

Agenda Item No.:	3
Work Plan Title & #:	State Forests Work Plan 2
IBI # and Title:	IBI 6 – Improve the Northwest Forest Management Plan to Achieve Desired Outcomes
Presentation Title:	<b>Species of Concern Status</b>
Date of Presentation:	April 24, 2009
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**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to summarize background information the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will provide on ‘Species of Concern’ (SOC). The two attachments to this report summarize available information about fish and wildlife populations, status, trends, and habitat needs.

**CONTEXT**

In November 2008, the Board asked that information associated with fish and wildlife populations, status, trends, and habitat needs, be provided as a context for its discussions related to adapting the Forest Management Plan. Information for this agenda item came from several sources including published literature, agency published reports, the ODFW Native Fish Report (2005), Oregon Conservation Strategy and Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan. The Oregon Conservation Strategy (Strategy) provides a blueprint for private and public lands to take proactive steps to conserve at-risk fish and wildlife species and their habitats. The Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan (OCCP) for the State of Oregon was adopted by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in May 2007 (OAR-625-500-6500). The OCCP sets specific hatchery and fisheries management requirements for ODFW, and maintains commitments for all State Agencies to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (1997) as coordinated by the Governor’s Natural Resources Office.

**ANALYSIS**

Department of Forestry and ODFW staff identified a list of 39 birds, mammals, amphibians, and fish. Information on populations and trends is available at varying levels of detail and scales for the SOC. For many species, data or other information was not available.

Populations for some terrestrial species are in decline (spotted owl, olive-sided flycatcher, willow flycatcher), some have not appreciably changed (marbled murrelets), some are stable (peregrine falcons) and some are increasing (band-tailed pigeons, bald eagles, osprey, and purple martin). Very little is known about amphibian species (Columbia torrent salamanders, clouded salamanders, western toads, coastal tailed frogs)

and bats other than they occur on Tillamook-Clatsop Forests. There is even less information about species such as Cope's giant salamander or red tree voles.

Many fish populations have declined with some runs extinct or considered at risk (chum, winter steelhead, coastal spring Chinook, Lower Columbia fall Chinook). Others have had variable patterns of decline, rebounds and declines (coho). Cutthroat populations appear widely distributed with high abundance but are still considered at risk. Very little is known about Pacific and Western Brook Lamprey but distribution and abundance appear to have declined.

Habitat needs and limiting factors for wildlife species vary widely from broad associations with forest types or age classes such (e.g., late-successional or early-seral) to associations with specific habitat elements such as snags, down wood, mineral springs, or caves. Common habitat needs for fish and other aquatic species include complex pools, abundant large wood, clean spawning gravels, and cool clean water. The Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests provide habitat for many fish and wildlife species, including species that are rare and at-risk. Healthy fish and wildlife populations benefit from access to diverse and abundant habitat.

The Strategy and the OCCP are tools to help make strategic decisions on conservation issues and for guidance on the types of actions likely to benefit habitats and species. The Strategy describes species and habitats of greatest conservation need, identifies key conservation issues facing those at-risk species, and provides recommendations for actions and opportunities to address them. Late-successional forests, riparian, wetlands, and freshwater aquatic habitats are all priority habitats. The OCCP defines species management units and populations, establishes measurable criteria for desired species status, identifies limiting factors, and identifies other requirements set by NOAA Fisheries for Recovery Plans, including commitments to monitoring and adaptive management. The OCCP sets specific hatchery and fisheries management requirements for ODFW and maintains commitments for all State Agencies to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (1997) as coordinated by the Governor's Natural Resources Office. Goals and objectives identified in the OCCP outline important considerations that will be addressed in proposed draft SOC strategies for the plan area.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

No recommendation; information only.

## **NEXT STEPS**

None for this agenda item.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- (1) ODFW Wildlife Report: Status, Populations, Trends, and Habitat Needs
- (2) ODFW Fish Report: Status, Populations, Trends, and Habitat Needs