



UPPER NEHALEM WATERSHED COUNCIL

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2017-2019

OUR VISION

We hold the vision of a healthy watershed that contributes to a strong economic base and viable local communities.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to promote stewardship of the Upper Nehalem watershed and sustain watershed health.

GOALS

GOAL 1: Conserve, protect and restore native salmon populations while improving the overall health of the natural environment within the Nehalem River watershed. Focus on projects identified as priorities in the watershed data collected by the UNWC and other organizations. Continue to collect data as needed.

Objective 1.1: Nehalem Conservation Action Plan - Upper Nehalem Project Development: Complete the task of gathering, translating to usable formats where necessary, organizing, and analyzing relevant data sets including LiDAR and the large quantity of GIS data available on the upper Nehalem River sub-basin from reports and assessments developed by various organizations and agencies. This information will be used to develop and execute projects that carry out NCAP strategies in the upper Nehalem at the fifth-field level.

Objective 1.2: Nehalem Strategic Action Plan: Develop and implement high priority projects identified during the NSAP process.

Objective 1.3: Oak Ranch Creek: Replace fish passage barrier at MP 3.5 on Apiary Road in the Oak Ranch Creek sub-basin that will open seven additional miles of the creek to salmon. Include salmon habitat improvements (LWD/BDA) to Oak and Archibald Creeks to the extent funding is available.

Objective 1.4: Rock Creek: Carry out riparian plantings, large wood placements, off-channel habitat and Beaver Dam Analog creation. Partner with ODFW, DEQ, Columbia SWCD, and landowners Weyerhaeuser, Stimson and ODF. Follow prescriptions identified in the Rock Creek Limiting Factors Analysis.

Objective 1.5: Lousignont: Carry out large wood placements, off-channel habitat and Beaver Dam Analog creation. Partner with ODFW, and landowners Hyla Woods, Weyerhaeuser, and ODF. Follow prescriptions identified in NSAP.

Objective 1.6: Fishhawk Lake: Continue research and development of dam retrofit for spillway/fish ladder. Carry out riparian planting and salmon habitat improvements upstream and downstream and in the lake. Continue water quality monitoring of turbidity/temp (up/downstream and in lake).

Objective 1.7: Deep Creek Passage and Habitat Improvement: collaborate to develop fish passage and habitat improvement projects in the basin and seek cost share from OWEB for summer 2018/19 implementation.

Objective 1.8: Tweedle Creek - Stream Corridor/Habitat Improvement: collaborate with NSAP (WSC, NOAA, ODFW, Consultant) advisors and landowner to develop engineer designs, secure cost share and implement project in the summer of 2019.

Objective 1.9: Nehalem East Fork: Investigate and develop a plan for restoring salmon habitat and passage on the East Fork of the Nehalem.

Objective 1.10: Riparian Restoration (DEQ): Enlist 5 new landowners, plant 5000 trees on 15 acres, and re-vegetate 1000 feet of eroding stream bank annually.

Objective 1.11: Younger Riparian Restoration: Complete Phase II of the reforestation of the Younger property around the confluence of Fishhawk Creek, Beaver Creek and the Nehalem River.

Objective 1.12: ODA Nehalem - Strategic Implementation Area: Develop and implement high priority riparian restoration and water quality improvements projects in cooperation with identified landowners, Columbia SWCD, ODA and ODFW.

Objective 1.13: Nehalem Native Nursery: continue to develop and expand the operation and supply plants for UNWC, NORP and private projects.

Objective 1.14: Monitor - Water Quality - Temperature/Turbidity: Continue to collect samples from designated sites through the Nehalem watershed as per DEQ standards. Process data, provide to DEQ/partners, and archive for future reference and use in analysis.

Objective 1.15: Monitor Post Project Status

- Pebble I - 5 crossings 19 LWD
- Pebble II - 46 LWD
- Beneke - 13 LWD
- Oak - Lower/upper crossings/14 LWD
- Rock Creek - 32 LWD
- Lousignont - 15 LWD
- Archibald - 14 LWD
- Younger I - 14 acre planting
- Younger II - 14 acre planting

GOAL 2: Promote community awareness, interest, and participation in our watershed health.

Objective 2.1: Online presence: Update the UNWC website and the UNWC Facebook page.

Objective 2.2: Local summer event: Participate in at least one summer/fall community event such as the Friendship Jamboree and Salmon Fest, or sponsor a community wide picnic on the river, with project tours and/or native plant nursery tours.

Objective 2.3: Educate the local community: Submit an article on UNWC business, written by a board member, to the Vernonia Voice at least once a quarter.

Objective 2.4: Educate local teachers and students: Continue to work with VSD teachers on at least two joint projects, and investigate the possibility of a YouTube video on UNWC activities starring VSD students.

GOAL 3: Maintain and develop partnerships with schools, public agencies, businesses, timber interests, private landowners, and other organizations to carry out our mission.

Objective 3.1: Partnership with Vernonia School District/Native Plant Nursery: Continue our work on the native plant nursery we established on the grounds of Vernonia School District in cooperation with BLM and the VSD. Continue to use the nursery to supply plants for restoration programs and to educate Vernonia students in nursery operations and restoration activities, as well as hands-on riparian planting projects with forestry class, temperature monitoring of upper Nehalem, Salmon Watch, and watershed health awareness activities.

Objective 3.2: Partnerships with other watershed agencies: Continue to work with Tillamook Estuary Partnership, Lower Nehalem Watershed Council, Northern Oregon Restoration Partnership, Lower Nehalem Community Trust, North Coast Land Conservancy, and other watershed groups to plan future partnerships and joint projects.

Objective 3.3: Wild Salmon Center: Continue to participate in the Wild Salmon Center's development and finalization of the Nehalem Strategic Action Plan to promote funding for restoration of Coho salmon to a broader funding community. Continue to engage stakeholders and natural resource agencies concerned in the process.

Objective 3.4: Focused Investment Partnerships: Explore and if feasible, participate in the development of a focused investment partnership for restoring Coho habitat North Coast Basin/Nehalem basin.

Objective 3.5: Board development: Educate the Board on current and potential strategic partners by meeting with individuals and/or boards of Columbia County, CSWCD, TEP, OWEB, and at least three other organizations whose mission concerns fish habitat and/or the health of rivers.

GOAL 4: Sustain and improve a strategic, accountable, and transparent organization.

Objective 4.1: Financial oversight: Continue Board oversight of finances and projects through reports from the Board Treasurer and the Director on at least a quarterly basis.

Objective 4.2: Annual audit: Conduct an annual audit of all equipment over \$100.

Objective 4.3: **Contracted Services Policy:** Monitor the use of the new contracted services policy and revise as needed.

Objective 4.4: **Board recruitment:** Focus board recruitment efforts on 1) a VSD employee and 2) high school students.

Objective 4.5: **Director's contract:** Review the Executive Director's contract and job description and revise as necessary.

Objective 4.6: **Policies and Procedures:** Review policies and procedures annually and update, as needed.

Objective 4.7: **Self-Evaluation:** conduct annual OWEB council self-evaluation and develop actions accordingly.

GOAL 5: Explore/develop new sources of funding and volunteer support.

Objective 5.1: **Online fundraising:** Explore the concept of raising money for specific projects through various "crowd-funding" websites.

Objective 5.2: **New funders:** Research and search and develop new funding sources.

Objective 5.3: **Celebration/Fundraiser:** Recruit volunteers to assist staff and board in developing an UNWC 25 year accomplishment, family friendly, celebration at Camp Wilkerson to showcase Oak Ranch Creek projects, enjoy barbeque and live music, conduct silent action, camp... etc...

GOAL 6: Develop a long range plan for the continuation of the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council.

Objective 6.1: **10 year plan:** Plan for the succession of the Executive Director and the continuation of the watershed council.

Objective 6.2: **Long Range plan:** Work with stakeholders and community to develop a long range plan for the continuation of the watershed council.