

Chehalis Basin Strategy: Reducing Flood Damage and Enhancing Aquatic Species

Aquatic Species Enhancement Plan

Policy Workshop

Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound

November 13, 2013



Organizations Involved

- Co-leads: Erik Neatherlin (WDFW) and John Ferguson (Anchor QEA)
- WDFW: Habitat Program and Fish Program
- WDOE
- Anchor QEA, ICF International, Confluence, and BioAnalysts
- Chehalis Tribe: Collecting smolt timing data
- American Rivers and Trout Unlimited
- Briefings: Chehalis Lead Entity and Basin Partnership

ASEP Scope

- The ASEP will
 - Characterize key aquatic and semi-aquatic resources in the basin
 - Evaluate restoration and enhancement strategies for key species and habitats
 - Evaluate the potential effects of flood reduction alternatives on the ecosystem
- The analysis will cover the entire watershed, but will focus on WRIA 23

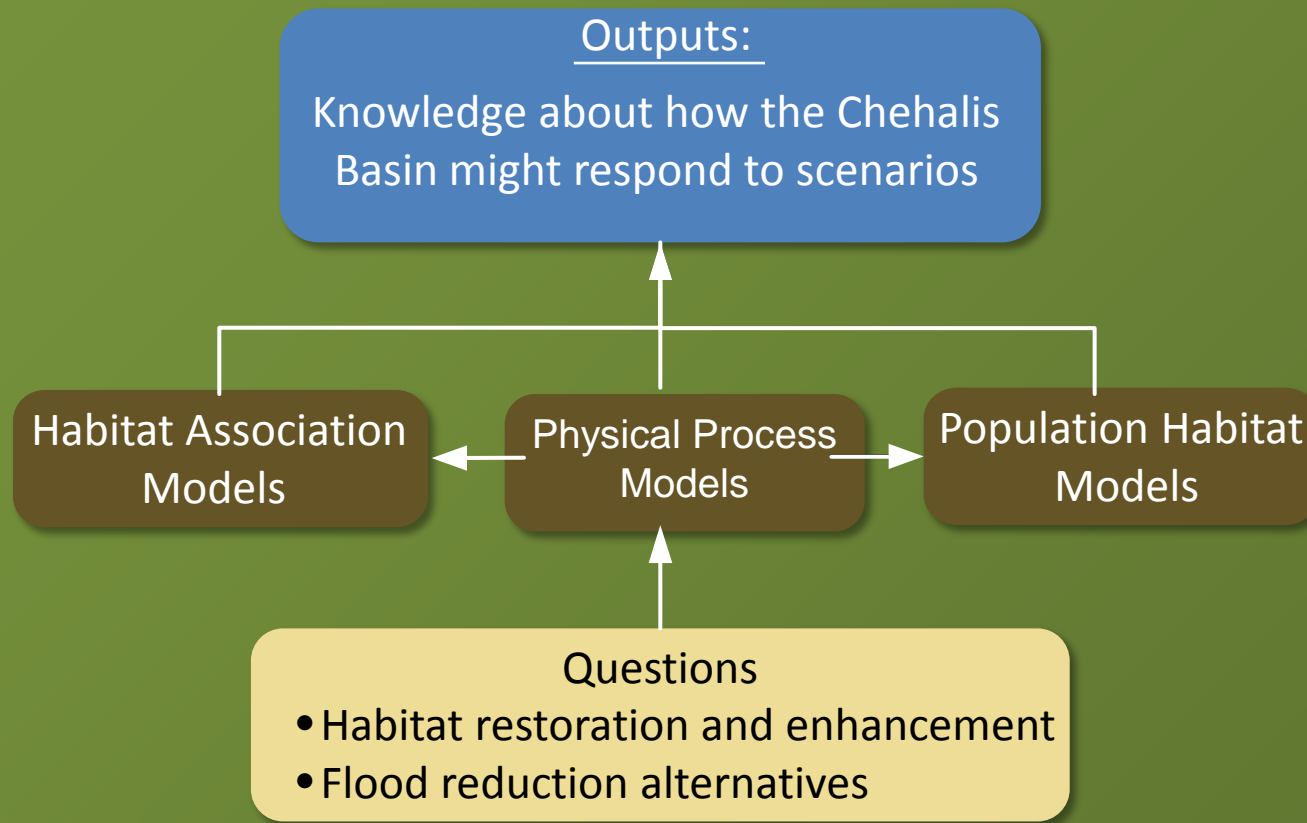
ASEP Objectives (from the RFP)

- Objectives 1 - 5: Gather information and develop an approach based on the available information
 - Develop fish focal species and viable salmon population (VSP) parameters, and identify data gaps and habitat limiting factors
- Objective 6: Construct an ecosystem modeling framework
- Objectives 7 - 9: Analysis using the framework
 - Identify actions to address habitat limiting factors
 - Evaluate project alternatives (dams; I-5; small structures)
 - Incorporate climate change

Approach to Evaluating Biological Effects of Actions

- Developed a list of aquatic and semi aquatic species
 - 47+ terrestrial and wetland species
 - 30 fish species
- Organized species into Guilds (groups of species that use the same habitat in similar ways -- a biological unit for associating the effects of actions)
 - 6 terrestrial/wetland macro-guilds (E.g., old-growth forest)
 - 6 fish/aquatic guilds (E.g., anadromous salmonids, resident salmonids, migratory species using lower river)
- Will then analyze effects of actions on habitats, and link changes in habitat to species performance

Analytical Framework



Schedule

- October - January: Gather data, develop approach, develop models
- February - March: Conduct analysis
- March - August: Deliver preliminary report to economists on May 1; continue to refine analysis and results; address review comments
- Fall 2014: Communicate with stakeholders

Questions?