



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**



## **The Bush Administration Highlights Salmon Recovery Projects in the Pacific Northwest Oregon, Washington and Idaho**

In September 2000, President Bush pledged to support salmon recovery while at the same time maintaining dams to provide clean sources of energy. The Bush Administration is meeting this commitment through multiple federal, state, tribal and private partnership activities. These activities include support for technological improvement of dams; a strong commitment to estuary and habitat restoration; and a continued commitment to hatchery reform.

### **New Technology Highlights to Improve Fish Passage through Federal Dams**

- In 2001, a “Removable Spillway Weir” (RSW) was installed at Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River in Washington State. This prototype juvenile fish passage technology allows juvenile salmon and steelhead to pass the dam under conditions that provide a more efficient and less stressful dam passage route. This technology not only benefits the fish but also provides power savings to the region. The Corps is also evaluating potential implementation of an RSW at Ice Harbor Dam.
- The Corps operates the juvenile fish transport program in accordance with the NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion (BiOp). Four Corps dams are equipped to collect fish for transport: Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental, and McNary. Transported fish are released downstream of Bonneville Dam. The estimated survival of transported juvenile fish to the point of release is over 98 percent.

### **Strong Commitment to Estuary and Habitat Restoration through Partnerships:**

- The Bush Administration is working with its federal, state, tribal and other partners to conduct a wide array of fish and wildlife resource management and restoration activities in the Pacific Northwest that benefit salmon restoration and recovery.
- Between 2001 and 2003, NOAA Fisheries has provided \$91.5 million to the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board for state, local, and tribal salmon habitat and enhancement projects through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). The State has provided an additional \$42.8 million supporting 150 salmon projects. Also, during the same period, NOAA provided \$46 million to the Oregon Water Enhancement Board. The Administration has also supported adding Idaho to this program.
- Partnerships with states and private landowners have resulted in the restoration of significant habitat for salmon. For example, the Chehalis River Fisheries Restoration Program, a coalition of 42 partnerships with private landowners, fisheries groups, non profit organizations, and state, local, tribal agencies, has added or improved fish passage at 22 barriers (in one stream, within two months of the barrier being removed, coho salmon and steelhead trout spawned in an area not open to fish for 50 years), opened up 26 miles of habitat, restored 23 miles of riparian and in stream habitat, and enhanced or restored 71 acres of wetland habitat. The success of this Program contributed to the decision not to list coastal cutthroat trout as an endangered species.

- This Administration has supported the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Lower Columbia River Estuary habitat restoration program, with \$2 million in FY 2003 and the same amount requested in 2004. The Corps is working with the Washington/Oregon Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership to start on-the-ground habitat improvements that will give us a good return on that investment. NOAA Fisheries also recognizes the importance of estuaries as key areas for restoring fish and improving their survival prospects.
- The Bureau of Reclamation has worked with basin irrigation districts, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the State of Oregon, WaterWatch of Oregon, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), NOAA Fisheries, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and others to restore more natural instream flows on the Umatilla River, a tributary to the Columbia River. These efforts to augment flows during critical fish migration periods, and to construct fish ladders and screens at a number of diversion dams, has resulted in over 5,000 Chinook salmon returning to the basin in 2002 (compared to 0 in 1988) and a doubling in the number of returning steelhead to over 5,500.
- The Environmental Protection Agency works with its partners to protect and restore 28 estuaries of national significance, three of which are located in the Pacific Northwest, as part of the National Estuaries Program. Each of the estuaries has a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, approved by EPA, involving actions such as habitat conservation, wetlands restoration, and water pollution control.
- The Interior Department's "Private Stewardship Grant" program plays a key role in meeting the President's commitment. Examples of the projects include:
  - *Columbia River Estuary Deep River Habitat Restoration Project (WA)* - \$130,000 awarded the Columbia Land Trust to restore approximately 143 acres of disconnected floodplain habitat to benefit four listed salmon species, and to enhance habitat function for a variety of wildlife species including bald eagle, marbled murrelet and other priority species.
  - *Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Habitat Restoration Project (ID)* - \$110,000 awarded to the Friends of the Teton River, Inc. to improve habitat at five locations along the Teton River.
  - *Thomas Creek Riparian Restoration Project (OR)* - \$234,099 awarded to Ducks Unlimited to restore 3000 acres of palustrine emergent marsh and 8 miles of riparian habitat along Thomas Creek.
- The farm bill signed by President Bush will make an additional \$17.5 billion over ten years for conservation of our nation's natural resources on America's privately owned land. Through programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Programs farmers and ranchers will receive grants to improve soil, water, and air quality. EQIP grants are being used by farmers to install state of the art irrigation systems to conserve water.

### **A Commitment to Improved Fish Hatcheries:**

- The President's 2004 budget requests an increase of \$8 million for the fishery system, \$1.2 million of which would be dedicated to the Pacific Northwest. This increase would provide \$117,000 to modify the fish ladder at Quinalt National Fish Hatchery in Washington to prevent entry of wild fish and their potential diseases into hatchery ponds rearing steelhead, chinook, and coho salmon; \$28,000 for video monitoring of wild salmon passage in Eagle Creek, a tributary of the Clackamas River in Oregon; and \$62,000 to the Idaho NFH for genetic sampling and data collection on salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin.
- In 2003, the Fish and Wildlife Service released 76 million juvenile salmon and steelhead from 25 fish hatcheries and associated production facilities in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. More than 5 million of those fish were released for salmon restoration and recovery purposes.

- In 2003 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided \$9.2 million for hatchery operation and maintenance in the Columbia River Basin to mitigate the affects of Corps dams.
- The Administration is also an active partner in fish heath management and hatchery reform efforts in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to funding provided to the Hatchery Scientific Reform Group (HSRG), a science-driven redesign of hatcheries, the administration also provides technical support to develop research priorities, to prevent the introduction and spread of diseased fish and pathogens, and to minimize the impact of diseases that do occur.