



**Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Regional Program Overview**

May 15, 2009

“The Value of Integration: A Decade of Progress”

The LCFRB was established by state law in 1998 as a pilot program for integrating salmon recovery, watershed planning and habitat restoration as set forth in the Salmon Recovery and Watershed Management Acts (Chapters 77.85 and 90.82 RCW). In addition to this charge, the NW Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) selected the LCFRB as the lead organization for subbasin planning in the Columbia Estuary, Lower Columbia and Columbia Gorge provinces for 8 full and 3 partial subbasins. Together these planning initiatives, carried out through collaborative partnerships with federal, state, and local interests, allowed the LCFRB to forge a comprehensive management program to meet the needs of the fish, water, habitat and people of the region.

Integrating planning processes allowed the LCFRB to leverage resources, coordinate agendas, and minimize duplicate efforts. For example, while developing the ESA recovery plan, the Board maintained a holistic watershed approach by incorporating stream flows, water quality, and water quantity elements necessary for watershed planning. In the same manner, the habitat portions of the salmon recovery and subbasin plans were incorporated into the watershed management plans.

Using a collaborative approach allowed the planning processes to meld the broader goals and interests of federal and state agencies with those of tribes, local governments, communities, businesses, citizen organizations, and the public. It also helped to foster a broader understanding of and commitment to salmon recovery efforts.

The Board continues to use a collaborative approach in pursuing the implementation of the recovery and watershed plans. Recovery of the region’s salmon and steelhead depends on the coordinated actions of numerous federal, state, tribal, and local partners. To date, collaborative efforts have resulted in new water resource rules and implementation guidelines, expanded stream and estuary restoration initiatives, and harvest and hatchery reforms. Looking ahead, the Board is working with key recovery partners to develop 6-year implementation schedules, finalize and implement regional monitoring efforts, complete water resource management rules, better coordinate mitigation and salmon habitat restoration efforts, and develop long-term harvest and hatchery guidelines and plans.

The Board is also working with NOAA Fisheries and Oregon and Washington agencies to complete work on the Washington/Oregon Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan in 2010. This effort brings the states together to address recovery goals, estuary restoration, and hatchery and harvest measures.