

**McKenzie River Focus Watershed Coordination  
Project No. 199607000**

**Year-End Report To:  
Bonneville Power Administration**

**Fiscal Year 2005**

Submitted by:  
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Province: Lower Columbia  
Subbasin: Willamette



**The Council's mission is to foster better stewardship of the  
McKenzie Watershed resources through voluntary  
partnerships and collaboration.**

## **McKenzie River Focus Watershed Program**

Bonneville Power Administration funding, in conjunction with contributions from numerous Partner organizations, supports the McKenzie Watershed Council's (MWC or Council) efforts to coordinate restoration, education, public outreach, and water quality monitoring programs throughout the watershed. Formed in 1993 the Council serves as a forum for exchanging information, a vehicle for resolving issues 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 is widely recognized as a leading watershed organization in a field of more than 90 such organizations throughout the State of Oregon.

### FY05 Objectives

1. Continued coordination of McKenzie Watershed activities among diverse groups restoring fish and wildlife habitat in the watershed, focusing on the lower McKenzie, including private lands and the McKenzie-Willamette confluence area;
2. Continued coordination of Council Restoration and Education Programs;
3. Continued funding for implementation of watershed restoration and protection projects, Council coordination, education programs and outreach efforts;
4. Maintain and improve water quality through the continuation of Council-sponsored monitoring and evaluation programs;
5. Influence behavior of watershed residents to benefit watershed function through a strategic and comprehensive outreach and education program, utilizing both the *Subbasin Assessment* and *Conservation Strategy* to provide a context for prioritized action; and
6. Continue to maintain and sustain a highly functional Watershed Council.

### McKenzie Watershed Council Fast Facts

- The Council serves as an advisory body to decision-makers.
- The Council serves as a forum for discussion for watershed concerns.
- The Council coordinates restoration and monitoring among diverse interests.
- The Council provides education and outreach materials regarding river health and management practices.
- 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 Valley Residents 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, and Weyerhaeuser Company.

### McKenzie Watershed Status

The status of McKenzie Watershed resources has both regional and national significance. The McKenzie River produces the highest water quality of any river in the Willamette Basin and is the sole source of drinking water to over 200,000 residents and businesses in Lane County. According

to the Department of Environmental Qualities Oregon Waters Quality Index (OWQI) six of the top ten monitoring sites are located on the McKenzie River (2004).

The McKenzie Watershed supports anadromous and resident fish species, including spring chinook salmon and bull trout. Historical data shows that the McKenzie River produced an estimated 40% of the run of spring chinook above Willamette Falls, but in recent decades these runs have dramatically declined. The upper McKenzie Watershed is now considered the most important remaining area for the production of native spring chinook salmon, in addition to being the last major refuge of wild bull trout in the Willamette Basin. In addition, riparian and upland habitat in the McKenzie Watershed is used by wildlife species of concern such as the harlequin duck, northern spotted owl, red-legged frog and western pond turtle.



### Completed Assessments

Watershed analyses and other studies have been completed on over three-quarters of the watershed, including all federal lands and the industrial forest land owned by Weyerhaeuser. Over the last decade the Council has participated in 68 projects and produced close to a dozen technical reports. These reports provide watershed data and information oriented toward the Council's mission, vision and goals. The specific documents are listed below and can also be found at [www.mckenziewaterhedcouncil.org](http://www.mckenziewaterhedcouncil.org).

The McKenzie River Watershed Program is also strengthened by the completion of the BPA funded *Subbasin Assessment* and associated Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT). Together these planning documents provide the MWC a prioritized framework for restoration efforts, as well as set a series of goals with targets and measurable indicators to track the Council's efforts and successes in reaching the desired future conditions for the watershed.

- McKenzie Watershed Water Quality Report: 1993-2004, May 2005
- Cedar Creek Monitoring Report: The First Five Years, January 2002
- McKenzie River Watershed Conservation Strategy, January 2002
- McKenzie Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Report, September 2002
- 1998 Storm Event Monitoring, April 2001
- Land Use, Flood Control, and Habitat Enhancement Guidelines for the Confluence Area, November 2001
- McKenzie River Sub-basin Assessment Summary Report, February 2000
- McKenzie Willamette Confluence Assessment Report, September 2000
- Action Plan for Recreation and Human Habitat, March 1997
- Action Plan for Water Quality and Fish and Wildlife Habitat, January 1996
- Technical Reports for Water Quality and Fish and Wildlife Habitats, February 1996

### Special Accomplishments & Recognition

- The Council has increased community awareness of watershed resources through both formal education and community outreach for over 10 years.
- Since 2000 the Council has provided 130 presentations to local organizations, user groups and classrooms; approximately 8,300 volunteer hours have been devoted to Council projects and annual landowner workshops have focused on best management practices and tools/techniques to be used in every day life to improve watershed health.

- Since inception, Council Coordinators and Partners have been involved with numerous planning efforts from the local to the federal level.
- Eugene's drinking water (McKenzie River) received the best ranking in a 2004 study conducted by *Organic Style* magazine.
- In 1998 the MWC conducted a storm event monitoring sampling effort to capture chemical inputs; since this time Eugene Water & Electric Board has begun similar efforts in collaboration with the Thurston Water Quality Monitoring Team.
- The MWC has developed a Macroinvertebrate Monitoring effort that includes watershed-wide community support that is now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year.
- The Council 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 September 2005, the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries presented the McKenzie Watershed Council its Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watershed Award for implementing an alcove project in collaboration with Delta Sand and Gravel.
- In June 2003, the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association (OCAPA) presented the McKenzie Watershed Council its Environmental Stewardship Award for making superior and substantial contributions to achieve environmentally sound operating practices through its McKenzie-Willamette Confluence Steering Committee.
- The Council has completed 11 restoration projects and replaced 3 culverts that were previously blocking stream passage. The Council is currently working on 16 restoration projects and planning for 3 additional culvert replacements.



### Watershed Trends

The McKenzie Watershed is located at the southern end of the Willamette Valley where the vast majority of the Oregon population lives. The confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers is located just north of the Springfield/Eugene urban area. It is predicted that within the next 50 years, the area's urban population of approximately 260,000 will double. The McKenzie Watershed Council strives to balance the economic, social and environmental needs of the McKenzie Watershed.

Overall, the major trends associated with the Willamette River Basin and directly affecting the health and function of the McKenzie River Watershed include:

- Collective impacts on water quality from 'intense urban, industrial, and agricultural development of the basin;'<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds* 2001-2003 Biennial Report, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

- Impacts of invasives on native species;
- Continuing loss of wetlands;
- Historic river channel simplification; and
- Ensuing economic uses of the floodplain.

## **Organizational Accomplishments**

The capacity of the McKenzie Watershed Council to accomplish its mission is greatly affected by the effectiveness of its organizational structure, operations, and human resources. Through the business planning process an internal audit (SWOT Analysis) was conducted. This process revealed several significant organizational strengths, as well as areas for improvement. A number of strategies to improve the Council's organizational structure have been developed. These include:

- 1) Improve organizational information systems.
- 2) Continue to clarify the relationship and responsibilities of the McKenzie Watershed Council and sister organization, McKenzie Watershed Alliance.
- 3) Increase Council Partner and community member involvement with Council activities.
- 4) Finalize financial management transition to McKenzie Watershed Alliance.

The effectiveness of the Business Plan, which will be adopted at the FY06 annual retreat (10/22/05), will be evaluated annually at each Council retreat. This annual review process will enable the Council to determine strategic goal progress, as well as offer accountability at a number of levels. The ultimate goal of the MWC Business Plan is to close the gap between where the Council is today and where the organization envisions itself in upcoming years.

FY05 Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funds enabled the Council to successfully maintain and enhance all programs throughout the McKenzie Watershed. The Council continued to gain momentum throughout the year. The 2005 Work Plan outlined goals and objectives of Council programs and activities and has been successfully implemented. . The Work Plan guides Council activities and is organized into 7 areas: Organizational, Fish and Wildlife, Water Quality, Recreation, Human Habitat, Education and Public Outreach.

In FY05, the Council held 11 monthly meetings; including one day-long retreat. Monthly MWC meetings are attended by both Partners and community members, offering an excellent opportunity to share watershed information, as well as discuss current issues affecting watershed resources. The annual retreat offers Council Partners the opportunity to come together to discuss and adopt the annual Work Plan. The retreat is also a time for reflection and discussion between Partners regarding Council capacity. With each meeting a mailing packet is delivered to Council Partners and interested stakeholders with pertinent meeting information. Also in the packets are monthly accomplishments of all MWC staff activities.

In April, the MWC's sister-organization, McKenzie Watershed Alliance (MWA) received official tax-exempt status from the IRS. The MWA has been developed as the legal and fiscal arm of the Council. In addition to diversifying Council fundraising opportunities, the new organization structure will provide protection to Partner organizations. In FY05, the Council began the transition to in-house operation through development of a separate non-profit fund. This separate non-profit fund allowed the MWC to receive grants and donations into either a general fund or a restricted donation fund. These funds have been used to pay directly to the operations of the MWC, essentially, reducing the amount of funding directed through CPRCD and reducing operating expenses. Beginning October 2005, the Council will utilize the MWA to manage its coordination

budget, with the Projects Program funding remaining with CPRCD until the transition is finalized. CPRCD has been involved with this transition and in the interim has provided essential fiscal management of BPA funds. Cascade's services include professional accounting, an annual audit, monthly account reports, reporting and legal advice.

The addition of the McKenzie Watershed Alliance is an important development strategy which allows the MWC to solicit private contributions from local stakeholders. This fundraising effort will allow the Council to sustain local decision-making about Council activities, while developing a grass-roots commitment to implement MWC goals and vision.

BPA funding ensures watershed program administrative activities are successfully and responsibly maintained. Critical to the success of any organization is its ability to cover infrastructure costs associated with the fundamental operations of the organization. The McKenzie Focus Watershed Program is no exception, with BPA funds covering costs associated with phones, mailings, travel within the watershed, and meeting provisions. With the amount of communication needed for the McKenzie Focus Program, the program would cease to function in absence of these vital funds from BPA. In addition to supporting core operating expenses of the Council, BPA funds help leverage additional funding for McKenzie Watershed council operations and programs. Table 1 below shows the funds secured in FY05, which the BPA funds helped leverage.

<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>AMOUNT (\$)</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
OWEB	13,000	Private landowner projects (Small grants program)
OWEB	35,000	Watershed Restoration
U.S. Bureau of Land Management	44,000	Watershed Restoration
Ferguson Foundation	4,000	Watershed Education
EWEB Monitoring	4,000	Watershed Water Quality Monitoring
EWEB PIE III	10,000	Watershed Education and Monitoring
Bonneville Environmental Foundation	66,000	Planning for subwatersheds
Bella Vista Foundation	15,000	Confluence Steering Committee Process
U.S. Forest Service	5,000	Macroinvertebrate Analysis and office equipment
City of Eugene	10,000	Local Match
City of Springfield	5,000	Local Match
Springfield Utility Board	3,000	Minutes Recording
Eugene Water & Electric Board	24,000	Local Match
In Kind Services	55,000 approx.	In Kind Services (e.g., Lane County = office rental; EWEB = provides meals at monthly meetings; Ads for Free)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>293,000</b>	
Local Match to MWC Grants	197,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>490,000</b>	
<b>BPA Coordination Funds FY05</b>	<b>127,133</b>	<b>BPA funds leveraged approximately 360K</b>

The MWC continued an FY04 Work Plan task of reviewing some of the founding documents of the Council. In particular, the Council was interested in reviewing the following Action Plan documents: *Recreation* and *Human Habitat*. The evaluation of the *Action Plans* provided the Council and staff with prioritized recommendations to incorporate into future MWC Work Plans.



**Restoration Site Tour**

On numerous occasions throughout the year, Council staff met with local legislators and provided updates on the McKenzie Focus program, as well as education on watershed issues. Legislators and/or their staff attended many MWC monthly meetings or other Council sponsored events. In June 2005, the Council conducted a restoration site tour, inviting local, state and federal elected officials and decision makers, as well as community members. The Council

plans to conduct annual restoration site tours to encourage education about the economic and ecological incentives of restoration work. The Council also distributed an annual reports to Lane County Board of Commissioners and the Cities of Eugene and Springfield Councils.

Throughout the year the Council has remained involved with the Willamette Coordinators group. Bi-monthly meetings provide an opportunity to share resources among watershed council. In addition, the Council has been involved with the development of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils. A new, statewide organization being developed to support watershed councils in Oregon by building council capacity, improving key relationships, and promoting public awareness and understanding of watersheds and watershed councils.

The Council's McKenzie-Willamette Confluence Steering Committee continued its work in 2005 by holding several meetings, developing future projects and maintaining implemented restoration projects. BPA funds enabled the MWC to continue its coordination and leadership role in this nationally recognized process. At the September Council meeting, the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries awarded the Council its 2004 OR Plan award for its work on an alcove at the Delta Sand and Gravel mining facility. The Confluence Steering Committee is comprised of the major business interests, aggregate producers, along with other property owners and regulatory agencies. The McKenzie Watershed Council's collaborative restoration work in the McKenzie-Willamette Confluence Area, in combination with habitat protection within the McKenzie River Trust's Green Island Complex, has created an 11,000-acre landscape-scale project that is designed to protect and restore habitats currently at risk and assure continued economic development within this key location where two major rivers join. Upcoming goals for the Confluence Committee include:



**McKenzie-Willamette Confluence**

- ❖ Working with Wildish Sand and Gravel to revise their habitat restoration and flood protection proposal to address concerns among Steering Committee members and to achieve consensus on the proper balance between habitat restoration and flood protection.
- ❖ Developing collaborative habitat restoration project proposals and seek funding for implementation.
- ❖ Strengthening the Steering Committee's partnership to assure collaborative planning and avoid future controversy over land use and habitat restoration proposals.

The McKenzie Focus Program success and sustainability relies on facilitating and promoting grassroots efforts to collaborate on watershed restoration and education. In doing this, the Council helps form subwatershed groups to carry out the Council’s mission. An example of this is the 7 year existence of the Mohawk Watershed Partnership. 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. BPA provides funds to employ a part-time watershed coordinator for the Mohawk/Marcola community. The Mohawk-McKenzie relationship is a model for accomplishing grassroots watershed restoration that addresses the overall health concerns of the larger McKenzie Watershed. Throughout FY05 the Council began development of two additional subwatershed groups in the Cedar Creek and Horse Creek areas.

## **Fish & Wildlife Accomplishments**

The McKenzie Watershed has local and regional biological significance throughout the Willamette and Columbia Basins. The McKenzie River has the highest water quality of all upper Willamette River tributaries and provides significant habitat for one of the few remaining strongholds for the threatened spring chinook salmon and bull trout, as well as the endangered Oregon chub. Because of its habitat contributions, the McKenzie Watershed is integral to the success of fish recovery planning in the Willamette Basin. In addition, riparian and upland habitat in the McKenzie Watershed is used by a number of wildlife species of concern, such as the harlequin duck, northern spotted owl, red-legged frog, and western pond turtle. The McKenzie Watershed has been identified as a high priority watershed for immediate restoration and protection actions in the following documents: Northwest Power and Conservation Council Willamette Subbasin Plan, Columbia Basin draft Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan, Northwest Recovery Strategies for Bull Trout, Oregon Chub Recovery Plan, and the Willamette Basin Western Pond Turtle Conservation Plan. Additionally, the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process in the Willamette has listed the McKenzie as “high priority” for protecting the water quality currently in place within the McKenzie.



**Riparian Planting Project**

The Council completed a scientific biological assessment of the watershed in 2000. The assessment found that although the McKenzie River Watershed has some of the best remaining fish and wildlife habitat in the Willamette River Basin, significant losses of important habitat has occurred. These habitat losses have primarily occurred on private lands within the lower portion of the watershed. The losses have resulted in fragmentation of healthy habitat, and the

assessment clearly identifies the need to reconnect existing healthy habitat as a high priority for the MWC in its’ watershed restoration efforts.

The MWC is directly involved with nearly 30 separate watershed restoration projects; with the majority of these focusing specifically on riparian habitat improvement on private lands. Positive biological outcomes to water quality and fish & wildlife habitat (and populations) are fully expected when implementing watershed restoration projects on private lands in the McKenzie. Measurable outcomes include: 1) an increase in the amount of and protection of native plant communities that benefit fish and wildlife species, 2) an increase in ecologically functioning riparian and floodplain zones, 3) improvement in water quality, and 4) improved resource stewardship and actions necessary to protect fish and wildlife habitat and water quality due to increased public awareness.

Residents/landowners in the lower McKenzie Watershed are increasingly taking ownership in the decisions and activities necessary for conservation improvements to be implemented and successful,

thereby playing a direct role in the reconnection of important fish and wildlife habitat in the McKenzie Watershed.

The McKenzie Focus program is also involved with identifying and addressing fish passage-barrier problems in the watershed. A collaborative culvert prioritization process continued into FY05. In 2004 the MWC partnered with the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council to begin a culvert prioritization process in our respective watersheds. The MWC also continues to partner with Lane County Public Works and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for replacement of problem culverts throughout the McKenzie Watershed. This relationship with the County is being established so that the MWC can continue to secure design and materials money to address culverts, whereas the County will provide labor and equipment for the replacement work. Three fish passage projects were developed in FY05, with one implemented in 2005 and two projects scheduled for implementation in FY06.



**Replaced Culvert in  
Mohawk Watershed**

High quality coordination of the MWC Restoration Program was conducted to ensure long-term success of implemented projects. Coordinated project management and information sharing with interested landowners and Council Partners occurred both at MWC meetings and community gatherings. BPA funds provided the program with GIS maps, aiding in the process of outreach through visual context. In addition, the Restoration Program was successfully tracked in the MWC tracking database. FY05 saw the development of a Projects Committee to aid in the development of the Restoration Program. BPA funds contribute a portion of the Restoration Coordinator salary; this position is responsible for assisting, coordinating, funding and providing oversight to the Restoration Program. BPA funds, used to coordinate the Restoration Program, enable the Council to leverage outside funds for implementation.

## **Water Quality Accomplishments**

BPA funds enable the McKenzie Watershed Council to improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat through its comprehensive and award winning Water Quality Monitoring Program. Efforts to protect this valuable resource are generated by the Council and its Partner organizations. In addition to facilitating quarterly Water Quality Committee meetings, the Council also helps disseminate water quality information through its website and via visual maps indicating sampling locations.

BPA funds provide for the coordination of a partnership among US Forest Service, US Bureau of Land Management, US Army Corps of Engineer, Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), US Geological Society, and OR Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the ambient water quality monitoring program. This monitoring is conducted bi-monthly on the mainstem McKenzie River at seven locations. Resulting data is analyzed by DEQ annually with information being presented to the MWC along with distribution in the newsletter and other outlets. Not only is important trend information being revealed from the monitoring, the data provides good baseline information as the basis for the MWC's Restoration Program.

Another component of the Council's Monitoring Program is its tributary effort which utilizes students, through experiential learning, to collect water quality data on tributaries to the McKenzie. The program coordinates data collection efforts among landowners, school programs, Eugene Water



**Volunteers Sampling  
Water Quality**

& Electric Board, Springfield Utility Board, Mohawk Watershed Partnership and the Council. BPA funds help coordinate data collection efforts among landowners, school programs, and the Council.

A threat to the drinking water supply comes from the potential of harmful runoff from urban development along the McKenzie corridor and from the City of Springfield. To address these threats, the Council has partnered with the EWEB, City of Springfield and Springfield School District's WELL/WET Program to conduct baseline water quality monitoring on Cedar Creek. For the last four of the nine years, the Council has relied on volunteer

help from the Thurston HS Water Quality Monitoring Team. This team has been going out once a month, and running an average of ten tests at the seven sites; some of these sites include storm drains from the Thurston Area. Over the years data has shown that most of the pollutants entering Cedar Creek, in particular bacteria, come from these storm drains. It is an innovative program through its use of students to collect data. This experience gives students meaningful community service hour credits, as well as experience in water science.

Furthermore, the MWC developed a Cedar Creek Working Group to facilitate ongoing discussions regarding use of existing water rights, impacts of storm water discharges, protection of riparian areas, and maintenance and repair of existing revetments. In FY05 this working group was incorporated into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Metro Water Ways Study. The Council is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Cedar Creek portion of this study.

In addition to tributary monitoring conducted by the MWC and its Partner organizations, the Council also coordinates a Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Program. Reflecting the chemical, physical and biological conditions of a stream, the biological community is a powerful indicator of stream health. Since the mid 1990's the Council, working in collaboration with partnering organizations, has generated a baseline macroinvertebrate assessment of stream health in order to more accurately verify McKenzie River ecosystem health. This program has been very popular in recruitment of volunteers, which allows community members an opportunity to get involved in the science behind water quality. In 2005, the Council began implementation of a comprehensive five year macroinvertebrate monitoring plan to guide future sampling efforts. BPA funds enabled the Council to coordinate the collection efforts of several hundred volunteers and Partner organizations.

Water Quality data collected through each of the Council's monitoring efforts is consistently tracked in a database. The data is then disseminated to interested stakeholders through reports and maps. BPA funds help leverage other funding to implement the Water Quality Program.

## **Recreation Accomplishments**

The Council continued its commitment to the McKenzie River Cooperative Maintenance Partnership (Partnership). The Partnership conducts routine maintenance at developed recreation sites along McKenzie River corridor more efficiently by economizing the use of limited maintenance dollars to conduct maintenance. The Partnership also discusses key issues, projects and develops proposals at its annual meeting. In FY05 the Council secured resources to develop a "McKenzie River Etiquette & Safety" brochure that was distributed along the river corridor. As needed, the Partnership expands focus to include additional recreation-related projects within the McKenzie Watershed. For

example, a number of years ago a Security Partnership was developed to maintain security at recreation sites during high-use season. The Council also continued its commitment to the Security Partnership as well.

## Human Habitat Accomplishments

The McKenzie Watershed Council works continuously to positively influence watershed residents and users behavior to benefit watershed resources and functions. To this end, the Council provides watershed education and outreach information to residents, property owners, and businesses. The Council raises awareness through workshops, tours, forums, and newsletters. The Council has also



begun a monthly column, McKenzie Meanderings, in a local watershed newspaper to disseminate watershed-related information to community residents. The column written by Council Partners and Staff offers helpful watershed improvement tips, as well as updates on Council activities. Council Partners and staff participate in watershed community groups to establish relationships with all watershed residents.

The Council also coordinated a Hazardous Waste Roundup event in collaboration with Lane County. This event provides easy access for rural residents to properly dispose of environmentally hazardous waste. With a large portion of the McKenzie Watershed being rural, there is not the availability of disposal sites that allow proper disposal of household hazardous waste. This year's event collected over 2,500 pounds of hazardous material.

## Education Accomplishments

The McKenzie Watershed Council's educational goal as outlined in the *Conservation Strategy* is to promote community understanding and stewardship of the watershed through outreach and education. The Council's objective is that McKenzie Watershed residents, students, teachers, organizations and user groups have knowledge about Council activities and key issues related to the health of the watershed and participate in monitoring and habitat improvement efforts. The MWC's Education Program has been considered a high priority since its inception over seven years ago. Over the last year a number of both formal education and community outreach activities have been implemented throughout the watershed. The Council's Education Program focuses on three districts: Springfield (urban) and two smaller rural school districts (Mohawk, McKenzie) in Marcola and McKenzie Valleys. All of the school districts see the McKenzie watershed as a great learning laboratory, and in today's educational climate of budget cutbacks and state testing; teachers are stretched to the maximum. The MWC has been offering support in teaching watershed health issues over the past six years. Without this support, the subject on watershed health is often over looked.

Formal Education programs included the following classroom activities and opportunities:

- Salmon Picnic (Grades K-12) - This interactive presentation uses props to help tell the story of the spring chinook salmon. It can be adapted to meet any grade level. Working through the life cycle of the salmon, connections are made to the watershed and impacts to the salmon. Students connect their own lives with that of the salmon, and learn what they can do to make a difference in our watershed to help restore salmon habitat in the McKenzie River.



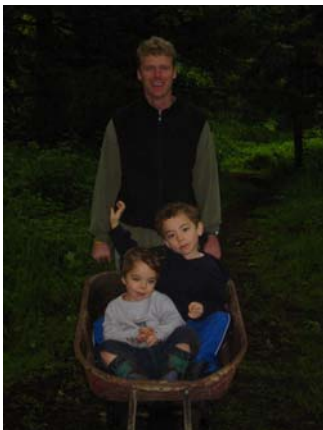
- McKenzie Watershed Salmon Game (Grades 6-12) - This board game follows the migration path of the spring chinook salmon, from the headwaters of the McKenzie to the ocean and back. Along the way, students review the life cycle of the salmon and learn first hand how difficult it is to survive and make it back to spawn. This activity is great for classrooms studying Threatened and Endangered species and fisheries issues.
  - Over the last year 33 presentations (both Salmon Picnic and Game) have been conducted for over 710 students. The Council's Education Coordinator is responsible for scheduling presentations and either presenting or providing/training volunteers for the presentations.
- Classroom and Field Trip Support - This support is based on individual teacher needs and can be tailored to meet class needs in either the outdoors or in the classroom. The Council loans equipment, as well as provides resource specialists for the classroom experience.
  - Over the last year the Education Coordinator has participated in and presented at 12 Salmon Watch Field Trips. This field trip experience was offered to over 180 students in the McKenzie Watershed. The Education Coordinator also conducted 8 Forest Field Day presentations to 130 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. The Education Coordinator also served as a resource specialist for 13 presentations to 160 students.
  - The MWC collaborated with the Springfield School District and the Eugene District Bureau of Land Management to implement a watershed/water science program for the Springfield School District. This field trip-based experience is being implemented in a series of three phases.
- Macroinvertebrates Study (Grades 4-12) - Macroinvertebrate (aquatic insects) are excellent indicators of water quality. This program introduces students to these fascinating insects, as well as offers techniques to learn how to collect and identify insects and their pollution tolerances.
- Water Quality Testing (Grades 5-12) - Chemistry comes alive when testing water for pollution. This program engages students in water chemistry, as well as offers opportunities to observe, measure, and chart results of water tests.
- Riparian Function (Grades 5-12) - Students identify the riparian area and discover the basic functions of a riparian zone. Students analyze vegetation changes occurring along the stream and identify native and non-native plants, trees and shrubs.
  - The Education Coordinator works with over 20 classrooms annually implementing the macroinvertebrate study, water quality testing and riparian function programs. The success of these programs can be accounted for by the increasing number of requests each year.
- Natural Resources Scholarship Application - The McKenzie Watershed Council offers an annual Natural Resource Scholarship. The scholarship is intended to help students from McKenzie, Mohawk, Springfield and Thurston High Schools enter the professional fields of Natural Resources.
- Teacher Resources include:
  - Teacher Workshops - The Council co-sponsors teacher workshops with the Lane ESD. Workshop topics focus on current issues in the watershed. Curriculum and activity guides featuring; Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Project WET, Fire Ecology of the Pacific Northwest, Stream Scene, and water quality testing.
    - In 2005 the Education Coordinator developed and facilitated one teacher workshop with total attendance of approximately 40 education professionals.
  - MWC Natural Resources Library - Located in the Council's office the library includes videos, books, curriculums, and citizens handbooks on a wide range of watershed topics.

The Council's Education Program relies, in part, on BPA funds to help educate students (K-12) and teachers about the life cycle of the upper Willamette spring chinook salmon. In 2005 BPA funds helped leverage an additional \$12,000 for the Council's Education Program.

## Public Outreach Accomplishments

The Council's visibility and relationship to the McKenzie community is enhanced tremendously by public outreach efforts. The Council's Community Outreach program includes the following activities:

- Speaker Presentations - The MWC offers presentations for meetings and events. Topics include 'what is the McKenzie Watershed Council', current topics in the watershed, how to get involved in the watershed, Salmon Picnic or McKenzie Watershed Salmon Game.
  - Over the year the MWC has participated in the following events: Mary Cole Days, Free Fishing Day, Leaburg Community Fair, and the Walterville Community Fair. These events offer the MWC an opportunity to share watershed related information with community members.
  - Both the Council Coordinator and Education Coordinator have presented at community events and meetings. Over the last two years approximately 10 presentations have been conducted within the McKenzie Watershed.
- Healthy Watershed Community Service Projects - The Council has watershed improvement projects available to youth groups, students and service/club organizations. Projects vary from season to season, examples include; macroinvertebrate inventory, riparian plantings, river clean-ups and much more.
  - The following list shows the number and hours of volunteers participating in Council projects over the last two years (totaling approximately 1000 volunteer hours):
    - Potter Creek Riparian planting - 80 students @ 3 hours each
    - Big Island/SUB well field Riparian planting - 17 adults @ 6 hours each
    - Cedar/Camp creeks water quality monitoring - once a month for two years (22 samples) and 6 students @ 6 hours each
    - Potter Creek water quality monitoring (for two years) - 24 samples, 5 students @ 1 hour each
- Landowner Workshops - Landowner educational workshops focus on how to improve property and help maintain a healthy watershed.
  - In addition, the MWC offers annual Watershed Tours to Council Partners and interested community members and stakeholders.



Another Council method of sharing information with community residents is to conduct and sponsor events throughout the watershed. The Council, in collaboration with Lane County Parks, conducts park improvements as part of the statewide Down-by-the Riverside event. In 2005, the Council collaborated with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, University of Oregon Outdoor Program and McKenzie School District to establish a spawning viewing trail at the Leaburg Hatchery. The MWC's 2005 Annual River Cleanup event saw over 45 volunteers cleaning up 55 miles of the McKenzie River. Once again hundreds of pounds of trash, along with some very interesting items were collected by participants. This 30 year old event always brings McKenzie residents together. Other community events sponsored by the Council include two

Adopt-A-Highway cleanup events and two Adopt-A-River cleanup events.



**Leaburg Hatchery  
Spawning Viewing  
Trail  
Before and After**



**Annual River  
Clean-up Event**



In an effort to develop new grassroots watershed organizations the Council met with a number of watershed residents. Horse Creek Watershed community members have been working with the Council to develop a subbasin group in the area. Conversations with Cedar Creek residents were continued into 2005, with one community meeting convened to discuss next steps. The Council also provides support to other McKenzie community organizations; including the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce, McKenzie Arts Forum and Friends of Leaburg Lake Association.

BPA funds were also utilized in production of the Council's newsletter. Activities of the Council are summarized in the 8 page newsletter along with providing best-management tips. Over 5,000 households receive the newsletter twice a year.

The Council awarded Gossler Farm its Best Management Practices Award for working extensively and collaborative with the Council. The Farm has worked on a number of restoration projects on its property along Cedar Creek, as well as allowed the Council to grow plants on its land for other projects; helping the Council stretch funding farther. The Council plans to award similar efforts on an annual basis.

## Pisces Conversion

Working together with BPA, the MWC revised the FY05 Scope of Work and budget format to coordinate with BPA’s new Work Element/Milestone based project management and reporting system (Pisces). In addition, the Council conducted the final status report for its FY05 contract.

## Willamette Subbasin Plan Implementation

Funds from BPA help increase Council capacity to improve coordination and communication among all interested stakeholders throughout the Watershed. Local landowners know of and trust the McKenzie Watershed Council as a source of reliable information regarding McKenzie Watershed issues. With this trust, the McKenzie Watershed Council represents an opportunity to bring the Willamette Subbasin Plan to the local level to ensure that goals and strategies of the subbasin plan are implemented.

Goals of the Council match the priorities of the Subbasin Plan through their focus on collaboration with local stakeholders within the watershed (Priority 5.2.2.7; page 5-3). Through the EDT analysis conducted through the subbasin planning process, the Lower McKenzie River was identified with the highest protection and restoration benefits (Appendix K). Key factors limiting spring chinook salmon populations include a loss of habitat diversity and key habitat quantity. Through a well coordinated restoration program, the Council is able to help coordinate the implementation of the 23 Restoration and Protection Strategies outlined in the McKenzie Subbasin EDT (Appendix K, pages 27-37). The Council is playing a leadership role in addressing the priorities addressed in the Willamette Subbasin Plan:

<p><b>McKenzie Watershed Council <i>Conservation Strategy Goals</i></b></p> <p><b>Goal 1.</b> Promote Community Understanding and Stewardship through Outreach and Education</p> <p><b>Goal 2.</b> Promote Partnerships to Support Local Stewardship Actions</p> <p><b>Goal 3.</b> Protect and Restore Key Fish and Wildlife Habitats</p> <p><b>Goal 4.</b> Protect and Restore Water Quality and Quantity</p> <p><b>Goal 5.</b> Council Accounts for and Provides Investments in the Watershed</p>
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- 1) *Deal with the Dams*: The Council has played a significant role in advising the Corps of Engineers on the operation of dams in the McKenzie system to support fish populations and ecosystems function.
- 2) *Fix Culverts and Diversions to Allow Fish Passage*: The Councils has replaced 3 culverts to remedy fish passage issues. In addition, the Council is working to create a database of high priority culverts for fish passage improvements.
- 3) *Focus on Valley and Foothills Wildlife*: The Council, in cooperation with the McKenzie River Trust, is focusing on protecting and restoring key valley and foothills wildlife habitats, including bottomland forests and oak savanna.
- 4) *Restore Lowland Riparian Areas*: The Council is actively working with landowners to restore riparian areas in the lower portions of the river valley, the Mohawk watershed, and near the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette River.
- 5) *Restore Low-Cost, High-Return Areas of the Willamette River Floodplain*: The Council, in cooperation with the McKenzie River Trust, has a strategic commitment to restore complex channels and functioning riparian areas along the Willamette and lower McKenzie River. Historically, the Confluence Area encompassed some of the most complex floodplain and channel habitats in the Willamette Basin. The Council has completed one project that restores a backwater alcove along the Willamette River.

Working with its Partners and stakeholders, the McKenzie Watershed Council develops and implements habitat restoration projects throughout the watershed, works with area schools to develop watershed education programs for students, facilitates collaboration and sharing of water quality monitoring conducted within the watershed and focuses public outreach to residents of the McKenzie River Watershed. As such the McKenzie Watershed Council continues to implement the goals of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, a unique state-led, collaborative, grassroots conservation plan to restore salmon and watersheds (Appendix Q).

The McKenzie Watershed Council is currently participating in the Willamette Restoration Priorities process being conducted by Biosystems and funded through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. This planning process builds upon the Willamette Subbasin Plan.

### **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. BPA funds directly support Council goals and also help leverage local match and grant funds that are used for implementation of specific projects throughout the McKenzie Watershed.