

# Salmon Recovery



## Local and Regional Efforts are Working

- 800 miles of habitat have been opened to fish.
- 600 miles of stream banks have been restored.
- The Forest and Fish Agreement increased protection for 60,000 miles of streams.
- Harvest changes have increased the number of spawning fish.
- Scientific management plans for most hatcheries have been completed.
- Hydropower dams are undergoing fish-friendly license renewals.
- Citizen and science-based groups have developed strategies and priority project lists in watersheds across the state.
- Five regions are on target to deliver regional-scale recovery plans by June 2005.

## Salmon Recovery Requires Leadership at All Levels of Government

### Federal Regulations Require Action for Threatened Salmon

Chinook, steelhead, chum and bull trout were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The listing requires recovery plans for the listed species by geographic regions. Without a recovery plan federal regulations continue to restrict

business and economic growth. Implementing recovery plans will result in more fish and healthier watersheds for all interests.

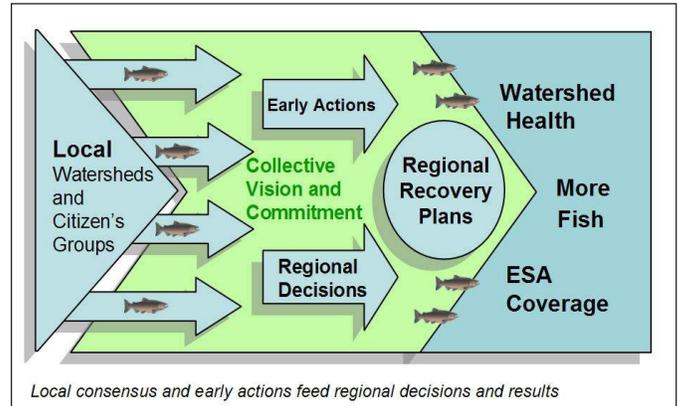
### The Legislature Set the Direction

The 98-99 Legislature anticipated these listings and decided that it is in the public interest for the state to manage its natural resources. The Salmon Recovery Act (RCW 77.85) created a grassroots, local watershed planning process to identify both immediate and long-term salmon recovery actions. It also created the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) to coordinate the overall effort and support development of regional planning groups.

## There is More to be Done

Salmon have been on the decline for decades, and despite recent improvements from ocean conditions, it will take decades to recover them to healthy and harvestable levels. We need to:

- Restore estuaries.
- Continue removing fish blockages.
- Re-establish river functions and side channels.
- Protect existing habitat while accommodating future growth.
- Retrofit hatcheries.



### The State Strategy is Working

Watershed groups across the state have involved many interest groups in projects to improve habitat. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board has created a scientific process to fund local groups. Watershed and local government efforts are being used by five regional groups to complete recovery plans by 2005.

### Federal Government Endorses Local and Regional Recovery Efforts

Federal agencies agreed that recovery plans built upon existing local efforts that roll up into regional plans have a greater likelihood of being implemented. The federal government is funding development of regional plans.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SALMON RECOVERY IN YOUR REGION, CONTACT:

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