The State of Oregon, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and NOAA Fisheries Service are hosting a series of four public meetings on the soon-to-be released plan to restore spring Chinook salmon and winter steelhead populations in the upper Willamette River Basin. This Plan – the *Upper Willamette River Salmon and Steelhead Conservation and Recovery Plan* – is a roadmap and organizing tool to help rebuild these populations listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The four public meetings are scheduled for October and November in Albany, Canby, Eugene, and Salem.

- **Albany** - Oct. 20th, 6:00 – 8:30 pm, Ciddici’s Pizza (Conference Room), 133 5th Ave. SE
- **Canby** – Nov. 1, 6:00 – 8:30 pm, Hope Village (Conference Room), 1535 Ivy St.
- **Eugene** – Nov. 8th, 6:30 – 9:00 pm, Eugene Water and Electric Board (Community Room), 500 E. 4th Ave.
- **Salem** – Nov. 9th, 6:00 – 8:30 pm, Salem Public Library (Loucks Room), 585 Liberty St. SE

ODFW will present a broad overview of the Plan and describe how the public can participate in the review process. While the Plan won’t be officially released until October 20th, a draft of the proposed *Upper Willamette River Salmon and Steelhead Conservation and Recovery Plan* is currently available for public review on the ODFW website at:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/upper_willamette_river_plan.asp

Public comment will also be solicited through a federal process being developed by NOAA Fisheries Service through the *Federal Register Notice*. The federal site will be available in late October.


Information on this plan can also be found on the Oregon Explorer website next week.

http://oregonexplorer.info/willamette/WillametteRecoveryPlanning

Many factors have contributed to the decline of Chinook salmon and steelhead populations in the Willamette Basin, including loss of habitat, effects of dams on fish passage and water temperature, and hatchery fish competition and inter-breeding. The long-term goal of the Plan is to restore each Chinook and steelhead population to the point where they are safe from extinction and can contribute to the economic vitality of the Basin. It is only through the involvement of those who live and work in this area that recovery will be achieved.