



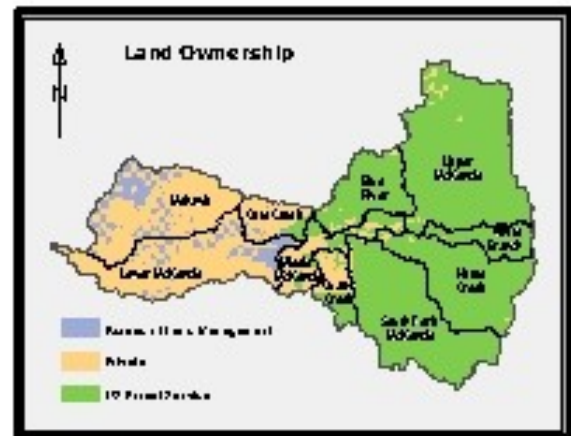
McKenzie Watershed Council Annual Report

October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006

Formed in 1993 the McKenzie Watershed Council¹ (MWC) serves as a forum for exchanging information, a vehicle for resolving issues in advance of resource degradation, and as an advisory body to various government agencies with management authority within the 1,300-square-mile McKenzie River Watershed. With a mission of fostering better stewardship of McKenzie Watershed resources through voluntary and collaborative partnerships the MWC is one of the oldest community-based watershed stewardship organizations in the Pacific Northwest. The MWC's vision is that the McKenzie River Watershed supports exceptional water quality and habitats in balance with human economic livelihood and quality of life.

McKenzie Watershed Fast Facts

- The McKenzie Watershed provides drinking water to over 240,000 Lane County residents; the water is recognized as some of the highest quality nationwide.
- The last native run of Upper Willamette spring chinook salmon occurs in the watershed along with listed bull trout and Oregon chub.
- The watershed is home to hundreds of species of wildlife, many have either state or federal status. Some of these species include; western pond turtle, red-legged frog, and bald eagle.
- In the Department of Water Quality's most recent statewide water quality report 6 of the top 10 monitoring sites statewide were located in the McKenzie Watershed (2005).



¹ The Council is comprised of 20 diverse stakeholder groups. Council Partner organizations include: At-Large (2), City of Eugene, City of Springfield, East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District, Eugene Water & Electric Board, Hynix Semiconductor Manufacturing America Inc, Lane County, McKenzie Flyfishers Association, McKenzie River Trust, McKenzie School District, Mohawk Watershed Partnership, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Division of State Lands, Springfield Utility Board, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service – McKenzie River Ranger District, and Weyerhaeuser Company.

Accomplishments

The MWC operates within the framework of the *McKenzie River Watershed Conservation Strategy* (January 2002). This annual report highlights some of the MWC's accomplishments from October 2005 through September 2006 according to *Conservation Strategy* goals.

Goal: Protect and Restore Key Fish and Wildlife Habitats

- Riparian restoration was conducted at 8 new private landowner sites and maintenance work was continued at 23 sites in the lower McKenzie Watershed. Riparian restoration includes the removal of invasive weeds and the planting of native trees and shrubs, which eliminates continued degradation of stream banks and promotes shading of the river to lower water temperatures, as well as provide opportunities for long term wood recruitment to the stream system.
 - ❖ In 2006 over 6,000 linear feet of riparian area enhancement was implemented, as well as 30 acres on Green Island which is located at the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers. Approximately 7,500 native, site appropriate trees were planted; 1,400 feet of livestock exclusion/plant protection fencing installed, and approximately 800 feet of bio-engineered erosion control placed.
- The MWC continues to work with landowners and the McKenzie River Trust in the McKenzie-Willamette River Confluence Area to assess habitat, create a vision for future conditions and has begun to implement restoration projects in the area.
- In collaboration with Lane County and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Eugene District the MWC coordinated the replacement of a culvert on Toms Creek that prohibited fish passage in the watershed.



Mohawk-McGowan
Restoration Site

Goal: Protect and Restore Water Quality and Quantity

- The MWC Water Quality Committee convened regularly bringing together monitoring practitioners from throughout the watershed. In 2006 the MWC adopted a local ambient *Water Quality Monitoring Management Plan* to support a more proactive approach to watershed monitoring. This report describes the watershed monitoring approach recommended by the MWC Water Quality Committee to better integrate existing monitoring efforts and provide a long-term mechanism to track water quality trends.
- The Thurston High School Water Quality Monitoring Team completed its 10th year of monitoring at Cedar Creek. This innovative monitoring program uses classrooms to collect data giving students meaningful community service hour credits, as well as experience in water science.
- The MWC conducted its 14th macroinvertebrate collection event throughout the watershed. Reflecting the chemical, physical and biological conditions of a stream, the biological community is a powerful indicator of stream health. In 2006, 38 volunteers participated in the event totaling 144 volunteer hours.

Goal: Promote Partnerships to Support Local Stewardship Actions



Mohawk Volunteers

- The MWC continued its participation in the Lane County-led McKenzie River Maintenance Partnership which pools limited resource dollars to maintain recreational boat landings sites along the McKenzie River.
- The McKenzie-Willamette Confluence Steering Committee developed a *Project Evaluation Report* describing its efforts from 1998-2006; the report includes accomplishments and lessons learned in the Confluence Area.
- The Mohawk Watershed Partnership, a subbasin group of the MWC, saw its 9th year of action. The Mohawk Watershed is a priority restoration area for the Council, and the Mohawk community has rallied to address water quality and fish passage problems.

Goal: Promote Community Understanding and Stewardship through Outreach and Education

- The MWC continued to provide water quality education and guidance to local school districts by providing resource professional into local schools, as well as watershed instruction and resources. In 2006 the MWC provided 23 Salmon Picnic presentations to 34 classrooms and 1,493 students.
- The MWC continued its collaborative partnership with Lane County Parks, McKenzie Guides Association and McKenzie Flyfishers Association to conduct the Annual McKenzie River Clean-up. The 2006 event saw over 55 volunteers cleaning up 55 miles of the McKenzie River. Hundreds of pounds of trash, along with some very interesting items were collected by participants.
- In May of 2006 the MWC facilitated two Down-by-the-Riverside events. At one of the events the MWC worked with students from McKenzie High School to conduct trail maintenance and riparian enhancement work at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Leaburg Hatchery. At the second event students from Marcola High School worked with the MWC and the Mohawk Watershed Partnership to remove trash from the stretch of McGowan Creek running through the school's property. More than 30 volunteers participated in both events totaling 100 volunteer hours.
- In collaboration with Lane County Parks the MWC conducted trail maintenance on Crilly Trail, Armitage Park. Over 50 students participated totaling 100 volunteer hours.

Goal: Council Accounts for and Provides Investments in the Watershed

- Of the total 2005-2006 expenditures 77% was spent within Lane County through the use of local contractors and ground crews and the purchasing of restoration materials and other program supplies from local suppliers.

McKenzie Watershed Council Fiscal Resources

Each year the Council applies for and receives grants from a variety of competitive sources. In-kind donations are also received; in-kind funds are donations of time, labor and equipment for specific projects and grants. The table below summarizes total new funding streams received in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

McKenzie Watershed Council FY06 Annual Budget		
Source	Allocation	Amount
Bonneville Power Administration	Operating Expenses and staff compensation	\$127,133
City of Eugene	Operating Expenses and Project Program maintenance	\$10,000
City of Springfield	Operating Expenses	\$5,000
Eugene Water & Electric Board	Operating Expenses, Project Program maintenance and staff compensation	\$24,000
Eugene Water & Electric Board	Mitigation funding for Leaburg-Walterville Hydroelectric Projects	\$164,192
Eugene Water & Electric Board – Partners In Education	Education and Outreach Program supplies and staff compensation	\$7,800
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Operating Expenses and staff compensation	\$48,986
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Education and Outreach Program supplies and staff compensation	\$21,835
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board – Local Innovation Fund	Coordination of McKenzie-Willamette Confluence Steering Committee	\$8,346
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Simmonds Creek Large Wood Placement Project	\$37,240
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Post-project monitoring	\$6,000
Springfield Utility Board	Minutes recording	\$2,000
Title II Payco	Culvert Replacement Engineering Designs	\$1,369
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Eugene District	Mohawk McGowan restoration project implementation and staff compensation	\$65,525
Total		\$529,426

Diversified sources of revenue, extensive landowner involvement, and broad public awareness will help ensure the Council is more responsive to the needs of its stakeholders, helping the Council grow and develop while staying rooted in the community by achieving its core mission of fostering better stewardship of the watershed.

Future Coordination

In summary, the McKenzie Watershed is a place with dynamic natural processes supporting exceptional water quality and habitats in balance with human economic livelihood and quality of life. The McKenzie Watershed Council works to ensure sustainable watershed health, functions and uses for future generations through voluntary collaboration among key interest and stakeholders.



For more information on the McKenzie Watershed Council please visit our website at www.mckenziewc.org or contact our office at (541)687-9076.

Big Island,
McKenzie River