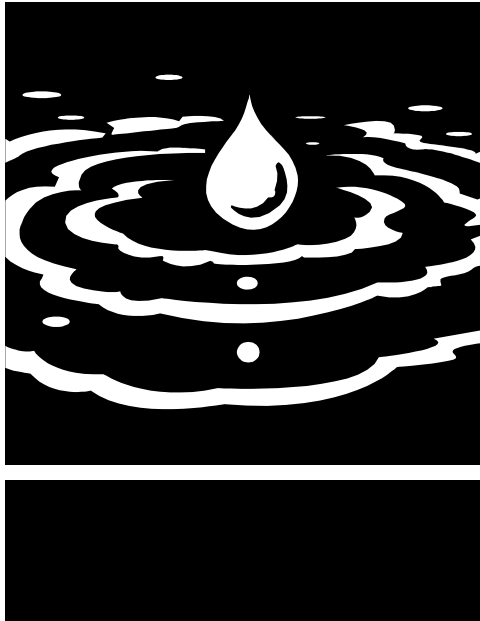


# **The Chehalis Basin Partnership Watershed Management Plan**



## **Detailed Implementation Plan**

**Volume 1, Strategies 1 through 5**

**June 2009 Update**

This project was performed under Grant Go600069 from the Washington Department of Ecology to Grays Harbor County acting on behalf of the Chehalis Basin Partnership.

# The Chehalis Basin Watershed Management Plan

## Detailed Implementation Plan Volume 1, Strategies 1 through 5

*Prepared by*

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## **Introduction**

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The Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) first adopted its Chehalis Basin Watershed Management Plan in April 2004. The plan lays out the goals, objectives, and framework for water resource management in Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) 22 and 23. Goals and objectives in the plan focus on:

- Planning
- Public Involvement
- Water Quantity
- Water Quality
- Habitat

The next step in the watershed management planning process for the CBP was to begin working on the details regarding how best to bring these WMP goals to fruition. This entails asking the essential questions of “How do we accomplish these goals, who is going to help, when do things get done, and what resources will we need?”

The CBP began the process of answering these questions by developing a 2007-2008 Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP). The purpose of this DIP would be to outline a comprehensive approach for accomplishing the goals of the Chehalis Basin Watershed Management Plan (WMP) through prioritized strategies and interim milestones.

RCW 90.82.043 and .048 does provide guidance to the CBP regarding DIP content and process. The DIP must cover the following elements:

- Strategies to provide for sufficient water for: production agriculture; commercial, industrial and residential uses; and instream flows
- Timelines to achieve these strategies
- Interim milestones to measure progress
- Coordination and oversight responsibilities
- Needed interlocal agreements and administrative approvals

- Specific funding mechanisms

Furthermore, the watershed management planning entity must consult with other local and state entities to ensure that no efforts proposed in the DIP are duplicative or inconsistent with their work.

The CBP assigned the task of developing a draft DIP to their Steering Technical Committee (STC). The committee responded to this task by designing and embarking on a three-step DIP development process.

### **Step 1**

The STC initiated the first step of the DIP effort by reviewing the list of 56 suggested actions in Section IV of the WMP and identifying 18 of them as distinct strategies for achieving the plan's five goals and related objectives. The STC then added other suggested actions from Section IV under each of the strategies as prospective tasks for completing each one. The STC then brainstormed additional tasks to round out the complete steps necessary for implementing the strategies.

Recognizing the need for prioritization, the STC then developed and applied criteria for ranking each strategy. This task identified five of the eighteen strategies as being the most important for the CBP to develop into detailed work plans and begin implementation within the 2007-2008 timeframe. As time and funding allows, the CBP intends to complete detailed work plans for the remaining thirteen after October 2006. Appendix A contains a list of these remaining strategies.

### **Step 2**

This raw work product then became the basis for the second step in preparing a draft DIP. At this juncture, the STC invited the Water Quality Committee (WQC) and the Habitat Workgroup (HWG), both committees of the CBP, to join in the effort. During this phase, the CBP through its three committees would consult with other local, state, federal, and tribal planning entities during five workshops to complete work plans for each of the top five strategies. A complete list of participants during these workshops is in Appendix B.

At the workshops, participants reviewed each strategy, sorted tasks out into interim milestones, contributed more tasks to each interim milestone for clarification, expressed interest in participating to specific tasks, and identified the resources and schedules necessary for completing specific milestones.

## Step 3

With a draft 2007-2008 DIP in hand, the document then underwent review and adoption by the CBP. The earnest work of implementing the WMP now begins.

### Organization of the DIP

This 2007-2008 DIP contains five strategies for implementing the five WMP goals that will lead to providing sufficient water for agriculture, commercial, industrial, and residential as well as meeting minimum instream flows. Figure 1 on page 4 shows how the DIP coordinates with the CBP and the WMP. Table 1 summarizes these strategies and their interim milestones on page 7.

Each strategy in the DIP contains a series of implementing interim milestones. Each interim milestone in turn has complete work plan that includes the following information:

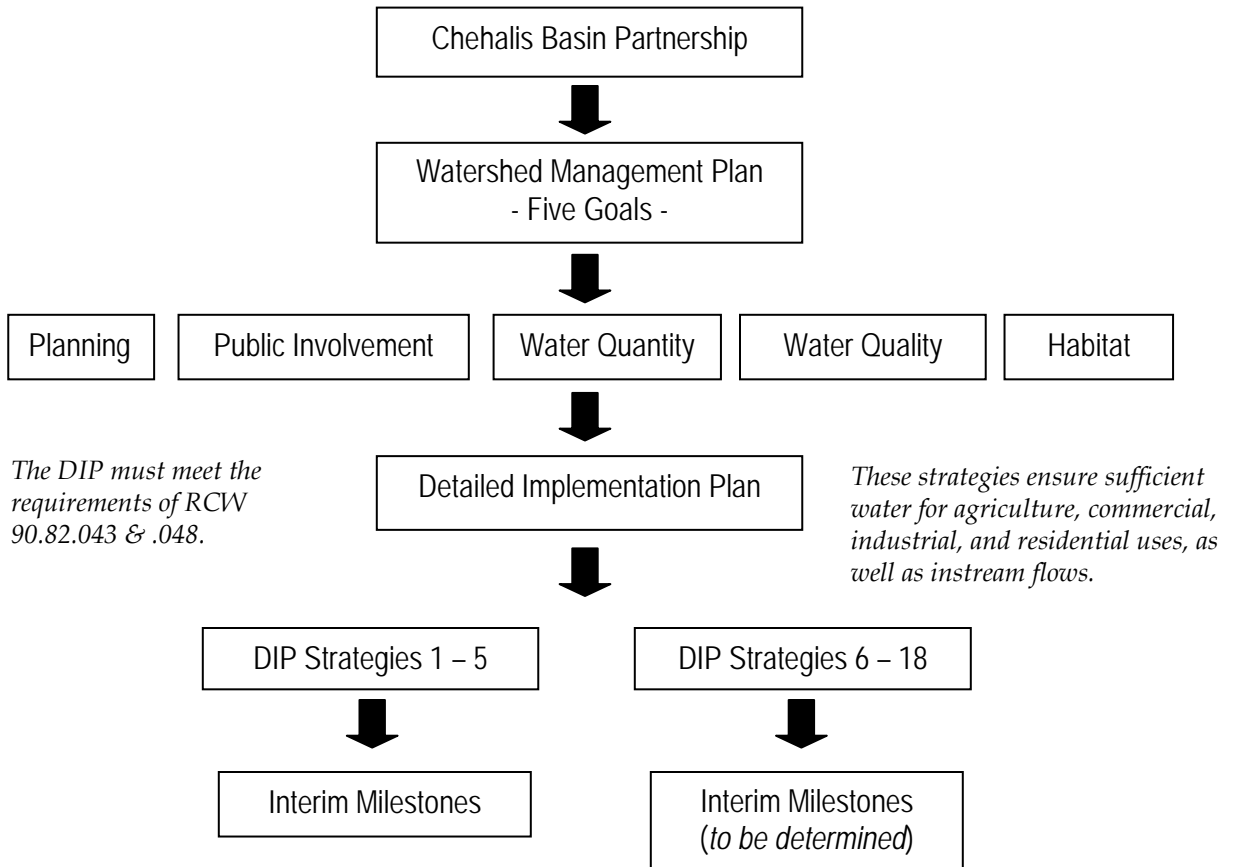
- Tasks – the individual steps needed to achieve an interim milestone
- Start Date – a beginning date to start implementing an interim milestone
- Strategy Oversight Responsibility – identifies which CBP committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of an interim milestone
- Committed Project Participants – a list of agencies who agreed to participate in the implementation of an interim milestone
- Project Resources Needed – a list of anticipated resources needed for implementing an interim milestone
- State or Local Approvals Needed – an accounting of what agreements, laws, or other legal mechanisms necessary for completing an interim milestone

As mentioned beforehand, all of the strategies and many of the tasks under interim milestones are from the WMP. Most of these items are taken from the suggested actions contained within the tables from Section IV. The footnotes within each strategy work plan reference their place in the document.

Appendix A contains a list of those prioritized strategies the CBP intends to complete work plans for beginning after October 2006.

Appendix B contains a list of participants invited to attend one or more of the five workshops.

**Figure 1. Organizational Layout of the WMP and the DIP**



*Each interim milestone contains information about tasks, timelines, coordination and oversight responsibilities, resources, and needed agreements and approvals.*

## **Adaptive Management**

Change is a constant in any planning process. The CBP recognizes the existence of this reality and that it must retain the ability to adapt quickly to opportunities as well as stumbling blocks in its quest to achieve the goals articulated within its WMP.

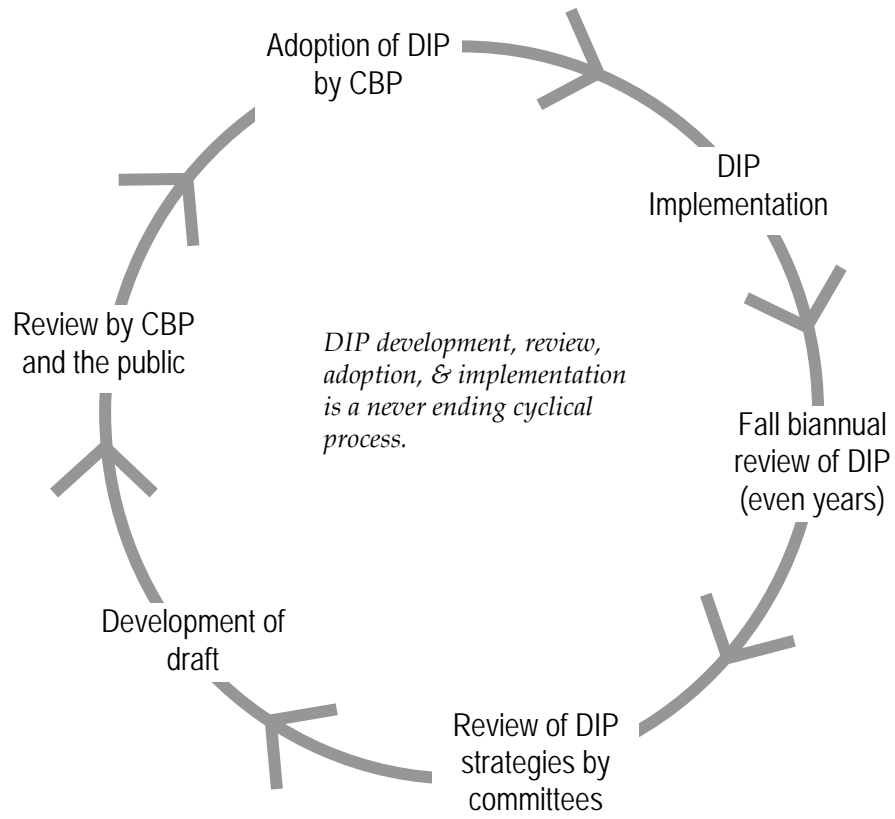
To make this a dynamic document reactive to both the present and the future, the CBP has adopted this DIP as a biannual work plan. This first edition is a plan of action for the years 2007 through 2008. Subsequent updates will begin and be adopted in the fall of even years (e.g., the update for the 2009-2010 DIP begins in the fall of 2008). The intent of this schedule is to coordinate local efforts with the State of Washington's budget development process for each Biennium. Figure 2 on page 6 illustrates the DIP development, review, adoption, and implementation process.

In the process of updating the DIP, participants must keep in mind that changing any language incorporated from the WMP will need unanimous approval of the CBP before any final adoption of the new edition. These sections of the current DIP have footnotes to denote this special status.

## **Funding Disclaimer**

It is important to note that implementing the Objectives and Interim Milestones in this and future updates of the DIP are contingent on finding appropriate funding sources, such as grants and appropriations from government agencies and non-governmental organizations. If the CBP, any of the members, or DIP participants cannot secure funding for projects within this plan, they are not obligated to implement any action using local resources.

**Figure 2. DIP Development, Review, Adoption, & Implementation Process**



**Table 1. Summary of DIP Strategies and Interim Milestones**

<b>DIP Strategies and Interim Milestones</b>		<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>DIPS 1</b>	<b>The Partnership recommends that the state make it clear to water rights applicants that there are flexible strategies for meeting their water rights needs given that hydraulic continuity is an issue.</b>		<b>9</b>
	IM 1.1 Create a partnership with the Department of Ecology in issuing and transferring water rights	2007	9
	IM 1.2 Measuring to manage water quantity	2006	11
<b>DIPS 2</b>	<b>Recommend adequate funding levels for water resources management.</b>		<b>13</b>
	IM 2.1 Develop a finance strategy work plan	7/2006	13
	IM 2.2 Implement an education and outreach work plan	2009	14
	IM 2.3 Build partnerships that leverage financial resources	2009	21
	IM 2.3 Develop a watershed management workplan that will develop prioritized, project lists that tie specific water quality, quantity, and habitat projects to funding opportunities	2006	22
<b>DIPS 3</b>	<b>Identify tools available to meet the Water Quantity Goals</b>		<b>23</b>
	IM 3.1 Clarifying water rights and uses	9/2006	23
	IM 3.2 Add a Water Quantity Committee	11/2006	25
	IM 3.3 Resolving issues related to exempt wells	2007	25
	IM 3.4 Developing tools for meeting water quantity needs	9/2007	27

<b>DIP Strategies and Interim Milestones</b>		<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Page</b>
	IM 3.5 Recommending instream flow levels	9/2007	28
<b>DIPS 4</b>	<b>Develop approaches to keep forestry and agriculture on the land</b>		<b>37</b>
	IM 4.1 Inventory and analysis	2007	37
	IM 4.2a Promoting local agriculture and forestry – Education and Outreach	2007	38
	IM 4.2b Promoting Local Agriculture and Forestry – Sustain, Promote, and Develop	2007	39
	IM 4.2c Provide a Sustainable Business Climate	2007	40
	IM 4.2d Innovative Approaches to Water Rights	2007	41
<b>DIPS 5</b>	<b>The Partnership recommends exploring a range of approaches to improve communication, coordination, and consolidation of all habitat efforts in the Chehalis Basin</b>		<b>44</b>
	IM 5.1 Foster communication and coordination among groups for habitat restoration and protection	2006	44
	IM 5.2a Develop a habitat restoration and protection outreach effort	2006	46
	IM 5.2b Develop a finance work plan for habitat restoration and protection	2006	48
	IM 5.2c Assessment, implementation, and monitoring of habitat restoration and protection activities and plan	2006	49

**The Partnership recommends that the state make it clear to water rights applicants that there are flexible strategies for meeting their water rights needs given that hydraulic continuity is an issue.<sup>1</sup>**

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When ground water is in close hydraulic continuity with surface water, Department of Ecology guidelines generally will not allow the approval of new applications for water ground water use. Previous studies in the Chehalis Watershed suggest that most shallow wells less than 100 feet deep are closely connected with surface water sources. This situation has made it likely that the Department of Ecology will not approve any new water rights for ground water use in the watershed without extensive field studies that show continuity is not an issue.

The Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) maintains that there is a need for more information to determine aquifer characteristics throughout the length and breadth of the Chehalis Watershed. The benefit of having such information available could encourage the Department of Ecology to explore the possibility of applying flexible strategies for reviewing and approving water right applications within the watershed for residential, agricultural, and industrial uses.

Therefore, this strategy intends to form a partnership between the CBP and the Department of Ecology to conduct appropriate ground water studies and to apply that technical information in forging flexible strategies for applicants when obtaining water rights.

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**Interim Milestone 1.1: Create a partnership with the Department of Ecology and Conservancy Boards in issuing and transferring water rights**

Tasks:

1. Forward a formal request to the Department of Ecology to begin developing a mitigation policy
2. Assess current instream flow rules and current legal framework (case law) to see if we can use mitigation flow strategies.

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<sup>1</sup> WMP Action 1

3. Conduct workshops to brainstorm with agencies/others on what should and can be done for mitigation strategies. Examples might include:
  - Allow out-of-kind mitigation (watershed mitigation) for new or changed water rights
  - Developing a water bank or trust
4. Produce report and/or documentation for mitigation strategies
5. Go to the "state" (agency or legislature) to ask that these strategies be used
6. Change instream flow rules to utilize mitigation strategies if needed
7. Develop a monitoring plan to determine success of mitigation strategies
8. Public outreach to promote strategies

Start Date:

- Early 2007

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- CBP Steering Technical Committee/Water Quantity Workgroup

Committed Project Participants:

- Department of Ecology Water Resources Program (Steve Craig and Jill Walsh)
- Department of Health (Karen Klocke)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife (Chad Stussy and Water Team - Steve Boessow)
- Cities (Kahle Jennings to help organize)

Project Resources Needed:

- Agency and local government staff time
- Facilitator for discussions
- Grant funding for out of pocket expenses (for a facilitator-type)
- Commitment of state agencies and local governments to the process
- Legal counsel/advisor specializing in water rights law

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Memorandum of Agreement between Department of Ecology and the CBP
- Amendments to the Washington Administrative Code relating to instream flow rules pertaining to the Chehalis Watershed
- Potential amendments to the Revised Code of Washington

Special Notes:

Coordinate development with Interim Milestone 4.2d, page 41.

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**Interim Milestone 1.2: Measuring to manage water quantity**

Tasks:

1. Conduct a groundwater study that provides the information necessary to address the hydraulic continuity issue. This study would provide specific information about the character of the groundwater throughout the Chehalis Basin that would allow decision-makers to better answer the questions: Will an individual water right application impact stream flows? (For example: Will an individual water right application impact stream flows? Could a strategic groundwater-pumping schedule be developed for a particular site that would delay the impact on the river until the high flow period?)<sup>2</sup>
2. Scope out what questions we want answered and determine what has already been done.
3. Prioritize the subbasins before initiation of the study.
4. Develop a cost analysis to perform the work on a subbasin level.
5. Identify potential sources of funding to cover the cost of the analysis

Start Date:

- Begin this Interim Milestone in late 2006

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- CBP Steering Technical Committee/Water Quantity Workgroup

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<sup>2</sup> WMP Action 2

Committed Project Participants:

- Department of Ecology Water Resources Program (Charles Pitz)
- US Geologic Survey (Mark Savoca)

Project Resources Needed:

- Agency and local government staff time
- Facilitator for discussions
- Grant funding for facilitator and study consultants (USGS)
- Legal counsel/advisor specializing in water rights law

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Memorandum of Agreements between the CBP and the Department of Ecology and the USGS

Special Notes:

Coordinate development with Interim Milestones 3.1 (page 23) and 3.4 (page 27).

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## **Recommend adequate funding levels for water resources management.<sup>3</sup>**

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Funding will be the lynchpin for implementing water resources management in the Chehalis Watershed. Although the Chehalis Basin Partnership expects the strong in-kind contributions it received during the planning phases to continue, it recognizes that moving the plan to reality demands the investment of “hard dollars” from inside and especially outside the watershed.

This strategy focuses on developing a clear plan for obtaining these resources through continued planning, organizational capacity building, and partnerships.

---

### **Interim Milestone 2.1: Develop a finance strategy work plan**

#### Tasks:

Pursue funding sources for investigating possible solutions for identified subbasin problem areas in order to:

1. Identify or create a funding source for small habitat projects<sup>4</sup>
2. Identify applicable funding sources for habitat protection and restoration projects<sup>5</sup>
3. Develop sources for funding water quality improvements<sup>6</sup>
4. Develop funding sources for water quantity issues
5. Develop legislative strategy to increase funding
6. Decide whether to establish a separate legal organization capable of receiving public and/or private funds (such as a 501(c)3 organization)
7. Plan-2-Fund Development to identify required funding to accomplish WMP

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<sup>3</sup> WMP Action 7

<sup>4</sup> WMP Action 51

<sup>5</sup> WMP Action 52

<sup>6</sup> WMP Action 37

Start Date:

- July 2006 through 2007

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Steering Technical Committee

Committed Project Participants:

- Grays Harbor County (Lee Napier)

Project Resources Needed:

- In-house staffing from tribal governments, the state, counties, conservation districts, and the Columbia-Pacific Resource Conservation & Economic Development District.

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- None

Special Notes:

Coordinate development with Interim Milestone 5.2b (page 48).

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## **Interim Milestone 2.2: Implement an education and outreach work plan**

The Chehalis Basin Partnership is dedicated to fostering cooperative relationships among education and outreach organizations and agencies within the watershed through the development of a two-year strategic plan for watershed education and outreach for WRIA 22/23.

The intent of this strategy is to establish a working group to collaborate on projects led by the WRIA Education & Outreach Coordinator.

### **2.2(1) Public Relations and Outreach Activities via Networking Events**

Tasks:

1. Web-share through established internet service, i.e., Google
  - a. Posts specific to Chehalis Basin activities

- b. Participants use Google calendar to connect activities
2. Appoint staff or volunteer as dedicated Web Coordinator
  - a. Create blog
  - b. Maintain calendar and web forum
  - c. Upload technical documents
  - d. Launch "Grant Project Idea List"
3. Market Chehalis Basin Watershed through social networking websites, i.e. [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Kandi Bauman, Thurston Conservation District

Committed Project Participants:

- Janel Spaulding, Chehalis Basin Partnership, Grays Harbor College
- Miranda Plumb, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- April Boe, The Nature Conservancy

**2.2(2) Changing Attitudes and Perceptions by using Basin-wide Slogan & Mascot**

Tasks:

1. Design Chehalis Basin Watershed slogan and select mascot
2. Develop add campaign
  - a. Use slogan and mascot
3. In-house development of message and delivery
  - a. Articulate messages and identify best media for distributing
  - b. Leverage business, corporate assistance
  - c. Target messages to local communities with sources they use

- d. Focused media for stewardship opportunities

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Nancy Wood-Siglin, Weyerhaeuser

Committed Project Participants:

- Janel Spaulding, Chehalis Basin Partnership, Grays Harbor College
- Dana Dietz, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership
- Grays Harbor Vision 2020

**2.2(3) Better Communications with Public and Agencies: Tourist Guide**

Tasks:

1. Chehalis Basin Watershed specific Tourist Guide
  - a. Calendar of Events
  - b. Map
  - c. Watershed Facts
  - d. Interactive community tips and photographs
2. Tourist Guide available on-line

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Nancy Ness, Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Control Board

Committed Project Participants:

- Margaret Rader, Chehalis River Council
- Dana Dietz, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership
- Janel Spaulding, Chehalis Basin Partnership, Grays Harbor College
- Grays Harbor Vision 2020
- County Tourism Boards / On-line State Tourism Guide

- County Chambers of Commerce

#### **2.2(4) Distribution of Information through Community Newspapers and Other Publications**

##### Tasks:

1. Writer and designer training
2. Workshop to identify leaders and resources
3. Letter campaign to Legislators
  - a. Funding needs
  - b. Chehalis Basin Watershed awareness

##### Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Margaret Rader, Chehalis River Council

##### Committed Project Participants:

- Dana Dietz, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership
- April Boe, The Nature Conservancy
- Taylor Pittman, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Birdie Davenport, WA Department of Natural Resources
- Nancy Wood-Siglin, Weyerhaeuser
- Nancy Ness, Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Control Board
- Janel Spaulding, Chehalis Basin Partnership, Grays Harbor College

#### **2.2(5) Organize Public Workshops & Student Camps**

##### Tasks:

1. High school senior and school project mentor training workshop
2. June – Aug 2009 summer day camps at Alder Creek, Cispus, and County Extension
3. High school job training at summer Watershed Leadership Program camp

4. School volunteer and community member watershed education workshop
5. Watershed Steward Certification training

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Erica Baker, Pacific Education Institute
- Breanna Trygg, WA Department of Fish & Wildlife

Committed Project Participants:

- Lisa Eschenbach, Pacific Education Institute
- Taylor Pittman, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Kathy Jacobson, Chehalis Basin Education Consortium, Educational Service District 113
- Lorena Marchant, Grays Harbor College Coastal Resources Learning Center
- Dave Rountry, WA Department of Ecology
- Janel Spaulding, Chehalis Basin Partnership, Grays Harbor College

**2.2(6) Organizing Volunteers through a Centralized Database**

Tasks:

1. Organize central volunteer database
  - a. Volunteer coordination through the Chehalis Basin Partnership
  - b. Contact point for basin-wide speakers and activities “bureau”
2. Hire coordinator for basin-wide education & outreach
  - a. Organize training
  - b. Connect volunteers to scheduled events
  - c. Coordinate with service groups

3. Identify volunteer roles, tasks and job descriptions, examples include: stewardship, docents, speakers, Speaker Coordinator, artist, writer, weed puller, surveyor, restoration, cultural & environmental historian, musician
4. Recruit volunteers
  - a. Determine commitment availability of volunteers (number of hours per month)

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Janel Spaulding, Chehalis Basin Partnership, Grays Harbor College

Committed Project Participants:

- Birdie Davenport, WA Department of Natural Resources
- Nick Cronquist, WA Department of Natural Resources
- Margarita Villegas, Concerned Citizen
- Taylor Pittman, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Dave Rounry, WA Department of Ecology
- Garrett Dalan, Grays Harbor County Environmental Health Department

**2.2 (7) Workshops Promoting Education and Outreach with Landowners**

Tasks:

1. Promote current events
2. Annual Recognition Awards
  - a. For landowners, students, businesses, volunteers and others
  - b. Multi-category awards including salmon recovery, educator, volunteer, community members
3. Annual Symposium
  - a. Agencies, organizations and non-profits showcase achievements and address education opportunities

#### 4. Landowner Workshops

- a. Forest Steward Council, forest landowners, Northwest Natural Resource Group, small acreage farmers, conservation practices, conservation districts, backyard stewards, composting, master gardeners, flood preparedness

#### Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Cindy Burton, Columbia Pacific RC&EDD

#### Committed Project Participants:

- Chanele Holbrook-Shaw, Heernett Environmental Foundation
- Janet Strong, Grays Harbor Audubon, Chehalis Land Trust
- Janel Spaulding, Chehalis Basin Partnership, Grays Harbor College
- Garrett Dalan, Grays Harbor County Environmental Health Department
- Kathy Jacobson, Chehalis Basin Education Consortium, Educational Service District 113

#### **Interim Milestone 2.2 Start Date: July 2009**

#### End Results:

1. Chehalis Basin Watershed professionals and citizens will be able to access coordinated and comprehensive web-based resources.
2. Citizens will recognize that they are Chehalis Basin residents
3. Tourist guide to the Chehalis Basin Watershed available both on-line and in hard copy
4. Chehalis Basin will Co-Sponsor a Grant to support "Bureau-Specific" Activities, i.e., materials and transportation
5. Well trained teachers and mentors assisting students in Chehalis Basin Watershed
6. Chehalis Basin Watershed "Volunteer Event"

7. Promote healthier Chehalis Basin Watershed by acknowledging and awarding those who make a difference

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### **Interim Milestone 2.3: Build partnerships that leverage financial resources**

#### Tasks:

This milestone lays out strategies for building partnerships that leverage financial resources:

1. Encourage maximum coordination among partners that will leverage financial and political resources
2. Establish MOUs and MOAs that enhance partnerships
3. Acquire resources for the GIS Clearinghouse

#### Start Date:

- 2007

#### Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Steering Technical Committee

#### Committed Project Participants:

- Chair of the Chehalis Basin Partnership

#### Project Resources Needed:

- In-house state and local government staffing (especial legal counsel)
- Facilitator
- Financial resources for Grays Harbor College targeted to GIS Clearinghouse
- Endorsement and participation of elected officials
- Data from agencies for inclusion in the GIS Clearinghouse

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Memorandum of Agreements or Understanding between agencies to authorize partnerships
- 

**Interim Milestone 2.4: Develop a watershed management work plan that will develop prioritized, project lists that tie specific water quality, quantity, and habitat projects to funding opportunities**

Tasks:

1. Initial efforts must focus on the water resource issues deemed most vital by the Partnership; they should begin as soon as the Plan is adopted.<sup>7</sup>

Start Date:

- July 2006 through 2007, then ongoing

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Steering Technical Committee

Committed Project Participants:

- Department of Ecology (Steve Craig and Dave Rountry)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife (Chad Stussy)

Project Resources Needed:

- In-house policy team
- Facilitator to assist in work plan development
- Participation from technical groups

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- None
- 

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<sup>7</sup> WMP Supplement, pages IV 129 & 130

## **Identify tools available to meet the Water Quantity Goals<sup>8</sup>**

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Determining whether there is sufficient water within the Chehalis Watershed to meet an array of current and future needs will require extensive knowledge about water rights and uses, greater organizational capacity, resolving critical policy issues related to exempt wells, and “thinking outside of the box.”

The intent of this strategy is to develop specific tools for the Chehalis Basin Partnership to achieve their goal of bridging “...the gap between existing stream flows and target flows for fish, wildlife, and human use.”

### **Interim Milestone 3.1: Clarifying water rights and uses**

#### Tasks:

1. The Tribes and Ecology are meeting to develop language related to adjudication as a recommendation. Note: This language continues to evolve as discussion occurs. Updates are brought back to the Partnership<sup>9</sup> (Looking at doing a streamline or partial adjudication)
2. Develop strategies to co-manage water resources of the state and tribes.
3. Map water rights in the Chehalis Basin<sup>10</sup>
4. Mapping will include water use, location of exempt wells, characterizations of the use/withdrawal, and accounting of return flows
5. Initiate a detailed assessment of water claims in the Chehalis Basin to attain an initial idea as to their validity. This assessment would expand upon and supplement the information collected under RCW 90.82.070<sup>11</sup>

#### Start Date:

- September 2006

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<sup>8</sup> WMP Page 4

<sup>9</sup> WMP Action 6

<sup>10</sup> WMP Action 13

<sup>11</sup> WMP Action 12

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Steering Technical Committee

Committed Project Participants:

- Quinault Indian Nation
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Department of Ecology (Tom Laurie & Steve Craig)

Project Resources Needed:

- Commitment of all parties (MOU)
- Funding through related state grant
- GIS and consulting hydro-geologist services
- Water right & use investigation
- Same participants who are involved in "Tools for Meeting Water Quantity Needs"
- Learning what other basins are doing in this arena

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Memorandum of Agreements between the State of Washington and the Quinault Indian Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

Special Notes:

Coordinate development with Interim Milestones 1.2 (page 11) and 3.4 (page 27).

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## **Interim Milestone 3.2: Add a Water Quantity Committee**

### Task:

1. Develop a justification and scope for a Water Quantity Committee
2. Explore how to best add the committee within the Chehalis Basin Partnership organizational structure and prepare a recommendation
3. Solicit volunteers for the committee
4. Seek approval from the Chehalis Basin Partnership to implement recommendation

### Start Date:

- October/November 2006

### Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Steering Technical Committee

### State or Local Approvals Needed:

- None
- 

## **Interim Milestone 3.3: Resolving issues related to exempt wells**

### Tasks:

1. Establish links with other watersheds statewide to create recommendations for managing exempt wells
2. Clarify science around impacts of exempt wells on surface water by conducting statewide evaluation of exempt well use, using the following guidelines:
  - a. Conduct evaluations in an open process involving stakeholders
  - b. Sponsor sub-regional and regional workshops on exempt wells, leading to a statewide workshop/ forum/ task force on exempt wells to better quantify technical aspects and to identify policy and cost factors
  - c. Develop an educational program related to the use of exempt wells and their potential impact on instream flows and water quality

- d. Develop criteria for when it will require use of deeper aquifers as a source of exempt well water. If deeper aquifers were used for household use, shallow aquifers would be available to supplement stream flows<sup>12</sup>
3. Evaluate current regulations on exempt wells for adequacy in protecting surface waters (quantity and quality)<sup>13</sup>
4. Prepare a study comparing the use of exempt wells per parcel to the use of community systems (Class B). In particular, it should address the benefits that Class B community systems have for water quality<sup>14</sup>

Start Date:

- 2007 and on-going

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Steering Technical Committee

Committed Project Participants:

- Quinault Indian Nation
- Department of Ecology (Steve Craig)

Project Resources Needed:

- Cooperation of state agencies,
- Consulting hydro-geologist,
- CBP Citizens Advisory Committee for education programs,
- Willingness of planning units to cooperate, and
- Legislative support

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- May require changes to the Revised Code of Washington and/or Washington Administrative Code

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<sup>12</sup> WMP Action 17

<sup>13</sup> WMP Action 16

<sup>14</sup> WMP Action 19

### **Interim Milestone 3.4: Developing tools for meeting water quantity needs**

#### Tasks:

1. Refine and promote a toolbox for municipal water purveyors to assist them in meeting their water supply responsibilities while also contributing to protection of instream base flows<sup>15</sup>
2. Pursue the development of a policy that would provide for mitigation credit of water use by considering the return of reclaimed water to aquifer recharge, wetland, enhancement, and/or instream augmentation<sup>16</sup>
3. Analyze and develop a means for capturing and storing surface water during the rainy season for agriculture, municipal, and other beneficial uses:
  - a. Establish a program for wetland restoration (water storage)
  - b. Aquifer, off-channel, and other possible storage opportunities
  - c. Continued emphasis on agriculture and forestry land conservation
4. Develop/consider incentives for landowner involvement
5. Establish instream flows for critical subbasins

#### Start Date:

- September 2007

#### Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Steering Technical Committee/Possible Water Quantity Subcommittee

#### Committed Project Participants:

- Quinault Indian Nation
- Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Terry Willis

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<sup>15</sup> WMP Action 11

<sup>16</sup> WMP Action 14

- Grays Harbor Public Development Authority (Ross Read & Stan Ratcliff)
- Department of Ecology (Steve Craig)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife Water Team (Tera Hegy – gauges)

Project Resources Needed:

- Interagency cooperation
- Making sure all agencies with jurisdiction are involved
- Funding for consultants to facilitate, write, and provide legal advice

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- May require changes to the Revised Code of Washington and/or Washington Administrative Code

Special Notes:

Coordinate development with Interim Milestones 1.2 (page 11) and 3.1 (page 23).

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### **Interim Milestone 3.5: Recommending instream flow levels**

A work group representing basin-wide interests and agencies will convene to oversee the current and future scientific studies, and to develop and oversee the public process to recommend instream flow levels.<sup>17</sup>

#### **IM 3.5a: Administration and Coordination**

This task involves setting up and administering the instream flow study.

Tasks:

1. The CBP designates the proposed Water Quantity Committee to coordinate all activities. This task is coordinated with Interim Milestones 3.2 (page 25).
2. Any application of Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) to WRIA 22-23 subbasins would be through this committee.
3. Recruit instream flow specialists by:

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<sup>17</sup> WMP Action 54

- a. Identifying the types of specialists needed to prepare instream flow study
  - b. Identifying agencies and organizations where specialists could be found
  - c. Doing outreach to agencies and organizations to ask for assistance
  - d. Obtaining commitment from agencies and organizations for use of specialists
4. Identify and secure consistent funding sources, including preparing a scope of work that includes:
- a. Identifying specialists needed to complete the study
  - b. Determining what costs will be involved
  - c. Creating a marketing plan/strategy for bringing in grant funding
  - d. Administering grant funding
  - e. Achieving the outcomes required for the funding received
  - f. Deciding what "trade offs" will be needed if there is not enough project funding
5. Identify the legal constraints, requirements, parameters, and options for the instream flow study by:
- a. Finding a specialist in instream flow/water rights law
  - b. Getting input from CBP and stakeholder groups about concerns
  - c. Define the political constraints to determining instream flow

Project Participants:

- CBP and proposed Water Quantity Committee
- Agencies and organizations providing specialists,
- Washington Department of Ecology
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project Resources Needed:

- Staffing

- Grant writing
- Marketing
- Administrative costs
- Plan 2 Fund
- Facilitator for identifying concerns of stakeholders
- Specialist in instream flow methodology and water rights law

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Individual agency and organization agreements of commitments

**IM 3.5b: Data Gathering**

Knowing what data is needed, understanding the gaps, and determining how to fill the gaps is critical to the study. Additionally, it will be important for study participants to clearly understand IFIM as well as other possible methodologies used for setting instream flows.

Tasks:

1. Review approaches to instream flows and evaluates IFIM
  - a. Identify alternatives
  - b. Evaluate methods, including IFIM
  - c. Create a presentation that explains what is IFIM, where it has been done, and the range of possible methodological alternatives
2. Evaluate flow data at 1976 instream control points to determine its adequacy and what it tells us
  - a. Have WDOE prepare a gauge report from WDOE and USGS flow stations
  - b. Determine daily low flow periods
  - c. Present this data to the instream flow study group/Water Quantity Committee

3. Determine what information is available and what is missing
  - a. Determine what data we should be looking for
  - b. Gather available assessment data
  - c. Contact Streamkeepers or other pertinent organizations for additional flow data
  - d. Use the GIS Clearinghouse to help the instream flow study group/ Water Quantity Committee undergo data adequacy analysis
  - e. Define our data needs
  - f. Write up analysis
4. Determine if data and methodology is adequate to move forward by fulfilling the following steps:
  - a. Review the adequacy of stream gauge network
  - b. Turn to stakeholders for identifying instream flow needs relating to habitat, recreation, and aesthetics
  - c. Commence inventory of streams with no instream flow data
  - d. Conduct instream flow studies if necessary
  - e. Develop consensus on instream flow methodology
  - f. Encourage voluntary flow monitoring at other sites
  - g. Install new gauges for synthesized flows
  - h. Write scope of work for any new studies needed
5. Ensure all data collected goes the GIS Clearinghouse by:
  - a. Collecting existing data
  - b. Developing standardized collection and submittal procedures
  - c. Converting data as needed (GIS Clearinghouse)
  - d. Developing and maintaining a bibliography

Project Participants:

- Washington Department of Ecology
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Legislature (appropriation)
- CBP and proposed Water Quantity Committee, GIS Clearinghouse

Project Resources Needed:

- Instream flow experts
- Individuals familiar with experience elsewhere
- Funding for tasks and gauging equipment and maintenance
- Staffing

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Individual agency and organization agreements of commitments
- Release of information from agencies, organizations, and other entities
- Legislative approval of appropriations request
- CBP

**IM 3.5c: Analysis and Recommendations**

This task begins by analyzing the data collected in IM 3.5b and concludes by making recommendations regarding instream flows for WRIA 22-23.

Tasks:

1. Reach agreement on the rationale of the analysis:
  - a. Determine instream values to protect (fish, aesthetics, recreation, etc.)
  - b. Define what constitutes a “protective flow” and what can be negotiated.
  - c. Design a negotiation process
  - d. Implement negotiation process and get results

2. Develop recommendations for instream flow or rules (WAC) changes by:
  - a. Applying the rationale to guide inflow recommendations
  - b. Using the process chart in under Section IV-34 of the Watershed Plan
3. Determine the legality of the recommendations, including possible rule changes
  - a. Request legal review assistance, possibly through the Office of the Attorney General
  - b. Forward review to CBP for consideration
  - c. Amend the recommendations if necessary
  - d. Send to the Washington Department of Ecology for rule writing
4. Identify stakeholders and begin dialog on instream flows
  - a. Determine what the process needs from stakeholders
  - b. Identify the stakeholders
  - c. Recruit stakeholders with consistent message
  - d. Set up stakeholder infrastructure ( schedule meetings, appoint chair)
  - e. Hold consultation meetings with stakeholders
  - f. Identify stakeholders needs/wants
5. Determine what flows are hydrologically achievable
  - a. Convene a workshop with both the Water Quantity Committee and the stakeholders to describe and explain "hydrologically achievable" using experts
  - b. Run analysis to determine what is hydrologically achievable for each subbasin; including developing a methodology to measure "achievable"
  - c. Package information and present to the CBP for approval

Project Participants:

- CBP and Water Quantity Committee
- Stakeholders

- Quinault Indian Nation
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Washington Departments of Ecology,
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Health
- Instream flow methodology experts

Project Resources Needed:

- Facilitator
- Staffing
- Funding for legal services
- Educational materials
- Experts in instream flow methodology

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Agreement of stakeholders, tribes, and Washington Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife
- CBP

**IM 3.5d: Outreach and Implementation**

Outreach to the public and individual stakeholder groups starts from the onset of the project. Without public “buy-in” for the instream flow setting process and adoption, statewide experience shows implementation will be difficult at best.

Tasks:

1. Develop and implement a continuous outreach program that includes:
  - a. Visual graphics
  - b. Target audience
  - c. Design assistance from Public Information Offices from Washington Department of Ecology

- d. Stakeholder resources
  - e. A budget and scope of work
  - f. A committee and plan that identifies outreach delivery methods
2. Involve supportive state agencies in outreach program by:
    - a. Determining how they should be involved
    - b. Identifying which agencies could help
    - c. Contacting agencies and securing their commitment
    - d. Maintaining on-going communication between the program and the state agencies
  3. Coordinate the instream flow process with land use planning groups and agencies by:
    - a. Identifying the links between the Growth Management Act, land use planning, and instream flow regulations
    - b. Involving state and local planning staff
    - c. Recruiting the involvement and support of agencies
    - d. Establishing links to the GIS Clearinghouse
    - e. Actively interfacing instream flows with comprehensive planning and subsequent updates

Project Participants:

- CBP
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- Water Quantity Committee
- State agencies with Public Information Offices (PIO)
- GIS Clearinghouse
- Local and state land use planners

- Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, Division of Growth Management Services

Project Resources Needed:

- State PIO resources
- Staffing
- Funding
- Drops of Water
- Completed outreach strategic plan

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Commitment from state agencies offering PIO resources, CBP
- CBP

## **Develop approaches to keep forestry and agriculture on the land<sup>18</sup>**

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Forestry and agriculture are vital to the long-term management of the Chehalis Watershed by contributing significant environmental and economic benefits. For instance, forestry and agriculture constitute the least intensive use of the land by people within the watershed. Forests act as natural storage facilities by helping to retain water from rainy seasons into drier ones while agricultural lands provide open space for aquifer recharge. Both activities are mainstays to many local economies within the watershed.

This strategy and its specific interim milestones recognizes that the future health of the Chehalis Watershed depends on retaining the viability of forestry and agriculture as important continued uses.

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### **Interim Milestone 4.1: Inventory and analysis**

#### Tasks:

1. Inventory of properties (designation of agricultural lands) and mapping
2. Determine which lands are at risk and/or provide opportunity for protection
3. Gap analysis of existing incentives and programs

#### Start Date:

- 2007

#### Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Water Quality Committee

#### Committed Project Participants:

- Terry Franklin
- Columbia Pacific RC&D

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<sup>18</sup> WMP Action 36

- Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Grays Harbor, Lewis, Thurston, and Mason Counties (to map critical areas)
- Rayonier (Bob Meier),
- CTED/GMA (technical assistance, grant funding)
- Weyerhaeuser with the Nature Conservancy (Chehalis River Surge Plain)
- USDA/NRCS.
- Cascade Land Conservancy

Project Resources Needed:

- Grant funding
- GIS
- County planning staff
- Citizen participation program

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Amendments to county Protection of Resource Lands ordinances

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**Interim Milestone 4.2a: Promoting local agriculture and forestry – education and outreach**

Tasks:

Education and Outreach

1. Education and outreach to develop a program that informs the public about the benefits of sustaining local agriculture and forestry, the costs of losing local agriculture and forestry and the costs of sustaining local agriculture and forestry
2. Education and outreach to develop a program that informs local agricultural, timber producers, related manufacturing processors about their responsibilities to protect the common local environment and opportunities for various forms of assistance designed to help them remain a viable producer

Start Date:

- Begin in 2007, then on-going

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Water Quality Committee

Committed Project Participants:

- Columbia Pacific RC&D
- WA State Dairy Federation
- CBP Citizens Advisory Committee
- WA State Department of Agriculture

Project Resources Needed:

- Grant funding for project development and funding

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- None

Special Notes:

Coordinate development with Interim Milestones 2.2 (page 14), 5.2a (page 46, and 5.2b (page 48).

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**Interim Milestone 4.2b: Promoting local agriculture and forestry – sustain, promote, and develop**

Tasks:

1. Develop a basin strategic plan for sustaining local agricultural and forestry production
2. Develop and provide economic incentives to local agricultural and timber producers, including financial incentives for water conservation & storage
3. Develop and provide assistance to local agriculture, timber producers, and related manufacturing processors

Start Date:

- Begin in 2007, then on-going

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Water Quality Committee

Committed Project Participants:

- Columbia Pacific RC&D
- Terry Willis
- WA State Department of Agriculture
- Grays Harbor Conservation District (currently provides technical & financial assistance to ag producers under various grants)
- USDA/NRCS

Project Resources Needed:

- Grant funding for project development
- Funding for project delivery

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Potential incentive programs may require local or state legislative action

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**Interim Milestone 4.2c: Provide a sustainable business climate**

Tasks:

1. Support a regulatory climate that encourages agriculture and forestry
2. Address laws already in place that are contradictory to what we want to achieve

Start Date:

- Begin in 2007, then on-going

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Water Quality Committee

Committed Project Participants:

- All counties
- City of Montesano
- WA State Dairy Federation (Gloria Edwards & Jay Gordon),
- Columbia Pacific RC&D

Project Resources Needed:

- Grant funding for project development and implementation

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- May require local or state legislative action

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## **Interim Milestone 4.2d: Innovative approaches to water rights**

Tasks:

1. Explore the use of water rights banking to prevent relinquishment of unused water rights
2. Explore Thurston County's adopted local policies protecting water supply in designated agricultural lands:
  - a. Ecology should not grant permits for transfers of existing water rights from designated agricultural lands, unless long-term arrangements are made for water supply to maintain agricultural use, including suitable surrogate sources
  - b. Adequate water supply should be retained on and provided to designated agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and other important agricultural areas<sup>19</sup>
3. The availability of water for designated agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance is important for the agricultural use of those lands. If

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<sup>19</sup> WMP Action 30

Mason County or Grays Harbor County adopt local policies protecting water supply for such lands which provide that adequate water supply should be retained on and provided to such lands; then Ecology should not grant permits for transfers of existing water rights from such lands identified in the policies, unless long-term arrangements are made for a suitable water supply to maintain agricultural use, including, but not limited to, surrogate water supplies.

Start Date:

- Begin in 2007, then on-going

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Water Quality Committee

Committed Project Participants:

- WA State Dairy Federation (already working on legislative issues)
- Terry Willis
- Columbia Pacific RC&D
- Thurston County & Water Conservancy Board
- Department of Ecology

Project Resources Needed:

- Grant funding for project development and funding
- Legal counsel specializing in water rights
- County staff
- Commitment by Department of Ecology to participate in process

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- May require changes to the Revised Code of Washington and/or Washington Administrative Code
- May require amendments to local Resource Land Designation and Protection ordinances

Special Notes:

Coordinate development with Interim Milestone 1.1, page 9.

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## **The Partnership recommends exploring a range of approaches to improve communication, coordination,<sup>20</sup> and consolidation of all habitat efforts in the Chehalis Basin<sup>20</sup>**

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Currently, there are numerous efforts underway within the Chehalis Watershed focused on restoring and protecting critical habitat for fish and wildlife. Groups doing habitat-related projects and programs include local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, as well as a wide-range of citizen groups. Each year, funding continues to grow for implementing vital habitat projects in Water Inventory Resource Areas (WRIA) 22 and 23.

However, much more fundraising and work needs to be accomplished. To this end, groups working within the Chehalis Watershed must find new, innovative ways to work together through more effective communication, coordination, and consolidation of efforts. There is also a need to better assess, implement, and monitor the work already done. This strategy will create a dialog that will explore some potential possibilities at achieving these milestones, plus build a wider public support base within our communities.

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### **Interim Milestone 5.1: Foster communication and coordination among groups for habitat restoration and protection**

1. Pursue discussions about a regional strategy.
2. Create a contact list of all active groups.
3. Support the Habitat Workgroup to meet on a regular basis (more than just SRF Board Strategy).
4. Support coordinated planning efforts to develop and implement a coordinated habitat restoration strategy. This would include the incorporation of other relevant species plans as the plans evolve.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> WMP Page 25

<sup>21</sup> WMP Action 48

5. The Partnership will be instrumental in the creation of a local organization capable of planning, coordinating, and implementing local habitat restoration efforts in WRIA's 22 and 23.<sup>22</sup>
6. Establish a coordinator's position to form partnerships with community members and to use their expertise to create a strong program.<sup>23</sup>
7. Develop a list of volunteers through a volunteer program to do projects.
8. Develop a communication and coordination structure among the various groups involved in habitat restoration and protection within the Chehalis Basin.<sup>24</sup>

Start Date:

- Begin in 2006

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Habitat Workgroup

Committed Project Participants:

- The Nature Conservancy
- Heernett Foundation
- Thurston Conservation District
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Grays Harbor College
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project Resources Needed:

- Facilitation services for project planning
- Funding for organization capacity building and coordinator

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<sup>22</sup> WMP Action 47

<sup>23</sup> WMP Supplement, page IV-176 & 177

<sup>24</sup> WMP Action 46

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- May require intergovernmental memorandum of agreement between Coastal Lead Entity organizations.

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**Interim Milestone 5.2a: Develop a habitat restoration and protection outreach effort**

1. Develop a focused habitat restoration/preservation outreach/education effort within the Chehalis Basin.
2. Continue Circulation of Drops of Water.
3. Web site.
4. Have dedicated staff for an outreach plan.
5. Establish media relations with press, radio and television. Involve more organizations with environmental education such as stream team, conservations districts, counties, cities, YMCA Earth Corps, WFPA, and state agencies.
6. Provide more teacher trainings and information about existing resources.
7. Provide teachers, students, and homeowners with a opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned to a habitat restoration project.<sup>25</sup>
8. Provide education on the value of salmon, salmon habitat, and stream ecology through workshops and field studies.<sup>26</sup>
9. Offer training in how to use biological assessment as an educational and action tool to determining the health of salmon habitat.<sup>27</sup>
10. Teach habitat restoration skills to teachers, students, and homeowners.<sup>28</sup>
11. Inform the public about how they can best protect habitat on their own land.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> WMP Supplement, page IV-176 & 177

<sup>26</sup> WMP Supplement, page IV-176 & 177

<sup>27</sup> WMP Supplement, page IV-176 & 177

<sup>28</sup> WMP Supplement, page IV-176 & 177

<sup>29</sup> WMP Action 50

12. Push to use the environment as integrating context (combine with math, science, and English curriculum) to improve test scores, retention, and participation.<sup>30</sup>
13. Link all public and commercial landowners together.

Start Date:

- Begin in 2006

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Habitat Workgroup

Committed Project Participants:

- Department of Natural Resources
- Mason Conservation District
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Grays Harbor College
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project Resources Needed:

- Grant funding for project development and funding

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- None

Special Notes:

Coordinate development with Interim Milestones 2.2 (page 14), 4.2a (page 38), and 5.2b (page 48).

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<sup>30</sup> WMP Supplement, page IV-176 & 177

## **Interim Milestone 5.2b: Develop a finance work plan for habitat restoration and protection**

### Tasks:

1. Develop lists of funding sources. (Directory of Watershed Resources developed by the Environmental Finance Center of Boise State University).
2. Identify applicable funding sources for habitat protection and restoration projects.<sup>31</sup>
3. Identify or create a funding sources for small habitat projects.<sup>32</sup>
4. Recommend adequate funding for water resources management (source to be determined; funding to be distributed to those entities involved in water resources management).<sup>33</sup>

### Start Date:

- Begin in 2006

### Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Habitat Workgroup

### Committed Project Participants:

- Thurston Conservation District
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Department of Fish and Wildlife

### Project Resources Needed:

- Staff time

### State or Local Approvals Needed:

- None

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<sup>31</sup> WMP Action 52

<sup>32</sup> WMP Action 51

<sup>33</sup> WMP Action 7

Special Notes:

Coordinate development with Interim Milestones 2.1 (page 13), 2.2 (page 14), 4.2a (page 38), and 5.2a (page 46).

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**Interim Milestone 5.2c: Assessment, implementation, and monitoring of habitat restoration and protection activities and plan**

Tasks:

1. Complete categorization of habitat.
2. Work with stakeholder groups to develop criteria that identify priorities for restoration and protection.
3. Identify and restore all “moderate/medium” quality habitat and connectivity to high quality areas.
4. Identify and protect all “high” quality habitat.
5. Comprehensive fish passage program – funding, ranking, etc.
6. Develop a data inventory and monitoring strategy for determining how effective habitat enhancement efforts have been (including data management, i.e., EDT).

34

Start Date:

- Begin in 2006

Strategy Oversight Responsibility:

- Chehalis Basin Partnership Habitat Workgroup

Committed Project Participants:

- The Nature Conservancy
- Department of Natural Resources (Heritage Program)
- Mason Conservation District, Thurston Conservation District

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<sup>34</sup> WMP Action 49; also refer to WMP Supplement, pg IV-114 - 115 for subtasks

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Grays Harbor College
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Olympic National Forest
- Heernett Foundation
- Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project Resources Needed:

- Grant funding for project development and funding

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- None

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## Appendix A

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The following twelve strategies from the Watershed Management Plan are slated for future development and inclusion into this Detailed Implementation Plan.

### **Water Quantity: Water Rights**

#### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #6

Address requirements of Phase 4 watershed planning related to municipal water rights by 1.) estimating quantity of water represented by inchoate rights and by 2.) clarifying how such rights can be reconciled with protecting instream flow needs and can be affected by water conservation programs.

#### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #7

Improve enforcement of existing laws and regulations to support voluntary efforts.

#### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #8

Develop and implement water conservation programs (Municipal Conservation).

### **Water Quantity: Exempt Wells**

#### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #9

Develop and implement water conservation programs.

#### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #10

The Partnership believes that a conflict exists among the 1945 Groundwater Law, the Attorney General's opinion, and the Chehalis Instream Resource Protection Program (IRPP) as to whether small withdrawals can affect surface water rights and whether they are subject to the same system of priorities as all other appropriators. The Partnership recommends that Ecology or the Attorney General's office address this conflict in the Chehalis basin.

#### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #11

Prioritize sub-basins based on concerns about exempt wells and conduct specific hydro-geologic studies and evaluations to identify specific problem areas. Areas of higher concern are those that have substantial human development now or projected in the future, poor hydrogeological conditions and/or hydraulic continuity, or low stream flows.

### **Water Quantity: Water Conservation**

#### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #12

Meet Phase 4 requirements for conservation, if Phase 4 funding is accepted.

#### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #13

Provide opportunities between the Partnership and the agricultural community to consider cooperative efforts to simultaneously support agriculture and stream flows. This could lead to a coordinated effort involving Farm Bureaus, Conservation Districts, the Washington State Department of Agriculture and/or individual members of the agricultural community, including a resource for technological information.

### **Water Quality**

#### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #14

Protect healthy waters of the Chehalis Basin so they do not become impaired or need Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reporting.

#### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #15

Prevent the introduction of detrimental plant and animal species (aquatic and terrestrial) and control or eliminate species designated by the state or county as noxious, invasive, quarantined, or nuisance species.

#### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #16

Encourage proactive voluntary approaches to protect or improve water quality.

## **Instream Flows**

### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #17

Current regulatory flows should be retained; the Partnership wishes to preserve the 1976 priority date for those flow levels. Goals would fall under Water Quantity Goals.

## Appendix B

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The following list includes those entities and individuals participating in one or more workshops.

### **Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #1**

The Partnership recommends that the state make it clear to water rights applicants that there are flexible strategies for meeting their water rights needs given that hydraulic continuity is an issue.

Department of Ecology .....	Steve Craig Jill Walsh
Quinault Indian Nation .....	Bruce Jones
Grays Harbor County.....	Public Services (Lee Napier)
Lewis County.....	Kernen Lien
Thurston County .....	Mark Swartout
Department of Fish and Wildlife .....	Chad Stussy

### **Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #2**

Recommend adequate funding level for water resources management.

Water Quality Committee.....	Terry Willis
Citizens Advisory Committee.....	Chanele Holbrook-Shaw and Jim Hill
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation .....	Glen Connelly
Quinault Indian Nation.....	Bruce Jones
Department of Ecology .....	Steve Craig
Department of Fish and Wildlife .....	Chad Stussy
US Fish and Wildlife Service .....	Brian Peck
Thurston County .....	Mark Swartout
Lead Entity Coordinator.....	Lee Napier

### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #3

Identify tools available to meet the Water Quantity goal.

Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation .....	Glen Connelly
Quinault Indian Nation..... Gilbertson	Bruce Jones, Larry
Department of Ecology .....	Tom Laurie, Steve Craig, Jim Pacheco
Satsop Public Development Authority .....	Ross Read
Watershed Action Council Grant.....	Lee Daneker
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife .....	Chad Stussy, Terra Hegy
City of Centralia .....	Kahle Jennings
Lewis County.....	Kernen Lien
Thurston County .....	Mark Swartout
City of Montesano.....	Dick Stone
Washington Department of Health.....	Andy Anderson

### Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #4

Develop approaches to keep forestry and agriculture on the land.

Water Quality Committee.....	Terry Willis*
Farm Forestry Associations .....	Dick Atkins
Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development .....	Tim Gates
Grays Harbor County.....	Paul Easter, Brian Shea
Thurston County .....	Mark Swartout
City of Montesano.....	Ron Schillinger

Department of Ecology .....	Dave Rountry
Department of Fish and Wildlife .....	Chad Stussy
Grays Harbor Conservation District.....	Terry Nielson
Columbia-Pacific RC&D .....	Nancy Allison
Heernett Foundation.....	Chanele Holbrook-Shaw
Weyerhaeuser .....	Tim Scherer
Rayonier.....	Bob Meier
National Resource Conservation Service.....	Bari Williams
Department of Agriculture.....	Ann Wick
Briggs Nursery .....	Dan Meier
Washington State Dairy Federation .....	Gloria Edwards
Quinault Indian Nation.....	Bruce Jones

**Detailed Implementation Plan Strategy #5**

The Partnership recommends exploring a range of approaches to improve communication, coordination, and consolidation of all habitat efforts in the Chehalis Basin.

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US Forest Service .....	Bob Metzger
Department of Fish and Wildlife .....	Chad Stussy
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Grays Harbor College .....	Randy Lehr
Mason Conservation District .....	John Bolender
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Quinault Indian Nation..... Bruce Jones  
Noxious Weed Coalition..... Birdie Davenport