For More Information

Visit the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds website ***www.oregon-plan.org*** for comprehensive information about the plan, what you can do, and the wide range of public agencies and private organizations ready to help you take action to protect and restore your part of Oregon.

Telephone the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) in Salem at (503) 986-0178 for information and referrals.

Contact your local:

Watershed Council
Call OWEB at (503) 986-0178 or visit the website for a list of more than 90 Oregon watershed councils.

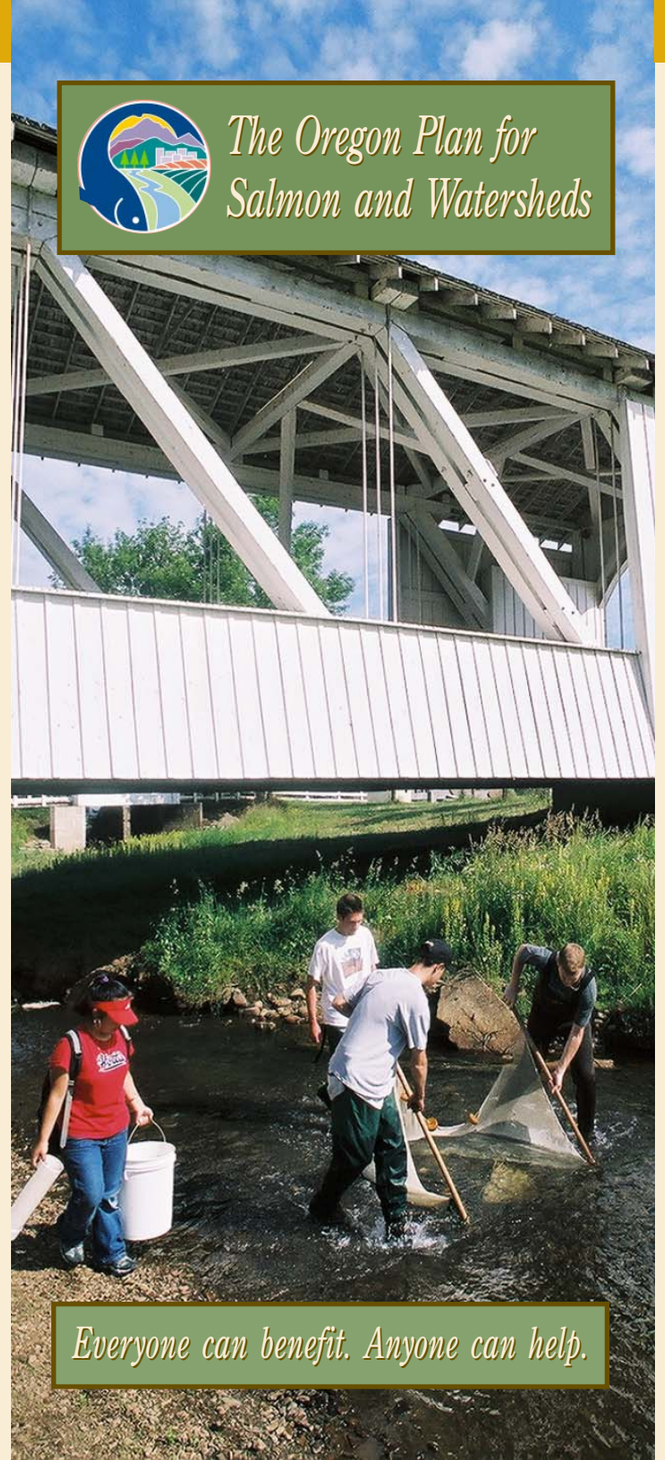
Soil and Water Conservation District
Look in your local phone book under US Government, Agriculture Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Or contact the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts at (503) 566-9157 or www.oacd.org.

Oregon State University Extension Service
Look in your local phone book under your county government listing for "Extension Service."

Driver and Motor Vehicle Services
Purchase an attractive salmon license plate for your vehicle to support salmon habitat restoration.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
Telephone (503) 986-0178 Fax (503) 986-0199
Visit the agency website at:
www.oweb.state.or.us

Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds
website at: **www.oregon-plan.org**



The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds seeks to restore salmon runs, improve water quality, and achieve healthy watersheds and strong communities throughout the state. Such an effort cannot succeed through laws and government actions alone. Instead, the plan relies on the spirit of volunteerism and stewardship that is so characteristic of Oregonians.

All of us — citizens, sport and commercial fishing interests, the timber industry, conservation groups, agriculture, utilities, businesses, tribes and government — are working together to make sure people and salmon can thrive over the long term.

Origins of the Oregon Plan

In 1997, with the support and participation of a wide spectrum of stakeholders from all sectors and regions of the state, the Oregon Legislature and then Governor John Kitzhaber established the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Motivated at first by the conviction that the state must devise its own home-grown response to listings of coho and other salmon species under the federal Endangered Species Act, Oregon expanded the plan into an unprecedented statewide program to preserve and profit from Oregon's natural legacy.

Oregon Plan Project Highlight

Walla Walla River

Restoring a year-round river

In 2001, for the first time in a century, water flowed year-round through the Walla Walla River in northeastern Oregon. Before then, the river ran dry each summer at the town of Milton-Freewater, where water was diverted to irrigate farms, orchards, and pastures. In 1998 and 1999, Endangered Species Act listings of Walla Walla River bull trout and steelhead salmon seemed likely to trigger lawsuits over water between farming and environmental interests. But something unexpected happened. Nearly 700 irrigators joined the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, Bonneville Power Administration, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Oregon Water Trust, and state and federal agencies to replace earthen ditches with water-conserving pipes and take other measures to irrigate more efficiently. The saved water is being enrolled in the Oregon Water Resources Department'sConserved Water Program and will remain in the river, while the people of the river basin sustain their livelihoods.

Oregon Plan Project Highlights

Key Elements of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

Voluntary restoration actions by private landowners — individuals and industry, rural and urban — with support from citizen groups, businesses, and local government.

Coordinated state and federal agency actions to support private restoration efforts, effectively administer regulatory programs, soundly manage public lands, and promote public education and awareness about watersheds and salmon.

Monitoring watershed health, water quality, and salmon recovery to document existing conditions, track changes, and determine the impact of programs and actions.

Strong scientific oversight by an independent panel of scientists who evaluate the plan's effectiveness, identify needed changes, and guide research investments.

The Oregon Legislature allocates Oregon Lottery and salmon license plate funds to implement the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Every dollar the state invests is matched by more than $1.50 of private, federal, and local government funds — and those dollars remain in the state, stimulating local economies. While a host of state agencies support plan implementation, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) has lead coordination responsibility and administers a restoration grant program.

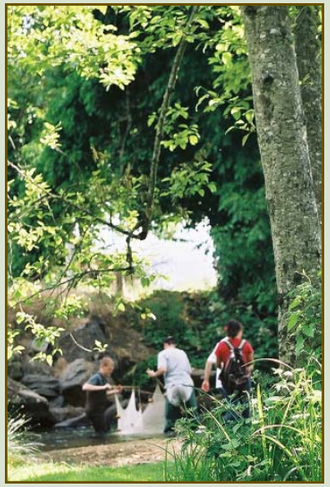
You can learn more about the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds at www.oregon-plan.org or by calling OWEB in Salem at (503) 986-0178. See back panel for other useful contacts and information sources.

Johnson Creek

Making salmon welcome in the city

In Oregon's most densely populated metropolitan region, migrating salmon in Johnson Creek are a delightful and welcome sign of nature. Johnson Creek flows through the cities of Gresham, Happy Valley, Portland, and Milwaukie.

The Hogans Cedar Dams, constructed about 50 years ago, created a barrier to migrating winter steelhead, coho and sea-run cutthroat trout. The Metro Regional Government's Parks and Greenspaces program removed the dam in the south channel, providing easy access for fish to reach excellent upstream habitat. With the help of SOLV, the City of Portland, Mt. Hood Community College and the employees of local businesses, the area was revegetated with native plants and will be monitored and maintained for years to come.



Ames Creek

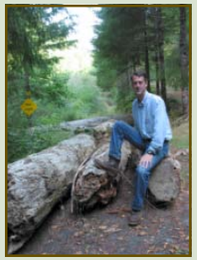
Students revive a city centerpiece

High school science students in Sweet Home changed a trashed creek into a natural treasure for salmon and people with help from the South Santiam Watershed Council, public agencies, private industry and citizen groups.

Buck Hollow

Flashing fish replace flash floods

Landowners joined with the Wasco Co. Soil & Water Conservation District and state and federal agencies to restore the entire Buck Hollow watershed of central Oregon. The work aimed to stop devastating flash floods that occurred in the Deschutes River basin area. Steelhead spawning counts have increased every year since the project began.



Sand Creek

Company puts a forest road to bed

Eugene-based Giustina Land & Timber Co. relocated access roads from the banks of Sand Creek to ridge tops to improve the salmon-bearing Umpqua River basin stream's water quality.

Boxler Creek

Bridge brings back the coho

In northwest Oregon, Boxler Creek flows into Fishhawk Lake, a tributary of the Nehalem River. In the 1970s, the creek was squeezed into two undersized culverts in the course of building a road. The culverts eroded the streambed and created a five-foot drop to the waterway — a barrier for returning salmon. Using salmon license plate funds, project sponsors replaced the culverts with a bridge and restored the stream's historic contour and vegetation. Partners included the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council, Longview Fibre, state and federal agencies, and the community of Fishhawk Lake. Within months of project completion in 2001, the creek welcomed home its first spawning coho in decades.

You Can Become a Partner

Everyone — city dwellers, suburban residents, gardeners, woodlot owners, farmers, ranchers, business people, educators, students — can help achieve the goals of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

Lend a hand. Organizations throughout Oregon are bringing people together to protect and restore vibrant human and wildlife communities. Local watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and nonprofit groups all need volunteers to roll up their sleeves and help make a difference on the ground.

Take easy actions at home and at work. Each of us can take steps to conserve water, minimize the release of chemicals to Oregon waterways, maintain septic systems, and landscape and build wisely.

Implement best practices. Assistance is available to help forest, agricultural, commercial, and industrial landowners manage their properties to protect and restore healthy watersheds.

Put a Salmon On Your Plate!

An additional $30 every two years will get you a beautiful salmon license plate for your vehicle.

Half of the fee goes directly to projects that address road-related impacts to salmon and trout streams, with the remaining half going to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to keep our parks open and green.

See back panel for telephone numbers and websites offering detailed information about ways to partner with the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.