



Nisqually River Council
Retreat Notes
March 26, 2011. 9:30 – 3:30
Pack Forest, Eatonville WA
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Ron Averill – *Lewis County*

Jeanette Dorner – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*

Rich Doneges – *Thurston County*

Jean Takekawa – *Nisqually National Wildlife
Refuge*

Mark Thibo – *WA DNR*

*** CAC Representatives (3)**

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Debra Anderson

Debby Crosetto

Paul Crosetto

Mary Foster

Fred Michelson*

T. Scott Brineman

Jean Shaffer

Marjorie Smith*

Robert Smith*

Guests

Joe Kane – *Nisqually Land Trust*

Karelina Resnick – *WREDI*

Chris Schutz – *Pierce County*

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Justin Hall – *Nisqually River Foundation*

Sara Scott – *Nisqually River Council*

Sheila Wilson – *Nisqually River Education Project*

Members and associates of the Nisqually River Council gathered at Pack Hall, in UW's Pack Forest, to review and improve the proposed Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan update. The following is the proposed plan draft with "track changes" used to highlight input garnered from the Retreat participants.

NISQUALLY WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PLAN – DRAFT UPDATE

Proposed Mission:

To create sustainability in the Nisqually Watershed for current and future generations by developing a common culture of environmental, social, and economic balance.

Current Mission:

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

Overall Goals

The overall goals of the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan draw from the Nisqually River Council's mission, vision, and guiding principles. They represent the components of sustainability: environment, community, and economy.

Our Vision for the Future (unchanged)

- We live in a watershed where vibrant communities, a healthy natural environment and a prosperous, innovative economy are valued.
- Our waters, from glacier to sound, run clean and clear, fish and wildlife thrive in our streams, forests and prairies.
- People are drawn to live, work, and play in our rural landscape.
- As stewards of our land and water, we value our working farms and forests which protect our natural, cultural, and scenic heritage.

Guiding Principles (unchanged)

- We embrace the people who live in the Nisqually watershed, their sense of identity and responsibility that has existed for generations.
- We embrace a diverse landscape that can simultaneously support essential ecological functions, viable populations of all native species, economic prosperity, and social well-being.
- We value a vibrant local economy that benefits from and values the watershed's resources.
- We will use all available and practical tools to plan, measure, and evaluate our progress.

Environmental Sustainability: A viable, healthy natural resource base

The natural resources of the Nisqually watershed -- the forests, the fish and wildlife, the water, and the agricultural lands -- co-exist with the community and economy it supports. The natural resources of the watershed are finite and can easily be spoiled. With the looming pressures of population growth, we must redouble our efforts to leave a legacy of one of the healthiest and unspoiled watersheds in the region.

- Protect, restore, and enhance ecosystem function

Viable, resilient amounts of all ~~7-ecoregions~~watershed ecosystems are present and providing ecosystem services.

Indicators:

1. Prairie lands with a predominance of native species and minimal populations of invasive species
2. Forest lands with a diversity of species and age classes; complexity within stands, and complexity inter- and intra-stand
3. Snow and ice lands with sufficient amounts to support healthy hydrologic cycles

4. Alpine lands continue to support diverse biological communities
5. River and stream systems are fully functioning – healthy riparian zones, intact channel migration zones, connected and intact floodplains and wetlands, good water quality, flow regimes which support biological diversity

- Protect and enhance biological diversity

Local populations of native species are self sustaining.

Indicators:

1. Harvestable amounts of culturally-important species are present
2. Invasive species are eradicated or managed
3. Diverse communities of native fish, wildlife, and plants are present thriving
4. Recovery plans for species listed under the Endangered Species Act are fully implemented.

- Promote sustainable resource use

All resource extraction is conducted in a manner consistent with the long-term viability of watershed ecosystems.

Indicators:

1. Forests are harvested in a sustainable manner
2. Water usage protects instream flows, and groundwater recharge areas, and surface filtration systems
3. Sustainable agricultural practices protect soils, water quality, and sensitive habitats
4. Mineral extraction and associated industries are conducted in a manner that protects water quantity and quality, and air quality, and keeps the ecosystem intact
5. Animal densities are within the carrying capacity of the land

- Facilitate the appreciation, protection, and enhancement of the watershed through education and participation

Watershed residents, visitors, and others have access to a variety of programs and resources which enable and empower them to be responsible watershed stewards.

Indicators:

1. Students engaged in actively exploring, monitoring and restoring their watershed
2. Local landowners and community members are active stewards of their watershed
3. Watershed-based education programs are present in schools throughout the watershed
4. Organizations and businesses throughout the watershed provide visitors and residents access to educational programs and resources
5. Opportunities are provided by various organizations for volunteers to learn and contribute to watershed sustainability.

Social Sustainability: A community that is healthy, wealthy, resilient, and wise

Communities in this watershed determine how they affect the economy and environment. It is important to keep these communities healthy so they can continue to make good decisions. Strong communities require access to good schools, health care, employment, the arts, and a healthy environment.

- Promote health and wellness in the community

Indicators:

1. Locally grown and produced foods are available and affordable
2. Community health indicators (obesity rates, % of population w/o health insurance, etc.) show marked improvement

3. Disaster Response Plans and Community Emergency Response Teams are developed

- Protect and enhance the network of trails and recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities

Indicators:

1. Individual communities are linked by a network of multi-use trails; [trails are sustainable/compatible within the environment](#)
2. A diverse assortment of recreational opportunities exists in the watershed
3. The public is aware of, and uses, regional recreational opportunities

- Promote local community identities, cultures, arts, and heritage

Indicators:

1. Farmers markets, co-ops, and alternative economies exist throughout the watershed
2. Natural and built heritage facilities are protected
3. A vibrant artisan community exists in the watershed
4. Celebrations of watershed events occur throughout the watershed
5. Community members are informed, engaged, involved, and interconnected with a sense of local identity

- Support fully-functioning, integrated communities with the full complement of services

Indicators:

1. Transportation infrastructure supports public transportation, ride sharing, and alternative fuel vehicles
2. Increase access to quality health care
3. Opportunities for formal and informal education exist throughout the watershed

Economic Sustainability: Increased economic productivity in a sustainable manner

An economy that is built on sustainable industries is critical to the success of this plan and the Nisqually watershed as a whole. We work to encourage other new and sustainable economic opportunities along with the tourism industry that is becoming well established. Our vision for sustainable businesses includes sustainable goods and services that are produced in a sustainable manner, within a culture of sustainability. We seek a healthy, vibrant economy that values the qualities that make the Nisqually watershed a wonderful place to live.

- Promote the development of sustainable businesses and built communities

Indicators:

1. An increase in sustainable manufacturing within the watershed
2. Goods and services are produced within Cradle to Cradle ([regenerative?](#)) systems
3. Increased investment in natural capital by small and large business owners ([define natural capital](#))
4. Developed areas of the watershed support ecosystem services

[\(enable the existence of cottage industries through](#)

- Support sustainable tourism and recreation

Indicators:

1. An abundance of sustainable recreation opportunities exist within the watershed
2. A vital agriculture tourism industry exists
3. Scenic vistas and viewpoints are protected
4. Non-traditional experiential tourism is supported (painting [and photography](#) expeditions, Mt. Rainier [\(Byways\)](#) Institute)

- Enhance economic viability of sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fisheries

Indicators:

1. Increased opportunities to add value to products in order to maximize economic return for sustainable natural resource industries
2. Expansion of economic opportunities for sustainable non-traditional natural resource uses
3. Infrastructure exists with which to process products locally

- Increase market access for watershed-based businesses

Indicators:

1. Watershed marketing program is expanded to include all watershed businesses
2. Regional and national recognition of the Nisqually brand
3. Significant value resulting from use of Nisqually brand

WHAT HAVE WE MISSED?

Placeholders (for potential incorporation into 3-year work plans)

- *Integrate school curriculum. Consider how curriculum complements plan, and vice versa.*
- *Water monitoring and water treatment projects*
- *provide economic opportunities for a vibrant artisan community*
- *employment*
- *senior services*
- *cultural diversity is celebrated*
- *energy conservation*
- *home energy audits*
- *advocate for cottage industries*
- *solar photovoltaics*
- *solar hot water*
- *compost toilets*
- *grey water reuse*
- *rainwater harvesting*
- *naturally raised free range*
- *define natural capital*
- *define cradle to cradle*
- *Permaculture*
- *organics*
- *Integrated Pest Management*
- *a new industry providing setup, products, consulting, labor, marketing for the Nisqually Label*
- *(wholesaler for Nisqually Brand products: manufacturing, agricultural, arts; local stock market)*
-

Next Meeting: April 15, Gordon's Grange, Yelm