

## **Background Information:**

### **Why should we encourage an update to the CBEMP?**

The CBEMP has only been minimally updated since it was adopted in 1985 and has become increasingly difficult for everyone to work with. Since the plan was created in response to conditions that existed in the late 1970's and early 1980's, and the economics and demographics of the many communities along the Coos estuary have changed since then, many aspects of the CBEMP have become outdated. For example, ownerships and land uses that once served only timber and fishing industries have changed to include non-industrial purposes such as tourism. Meanwhile, environmental and resource conservation practices have evolved, and permitting processes have become more complex.

### **Where do the survey questions come from?**

Through a series of workshops, the Coos County Planning Department in collaboration with the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds (PCW- see below) has collected and evaluated local stakeholder suggestions for key CBEMP refinements based on a balance of their needs and those of the estuary and its surrounding communities. Following the workshops, recommendations were developed based on stakeholder suggestions. These suggestions benefitted from several newly compiled and summarized information sources: 1) The Communities, Lands & Waterways: Data Source or "Data Source," a status and trends report assessing environmental and socio-economic conditions in the Coos estuary; and 2) the Coos Estuary Map Atlas, a series of maps and tables of the CBEMP area. Both resources reveal current and potential development and conservation areas within the boundaries of the CBEMP and truly reflect current and likely future conditions in the estuary that can be easily accessed on-line. The survey questions are the primary recommendations that emerged from the workshops.

### **What is the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds (PCW)?**

The PCW is a local group of civic-minded community members representing county and city planners, natural resource managers, and business, development, and conservation interests. Since 2012, the PCW has developed multiple projects using a collaborative process and insightful discussion, involving a broad cross-section of community stakeholders. In 2016, the PCW received a \$246,000 grant from the National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative to help Coos County develop the technical information and community feedback it needs as it considers updating its CBEMP. The *Coos Estuary Land Use Analysis Project*, is administered by the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and implemented in partnership with Coos County and the PCW. The PCW will complete this Project in fall 2018, with a report presented to the Coos County Board of Commissioners along with all the public input. For more information on the PCW and its projects visit: [www.partnershipforcoastalwatersheds.org](http://www.partnershipforcoastalwatersheds.org) or contact Jenni Schmitt ([Jenni.Schmitt@state.or.us](mailto:Jenni.Schmitt@state.or.us); (541) 888-8270 x312)