



Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan

Sustainability Goals: Updated 2020

Environmental Sustainability: A viable, healthy natural resource base

I. Protect, restore, and enhance ecosystem function

Indicators:

1. Prairie lands have a predominance of native species and minimal populations of invasive species.
2. Forest lands have a diversity of species and age classes, complexity within stands, and complexity inter- and intra-stand.
3. Snow and ice lands are sufficient 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, and flow regimes that support biological diversity.
6. Estuary and delta lands support robust and sustainable habitat for native and recovering species.

II. Protect and enhance biological diversity

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 thriving.
4. Recovery plans for species listed under the Endangered Species Act are fully implemented.

III. Promote sustainable resource use

Indicators:

1. Forests are harvested in a sustainable manner.
2. Water usage protects in-stream flows, 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.

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

Indicators:

1. Students engaged in actively exploring, monitoring and restoring their watershed.
2. Local landowners and community members are active stewards of their lands and watersheds.
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

V. Promote social and environmental justice in local communities

Indicators:

Indicators for this goal are in development by a representative work group of NRC and community stakeholders.

VI. Promote health and wellness in the community

Indicators:

1. Locally grown and produced foods are available and affordable
2. Community health indicators show marked improvement
3. Disaster Response Plans and Community Emergency Response Teams are developed

VII. 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

VIII. 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

IX. 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
4. Watershed residents have access to affordable housing and adequate services exist to minimize the environmental, health, and social impacts of homelessness

Economic Sustainability: Economic productivity in a sustainable manner

X. 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 regenerative and/or zero-waste systems
3. Increased investment in natural capital by small and large business owners
4. Developed areas of the watershed support ecosystem services

XI. 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

XII. 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. Infrastructure exists with which to process products locally
3. Sustainable watershed-based businesses are regionally and nationally recognized