

# Habitat Division Update

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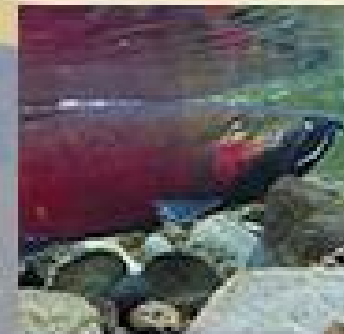
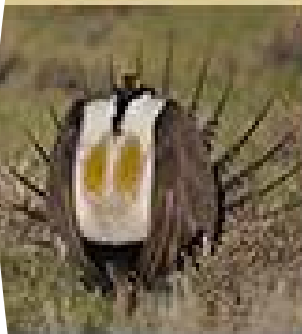
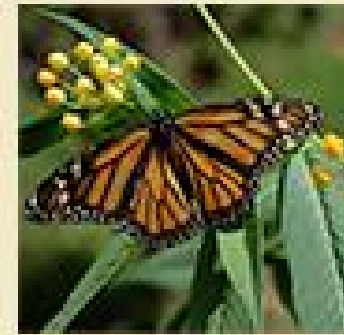
# Habitat Division

## Purpose

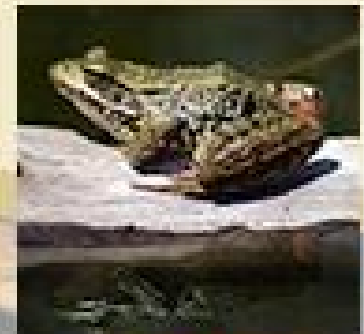
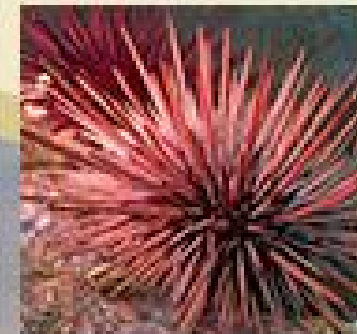
The Habitat Division will lead proactive, focused, and consistent efforts to protect, restore, and enhance habitat for Oregon's fish and wildlife

## Key Benefits

- Helps emphasize ODFW's broad responsibilities
- Rounds out ODFW's organizational structure: Fish, Wildlife, Habitat
- Positions ODFW to more effectively work with other agencies and partners
- Focuses resources on challenges presented by climate change and collaboration and leadership role for water issues



*the* OREGON  
CONSERVATION  
STRATEGY





# Habitat Division: Structure

## Division (Headquarters, green)

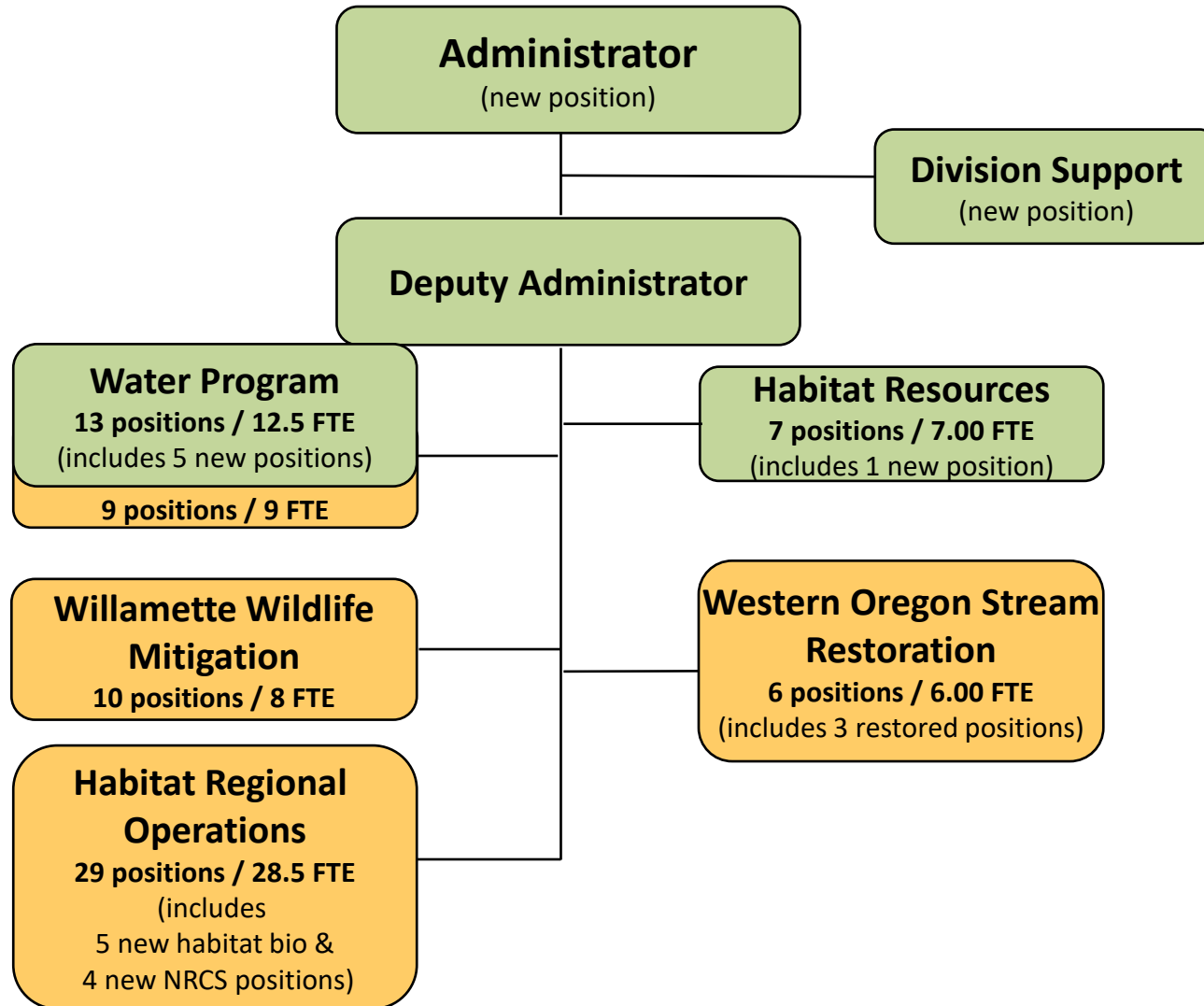
Positions: 23

FTE: 22.5

## Regional (orange)

Positions: 54

FTE: 51.5



<u>Habitat Division</u>	
Positions	77
FTE	74



# Habitat Division: Program Areas

## Habitat Resources Program

- Provides technical and policy assistance to local, state, federal agencies and private landowners to ensure the habitat needs of fish and wildlife are considered within land use planning and proposed developments.
- Plans, supports, and communicates habitat conservation and climate adaptation priorities for the Department.

## Water Program

- Collects and develops best available science on future instream priorities for fish and wildlife and provides technical and policy assistance in relevant regulatory and collaborative processes.
- Plans, supports, and communicates flow restoration and climate adaptation priorities for the Department.

## Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program

- Plans, conducts and provides technical support for stream restoration projects in western Oregon.

## Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program

- Mitigates for habitat lost by construction of dams along the Willamette River watershed, through a cooperative effort funded by Bonneville Power.



# Habitat Division: Program Areas

## Habitat Regional Operations

### Regional Habitat Biologists

- Provide habitat expertise for Oregon Conservation Strategy species and other species through landowner outreach, engagement with other agencies, non-government organizations and watershed councils, and assist in reviews of land management activities for the districts within their respective areas.

### Oregon Conservation Strategy Farm Bill Biologists

- Provides additional implementation capacity and biological expertise for development of Farm Bill Programs; Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentives Programs, Conservation Stewardship Programs, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wetland Reserve Easements, etc.

### Bonneville Power Administration Restoration Program

- Implements instream and riparian habitat restoration projects that directly benefit salmonid populations in Oregon.

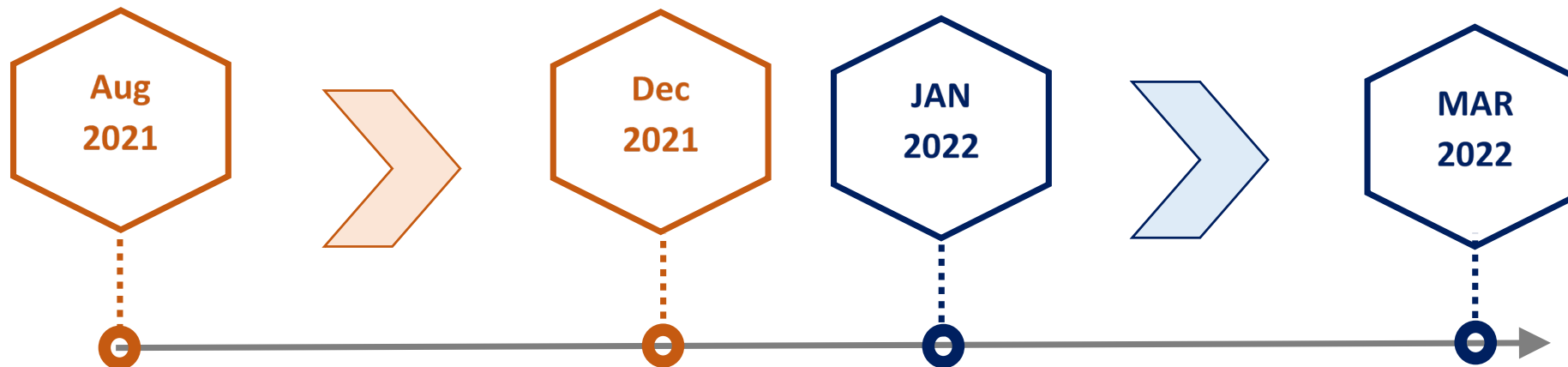
# Habitat Division: Timeframe

## Fall Milestones

- Received 2021-2023 Legislatively Adopted Budget and DAS Class and Comp approval of positions
- Division Administrator position recruitment complete
- Division Executive Support Specialist position recruitment initiated
- HQ space planning underway
- 5 recruitments underway in Water Program

## Winter Projected Deliverables

- Complete recruitments from fall
- Initiate additional recruitments
  - 3 Water Program
  - 2 Habitat Resources
  - 5 Region (new habitat biologist positions)
- Fish Division and Wildlife Division positions reassigned to Habitat Division (cost centers, communication with staff, coordination with supervisors)
- External and internal outreach and communication



# Habitat Division: Climate Adaptation

*Climate adaptation as an essential lens to view our work*

## Climate and Ocean Change Policy, Division 900

- Habitat protection and management is our best tool to respond to climate change
- Understand potential risks and opportunities of climate change
- Provide leadership in coordinated response
- Preserve and enhance land and water quality and quantity to help build resiliency in fish and wildlife populations
- Prioritize currently intact, functioning habitat



# Habitat Division: Climate Adaptation

*Climate adaptation is an essential lens to view our work*

## Habitat Division Roles that Support Climate Policy Implementation:

- **Science:** monitoring, analysis, modeling to better understand species habitat needs into the future
- **Prioritization/Planning:** prioritization of lands and waters with the most climate resilience, internal and external coordination
- **Restoration:** pro-active habitat improvement on public and private lands, technical guidance
- **Technical Guidance:** smart land and water use guidance, interagency coordination, regulatory assistance, habitat mitigation
- **Conservation/Protection:** instream flow, habitat connectivity and corridors, working lands, conservation easements and acquisitions
- **Partnerships:** Working across the spectrum of conservation interests, leveraging the work of others, coordination, collaboration, planning and implementation of conservation actions

# Habitat Division

## Climate Adaptation

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### Ongoing work – Water Program Examples

**Science - Secure best available information to understand how climate change impacts species habitat and develop measures to address impacts**

- Example: Real-time water temperature monitoring to inform drought management

**Prioritization/Planning – Identify priority areas that will provide suitable habitat conditions into the future**

- Example: Aquatic Habitat Prioritization effort will help inform fish and wildlife protection and restoration investments

**Conservation/Management – Promote actions that will meet current and future habitat needs**

- Example: Incorporate climate change projections into water management plans to communicate future “instream demand” and address future needs of fish and wildlife



Photo: Laura Tesler

# Habitat Division Climate Adaptation

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## Looking forward

- Climate science and adaptation training and shared learning opportunities for Division staff
- Coordination with agencies, working groups, and partners
- Strategic climate adaptation planning across programs and divisions
  - Summarize ongoing work
  - Prioritize short- and long-term actions
  - More holistic action and cohesive planning between terrestrial and aquatic habitats

