



Stepping Down from

STATEWIDE TO LOCAL:

CONSERVATION REVIEW & TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The issues that affect fish and wildlife populations occur at many scales. For example, a misaligned culvert can prevent fish from traveling up a small stream. This local effect can best be addressed by replacing the culvert, a local action. Larger-scale problems, such as high fuel loads that allow a severe wildfire to sweep through several square miles of forest or rangeland, need coordinated, larger-scale solutions.

Over the past three decades, many Oregonians have come to recognize the degree to which people have changed the landscape of the state and in so doing affected the fish and wildlife populations that depend on it. At the same time, there has been a growing recognition among land managers, researchers and policy makers that nature works on many scales. These scales need to be considered when conserving both species and their habitats across broad landscapes, as well as local sites. The Conservation Strategy considers several scales of analysis and action, which are presented in this section:

- **Statewide Perspectives and Approaches** - This chapter describes fish and wildlife conservation issues and actions that apply throughout Oregon. It includes discussions about the six key conservation issues; conservation in urban areas; Conservation Strategy outreach; environmental education and wildlife tourism; voluntary conservation tools; and monitoring.
- **Ecoregions** - This section steps down a scale to the ecoregional level. From the sandy beaches of the coast to the deserts near the Nevada border, Oregon is ecologically diverse. Similarly, the economies and local cultures vary across Oregon. As a result, conservation issues will play out differently in each ecoregion. This chapter presents a portrait of each ecoregion by describing characteristics, summarizing Strategy Species and Habitats,

listing some issues and conservation actions, and profiling the Conservation Opportunity Areas.

- **Strategy Habitats** - This chapter steps further down to the habitat level, and presents information about Strategy Habitats from local, ecoregional, and statewide viewpoints.
- **Strategy Species** - This chapter steps down to the species level and discusses individual species as well as some topics that apply to multiple species including animal concentrations and diseases. It summarizes the requirements, limiting factors, data gaps, and conservation actions for Strategy Species.

Statewide Perspectives and Approaches

Just like stepping back from a painting can provide an entirely different image, viewing conservation issues and opportunities from a statewide perspective can provide new insights. Granted, conservation problems and their corresponding solutions often occur at the grassroots level. Neighbors can pull together to clean up a stream or remove invasive English ivy from a park. However, some issues occur throughout the state, adding up to statewide problems. Because of their scale and complexity, these issues must be tackled through organized, coordinated, and comprehensive approaches.

Similarly, making the most efficient and effective use of the many good voluntary conservation tools to address issues requires evaluating entire programs to look for ways to better support conservation work by landowners. Monitoring programs, as well efforts to engage Oregonians through Conservation Strategy outreach, need to be considered and implemented throughout the state. This is the “big picture” chapter that addresses conservation issues and opportunities, needed actions and current efforts across the state.