

**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

West Coast  
Region

# Idaho Habitat Restoration Programmatic Consultation

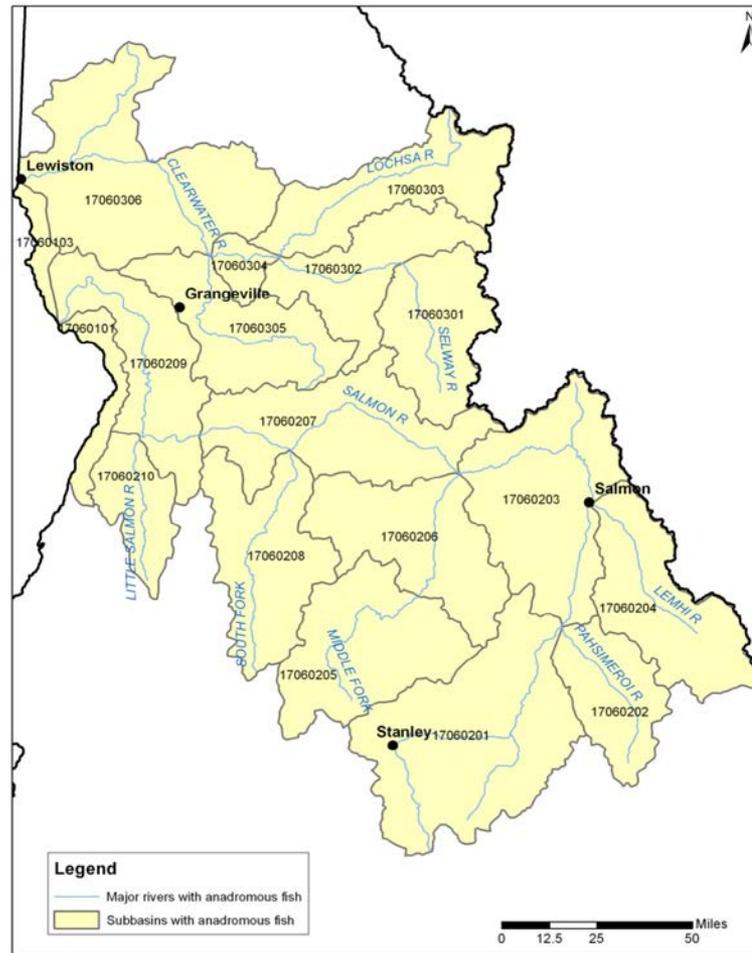
Section 7 ESA consultation for routine aquatic  
habitat restoration projects

Training Presentation

# Idaho Habitat Restoration Programmatic

- Covers aquatic habitat restoration activities that are funded, permitted, or implemented by one or more of six federal agencies:
  - U.S. Forest Service (Regions 1 and 4)
  - BLM
  - NMFS (Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, Mitchell Act fish screens)
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- NMFS programmatic biological opinion signed February 9, 2015 (NMFS No: WCR-2014-832). **Covers salmon and steelhead.**
- USFWS biological opinion signed March 17, 2015. Covers **bull trout** and terrestrial species: **lynx, Northern Idaho ground squirrel, Yellow-billed cuckoo, Macfarlane's four-o'clock, Spalding's catchfly, Water howellia**

# Program Area: Subbasins in Idaho with Salmon and Steelhead



# Categories of Covered Activities

- **Fish Screens**
- **Fish Passage**  
fish ladders, remove/modify diversion structures, culvert/bridge replacement
- **Instream Flow**  
move/consolidate diversions, increase irrigation efficiency (don't increase consumptive use)
- **Instream Structures**  
grade control structures, placement of LWD/boulders/gravel
- **Side Channels and Floodplain Function**  
restore side channels, remove levees/dikes/berms/fill

# Categories of Covered Activities

- **Channel Reconstruction**

\*requires additional documentation and project description

- **Riparian Habitat**

plant vegetation, reduce impacts from livestock (fencing, fords, off-site watering), control invasive weeds, stream bank stabilization through bioengineering

- **Road and Trail Erosion Control**

decommission roads, relocate portions of roads away from riparian area, reduce sediment from roads

- **Surveying and Monitoring**

survey/monitor project site, install PIT tag arrays

# Categories of Covered Activities

Programmatic does **not** cover:

- Riprap for bank stabilization
- Bank barbs
- Categories of habitat restoration activities for which the USFS and BLM have existing programmatic consultations (e.g. **stream crossings, weeds treatment**)
- Actions that are a component of a federal grazing allotment (e.g. installing BLM livestock fords)

# General Conservation Measures

- Standard conservation measures to minimize short-term adverse effects to fish during project construction
- Apply to all categories

## Exs -

- Follow in-water work windows
- Heavy equipment operates from top of bank,  
Or: Isolate work area and remove fish for in-stream construction
- Limit temporary stream crossings
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Monitor turbidity when re-watering isolated reach
- Re-vegetate and restore site
- Conservation Measures for terrestrial species in FWS Biop

# Questions about covered activities?



# Program Implementation Procedures

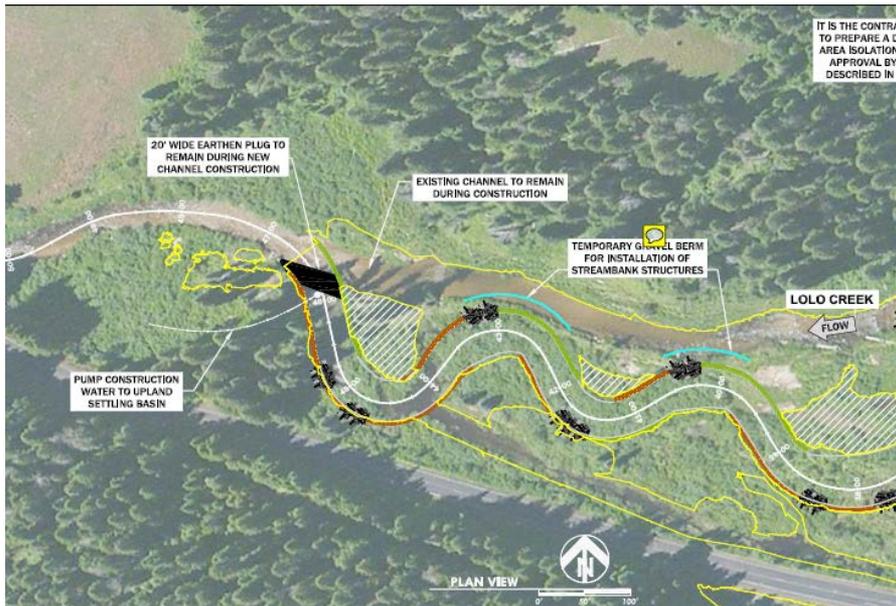
- Brief check-in with NMFS and FWS to see if project fits under programmatic (for USFS/BLM, Level 1 process).
  - Look at General Conservation Measures and CMs specific to categories
- If multiple Action Agencies, determine **lead Action Agency**, responsible for forms and reporting.
  - If **Project Sponsor** is non-federal, **Lead Action Agency** ensures that Project Sponsor follows Conservation Measures and submits forms.

# Program Implementation Procedures

1. Action Agency or Project Sponsor submits **Project Information Form** to NMFS and USFWS by email at least **60 days** before initiating the project.
  - **90 days** in advance if NMFS engineering review is required
  - **Project Information Form** is *Appendix A* of the NMFS BiOp
  - Submit form to NMFS and USFWS biologist contacts
2. NMFS and USFWS biologists confirm **by email** whether project fits under programmatic BiOps. NMFS and USFWS may request site visit.
3. Action Agency or Project Sponsor submits **Project Completion Form** to NMFS and USFWS within 90 days of project completion.
  - Include monitoring results (fish handling, turbidity monitoring, or herbicide use).
  - Project Completion Form is *Appendix B* of NMFS BiOp.

# Project Information Form: Biop Appendix A

- Describe project and Conservation Measures
- Attach maps and drawings.



Collette Mine Stream Restoration, Lolo Creek

- Attach additional info needed for some categories, described in Biop *Section 1.3.5 Action Categories and Specific Conservation Measures* (channel reconstruction, irrigation efficiency)

# NMFS Engineering Review

- NMFS engineering review required for the following categories:
  - fish screens (unless designed by IDFG Screen Shop)
  - fish passage facilities
  - change or consolidation of diversion structures
  - grade control structures > 3 ft height
  - channel reconstruction
- NMFS engineer (Jeff Brown) will look at fish passage issues, potential stranding pools (channel reconstruction)
- Action Agency/Project Sponsor submits engineering plans at least **90 days** before planned project start, or as early as possible.

# Project Completion Form: Biop Appendix B

- Outcome of project. Was project implemented as planned?
- Report all fish handling
- Report herbicide use
- Include turbidity monitoring results
  - Monitor turbidity 600 ft downstream when reintroducing flow to dewatered stream reach
  - If turbidity > 50 NTUs over background for 2 hrs, stop flow reintroduction and address problem.
- Send form to NMFS and FWS within 90 days of project completion

# Minor Modifications

- If a project requires minor modifications to the criteria and conservation measures in NMFS BiOp:
  - Action Agency should contact NMFS and FWS to see if project can still be covered.
  - See *Section 2.10 Reinitiation of Consultation* of NMFS BiOp
  - Minor modifications must “not result in any effect on the listed species or critical habitat not considered in this Opinion” (primary effects considered in Opinion are fish handling and short-term sediment pulses)
- Need email approval from NMFS and USFWS biologists

# Questions?

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