

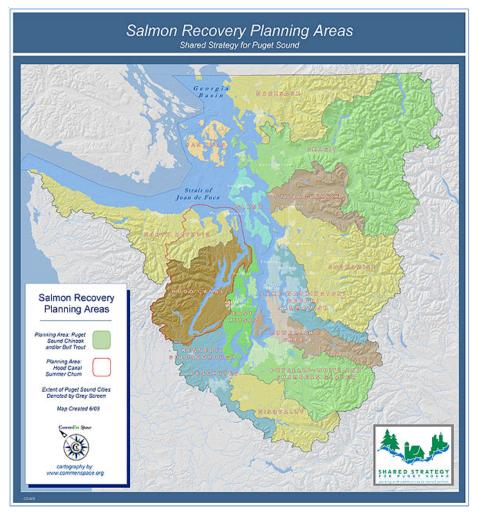
# An Introduction to the Shared Strategy

## What is the Shared Strategy?

One strategy shared by many, the Shared Strategy for Puget Sound is a collaborative initiative to restore and protect salmon runs across Puget Sound. Our goal is to build a costeffective salmon recovery plan endorsed by people living and working in the region, including farmers, timberland owners, fishermen, developers and other interests directly affected by salmon recovery actions. People and organizations participating in the Shared Strategy are shaping the content of their local recovery plan chapters and have the chance to create the future they want for their community.

### How did Shared Strategy get started?

Shared Strategy for Puget Sound was conceived after the ESA listings in 1999 of Chinook, Hood Canal summer chum and bull trout. It grew out of an informal consensus among regional leaders that a new approach was needed to build on salmon recovery efforts already underway in the watersheds. This is unlike the way recovery plans have been written in the past where the federal government makes natural resource decisions and prescribes local actions. The Shared Strategy believes that local stakeholders are in the best position to find lasting



solutions for their communities for complex ecological, economic and cultural challenges. NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the federal agencies responsible for implementing the Endangered Species Act (ESA), have endorsed the Shared Strategy and are active participants.

#### Who is involved in the Shared Strategy?

Shared Strategy coordinates with existing recovery efforts and works with federal, Tribal, state and local governments, business and conservation groups. Fifteen watersheds are participating in the Shared Strategy to identify actions to recover salmon and obtain the commitments needed to achieve them. These individual watershed groups are developing the technical content and implementation structure of their local recovery chapter. Starting in summer 2004 (when the draft

For more information about the Shared Strategy, please visit www.sharedsalmonstrategy.org

local chapters are due), they will work with other watersheds and stakeholders in the Puget Sound to integrate science and social policy into the regional The regional recovery plan. consensus process ensures the plan ultimately reflects local needs and priorities while meeting ESA guirements.

#### **Does the** Shared Strategy Coordinate with **Other Efforts?**

Yes. Far from adding another level of bureaucracy, Shared Strategy builds on assessments, processes, programs, and regulations already underway and knits together them into comprehensive strategy to recover salmon at a regional scale. Relevant

elements from the 2514 watershed plans, from the 2496 strategies, from the Forest and Fish Agreement, from the Growth Management Act and Shorelines Management Act (to name only a few of the most significant processes) will contribute to salmon recovery in Puget Sound. For the

#### What is the Timeline for a **Recovery Plan?**

We are in the third step of a five-step process that began in 2001. The steps are:

**1.**Develop recovery plan outline. 2. Develop planning ranges and targets for fish populations and initial recovery criteria. 3. Identify actions and commitments for all H's to achieve local watershed goals. 4. Develop regional implementation scenarios for recovery based on local chapters. 5. Finalize regional recovery plan.

The Shared Strategy is on schedule to deliver a recovery plan by June 2005.

We can do things now to create the future we want for our region where people and salmon co-exist.

> first time ever, the plan will also ensure that habitat. hatchery and harvest management complement each other to restore naturally sustainable salmon populations to harvestable levels.

#### Who leads **Shared Strategy?**

Shared Strategy draws from a base of diverse leadership, ranging from volunteers organizing local river restoration efforts, to local elected officials providing resources dbuilding support among their constituents, to some of Puget Sound's most accomplished and treasured figures. Shared Strategy enjoys the engaged involvement of Bill Ruckelshaus, chair of the Washington State Salmon

Recovery Funding Board and the first head of the Environmental Protection Agency under President Nixon. He is joined by Billy Frank Jr., whose unrelenting commitment remains the driving force behind the nationally recognized effort to protect and restore the Nisgually River watershed, and Ralph Munro, who recently retired after serving as Washington's beloved Secretary of State for more than 20 years.

Strong leadership at the regional level is needed to keep Shared Strategy on course to build a region-wide plan. But local decision making and action will drive formation of the plan and the people living and working in the watersheds of Puget Sound will ultimately decide whether

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