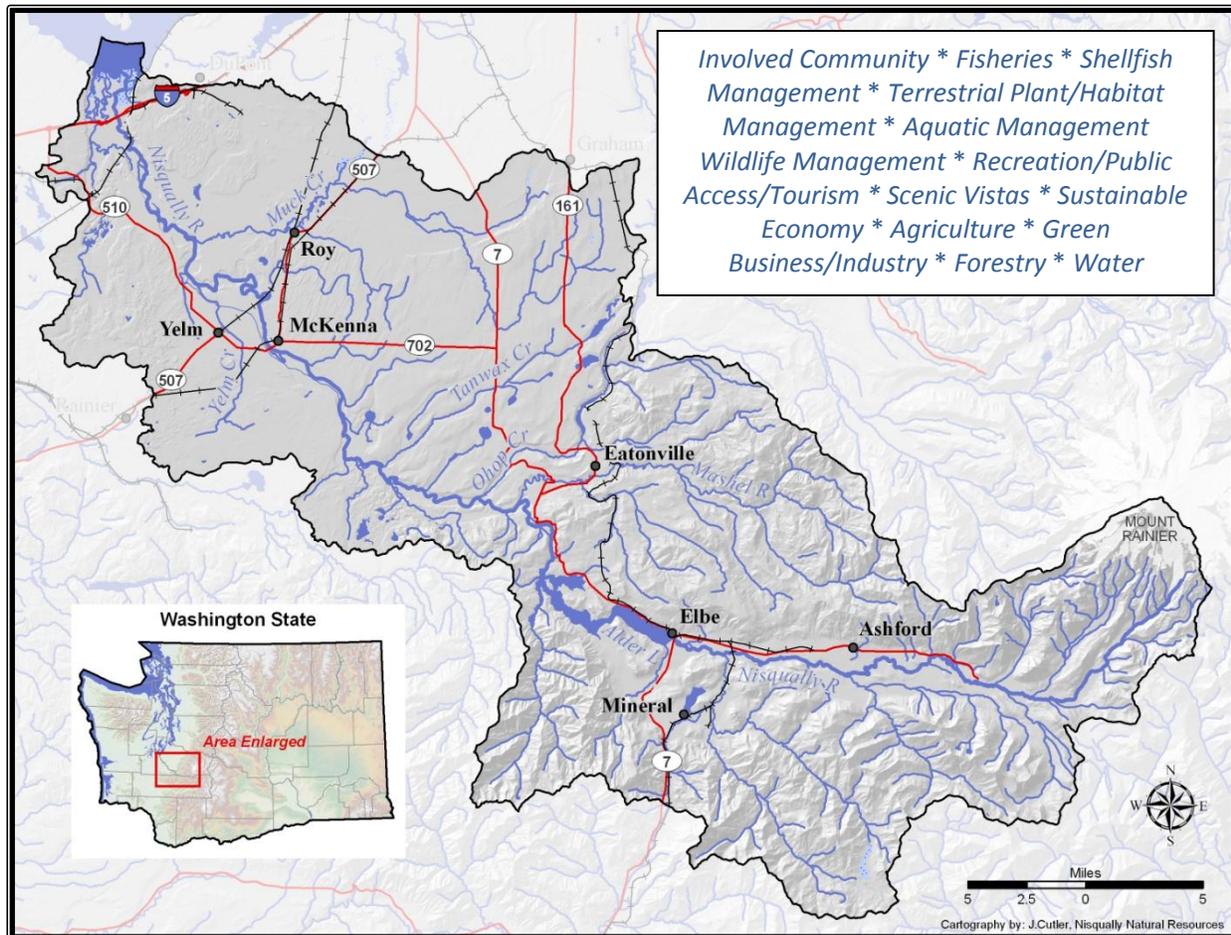




# Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan

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](http://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](mailto:info@nisquallyriver.org), or visit the NRC website at [www.nisquallyriver.org](http://www.nisquallyriver.org).