### Eco-Logical Webinar Series



### Eco-Logical in Cross-Agency Coordination

Presenters

Roberta Gerson, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Rich Muzzy, Pike's Peak Area Council of Governments

Judy Gates, Maine Department of Transportation

November 18, 2014

(<u>Learn more about Eco-</u> <u>Logical at the FHWA website</u>)





# Steps to Ensure Optimal Webinar Connection

This webinar broadcasts audio over the phone line and through the web room, which can strain some internet connections. To prevent audio skipping or webinar delay we recommend participants:

- Close all background programs
- Use a wired internet connection, if possible
- Do not us a Virtual Private Network (VPN), if possible
- Mute their webroom audio (toggle is located at the top of webroom screen) and use phone audio only

### Steps of the Eco-Logical approach

- 1. Build and strengthen collaborative partnerships
- 2. Integrate natural environment plans
- 3. Create a Regional Ecosystem Framework (REF)
- 4. Assess effects on conservation objectives
- 5. Establish and prioritize ecological actions
- 6. Develop crediting strategy

- 7. Develop programmatic consultation, biological opinion, or permit
- 8. Implement agreements, adaptive management, and deliver projects
- 9. Update REF

Partner
Share Data
Analyze Effects

Identify key sites and actions

Document Implement Evaluate

# Step 1: Build and Strengthen Collaborative Partnerships

### When getting started, consider...

- What are the boundaries of your planning region?
- What types of expertise would be helpful to your organization or planning effort?

### Step 1: Next...

- Using relationships your organization already has developed, identify potential partners.
- Approach new partners individually or through convening a team meeting with a shared goal.
- Think about a structure for your partnerships.

### Step 1: Challenges

## Step 1 necessitates cross-agency coordination but can often present challenges such as:

- Key people to reach out to
- When and how often to reach out to partner agencies
- Managing expectations for the level of coordination

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### Eco-Logical in Cross Agency Coordination

(Learn more about Eco-Logical at the FHWA website)

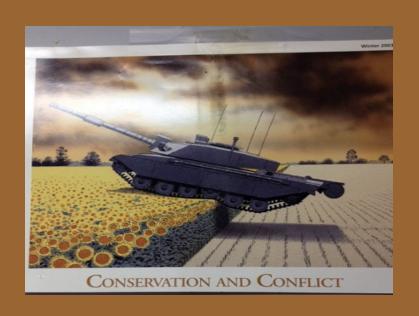
- Roberta Gerson, US Fish and Wildlife Service (Roberta Gerson@fws.gov)
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## Cross Agency Coordination – California Regional Advance Mitigation Plan



Roberta Gerson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service November 18, 2014

### What is RAMP- A Process



### ☐ Collaborative State and Federal partnership

- Landscape level conservation-based mitigation
- Develop a process RAMP
- Multiple State, Federal Agencies, NGOs
  - State Departments: Caltrans, Water Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water
     Quality Control Board
  - o Federal: FWS, EPA, Corps, NMFS
  - NGOs: The Nature Conservancy, CA Strategic Growth Council
- MOU commitment
- Statewide Advance Mitigation Initiative (SAMI)

### **Early Coordination**



### □ Defining

- Conceptual work at each stage moving towards implementation stage
- Common needs
- Best data sources
- Finances/Funding looking for ways to generate funding

### **Ongoing Coordination**



- ☐ Integration and Consistency with Other Efforts
- ☐ Financial Support
- ☐ Modifying and Implementing Actions
  - Government structure
  - Defining draft agreements
  - Work products



Land acquisition recon

### Challenges



- ☐ Moving Forward
  - Slower than expected
  - Many different State laws and regulations
  - Agency workloads and priorities
- ☐ Assurances
  - Infrastructure and regulatory agencies

State Laws include: CA Endangered Species Act
CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

**Coastal Commission** 

### Challenges, continued



### □ Funding \$\$\$\$

- Ongoing monitoring and management of acquired lands prior to mitigation need
- Lack of overlap of action agencies
- Combining funding sources



Wetland restoration; monitoring for listed snake

### **Improvements**



### ☐ Efficient use of time



- Improve the decision process
- Take small steps
- Defining roles and responsibilities
- Engaging government structure
- External and internal coordination

### Improvements, continued



### ☐ Reality checks

- Willing to recognize when approach isn't working.
- Trying to fulfill/satisfy too many agencies and their infrastructure projects
- Must find ways to collaborate with money, and not just on planning
- Analysis paralysis

### **Contacts**



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  - National Transportation Liaison
  - Catherine Liller@fws.gov

# SHRP 2 Eco-Logical in Cross Agency Coordination Webinar

November 18, 2014

Rich Muzzy
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

### **PPACG** and Region Facts

- PPACG is the MPO for Colorado Springs Urbanized Area responsible for development of Regional Transportation Plan
- Region has over 600,000 people
- Colorado Springs is Colorado's second largest city
- Five military bases
- Climate: Alpine Desert
- Elevation 6,000-14,000 feet
- Average Yearly Days of Sunshine: 300+

### **PPACG History of SHRP2 Projects**

- SHRP2 Pilot Test Project 2010 -2012
  - Received funding to test the Transportation for Communities – Advancing Projects through Partnerships (TCAPP) process.
  - Process tested during development of PPACG's Regional Transportation Plan (2035 Plan)
- SHRP2 Development of Integrated Ecological Framework (IEF) 2013 – 2015
  - Conduct Impact Analysis
  - Quantify Mitigation Needs (2040 Plan)
  - Development of Google Earth Web based platform
  - Development of an Integrated Regional Mitigation Plan

### **Agency Involvement**

- State Agencies
  - Colorado Department of Local Affairs
  - Colorado Parks and Wildlife
  - Colorado Open Lands
  - Colorado Department of Natural Resources
  - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Federal Agencies
  - United States Environmental Protection Agency
  - United States Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Housing and Urban Development
  - Bureau Land Management
  - Army Corps of Engineers
  - Colorado Department of Transportation
  - Military Installations Fort Carson
- Local Agencies and Organizations
  - Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District
  - Sierra Club
  - Palmer Land Trust
  - Rocky Mountain Field Institute

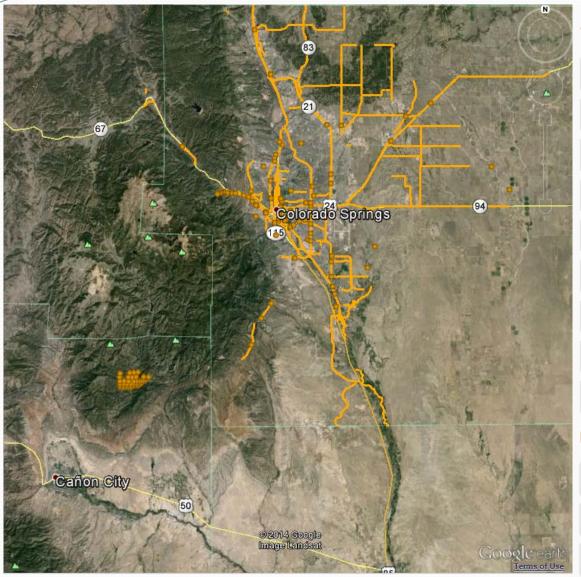
### **Resource Agency Roles**

- Identify potential project opportunities
- Review and identify critical areas
- Identify potential opportunities to collaborate with existing sponsors of other projects
- Identify potential regulatory and non regulatory hurdles and barriers.

### **Project Purpose**

- Identify potential conservation impacts and opportunities
- Provide a framework to collaborate on mitigation needs
- Conserve and connect important habitats
- Streamline permitting processes
- Integrate planning and decision making between agencies
- Consider both on-site and off-site mitigation opportunities
- Apply the regional ecosystem framework in decision making process

### SHRP<sub>2</sub> Analysis



This version dated October 27, 2014

- Basin Datasets
- Project Data:
- Green Infrastructure Data:
- CNHP Conflict Data:
- EPA Data:
- Southwest Regional GAP Project Data:
- Army Corps of Engineers Watershed Management Plan 200
- Fountain Creek Corridor Restoration Master Plan 2011:
- Basemap Data:

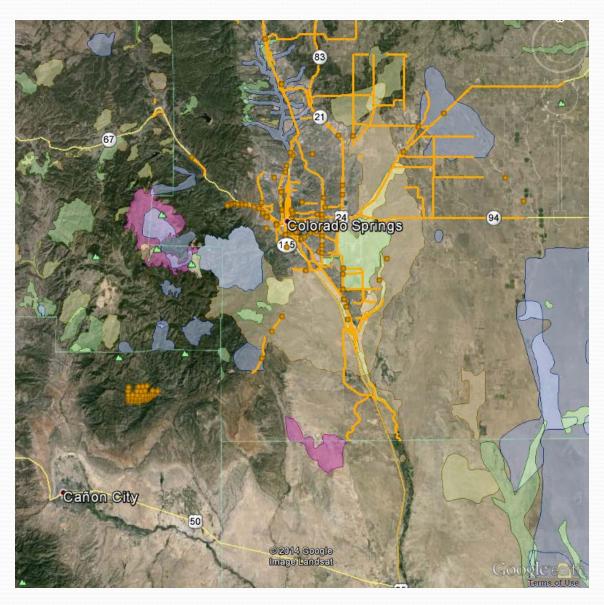
#### Legends:

**SWReGAP Land Cover Legend** 

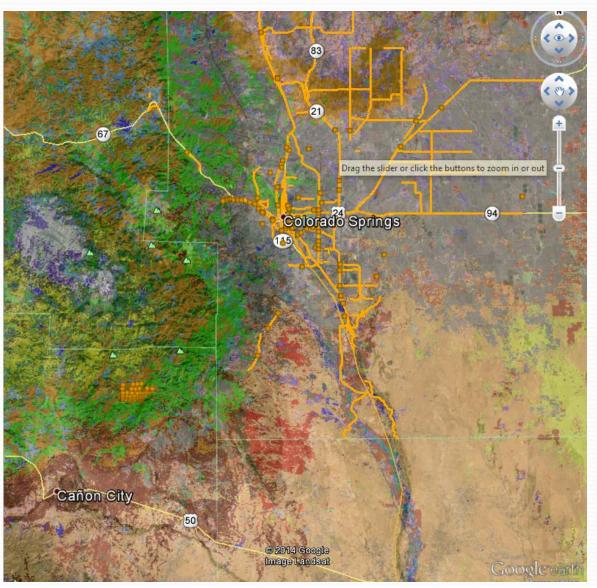
**CVS Legend** 

Small Area Forecast Conflict Values Legend

### Potential Conservation Areas



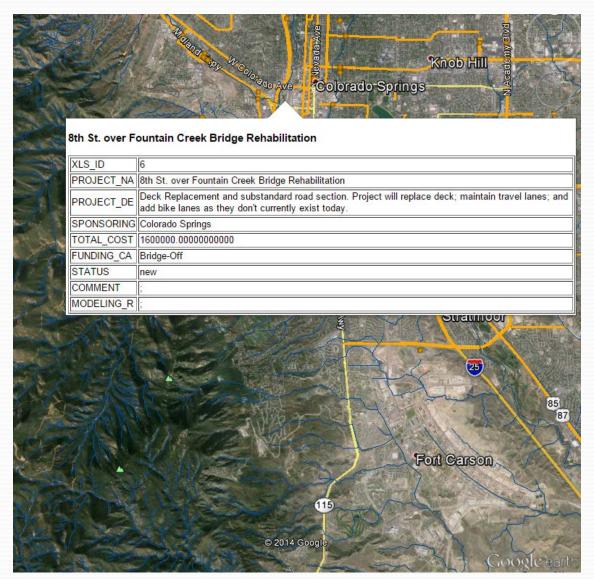
### Potential Conflict Areas



SHRP 2: Transportation Project Species Conflict Analysis

Project #	Impact Type	PROJECT_NAME	Grid Code 0: of Total	Grid Code 1: % of Total	Grid Code 2: % of Total	Grid Code 3: % of Total	Grid Code 4: % of Total	Grid Code 5: % of Total	Grid Code 6: % of Total	Grid Code 7: % of Total	Grid Code 8: % of Total	Grid Code 9: % of Total	Total Project Areas Grid Count
1	2	21st St. Over Bear Creek Bridge Rehabilitation	60.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5
2	2	21st St. over Fountain Creek Bridge Replacement	66.67%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12
3	2	26th St. over Fountain Creek Bridge Rehabilitation	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2
4	2	30th St Corridor Improvements	17.81%	0.00%	52.74%	6.16%	13.70%	6.85%	1.37%	1.37%	0.00%	0.00%	146
5	2	8th St. over Fountain Creek Bridge Rehabilitation	22.22%	0.00%	22.22%	55.56%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9

### SHRP<sub>2</sub> Data Attributes



### **Benefits Using Regional Ecosystem Framework**

- 1. Provides a framework to develop and prioritize projects that incorporates economic, community and environmental interests
- 2. Allows for better collaboration, improved understanding and buy in, and increased trust
- 3. Leads to integrated projects and improved outcomes
- 4. Provides a structure to identify and address complex issues early on in the planning process
- 5. Allows for streamlined permitting process for transportation projects

### **Lessons Learned Using Regional Ecosystem Framework**

- Make sure all interests are represented
- Encourage agency representatives to attend meetings use web based conferencing
- Define the roles of participants and goals of the project during kick off meeting
- 4. Learn from past mistakes
- 5. Consider hiring a facilitator for meetings
- 6. Identify milestones and decision points





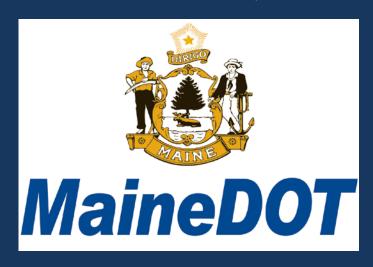
?? QUESTIONS ??





# Implementing Eco-Logical in a World of Schedules and Salmon

Judy Gates, Environmental Office Eco-Logical Webinar Series November 18, 2014

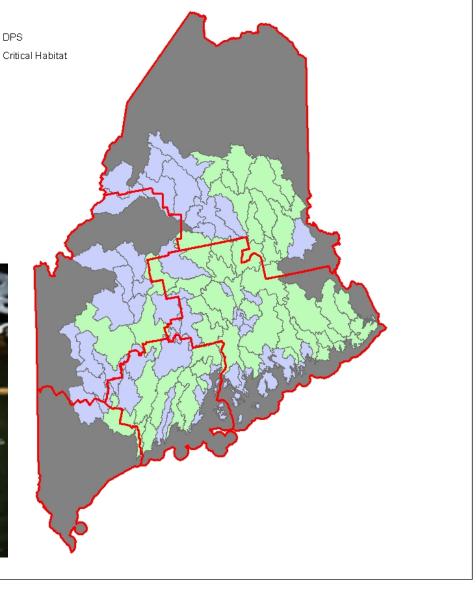


**Integrity ~ Competence ~ Service** 

#### Atlantic Salmon DPS and Critical Habitat

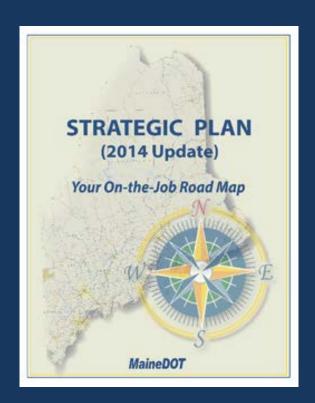
# Atlantic salmon







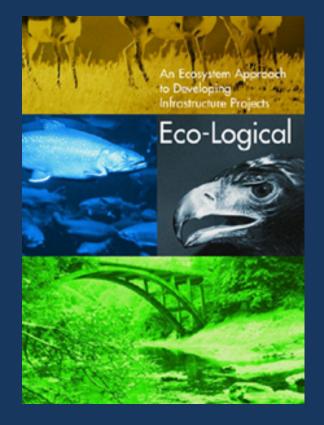
### The Facts...



- Schedule (≥85% on time) & budget (≤ 20% vs. award) are two of MaineDOT's "Capstone" performance measures.
- Approximately 25% of stream projects per work plan year (~50) require consultation for Atlantic salmon.
- Of those 50, about 10 require formal consultation.
- Section 7 is critical path on 100% of projects intersecting with Atlantic salmon.
- Expectations vary widely; design & construction methods do not.
- ~98% of projects qualify for Categorical Exclusions
- Where salmon are an issue, 100% of projects have missed their original target date for completing consultation

### **AHHHHH!!!!**











**US Army Corps of Engineers** 



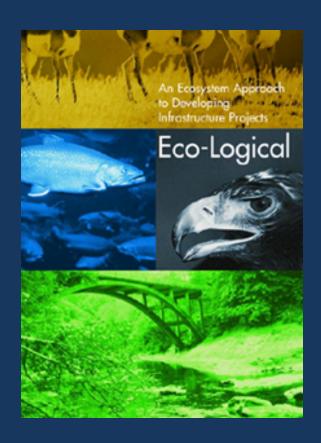




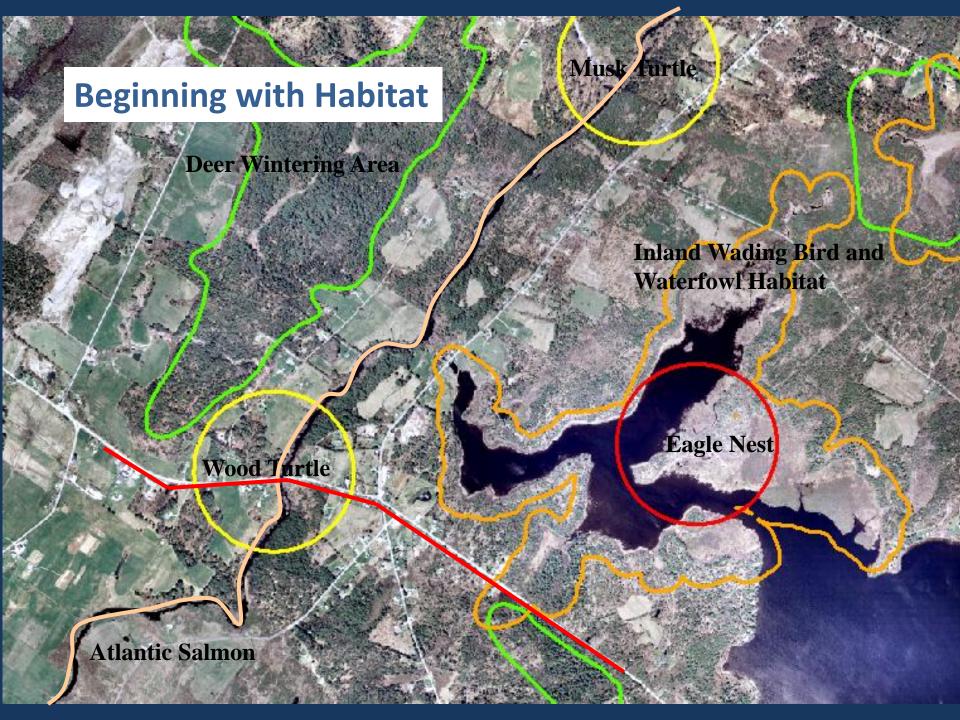


### So how are we doing?

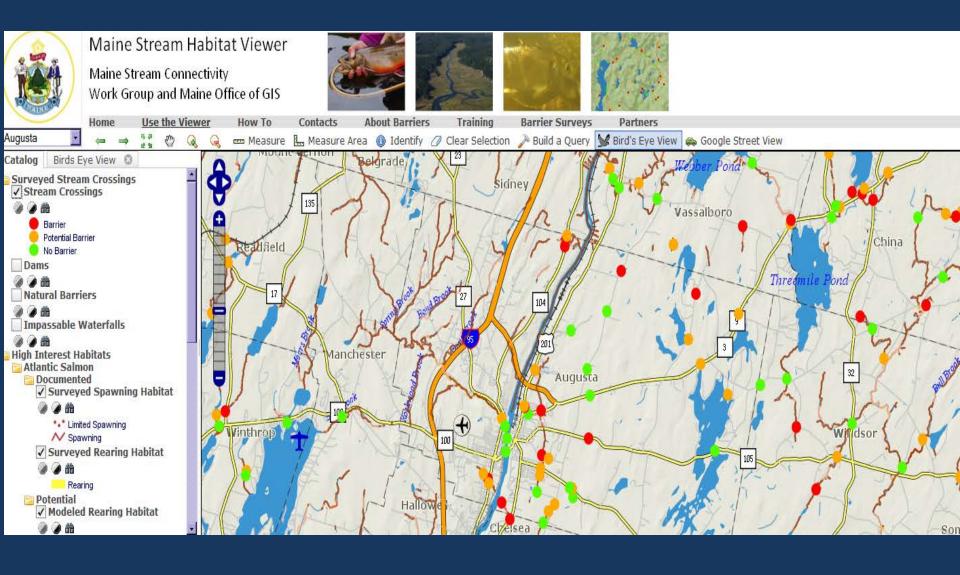
	Deliverable/Activity	Timeframe				
1	Gap analysis	6/2013 – 8/2013				
V	Draft modified REF	8/2013 – 9/2013				
	Draft work flow map	9/2013 – 10/2013				
	Design and construction BMPs	7/2013 – 1/2014				
4	Programmatic Agreement	1/2014 – 9/2014				
	Draft ecosystem crediting strategy	10/2013 – 6/2014				
1	Final work flow map	9/2014 – 12/2014				
1	Documented benefits/efficiencies	9/2014 – 11/2014				
1	Implementation schedule for full work plan	11/2014 – 12/2014				



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- 8. Implement agreements and deliver projects

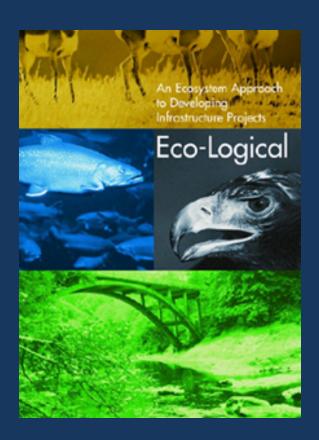


### "Priority" Crossings

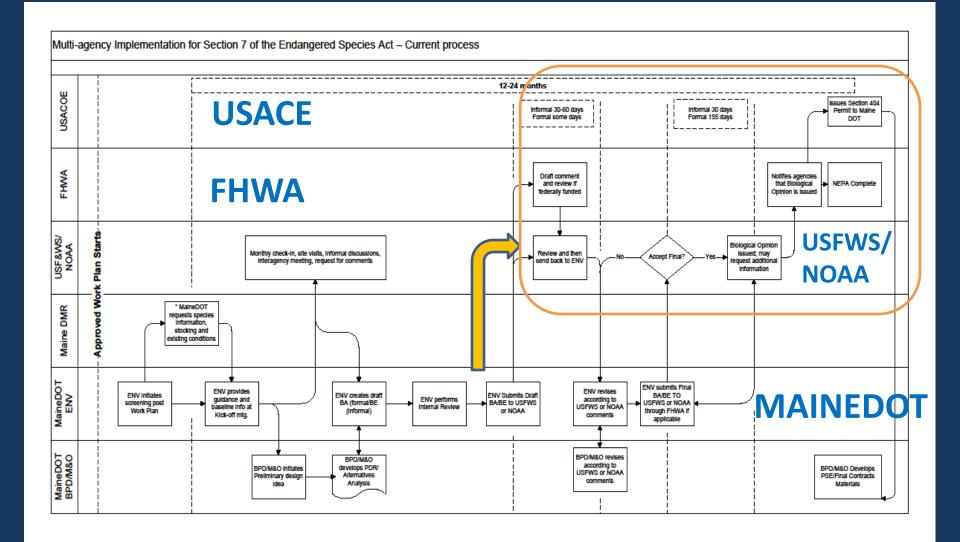


### Maine Conservation Priorities





- 1. Build/strengthen collaborative partnerships
- 2. Integrate natural resource, transportation, and land use plans
- 3. Create a regional ecosystem framework
- 4. Assess effects on conservation priorities
- 5. Establish and prioritize ecological actions
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\* Not regulatory at Federal level – advisory on local habitat, quality, presence of species, etc.

### Things we've learned from the wise (or not so wise) salmon...

The stream less traveled is that way for a reason



- Once you're in the turbulence, it's hard to see where you're going
- Some people focus on the lipstick, some focus on the pig
- Sometimes throwing money at a problem is helpful, if distasteful
- Even a village can get discouraged
- A step in any direction is progress