Fish Barrier Removal Program – Prioritization proposal – October 14, 2014

*See flow chart illustration for more clarification

- Use the Regional Recovery Board boundaries as a starting point to develop statewide focus. The boundaries of the recovery boards align with ESUs (6-7 Recovery Regions)

- Request that each region identify and rank their top watersheds with the focus to identify watersheds that would most benefit from barrier removal.
    - Identify principals/criteria to guide focus area prioritization: What key watersheds or habitat within each region are most impacted by barriers? Where are the important fish populations that with barrier removals would have the highest contribution toward salmon recovery?

- Those identified watersheds become the focus areas for a grant program.

- Once focus watersheds have been identified, entities will submit project proposals, multiple barriers in a stream system, based on a set of criteria. Inventories will need to be included as a first phase once focus areas have been identified. Possibly a different set of criteria will need to be developed for inventory.

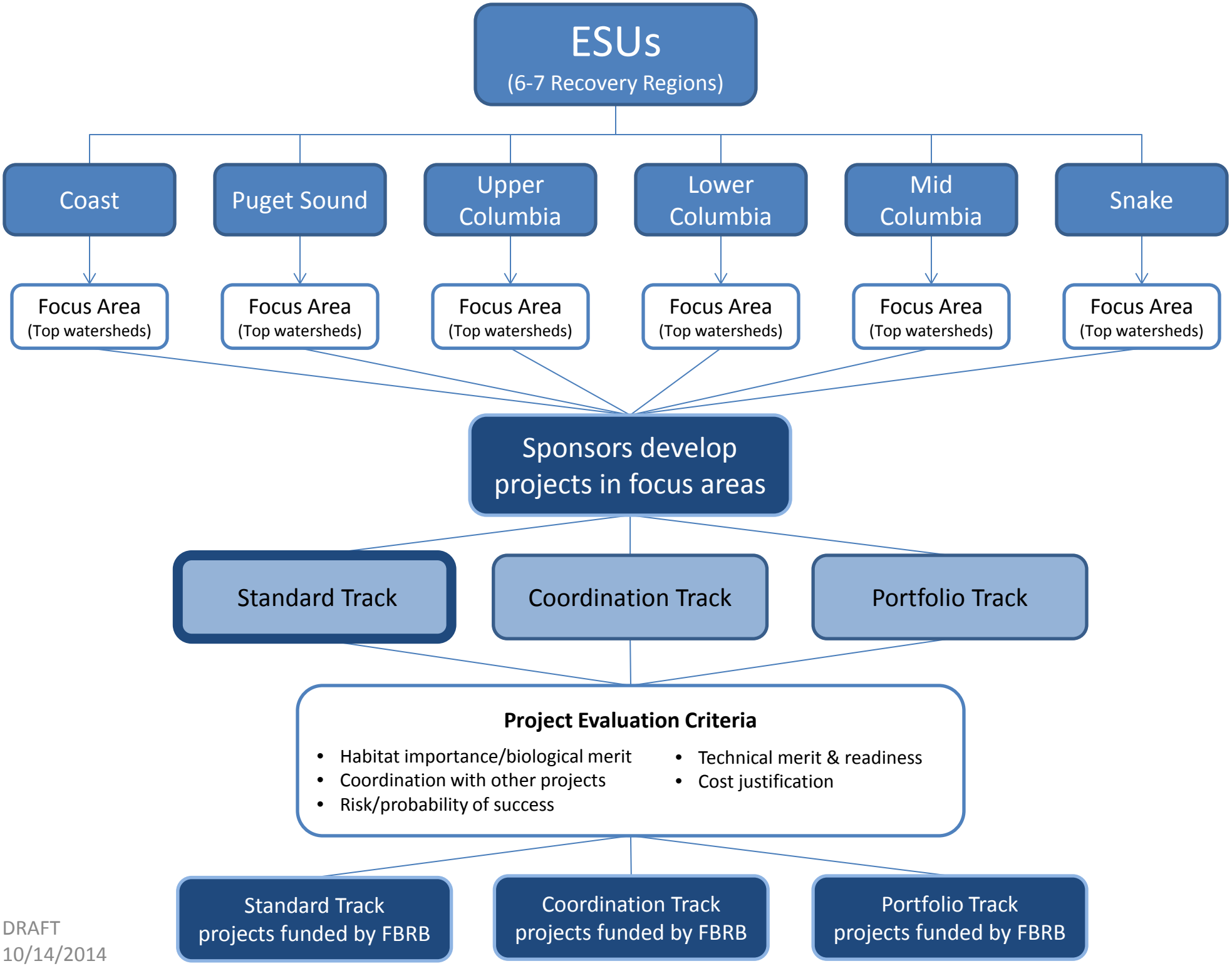
- Criteria options:
    - Develop criteria for a point system evaluation
        - Variables and the weighting of those variables will need to be discussed.

- Different funding tracks (?)
    - Only use in focus areas – standard track
    - Other places where opportunities/coordination exist (in or outside of focus area)
    - Portfolio projects

- Criteria for Evaluation – Based on a point system
    - Habitat Importance
        - Quantity of habitat opened (Linear gain)
            - Challenges on how to evaluate (% of the stream?)
            - Lowest barrier in the system
        - Current condition (quality)
        - Historical condition (potential; IP, EDT)
        - Species benefits (i.e. important spawning habitat)
        - Or # of species benefiting , or stock status, specifying a target species would could be identified for each region
        - Partial or full barrier
    - Coordination

        - Other fish passage barrier corrections on that stream (i.e. RMAP, FFFPP, WSDOT)
        - Salmon restoration investments
        - Efficiencies gained by fixing multiple barriers in a system
            - Permitting, economy of scale
        - Partnerships
    - Risk/probability of success – has the applicant identified and resolved uncertainty?
        - Landowner willingness
    - Technical merit and readiness
        - Has an inventory been completed and we are aware of all barriers
    - Cost justification
        - Are the actions cost effective?
        - Is there a clear and understandable budget?
        - Is there a direct match component?
        - Are there a diversity of benefits that will be delivered from project (i.e. projects addressing flooding issue or reducing maintenance

Once proposals are ranked the Board will be able to develop a project list that can be publicized for funding.



DRAFT
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