GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

FOR COLUMBIA BASIN

ANADROMOUS FISH RECOVERY

Discussion Draft

September, 1999

THE BASIC STRUCTURE:

GOALS ®

OBJECTIVES ®

SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES ®

STRATEGIES ®

PERFORMANCE MEASURES ®

ACTION PLAN ®

RESEARCH, MONITORING, & EVALUATION.

GOALS

CONSERVE SPECIES: Avoid extinction and foster long term survival and recovery of Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead. Protect and restore abundant, productive, widely distributed, and biologically diverse naturally spawning populations. Foster recovery to levels that can withstand reasonable harvest, the impacts of continuing human activities, and a range of climatic and ocean conditions

CONSERVE ECOSYSTEMS: Conserve the ecosystems upon which salmon and steelhead depend. Protect and restore ecosystem processes that create high quality habitat (tributary, estuary, mainstem) and protect and restore high water quality for spawning, rearing, and migration.

ASSURE TRIBAL FISHING RIGHTS: Restore salmon and steelhead populations, over time, to a level to provide a sustainable harvest sufficient to allow for the meaningful exercise of tribal fishing rights. Until these restoration levels are achieved, provide tribal fishing opportunities that respect tribal culture and recognize treaty rights. [1]

BALANCE THE NEEDS OF OTHER SPECIES: Ensure that salmon and steelhead conservation measures are balanced with the needs of other native fish and wildlife species. Ensure the long term persistence of self-sustaining, complex interacting groups of resident fish and other aquatic and wildlife species across their native range.

MINIMIZE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON HUMANS: Implement salmon and steelhead conservation measures in ways that minimize their adverse human effects.

[1] Restrictions on tribal activities for ESA purposes will meet the conservation standards of the 'Secretarial Order on American Indian Tribal Rights, Federal-Tribal Trust Responsibilities, and the Endangered Species Act,' June 5, 1997

We have three categories of Objectives: Biological, Ecological, and Socio-Economic.

BIOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES:

- **Maintain current distribution of fish and aquatic species, and halt declining population trends within 7 years.**
- **Restore naturally sustained fish populations and establish stable or increasing trends in abundance in each subregion accessible to the fish and for each ESU within 25 years**
- **Restore distribution of fish and other aquatic species in previously occupied areas within the species native range within 25 years (except where fish passage is infeasible).**
- **Conserve genetic diversity and provide opportunities for genetic exchange.**
- **Restore salmon and steelhead population levels that support tribal harvest opportunities and selected local harvest opportunities for non-tribal fishers.**

ECOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES:

- **Prevent further degradation of habitat conditions (tributary, mainstem, and estuary) and water quality for all life history stages.**
- **Increase the amount of high quality habitat and high water quality for spawning, rearing, and migration.**

- **Restore the complexity and range of habitat conditions (tributary, estuary, mainstem) for all life history stages**

SOCIO-ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES:

- **Select actions to restore and enhance fish and their habitat that achieve these Objectives at the least cost.**

- **Mitigate for significant transitional economic impacts and explore creative economic alternatives for achieving these Objectives.**

- **Provide certainty for funding and implementation for strategies and actions.**

- **Coordinate restoration efforts to avoid inefficiency and unnecessary costs.**

KEY SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES

- **Conservation of Columbia Basin fish must address all aspects of the ecosystem and the fish lifecycle.**

- **Conservation requires a network of diverse, high quality, and interconnected habitats and high water quality. Natural systems functioning properly are necessary to restore salmon and steelhead.**

- **Conservation requires preservation of life history diversity, genetic diversity, and metapopulation organization, because these are used by fish populations to cope with environmental and climatic variation.**

- **Conservation must take re-establish the nutrient cycle provided by decaying fish carcasses, which effectively cycles nutrients from ocean to freshwater.**

- **Conservation depends on managing human impacts to achieve suitable ecosystem conditions. However, human activity, development, and population growth will continue.**

- **Technology and research should be used to achieve natural ecosystem conditions, not to replace natural functions.**

- **Salmon and steelhead populations can be evaluated based on abundance, productivity, population structure, and genetic diversity.**

- **Salmon and steelhead can be used as an indicator species to define desired environmental conditions in basins accessible to anadromous fish.**