# Klamath Basin Science and Funding Workshop – Ashland, OR

• Jonathan Birdsong – Director, Western Region; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation







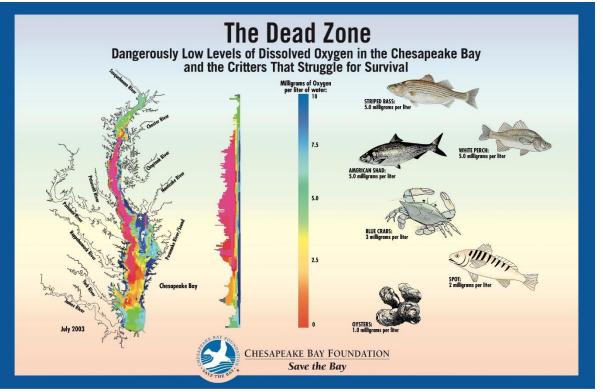
#### **Presentation Topics**

- NFWF Large Watershed Programs
  - Chesapeake Bay
  - Gulf of Mexico
  - Columbia Basin
  - National Programs America the Beautiful
- NFWF work in the Klamath Basin
- NFWF Business Plan California
- Discussion



# **Chesapeake Bay – Conservation Need**

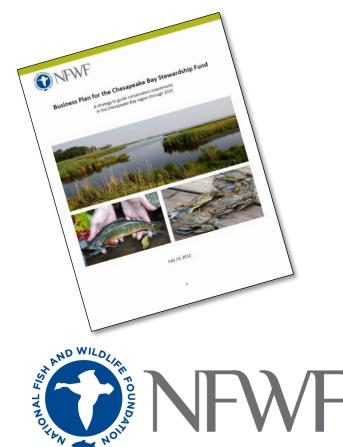
- 64,000 square mile watershed in six states and the District of Columbia
- Roughly 2/3 of native aquatic and terrestrial habitats across the watershed have been lost since European colonization
- Native terrestrial habitats replaced with developed land uses that contribute excess nutrient and sediment pollution
- Excess pollution degrades estuarine habitats and species



# **Current Conservation Context – NFWF**

- 1999: NFWF engaged by EPA to accelerate local restoration actions and spur innovation in watershed restoration
- 2018: Updated, \$100M Chesapeake Bay Business Plan
  - Aligned NFWF programs with 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement watershed agreement TMDL
  - Articulated NFWF priorities to partner goals.
  - Targeted projects which provided innovation, and nexus between water quality improvement and species and habitat restoration.
- \$250M+, 1,500+ individual projects, \$265M+ in additional local leverage.





# **Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF)**

#### • \$2.54B in Funding:

- $\circ$  \$1.27B (50%) for barrier island & river diversion projects in Louisiana
- $\odot$  Remaining funds allocated by formula:
  - 14% each for Alabama, Florida, Mississippi (\$356M/state)
  - ■8% for Texas <u>(\$203M</u>)
- **Purpose**: Fund <u>projects</u> that remedy harm to the type of natural resources (habitats, species) that were affected by the spill
- Consultation: with State resource agencies, FWS and NOAA
- **Timeline:** Funds to be paid over a 5-year period; final payment received in 2018



#### GEBF Funding Snapshot: 2013 - 2020

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) established in May 2013

#### \$1.4B awarded to date (55%)

- 169 projects across all 5 Gulf States
- \$2.1B total impact based on leveraging from other sources (\$675M)
- Future obligations projected through 2023

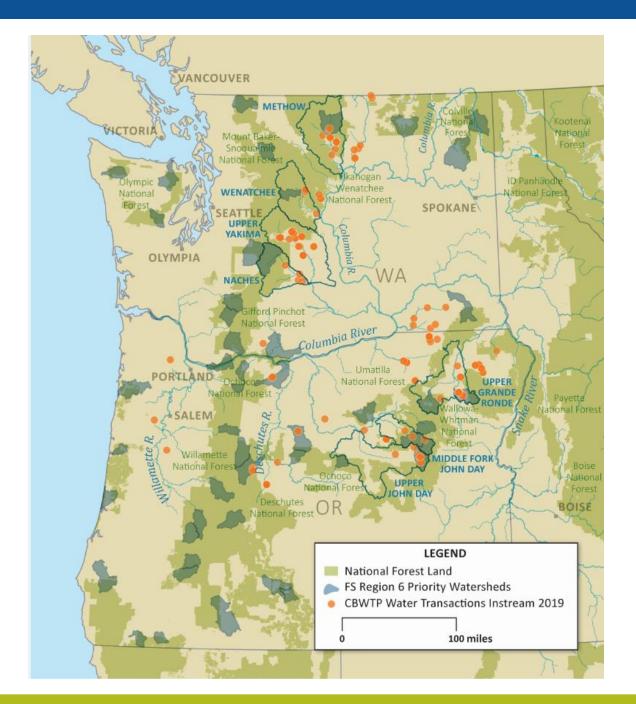
### Highlights:

- Restoring barrier islands and advancing river diversions in Louisiana
- Bolstering wildlife populations such as sea turtles and shorebirds
- Improving fisheries management through better science and more accurate stock assessment

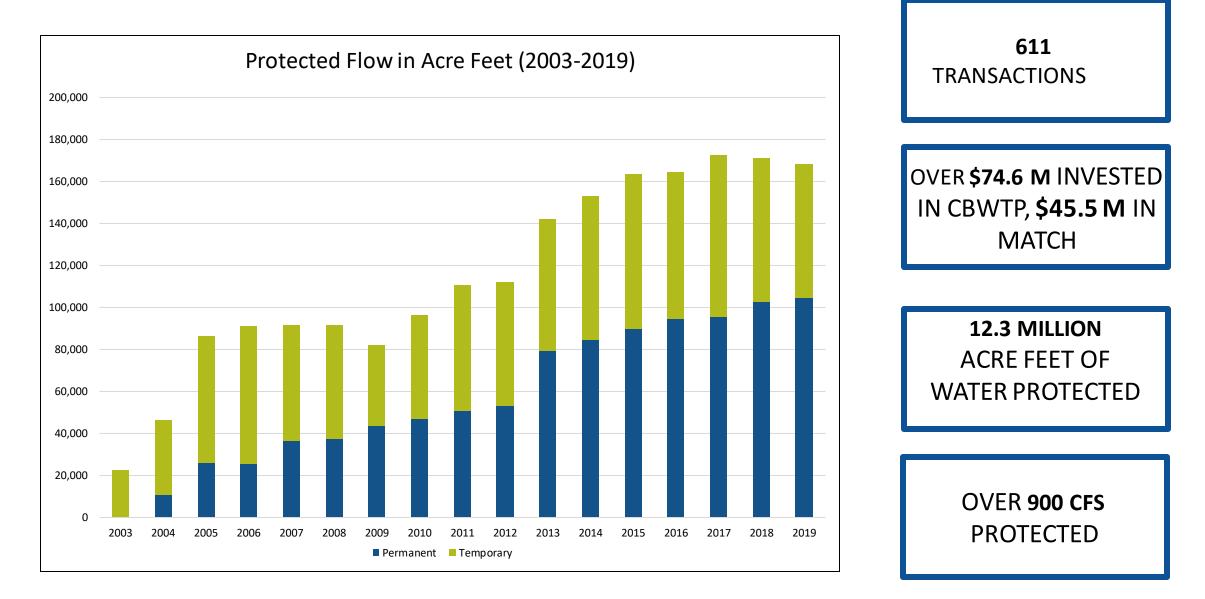


# Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program

- Established in 2002, Partnership with BPA and in consultation with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, work with landowners to dedicate water instream.
- Now working with USFS to align key watersheds where water transactions are taking place to build resilience.



## **Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program – successes to date**



# Intersection of National Programs America the Beautiful Challenge







- A one-stop-shop for implementers to easily access federal conservation funding from multiple agencies
- An opportunity for public-private partnerships to further leverage federal investments
- A means to deliver infrastructure related conservation funding on the ground in a fast manner
- A way to pool federal agency funding and expertise to support cross-boundary and/or landscape-scale restoration projects



#### **Keys to Success**

- 1) Collaboration and coordination
- 2) Engaging stakeholders and building capacity

3) Planning

4) Working at scale





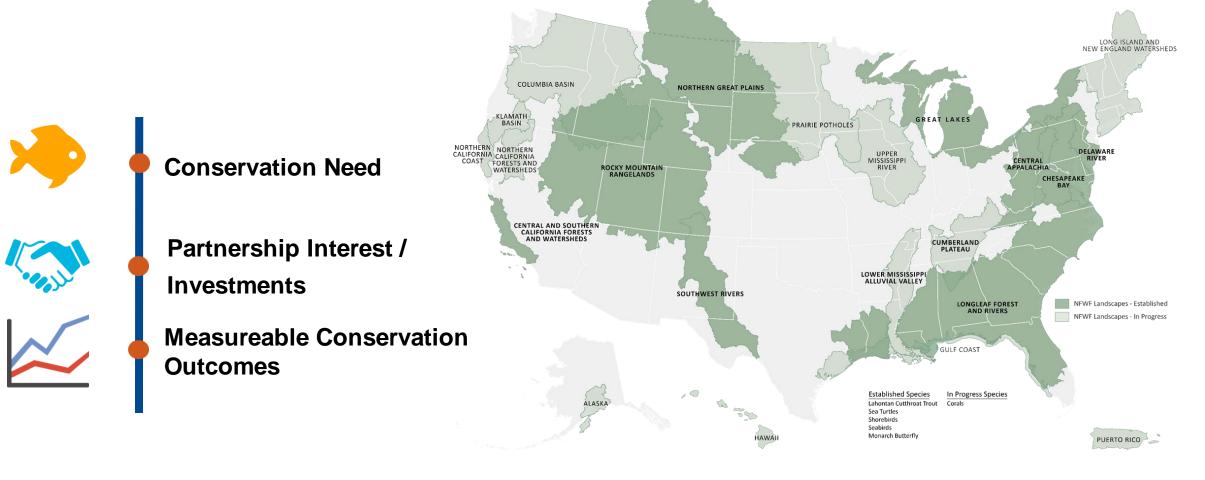
# **Investments in the Klamath Basin**

• Klamath Basin: Over \$14M under management with FWS and BOR to restore water quality, quantity, and aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

- Watershed Infrastructure: Partnership with the USFS to repair forest roads, restore stream connectivity and aquatic organism passage, and improve water quality.
- Forest Health and Prescribed Fire: Have funded projects on the Klamath, Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests to build resilience and fuel breaks.



# **NFWF Business Plan and Conservation Framework**





# **NFWF California Business Plan Vision**



Protect and restore California's forests and watersheds from headwaters to the coast to advance species conservation and landscape resilience to future fire, drought, and other stressors

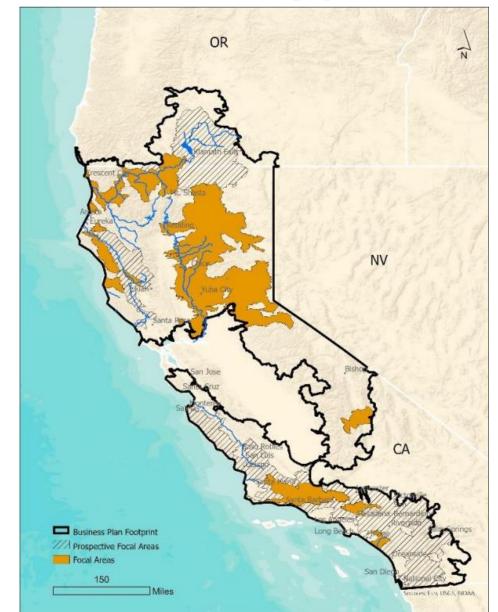
# California Business Plan – Headwaters down approach

#### **Key Species and Habitat**

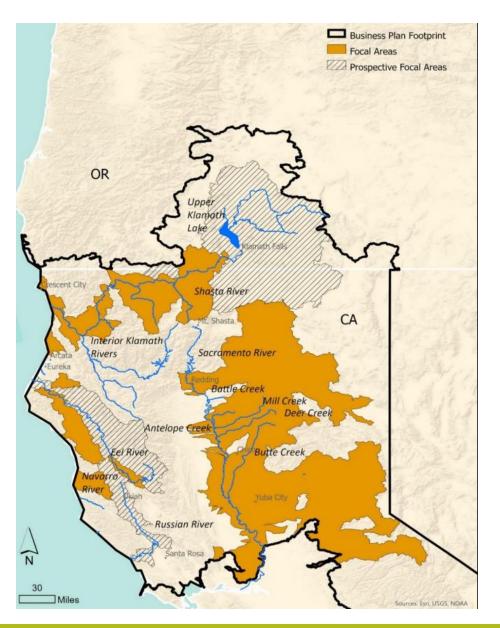
- Stand Density Index for forest species such as California Spotted Owl
- AOP's rectified and water replenished for native fish such as coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout
- Meadows restored for species such as the California red-legged frog







# **Business Plan focus in the Klamath Basin**

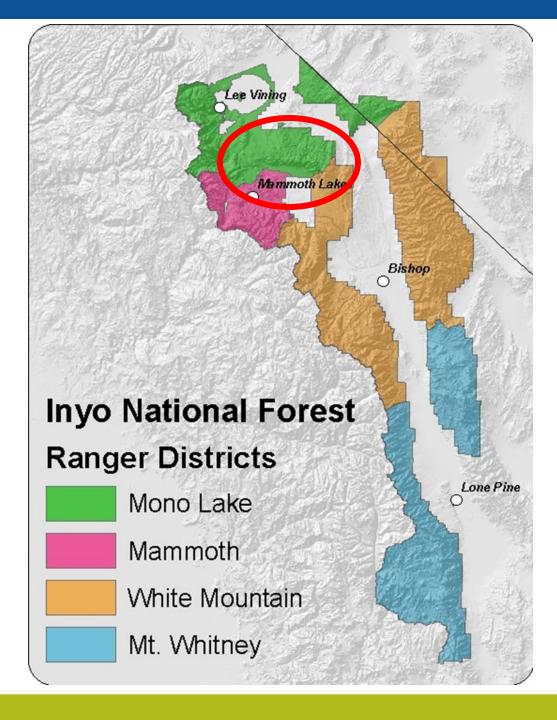


Continue funding and monitor projects which address:

- NOAA's priority reaches for SONCC coho in the Klamath Basin.
- Conservation actions that restore habitat important to the Los River sucker and the shorthnose sucker.
- Improve forest health and fish passage.

#### Using successes across the west

- Environmental Compliance
  - Klamath Basin
  - Stanislaus National Forest
- Build on Past Successes Inyo National Forest
  - 8,500 -15,000 AC of water/year
  - 30,000 metric tons of carbon avoided
- Opportunity to leverage State of California and the Wildfire Task Force
  - Craggy Vegetation



#### **Opportunities for 2023**

- Prioritization of projects, processes and working at scale.
- Work across jurisdictions.
- More opportunities to meet in person.





# **Discussion**



