

## **6.2. Nonregulatory State Fisheries and Watershed Plans.**

**6.2.1. Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (The Oregon Plan).** In 1993, the Governor of Oregon directed state agencies to prepare a comprehensive and coordinated plan for conservation and recovery for coastal coho and steelhead stocks. The Oregon Plan was completed in 1995, and requires state agencies to coordinate their programs to conserve salmon, identify critical habitat areas for protection and monitoring, and enables citizen and local government planning efforts for ESA recovery. The Plan relies on four fundamental approaches to accomplish the goal of securing and protecting healthy fish habitat:

- (1) Community-based action
- (2) Government coordination
- (3) Monitoring and accountability
- (4) Making continuing improvements over time.

Watershed councils play a key role in developing watershed restoration plans and engaging landowners in restoration actions. Local entities (such as watershed councils) can apply to NMFS for exemption of enforcement of the *take* requirement under the 4(d) rule while taking action to comply with habitat restoration objectives. The Healthy Streams Partnership described below is a component of the Oregon Plan.

**6.2.2. Oregon Healthy Streams Partnership.** The Healthy Streams Partnership was formed in an effort to find cooperative solutions to water quality problems. The partnership is made up of representatives from the agricultural community, forestry, environmental groups, local government and state agencies, and the governor's office. The partnership uses existing regulations under the departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Environmental Quality to address water bodies that currently do not meet water quality standards. The partnership provides support to state agencies and, at the same time, ensures that landowners and other individuals will have extensive opportunity for input into decisions. Restoring Oregon's waters will meet the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act, settle lawsuits related to the act, and help ensure success of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds to restore salmon and steelhead runs.

**6.2.3. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).** OWEB supports the work of watershed councils and other parties by providing grant funds, technical assistance, and information, and is the primary source of state funding for investment in a variety of watershed enhancement projects. OWEB is designed to work closely with the Healthy Streams Partnership and the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

**6.2.4. Oregon Comprehensive Land Use Plans.** In 1961 the Oregon Legislature approved Senate Bill 100 and 101, which created the framework for statewide comprehensive land use planning. The program was directed by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to give priority consideration to land resources, including agricultural lands. The bills provided for the zoning of productive farmlands for "exclusive farm use" (EFU). Counties were allowed to specify the zoning process, to consider local topography, land type, and local concerns.

Statewide Planning Goal 14 requires cities to define an "urban growth boundary" (UGB), which protects EFU lands, and marks the outermost limit of growth and development in a city. Counties and municipalities are enabled to regulate use of land within these areas through taxation policy, land use zoning, and local ordinances.

At present, the cities of Medford, Central Point, and Jacksonville are in the process of developing storm water management plans and regulating the conversion of farmlands to residential and commercial development within the urban growth boundaries.

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