

## **Key Statewide Initiatives & Regulatory Measures: 2010—2016**

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During 2010—2016, Oregon state agencies developed the following tools that will be helpful in tracking and reporting of Middle Columbia steelhead status and/or guiding efforts to improve habitat quality and quantity for Oregon’s native fish species:

### **Oregon Stream Restoration Regulatory Efficiency<sup>57</sup>**

In 2010, the Oregon Plan Core Team and Stream Restoration Partnership developed a strategic plan for enhancing the efficiency of regulatory review of stream restoration projects on private lands ([http://orsolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Strategic\\_Action\\_-\\_Plan-FINAL.pdf](http://orsolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Strategic_Action_-_Plan-FINAL.pdf)). The plan describes the objectives, strategic actions, and lead entities for identifying regulatory review issues associated with stream restoration actions, improving the state and federal regulatory permitting and compliance, and increasing private landowner participation in watershed restoration activities.

### **Oregon Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Tracker<sup>6</sup>**

Version 2.0 of Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife’s Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Tracker was officially launched in 2011. The Recovery Tracker website provides information on the measurable viability criteria defined in State of Oregon conservation and recovery plans for populations of salmon and steelhead listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Recovery Tracker was updated in 2012 to include datasets for the Middle Columbia and Lower Columbia DPS/ESUs. The website is updated regularly as new information becomes available. Website users can explore and download viability criteria information, including metadata, for Oregon’s listed steelhead, Chinook, Coho, and chum populations at <http://odfwrecoverytracker.org>.

### **Oregon Middle Columbia Steelhead Conservation and Recovery Plan Implementation Toolkit<sup>31</sup>**

In 2012, ODFW staff developed an Implementation Toolkit to accompany the Oregon Middle Columbia Steelhead Conservation and Recovery Plan. The Toolkit is not intended to be comprehensive summary of or replacement for the Plan, but rather a set of several key implementation tools derived from the Plan. The Toolkit summarizes all the strategic management actions and prioritization information, for all H threats (habitat, hydrosystem, hatcheries, and harvest), from the Plan and its’ Appendices into population-specific searchable Excel spreadsheets. The prioritized strategic actions are organized by geographic location with unique identification numbers assigned to each action to improve tracking and reporting capabilities. The purpose of the Toolkit is to help the Oregon Mid-C Implementation Network members (i.e., restoration practitioners) put the plan into practice by prioritizing, designing, and executing conservation and restoration projects that address the primary factors and threats limiting Oregon’s Mid-C steelhead populations. The Toolkit guidance document and comprehensive, population-specific Excel spreadsheets are available on the Oregon Mid-C Steelhead Recovery website at [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/mid\\_columbia\\_river\\_plan.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/mid_columbia_river_plan.asp).

### **Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy<sup>58</sup>**

The Oregon Water Resources Commission adopted the state’s first Integrated Water Resources Strategy on August 2, 2012 ([http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/LAW/docs/IWRS\\_Final.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/LAW/docs/IWRS_Final.pdf)). The Strategy provides a blueprint to help the state better understand and meet its instream and out-of-stream needs, taking into account water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs.

### **Oregon’s 2013 Statewide Fish Passage Priority List<sup>30</sup>**

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted a statewide, fish passage priority list in 2013 (<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/passage/>). ORS §509.585 requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to complete and maintain an inventory of fish passage priorities based on the needs of native migratory fish. The last fish passage priority list was completed in 2007. ODFW’s latest inventory identified over 27,800 artificial obstructions to fish passage, with only 17% documented as providing adequate fish passage for native migratory fish. Out of the 27,800 artificial obstructions documented in Oregon, 589 barriers were included on the updated 2013 statewide priority list. The list contains 534 high priority obstructions and an additional 55 barriers characterized as “other significant barriers in need of more data”. The priorities are organized into classes, with each class representing barriers of similar priority ranking. It is important to note, that all the barriers on the 2013 list are high priorities for Oregon as these sites will provide significant habitat connectivity benefits to native migratory fish, if passage is provided.

### **Oregon’s 2013 Priority Unscreened Diversion Inventory<sup>59</sup>**

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted a statewide, prioritized unscreened diversion assessment in 2013 ([http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/screening/priority\\_unscreened\\_diversion\\_inventory.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/screening/priority_unscreened_diversion_inventory.asp)). Currently there are over 55,000 surface water rights in Oregon, many of which were authorized without a fish screening requirement. ORS §498.306 requires ODFW, with the assistance of the Fish Screening Task Force and the Oregon Water Resources Department, to establish and publish an updated priority listing of 3,500 water diversions in the state that should be equipped with screening or by-pass devices. An initial report of priority unscreened diversion was released in 1990. The 2013 Inventory provides a current list of the 3,500 high priority unscreened diversions, organized by drainage basin, in Oregon. The list will be used to prioritize ODFW Fish Screening Cost Share funds and target outreach efforts to identify and implement future fish screening projects at sites providing the most benefit to native fish.

## Key Statewide Initiatives & Regulatory Measures: 2010—2016, continued

### Centralized Oregon Mapping Products and Analysis Support System<sup>60</sup>

In December 2013, ODFW launched the Centralized Oregon Mapping Products and Analysis Support System (Compass; <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/maps/compass/>). Compass was developed in cooperation with the Western Governor's Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) and provides coarse-scale, non-regulatory fish and wildlife information, and crucial habitat layers emphasize areas documented as containing important natural resources. Compass is intended to support early planning for large-scale, land-use development or conservation projects, and most layers do not provide detailed information on site-specific locations or streams.

### Oregon's 2012 Integrated Water Quality Report and CWA 303(d) List of Category 5 Water Quality Limited Waters Needing a TMDL<sup>61,62</sup>

ODEQ conducted an updated assessment of water quality in Oregon to meet the federal Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d) requirements. The 2012 Integrated Report combines an assessment of conditions for all waters in the state with identification of those waters that do not meet water quality standards, and where Total Maximum Daily Loads are needed to reduce pollutants (303(d) list). ODEQ submitted the 2012 Integrated Report and 303(d) list to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in November 2014<sup>61</sup>. In December 2016, EPA released its partial approval determination; approving most of the submitted 303(d) listings and delistings, proposing the addition of 1,055 water quality limited segments to Oregon's 303(d) list, and initiating a public comment period on the proposal until April 3, 2017<sup>62</sup>.

### Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Biennial Reports<sup>63</sup>

The biennial reports (<http://www.oregon.gov/OPSW/Pages/br.aspx>) describe activities implemented under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Oregon Plan) and provide the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) observations about the effectiveness of the Oregon Plan's implementation. The reports highlight priority areas, key accomplishments during each biennium, and new focus areas for future restoration to improve water quality and habitat for Oregon's native fish and wildlife. Summaries of basin-specific Oregon Plan accomplishments, state agency actions in support of the Oregon Plan, and Statewide Oregon Plan priorities are also provided in the reports.

### Oregon Water Quality Index Summary Report for Water Years 2005-2014<sup>64</sup>

This Oregon Department of Water Quality (ODEQ) report (<http://www.deq.state.or.us/lab/wqm/docs/wqiAnnualRep2014.pdf>) provides a general statistical overview of Oregon's water quality conditions and trends through the use of the Oregon Water Quality Index (OWRI). OWRI variables include dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, pH, total solids, ammonia and nitrate nitrogen, total phosphorus, temperature, and bacteria.

### Oregon Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, Strategic Implementation Areas, and Focus Areas<sup>65,66</sup>

In 2012, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) joined the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), and NRCS as signatories to the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership. The purpose of the partnership is to identify areas of the state to focus interagency resources to achieve water quality goals and monitor watershed health and landscape conditions<sup>65</sup>. In 2013, ODA implemented a systematic approach to assess conditions on agricultural lands that may impact water quality and provide a standardized platform for ODA and SWCDs to report and collect landscape data statewide. This new self-initiated compliance evaluation approach is an alternative to ODA's former complaint-based enforcement process. Pilot projects were initiated in Strategic Implementation Areas to test the new process, which focuses on assessing all lands in two small watersheds and working with landowners to address water quality compliance concerns. ODA is in the process of selecting additional strategic implementation areas across the state<sup>66</sup>.

ODA and SWCD Agriculture Water Quality Management Area Plans for all of Oregon's Middle Columbia subbasins were updated in 2016 (available at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/AgWQ/Pages/AgWQPlans.aspx>). The purpose of these management area plans is to identify strategies to prevent and control water pollution and sediment erosion from agricultural lands and achieve and maintain water quality standards through educational programs, land treatments, conservation and management activities, compliance, and monitoring. SWCDs in cooperation with ODA designated Water Quality Program Focus Areas to monitor current conditions and evaluate effectiveness of agriculture water quality improvement efforts.

### Oregon Conservation Strategy 2016 Update<sup>67</sup>

Originally published in 2006, the Oregon Conservation Strategy was updated in 2016. The Oregon Conservation Strategy is an overarching state strategy for conserving fish and wildlife (<http://www.oregonconservationstrategy.org/>). It provides a shared set of priorities for addressing Oregon's conservation needs. The Conservation Strategy brings together the best available scientific information, and presents a menu of recommended voluntary actions and tools for all Oregonians to define their own conservation role. The goals of the Conservation Strategy are to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations by maintaining and restoring functioning habitats, preventing declines of at-risk species, and reversing declines in these resources where possible.