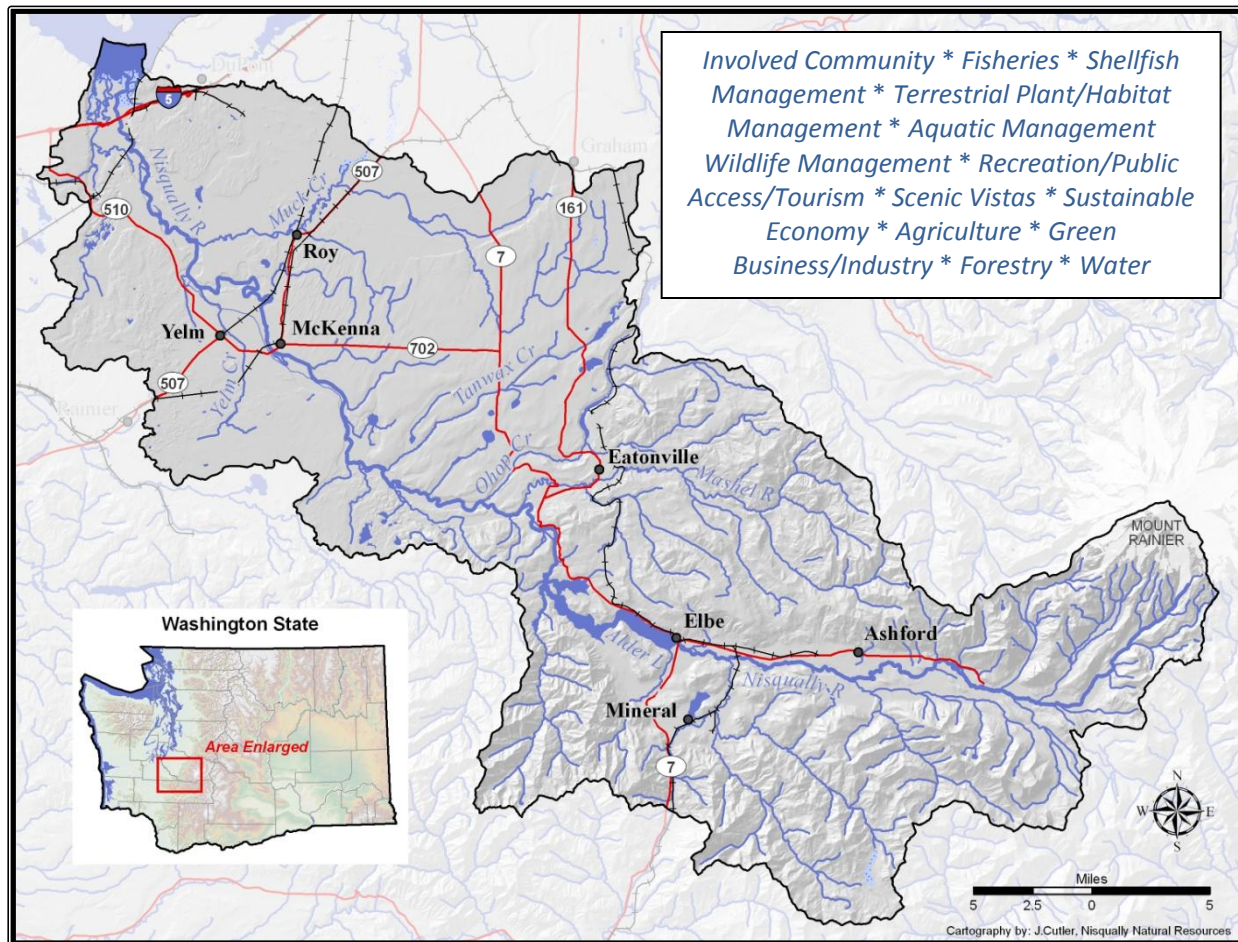




Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan

Updated 2009



Nisqually River Council Mission:

To encourage and support sustainability in the Nisqually Watershed in order to steward our resources in perpetuity and build a model for harmonious living.

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INVOLVED COMMUNITY

2055 Vision

- **Sense of watershed community which values the environment and embraces economic vitality**
- **Many watershed residents actively participate in the stewardship of their watershed – ‘responsible stewardship’**

2030 Goals

- The Nisqually community has an established identity with full participation from all sub-areas

2020 Objectives

- There are community forums based on the Ohop Forum model in all sub- watersheds
- Participation in the Nisqually Watershed Festival has increased
- Create tools for integrating incentive-based and regulatory sustainable-community planning

Actions to Complete by 2015

- Establish community forums based on the Ohop Forum model in 80 percent of the watershed, including Yelm and Bethel School Districts, and form connections to the Citizen’s Advisory Committee
- Start conversations with Lewis, Thurston, and Pierce Counties on how to implement incentive-based planning
- Expand the definition of sustainable community in the Plan to include issues of social equity; make the community element of the NWSP as strong as environment and economy
- Implement a volunteer clearinghouse for the Nisqually Watershed
- Have a tool developed that any group can use for planning Low-Impact Development
- Regulations are developed that grew from voluntary, incentive-based planning
- Explore an additional watershed festival event for the spring to be held in the upper watershed

Actions to Complete by 2010

- **Establish community forums based on the Ohop Forum model in three sub-basins in Eatonville and form connections to the Citizens’ Advisory Committee.**
- **School systems can be used to teach children collaborative effort. This will also bring in parents.**
- **Provide community citizens with resources to nurture and apply their interests, talents, and skills in productive and rewarding efforts**
- **Outline/design a central Nisqually volunteer clearinghouse; include a tool to match skills with areas of interests**
- **Encourage community-created identities and infrastructure planning compatible with community values and sustainability goals**
- **Explore connections to area organizations with outreach programs (Earth Ministries, etc.)**

FISHERIES

2055 Vision

- All natural salmon and trout populations have been restored to levels that support an abundant harvest
- Warm-water fisheries compatible with healthy populations of native fish have been established

2030 Goals

- All natural populations are self-sustaining
- Fully implement the multi-species salmon and trout plan

2015 Objectives

- The [Chinook Recovery Plan](#) has been fully implemented
- Local markets for fisheries have been developed and expanded
- A warm-water fisheries plan is in place
- An upper watershed fisheries plan has been developed

Actions to be Complete by 2010

- **Identify and map those areas critical to salmon and steelhead and the areas that need to be preserved or restored**
- **Update the stream catalog to include descriptions of additional areas**
- **Identify and map areas used by warm-water species**
- **Complete a multi-species salmon and trout plan**

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT

2055 Vision

- Healthy and abundant shellfish stocks that are safe to eat; no shellfish beds are restricted

2030 Goals

- Healthy shellfish beds have been restored

2015 Objectives

- Recreational access to shellfish has been enhanced

Actions to Complete by 2010

- **Identify and map those areas important to shellfish and identify the areas that need to be preserved or restored**
- **Adopt a commercial and recreational shellfish plan**

TERRESTRIAL PLANT / HABITAT MANAGEMENT

2055 Vision

- **There is a viable amount of each type of eco-region represented in the watershed**
- **All threatened and endangered plants in the watershed are fully restored**
- **All invasive plants have been removed**

2030 Goals

- Native habitat in the main-stem area of the Nisqually watershed has been fully restored
- An invasive removal program is in place and additional native plants have been established in the lower watershed

2020 Objectives

- Continue restoration of native habitats in the upper Nisqually watershed
- Prevent spread of knotweed in the upper watershed and reduce by 20 percent

Actions to Complete by 2015

- Remove all knotweed from the lower watershed
- Prevent the spread of knotweed in the upper watershed and reduce by 20 percent
- Complete planting of native riparian forest in the estuary

Actions to Complete by 2010

- **Develop an oak habitat protection program in high priority areas of the watershed**
- **Identify eco-regions, identify and map areas, and promote preservation**
- **Establish an invasive species removal program**
- **Establish additional native plants in the upper Nisqually watershed**

AQUATIC MANAGEMENT

2055 Vision

- **Healthy native populations of all aquatic species exist in the watershed**

2020 Objectives

- A program to manage invasive aquatic species has been developed

Actions to Complete by 2015

- Identify and map areas used by freshwater fish and shellfish species
- Develop a program to manage aquatic invasive species

Actions to Complete by 2010

- **Identify any high priority areas of concern due to invasive species, both fish and wildlife**

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

2055 Vision

- **There are harvestable populations of all native Nisqually game animals and adequate access to hunting lands**
- **There are healthy, viable populations of all native non-game species**
- **The state and federal threatened and endangered species have been fully restored**

2030 Goals

- Wildlife habitats have been protected and expanded
- A game management plan is in place and working well
- All actions for the non-game species plan have been implemented

2020 Objectives

- Significant progress has been made on habitat needs
- Priority actions for game and non-game species have been implemented

Actions to Complete by 2015

- Develop a watershed-specific game management plan, including prioritized actions
- Negotiate access issues with private landowners for wildlife viewing and hunting
- Identify and map elk range
- Assess critical habitat for elk over-wintering and calving
- Identify and map areas important to populations of migratory waterfowl
- Develop a Nisqually bird stewardship program
- Identify non-game species and habitat needs in the watershed
- Develop a non-game plan

Actions to Complete by 2010

- **Restore high priority areas in the watershed to benefit key migratory birds and non-game wildlife**
- **Identify any high priority areas of concern due to invasive species, both wildlife and plants**

RECREATION / PUBLIC ACCESS / TOURISM

2055 Vision

- **A Cultural Heritage Tourism model is in place, providing year-round activities based on cultural and natural resources of the region**
- **There is a Glacier-to-Sound, 'Nisqually River' trail system, with voluntary participation by land owners, that recreates the historic tribal trading route**
- **Public access opportunities in the watershed have been increased across a variety of land ownerships**
- **An integrated system of recreational opportunities is in place that protects the resources in areas which can sustain impact and preserves more sensitive areas**

2030 Goals

- **Fifty percent of the Glacier-to-Sound trail is open**
- **Twenty percent of the visitors to the watershed come for heritage tourism, to learn about the area's history**

2015 Objectives

- **Open the Elbe rest area**
- **Nisqually-Mashel State Park is open**
- **A coordinated recreation plan, including visitor management, economic development, and marketing, is in effect throughout the basin. Visitors have a place to get directions and recreation advice.**
- **There are signs at major watershed entrances**
- **The Glacier-to-Sound trail is fully planned**
- **A vital agriculture tourism industry exists (Expand beyond Wilcox and Schilter)**
- **Explore tourism opportunities in Thurston and Lewis Counties**

Actions to Complete by 2010

- **Establish the River Float Trail (in part) from the Mashel confluence to the mouth, including bathrooms, overnight stops, and put-in/take-out points**
- **Educate the business community and public on the concept of heritage tourism**
- **Establish a volunteer program to maintain trails in the watershed**
- **Inventory recreation opportunities**
- **Develop an interpretative trail guide that covers cultural history, recreational opportunities, and environmental diversity**
- **Apply for technical assistance for Glacier-to-Sound trail plan**

SCENIC VISTAS

2055 Vision

- **The watershed looks like it did in 2005, free of billboards, with scenic viewpoints protected, and a feeling of continuity as the traveler moves through the watershed communities**

2030 Goals

- **All of the identified viewpoints in the watershed are under some form of protection that ensures that they will be enjoyed by all, adding to the aesthetics of the watershed**

2015 Objectives

- **All priority views are under protection**
- **Promote educational programs to reduce litter, such as free appliance and tire dump days and recycling programs**

Actions to Complete by 2010

- **All ILARIS related efforts should be completed**
 - **List all the areas deemed important for scenic quality; specify the characteristics of each view that needs to be conserved; look at foreground, middle ground and background**
 - **Prioritize the scenic views**
 - **Specifically delineate the boundary of each view. Contact those landowners who own property within this 'viewshed' and invite them into the process**
 - **The River Council and Land Trust should work to develop a stewardship plan to preserve the views and provide landowners with some voluntary options, such as conservation easements**
- **Develop a memorandum of understanding between agencies and tribes that outlines guidelines and procedures for picking up garbage**

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

2055 Vision

- **A healthy, vibrant economy that values the qualities that make the Nisqually watershed a wonderful place to live**
- **A sustainability land value system has been established**

2030 Goals

- There are diversified economic opportunities consistent with the basin-wide community identity

2015 Objectives

- There is a strong, local business infrastructure and economic development investment opportunities
- The visitor economy has been stabilized by creating year-round, extended seasons
- Community identities that attract businesses have been established compatible with the 50-year vision

Actions to Complete by 2010

- **Implement the basin-wide economic development plan**
- **Encourage and enable small to mid-sized, locally based and owned businesses and develop a ‘newcomer’ investment strategy for planned growth**
- **Define the value-based products created within the basin, such as agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, tourism, and services for locals; define obstructions to the above**

GREEN BUSINESS/INDUSTRY

2055 Vision

- **All new industries enhance the sustainability of the watershed**

2030 Goals

- Existing industries meet or exceed their current industry standards to enhance the sustainability of the watershed

2015 Objectives

- A mechanism for attracting green business is in place, emphasizing partnerships and networking

Actions to Complete by 2010

- **Adequately define and set up a mechanism for attracting green business**

AGRICULTURE

2055 Vision

- **No net loss of farmlands from 2005 productivity levels**
- **Balance has been achieved between incentives and regulations; they work together to promote sustainability and economic vitality**
- **The connection between rural and urban has been strengthened by our improved understanding of local farming and it's needs**

2030 Goals

- Previously developed conservation (farm) plans are fully implemented

2020 Objectives

- Conservation (farm) plans for all commercial farms have been developed
- Incentives that promote purchase of development rights and/or conservation easements have been created
- Conservation plans for all small farms requested by owners

Actions to Complete by 2015

- Provide technical assistance to farmers for sustainable agriculture
- Promote the local farming economy with farmers markets and community supported agriculture (CSA) programs
- Achieve a balance between incentives and regulations in the agriculture sector

Actions to Complete by 2010

- **Develop a pamphlet for new small farmers**
- **Promote the connection between the urban and rural community (e.g. tours promoting understanding of farming and farmers' issues)**

FORESTRY

2055 Vision

- **A productive forest land base at 2005 size or larger**
- **A regulated, enforced program of sustainable harvest of timber and non-timber products**
- **A sustainable, locally supported industry for harvest of non-timber products**
- **99 percent of forest lands are in a certification program**

2030 Goals

- **Viable working forest landscape exists**

2015 Objectives

- **There is a viable and sustainable timber economy; infrastructure is in place and people can sell their products**

Actions to Complete by 2010

- **Support development of incentive packages for timber production**
- **Support local use of the timber**
- **Support and expand small landowner assistance programs, including USDA, WSU, WDNR, & UW Pack Forest**
- **Promote sustainable harvest practices and marketing of non-timber products, such as salal and mushrooms; bring together resources, regulations, and contracts for non-timber products**
- **Develop programs to assist in sustainable harvest and marketing of timber and non-timber products**

WATER

2055 Vision

- **Water is clean and available and supports the needs of the population without harming habitat**
- **There is adequate potable water for communities in keeping with reasonable growth**
- **There are no impaired (polluted) water bodies**
- **The 2514 plan has been fully implemented**
- **There is maximum reuse or re-infiltration of water in the basin**
- **The continued operations of the hydropower facilities in the watershed are supported in a way that best protects ecosystem function while also meeting the power needs of the communities**

2030 Goals

- There is adequate in-stream flow for ecosystem functions

2015 Objectives

- A water conservation program for the watershed has been established
- Promote and help with Ecology's completed [implementation plans](#) for achieving clean water standards
- All municipal wastewater treatment facilities will have completed feasibility studies on reuse or tertiary treatment
- A plan for correcting failing septic systems has been implemented
- Gather data and plan for adequate in-stream flow
- Develop and fund a complete surface water monitoring program
- Ensure that new construction and development do not degrade water quality
- Ensure that all municipal wastewater treatment facilities begin feasibility studies for reuse or tertiary treatment

Actions to Complete by 2010

- **Promote water conservation**
- **Assist health departments to identify and repair failing septic systems**
- **Implement the Nisqually Watershed Management Plan ([2514](#))**
- **Ensure that new construction and development don't degrade water quality**

Actions Ranked By Priority – Top 20

(Ranked by the Council at the March 2009 Planning Retreat)

1. Identify and map those areas critical to salmon and steelhead and the areas that need to be preserved or restored. **FISHERIES**
2. Develop new funding sources for the Nisqually River Education Project. **NREP**
3. Establish community forums based on the Ohop Forum model in three sub-basins in Eatonville, and form connections to the Citizens' Advisory Committee. **INVOLVED COMMUNITY**
4. Implement the Nisqually Watershed Management Plan (2514). **WATER**
5. Complete a multispecies salmon and trout plan. **FISHERIES**
6. Gather data and plan for adequate in-stream flow. **WATER**
7. Update the stream catalog to include descriptions of additional areas. **WATER**
8. Provide technical assistance and incentives to residents and landowners of the watershed on how they can make their own living more sustainable. **LID/ARCHITECTURE**
9. Promote water conservation for balanced uses. **WATER**
10. Assist health departments to identify and repair failing septic systems. **WATER**
11. Update curriculum to reflect WASL and new data. **NREP**
12. Review and adopt existing certification programs. **SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATION**
13. Promote educational programs to reduce litter, such as free appliance and tire dump days and recycling programs. **SCENIC VISTAS**
14. Develop a project list for volunteers. **NSS**
15. Identify ecoregions, identify and map areas, and promote preservation. **HABITAT MANAGEMENT**
16. Promote the local economy; e.g., farmers markets and community-supported agriculture (CSA). **AGRICULTURE**
17. Finalize LID and Architectural guidelines. **LID/ARCHITECTURE**
18. Facilitate and support new Advisory Committees. **ONGOING**
19. List all the areas deemed important for scenic quality; specify the characteristics of each view that needs to be conserved; look at foreground, middle ground, and background. **SCENIC VISTAS**
20. Prioritize which scenic views are most important. **SCENIC VISTAS**

The previous version of the *Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan*, which contains additional background and watershed context, is available online at www.nisquallyriver.org.

The Nisqually River Council meets on the third Friday of the month at locations throughout the watershed – all are invited to attend these meetings and participate in this work.

For more information, please call 360.438.8715, email info@nisquallyriver.org, or visit the NRC website at www.nisquallyriver.org.