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Context for Profiles

The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan is built on the tireless work of watershed recovery planning groups across the Puget Sound, made up of creative, knowledgeable people motivated to find lasting solutions to the complex challenges posed by salmon recovery. In total, fifteen watershed recovery plans were created and submitted for this plan. These efforts, as they occur in tandem across the Puget Sound in combination with regional efforts, will help put the region on a recovery path. This section provides an opportunity to learn about the work occurring at the watershed level.

Each watershed is unique—not only do salmon use each watershed differently — but each watershed is faced with different challenges, levels of collaboration, and has different goals and starting places on the road to recovery. Not surprisingly, the individual recovery plans vary in terms of their level of detail, how they address issues of habitat, harvest and hatcheries, and how they are organized. Because of these differences, profiles for all Puget Sound watersheds were written in a consistent format to concisely capture the essence of the watershed plans to make it easier to see how the ESA requirements have been met. The set of individual watershed recovery plans as submitted to the Shared Strategy are available electronically in Volume II of this plan.

The following profiles have three components. The first section, The Place and The People, is intended to create an understanding of the context within which the planning effort is occurring; the second and largest component summarizes the content of the watershed chapter; and the third, the Results section, describes the May 2005 Review conclusions by the Technical Recovery Team (TRT) and the Shared Strategy Interagency Work Group.

The TRT and Work Group assumed implementation — they did not evaluate the likelihood that strategies, actions or adaptive management would be implemented. Based on this assumption they focused on the degree of certainty that each watershed plan can achieve its goals, identified issues that need to be dealt with in order to increase certainty, developed recommendations for how to address those issues, and assessed how the combined local and regional elements meet the Endangered Species Act recovery plan requirements.

This Chapter concludes with a section that describes how the individual watershed efforts roll up into one comprehensive plan that meets the TRT's regional recovery criteria and Endangered Species Act recovery plan requirements.