

**Summary of Current Efforts to  
Update the Oregon Fish Habitat Distribution Database  
June 9, 2016**

This document summarizes current efforts to update fish habitat distribution datasets maintained by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. It is intended to inform decisions that are under consideration by the Oregon Department of Forestry's Riparian Rules Advisory Committee.

Framework Data Development Project

The current Oregon Framework Fish Habitat Distribution (FHD) Data Development Project is funded by a grant from the Oregon Dept. of Administrative Services Geospatial Enterprise Office. There are three project components that will result in direct updates to FHD data.

- 1) **Integrate fish observation data from ODFW's coastal and lower Columbia monitoring projects** (Oregon Adult Salmonid Inventory and Sampling Project, Aquatic Inventories Project and the Western Oregon Rearing Project). These data are widely distributed across coastal and lower Columbia subbasins and include observations for coho, steelhead, Chinook and chum. While past efforts have focused on integrating these data outside of previously mapped habitat distribution, the current effort includes data integration both within and outside of previously mapped habitat distribution. To date, data have been integrated for coho, fall Chinook and chum salmon. Steelhead data are being processed currently with an estimated completion date of July.
- 2) **Update FHD source information where opinion-based data occur downstream of documented fish observations.** Version 1.0 of the Oregon Fish Habitat Distribution Data Standard (Standard) did not have a record Basis category for describing fish habitat distribution stream reaches as being located "downstream of documented fish observations". In version 2.0 of the Standard, a Basis category was added to more thoroughly describe these stream reaches with the knowledge that this information would be more accurate than an opinion-based designation. Updates to Basis descriptions were postponed until all FHD data were migrated to the National Hydrography Dataset (completed in 2014) and funding was acquired to support this work. As a supplementary process to integrating new FHD from multiple sources, the Basis descriptions of all "opinion" and "habitat observation" based FHD data are being updated where upstream fish observations have occurred. Overall percentages of opinion-based data are anticipated to drop to about 15-25% of the total records once this work is completed. The percent varies by species.
- 3) **Integrate data from BLM and USFS to refine FHD mapping extent and descriptive information.** Both the BLM and USFS collect and manage significant quantities of fish

habitat distribution data. The data have categories for describing the record Basis that are similar to the Oregon Fish Habitat Distribution Database. Following the business rules outlined in the Standard, ODFW is currently working to integrate data from the USFS for coho and Bull Trout. Delivery of data for other species from the USFS is pending, with delivery of all species expected within the next several months. Data processing will take several months more beyond the delivery date. ODFW is also coordinating with the BLM and expects more of a “phased” data delivery that will likely extend out to the end of 2016. Similar to USFS data, it is expected to take several months to process these data once they are delivered.

While most of these data occur directly on either USFS or BLM lands respectively, the Basis descriptions of downstream FHD records will be affected by these additions and/or modifications.

#### ODFW Internal FHD / Barrier Data Quality Assurance Review

Fish passage barrier data from multiple internal and external sources have been integrated into the Oregon Fish Passage Barrier Database over the past several years. The process for this data integration work, while following the business rules of the Oregon Fish Passage Barrier Data Standard, did not include reconciling discrepancies with anadromous fish habitat distribution datasets. Consequently, some barrier records that are described as “completely blocking to all species and life stages” occur within anadromous FHD. The passage status information associated with a barrier record may not be definitive in terms of its currency or accuracy and thus the associated anadromous habitat distribution data cannot be directly updated. There are also cases where the barrier passage status information may be accurate in which case the FHD data needs to be updated. ODFW staff have worked to identify these discrepancies and efforts to coordinate a review by ODFW district fish biologists are pending. Resolving barrier and FHD discrepancies have been prioritized based on the amount of affected habitat. Reviews will be focused initially in areas where ODF riparian rule revisions are under consideration then they will be conducted in remaining areas of the state. Updates to both barrier and FHD data are expected over the next several months, however not all discrepancies are expected to be resolved during this timeframe

#### ODFW FHD / ODF Fish Presence Data Quality Review

Limited efforts to date have been made to identify discrepancies between ODFW managed coho FHD data for the Northcoast basins and fish presence data managed by the Oregon Dept. of Forestry. Analysis of coho FHD / fish presence discrepancies for the remaining basins is estimated to be completed in June. A similar analysis to identify discrepancies between steelhead FHD and fish presence data will be conducted in July or August. The timeline for resolving these discrepancies has yet to be determined.