

YOU'RE INVITED TO AN...

# EXECUTIVE SUMMIT

## SHARING INFORMATION TO IMPROVE DECISIONS

### OUTCOMES

- **Overview of needs for shared information for critical decisions**
- **Decisions about the organizational and administrative arrangements needed for the regional coordination of information management**
- **Next steps for information sharing practices and agreements**

You already face very difficult decisions, often without enough information, and are tasked to do this with ever-shrinking budgets.

No executive, agency, or organization commands the ability to collect or manage all needed information.

Our government and organizations use different information collection methods and procedures, even though they may manage different parts of the same landscape, species, stream, road, or infrastructure. As a result, collecting, sharing, and

communicating information for many decisions is cumbersome, complicated, costly, and inefficient. It needn't be!

The summit will take a step at overcoming these obstacles by focusing on organizational arrangements, timelines, resources, and next steps.

best practices for data collection and information sharing, and other written materials.

A facilitator will contact participants to discuss issues and concerns and develop an agenda.

### WHAT'S OFFERED?

Participants will receive a business case,



## THREE EXAMPLES

The value of shared and integrated information management is revealed in the following real examples:

**1** Within one year a federal agency built a web-based system to fully account for performance of salmon recovery projects in the states of Washington, Oregon, California, and Alaska, and in many tribes.

**2** Complicated permit applications can cause errors and delays. Over just two years, 20 percent of forest practices applications were returned for more information. Businesses want an efficient, consolidated, easy-to-understand way to apply for all city, county, and state permits.

**3** Fifty-nine local watershed groups spent two years gathering information that was not consistent, was lost, or could not be compared. Fixing this problem cost an additional \$251,000 and some data could not be recovered.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

**Executives overseeing:**

- **Environmental and natural resource programs (fisheries, wildlife, and water resources)**
- **State and regional data efforts requiring integration of information**

## BACKGROUND

There is a strong consensus among the coordinators and participants in these groups, and from regional workshops, that we now need executive guidance for regional information coordination. Only a small part of regional information management depends on technical solutions. Most effort, as much as 80 percent, involves adoption of administrative and business arrangements,

agreements, and protocols—all of which depend on executive coordination and consent.

The region has worked hard at a “bottom-up” solution, but now an executive focus is needed to sustain future efforts. Without it, the current coordination efforts will not realize their potential and necessary information sharing will not be achieved at the time when it is needed most.

While sharing is needed for many reasons, environmental issues amplify the need. Salmon recovery efforts in the region highlight the scope, scale, and difficulty of information sharing to support improved decisions.

## ABOUT THE SPONSORS

The sponsors are collaborative forums that together support end-to-end information management—from collection through exchange and sharing to national mapping.

### PNAMP

#### Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership

Coordinates state, federal, and tribal aquatic habitat and salmonid monitoring programs. It works mostly with biologists and other scientists to develop

biological and other protocols for data collection to improve the quality and efficiency of aquatic monitoring practices.

### NED

#### Northwest Environmental Data Network

Coordinates data management specialists to improve the quality, quantity, and availability of regional data and related information on fish, wildlife, and their habitats. A particular focus is how

collected data can be located and shared.

### PNW-RGIC

#### Pacific Northwest—Regional Geographic Information Council

Working directly with local governments and state entities, the council coordinates spatial data efforts to develop national and regional data framework (mapping) layers, such as hydrology, topography, land use, land cover, and hazardous sites.

## TO PARTICIPATE

Contact: Jacquelyn Schei  
U.S. Geological Survey  
(509) 538-2299 ext. 282  
E-mail: jschei@usgs.gov

## WHEN AND WHERE?

October 2, 2007  
8:30 A.M. — 12:30 P.M.

Ambridge Event Center  
300 N.E. Multnomah St.  
Portland, Oregon 97232

## Who is Attending?

- Greg Delwiche, vice president for environment, fish, and wildlife, Bonneville Power Administration
- Cal Joyner, deputy regional forester, U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region
- Tom Karier, NED co-chair and chairman of the Northwest Power Conservation Council
- Anne Kinsinger, western regional director, U.S. Geological Survey
- Jeff Koenings, director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Ron Kreizenbeck, deputy regional administrator, Environmental Protection Agency Region 10
- Bob Lohn, regional administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Dugan Petty, Oregon chief information officer
- John Stein, NED co-chair and deputy director of NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science