

Mid-Year Report to Bonneville Power Administration

McKenzie Focus Watershed Council Coordination Project No. 9607000

May 31, 1999

The McKenzie Focus Watershed Council is pleased to provide an update to the Bonneville Power Administration about its efforts associated with fish and wildlife protection and recovery. This report outlines activities during the first six months of the FY99 contract period. Accomplishments in the following work areas are described below: ongoing coordination of project prioritization and planning; ongoing project management and implementation; procurement of other funding for long-term support of the Council; and ongoing watershed education/outreach program for residents and local schools. Lists of accomplishments are not exhaustive, but highlight the diverse nature of the Council's mission and activities.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND PLANNING

Objective: Continue to coordinate McKenzie Watershed activities including project prioritization and planning among federal, state, and local government agencies, and landowners.

Completed Tasks:

- Convened six meetings of the McKenzie Watershed Council; staff from National Marine Fisheries Service provided an update on the listing and recovery process at one Council meeting
- Convened six meetings of the Council's Executive Committee
- Convened four meetings of the Upper Willamette Spring Chinook Working group
- Worked with staff from federal and state forestry agencies and private industrial timber landowners to develop interagency GIS project, using the McKenzie Watershed as a model
- Convened technical advisory group to provide advice to state and local jurisdictions and residents regarding potential impacts to habitat by proposed recreational site; technical advice was used to prioritize alternative sites for development
- Convened two meetings of the Water Quality Monitoring Subcommittee
- Convened one meeting of the Technical Advisory Group for the macroinvertebrate monitoring program
- Convened five meetings of the Education and Stewardship Subcommittee
- Attended one meeting of the Upper Willamette watershed council coordinators, convened by Cascade Pacific RC&D, to provide input to Willamette Restoration Initiative staff
- Council's watershed coordinator served as board member for the Willamette Basin Initiative, and served on American Heritage River and Conservation Strategy steering committees
- Provided orientation to four new Council partners and explored opportunities for collaboration with each stakeholder group

- Finalized refinement of the storm-event monitoring plan for implementation during Winter 1998-99
- Drafted report describing pilot macroinvertebrate monitoring event
- Initiated involvement with consortium of agency and private interests conducting habitat restoration projects throughout the McKenzie Watershed. Began planning of outreach strategies such as workshops and field tours to expand involvement by landowners in the basin.



Habitat restoration work completed on Gate Creek by consortium of agency and private interests.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Objective: Coordinate implementation of work program of the McKenzie Focus Watershed Council and projects including watershed assessment, research, acquisition, restoration, and monitoring.

Completed Tasks Associated with Council Work Program:

- Developed Council work plan for FY 99, based on discussion at retreat; work plan outlines tasks associated with each of the four action plans
- Developed work plans for Watershed Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator based on Council's work plan
- Developed work plan for Council's Education Coordinator, with consultation from the newly established Education and Stewardship Subcommittee

Completed Tasks Associated with Project Coordination and Implementation:

- Proposed to Willamette Restoration Initiative that the planned McKenzie Watershed assessment be used as a model of watershed assessment methodology for the upper Willamette Basin, and that supplemental funding be provided by the group
- In consultation with the Upper Willamette Spring Chinook Working Group, developed a list of limiting factors for Upper Willamette chinook populations and potential actions that would address these factors. To begin address one limiting factor, facilitated discussion between the working group and Lane County to develop a scope of work for a technical evaluation of the County's riparian ordinance.
- Assisted consortium of agency and private interests conducting habitat restoration projects throughout the McKenzie Watershed in identifying private, small-acreage landowners

- interested in implementing projects on Gate Creek.
- Obtained annual monitoring report and presentation from Department of Environmental Quality staff for ambient water quality monitoring program
- Completed three monitoring events as part of Council's storm event monitoring program, and began data analysis
- Deployed ISCO automated sampler on Cedar Creek, a tributary identified as having poor water quality during storm events



ISCO automated sampler, loaned to the McKenzie Watershed Council by Bonneville Power Administration, collecting storm event samples on Cedar Creek.

- Consulted with EPA and university scientists regarding appropriate methodology for volunteer monitoring of macroinvertebrates. Incorporated these considerations into report from pilot monitoring event.
- Continued water quality (bacterial) monitoring of Cedar Creek in cooperation with Springfield Utility Board and City of Springfield; completed data analysis monthly; worked with DEQ staff to determine appropriate quality assurance process for bacterial monitoring; consulted with Oregon State University faculty regarding methods for determine sources of bacterial contamination
- Implemented well water testing program to supplement Cedar Creek bacterial monitoring program
- Updated GIS hydrology layer, and created layers describing location of storm event, bacterial, and macroinvertebrate monitoring sites
- Presented information about Council activities at annual meetings of several professional societies in the Pacific Northwest

FUNDING PROCUREMENT

Objective: Secure other funding for long-term support of ongoing council operations and project implementation.

Completed Tasks:

- Consulted with Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development to develop federal

- challenge cost-share contracts and other agreements associated with new funding sources
- Provided two quarterly fiscal updates to the Council
- Developed basin assessment proposal, in consultation with Upper Willamette Spring Chinook Working Group, and submitted to BPA
- Obtained funding from River Network to develop a steering committee to guide a biological assessment of the McKenzie-Willamette confluence area. Submitted proposal to Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board to fund assessment. Assessment will assess aquatic and riparian habitat conditions and evaluate possibilities for habitat protection and restoration.
- Assisted U.S. Forest Service staff in developing a proposal to fund development
- Secured \$15,000 grant from the National Forest Foundation to expand interpretive signage program at Forest Service recreational sites
- Worked with Mohawk Watershed Partnership, McKenzie Valley Residents Association, and Mohawk School District to fund sub-basin watershed projects
- Completed close-out reports for grants provided by Diack Ecology Education Program and Springfield Education Foundation

WATERSHED EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Objective: Continue watershed education/outreach program for residents and local schools for improvement of fish and wildlife habitat and water quality.

Completed Tasks:

- Sponsored Watershed Education workshop, targeting rural residents and small agricultural producers in the middle McKenzie area. Addressed such issues as wellhead protection, agricultural best management practices, and riparian enhancement.
- Provided interviews to radio and television media sources regarding list of limiting factors developed by Upper Willamette Spring Chinook Working Group
- Began preparing for implementation, with representatives from the McKenzie River Cooperative Maintenance Partnership, for interpretive signage project at three U.S. Forest Service recreation sites
- Planned educational signage to promote the holistic concept of watershed stewardship. Planning tasks include collaborating with Oregon Department of Transportation and Lane County Public Works staff to identify sites and develop sign format, and secure funding from Council partner organizations.
- Sponsored two volunteer watershed clean-up events to promote good stewardship
- Convened meeting of educators associated with the McKenzie and Long Tom watershed councils to discuss opportunities for collaboration and sharing of resources for watershed education
- Participated in Watershed Council Education Day at the Oregon Legislature to share information about local and statewide activities with legislators and staffers

- Completed planning for educational watershed program in Thurston schools, and began implementation. Planning tasks include consultations with district staff to developed educational plan that addresses state educational standards, consultation with teachers to identify appropriate curriculum, preparation of monitoring protocols and equipment, identification of monitoring sites, and training for teachers. Implementation tasks include introduction of watershed concepts during presentations and assistance with ongoing classroom instruction and field monitoring.



Students from Thurston Elementary School identifying macroinvertebrates.

- Produced two Council newsletters
- Developed informational brochure about the Council
- Completed regular updates of Council web site