

Plan Recommendations

Recommendation Focus	Salmonid Habitat Supported		Recommendation	Priority
Applies to all	All salmonid life stages	1	Establish and support a community outreach process to guide implementation	High
Protect and restore riparian habitat	<p>Rearing Habitat: Tall, dense riparian vegetation keeps water cool, provides food in the form of nutrient input and detritus for insects that nourish fish and their prey, and contributes undercut roots and large pieces of wood to help create the habitat variety salmonids need to thrive. Riparian plants also help filter fine sediments and excessive nutrients from entering streams.</p> <p>Spawning Habitat: Trees and large branches that fall into streams help trap and sort gravel.</p> <p>Winter/Spring High Flow Habitat: Fallen wood and living plants on flooded stream terraces provide direct shelter for fish during storms and also help form pools.</p>	2	Protect and enhance the riparian corridor to create healthy, self-sustaining habitat.	High
		3	Develop a riparian vegetation management strategy with fire officials to allow fire-safe practices while preserving riparian habitat.	Medium
		4	Apply policies, regulations, and guidelines to protect salmonid habitat and the ecological functions that sustain it to all new development and redevelopment currently allowable in the SCA.	High
		5	Consider conservation of key undeveloped streamside parcels through easements or purchase of fee title	Medium
		6	Consider development of a process to promote the replacement, removal, and modification of unpermitted structures in the SCA that adversely effect fish habitat.	Medium - Low
Enhance instream habitat structure	<p>Rearing Habitat: Juvenile salmonids need a complex set of habitat features to provide optimal foraging and resting conditions; riffles to support aquatic insects; places under rocks, roots, undercut banks, or large pieces of wood to rest and hide from predators; and deep pools with cool water temperatures.</p>	7	Develop plan to increase channel complexity to improve habitat quantity, value, and resiliency for all life stages.	High
		8	Promote removal of barriers to fish migration.	Medium - High
		9	Promote instream gravel delivery and retention.	Medium

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	<p>Spawning Habitat: Salmonids need access to clean, pea-to-orange size gravel for successful spawning and hatching.</p> <p>Winter/Spring High Flow Habitat: Over-wintering fish need places with-slower flowing water during storms. High-flow refugia are created by large pieces of wood, backwater areas where tributaries join the main stream, and low, vegetated terraces next to the stream channel.</p>	10	Minimize and reduce streambank armoring.	Medium - High
		11	Develop an Instream Habitat Implementation Plan.	High
Achieve and maintain high water quality.	<p>All salmonid life stages: Salmon and steelhead need cool, well-oxygenated water to thrive. Excess levels of suspended particles in the water (i.e., turbidity or total suspended solids) can also cause stress, including reduced growth, feeding, and reproduction. Heavy metals, pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals can affect fish health and behavior, which in turn affects their ability to survive and reproduce.</p> <p>Spawning Habitat: Fine sediments can impair oxygen flow to eggs and impede the emergence of fry from the gravel. Cool water temperatures are also critical to the survival of the eggs.</p>	12	Promote increased watershed-wide stormwater retention and disconnection.	High
		13	Develop a community-supported program to assist homeowners with addressing leaking septic systems. Give highest priority to systems within SCA and in reaches with higher nutrient levels.	Medium
		14	Promote minimal usage and proper disposal of chemicals, nutrients, and toxic materials.	Medium
		15	Reduce fine sediment delivery from roads and upland erosion.	Medium - High
Achieve and maintain sufficient water quantity.	<p>Rearing Habitat: Sufficient summer baseflow is elemental to fish survival. It is also key to maintaining water quality.</p> <p>Spawning Habitat: Salmonids need sufficient flows during spawning season to move up into the tributaries and again in the early summer when young fish begin their out-migration to the ocean.</p>	16	Protect and enhance summer streamflow.	High
Applies to all	All salmonid life stages	17	Develop and implement a coordinated monitoring program.	High