1998

- **The legislature finds that repeated attempts to improve salmonid fish runs throughout the state of Washington have failed to avert listings of salmon and steelhead runs as threatened or endangered under the federal endangered species act (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.). These listings threaten the sport, commercial, and tribal fishing industries as well as the economic well-being and vitality of vast areas of the state. It is the intent of the legislature to begin activities required for the recovery of salmon stocks as soon as possible, although the legislature understands that successful recovery efforts may not be realized for many years because of the life cycle of salmon and the complex array of natural and human-caused problems they face.**
- **The legislature finds that it is in the interest of the citizens of the state of Washington for the state to retain primary responsibility for managing the natural resources of the state, rather than abdicate those responsibilities to the federal government, and that the state may best accomplish this objective by integrating local and regional recovery activities into a statewide plan that can make the most effective use of provisions of federal laws allowing for a state lead in salmon recovery.**

Salmon Recovery Act established

- Governors Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)
- Lead Entities – Local funding mechanisms for projects.
- One region to prepare regional recovery plans, and the basis for founding other regions.

Local Lead Entity Establishment

- Yakima Basin Salmon Recovery Board (Lead Entity) established in 2001, increased membership in 2002 to include all 3 counties, Yakama Nation, and representatives of small and large cities in the basin.

Yakima Subbasin Fish and Wildlife Planning Board established 2003

**The Board is composed general service jurisdictions
including:**

Yakima County

Benton County

City of Yakima

City of Kennewick

City of Sunnyside

City of Prosser

City of Granger

WDFW (advisory)

The Yakama Nation

City of Selah

City of Benton City

City of Richland

City of West Richland

City of Roslyn

City of Ellensburg

City of Union Gap

YSFWPB Mission

"The Mission of the Board is to restore sustainable and harvestable populations of salmon, steelhead, and other at-risk species through the collaborative, economically sensitive efforts, combined resources, and wise resource management of the Yakima Basin."

Subbasin Planning – Sept 2003 to Nov. 2004

Recovery Planning – Dec. 2004 to June 2005

“Transition Process” Local Issues

- Finalize organizational relationships – Lead Entity, YSFWPB, Irrigators, BOR, NMFS, USFWS, WDFW, GSRO
- Develop Implementation program (6 months)
- Develop educational program (6 months)
- Oversee local public involvement and input.

Steelhead portion of the Recovery Plan

- Go through public process over the summer, publish in federal register in Oct-Dec as an “interim recovery plan”
- There is a probability that there will be some debate regarding the MCR Steelhead ESU and it’s continuing status under ESA.

Bull Trout portion of the Recovery Plan

- Bull Trout – currently undergoing status review, recovery process is on hold.
- less certainty regarding the timeline for approval of a final recovery plan, but should be shorter process once the status review is over.

Recovery Plan content:

Based on Subbasin Plan - the Subbasin Plan is comprehensive from the stand point of limiting factors, but not from the standpoint of actions.

- Additional Actions for improved regulations and enforcement – especially for local governments.
- Education and public Outreach - Educational program for public schools, developers and private property owners, outdoor recreation, and other programs.
- Also, more specific actions major limiting factors for bull trout and Steelhead – flow, obstructions, water temperature, loss of species, and species reintroduction.

New Actions -

“New Work” conducted by Dave Lind

- pointed to differences between Satus and Toppenish phenotype and life history
- Emphasized mortality in mainstem Yakima and the importance of travel time to and through the lower river.

Actions to respond to outmigration mortality.

- Improve April and May flow management (modify flood control rule curves to allow increased storage) to reduce travel time especially from the upper watershed.
- Subordinate power production at Roza and Chandler during this time period.

Other "new" work

Incorporation of "Preliminary Guidelines" from Interior Columbia Technical Recovery Team

Table 9. Preliminary criteria describing risk levels associated with an increase or decrease in gaps or continuities between spawning aggregates

Factor / Metrics	Pop. Group	Risk Level			
		Very Low	Low	Moderate	High
Factor: Increase or decrease in gaps or continuities between spawning aggregates. Metric: Change in gap distances and spawner distribution.	A	Not attainable	Not attainable	Like historical	Development of a 5-km or greater gap that did not exist historically
	B C D	Like historical	Gaps increased by 1 km or less	Gaps increased 2-5 km	If 3 MSAs or less, then gaps increased by 5 km or more between 2 MSAs. If greater than 3 MSAs, then gaps increased by 5 km or more in 50% or more of nearest neighbor MSA pairs

The “Preliminary Guidelines” require an assessment of population status (Risk) from the standpoint of conservation biology, and asks questions about:

Time (when did changes occur, how much of the population did it effect?)

Geographic distribution (do they still occupy the same range and have the same spatial extent?),

Life histories (what has been lost?)

Genetic data (is there any, does it tell you anything?),

Hatchery and harvest practices (has there been any genetic, selective, or life history effects?)

Ecosystem processes (what has changed in the ecosystem?)

Effects of Preliminary Guidelines

Drove the content of goals – abundance, distribution, genetic integrity/connection of populations, life history diversity.

Changed emphasis or strategy – maintain genetic links between populations, restore ecosystem processes, pointed out the most “at risk” populations or population groups.

Example actions to respond to high risk – bull trout.

- Improve prey availability for bull trout, especially for most at risk populations
- Need for clear direction on the point at which it becomes necessary to take extraordinary action to preserve these populations, then take that action.
- High emphasis on shared habitats and shared life histories, improving distribution across the subbasin.
- Formulate a more comprehensive plan for management of brook trout in the subbasin

Example actions to respond to high risk - Steelhead

- Ahtanum, Cowiche, Umtanum become more important
- Clear direction needed on the measurements of “success” for colonization of new habitats.

Examples to respond to high risk – ecosystem processes

Re-evaluate flip-flop, is it really “means by which the needs of the Yakima Project water users can be met through more efficient or less extensive use of Project waters or by modification of Project operations or facilities so as to have less impact on the fisheries resource” ?

Latest schedule

- Currently under Agency review
- Next draft prepared by late July
- NOAA Science Center Review July-early Aug.
- Public release – Aug 22
- Get to NOAA by October 20th or so.