

McKenzie Watershed Council Annual Briefing

December 22, 2004

McKenzie Watershed Fast Facts:

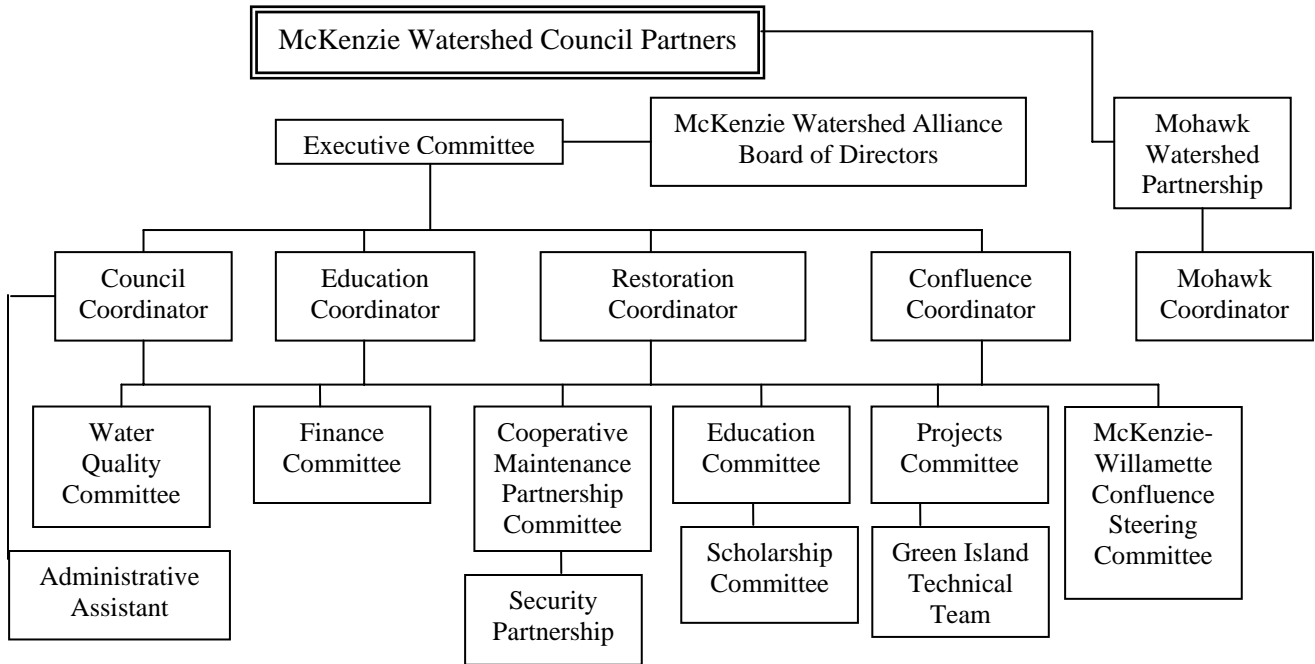
- The McKenzie Watershed provides drinking water to over 200,000 Lane County residents; the water is recognized as some of the highest quality in nationwide.
- The last native run of Upper Willamette spring Chinook salmon occurs in the watershed along with listed bull trout and Oregon chub.
- The watershed 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.
- The watershed is 1,300 square miles in size with the USFS, BLM, private timber companies and rural residential lands comprising most of the ownership.

McKenzie Watershed Council History

With the purpose of addressing challenges to watershed health, the McKenzie Watershed Council (Council or MWC), one of the first watershed groups to form in Oregon, was convened and initiated by Lane County and the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) in 1993. In a 1991 joint session, Lane County and EWEB commissioners recognized that the existing piecemeal approach to managing watershed resources was not adequate. As a result of this strong local support and successful efforts of the Oregon congressional delegation, federal funding was secured and used for an initial scoping study. As the Council moves into its 12th year, partnerships have evolved to involve an increasing number of community, civic and landowner stakeholders.

Today the McKenzie Watershed 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. Working with its Partnersⁱ and stakeholders, the 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 MWC 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.

McKenzie Watershed Council Framework for Collaboration



McKenzie Watershed Council Goals

The Council's mission is to foster better stewardship of the McKenzie River Watershed resources, deal with issues in advance of resource degradation, and ensure sustainable watershed health, functions and uses. The Council will accomplish its mission through fostering voluntary partnerships and collaboration. The Council's future vision is to support exceptional water quality and habitats in balance with human economic livelihood and quality of life. The McKenzie Watershed Council operates within the framework of the following five goals:

- **Goal 1.** Promote Community Understanding and Stewardship through Outreach and Education
- **Goal 2.** Promote Partnerships to Support Local Stewardship Actions
- **Goal 3.** Protect and Restore Key Fish and Wildlife Habitats
- **Goal 4.** Protect and Restore Water Quality and Quantity
- **Goal 5.** Council Accounts for and Provides Investments in the Watershed

McKenzie Watershed Council Programs

Information

Council information activities focus on continued coordination of the McKenzie Watershed stakeholders. The Council and Partner organizations provide information, technical advice, and assistance in obtaining funding to support watershed stewardship efforts for all community conservation areas, organizations, and individuals wishing to engage in voluntary actions.

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. (All MWC reports can be found at www.mckenziewatershedcouncil.org/reports.html)

Protection & Restoration

The Council is working with major stakeholders throughout the watershed to identify and prioritize protection and restoration goals, as well as identify potential funding sources and partnerships. Restoration projects include riparian plantings, enclosure fencing, naturescaping, and culvert replacements/stream passage, among others. Most of the emphasis on restoration activities will focus on the lower river system, including the Mohawk subbasin.

Education & Public Outreach

The Council actively promotes community understanding and stewardship through both outreach and education. The Council's watershed education and outreach program works with local residents and schools to improvement of fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. The Council also manages a comprehensive volunteer workforce program to support watershed/community stewardship efforts.

Water Quality Coordination

The MWC continues to be involved with three main monitoring projects conducted within the watershed: mainstem ambient, macroinvertebrate and tributary. Resulting data from mainstem ambient monitoring is analyzed by DEQ and distributed within its McKenzie Watershed Water Quality Report on an annual basis. In addition to these programs, the Council facilitates a Water Quality Committee consisting of all agencies, organizations and industries conducting monitoring within the watershed.

McKenzie Watershed Council Fiscal Resources

The ability of the Council to keep track of the grant expenditures, as well as the reporting requirements to the grantors is enhanced by having Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. serve as its fiscal agent. Cascade's services include professional accounting, annual auditing, monthly account reports, reporting and legal advice. In working with large sums of public funds, these services are invaluable to the Council.

Each year the Council applies for and receives numerous grants from a variety of competitive sources. In-kind donations are also received; in-kind funds are usually donations of time, labor and equipment for specific projects and grants. In 2004, The Council was awarded educational and project grants from: The Bella Vista Foundation, The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation, Oregon Watershed and Enhancement Board,

and Weyerhaeuser Company. The table below outlines the funding stream received in 2004 according to Council programs.

Program	2004 Funding
Council Coordination	\$245,000
Education	\$21,000
Projects	\$460,000
In-Kind Donations	\$32,000
Total	\$758,000

In an effort to diversify Council funding and ensure its longevity the MWC has spent considerable effort developing a *Business Plan* which is expected to be adopted in January 2005. 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.

Working with its Partners and residents, the Council has continued to develop and implement habitat restoration projects throughout the watershed, work with area schools to develop watershed education programs, facilitate collaboration and sharing of water quality monitoring data and focused public outreach to residents of the McKenzie River Watershed. As such the MWC 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.

The McKenzie Watershed Council, one of the oldest community-based watershed stewardship organizations in the Pacific Northwest, is widely recognized as a *leading watershed organization* in a field of more than 90 such organizations throughout the state of Oregon. For more information on the McKenzie Watershed Council please visit our website at www.mckenziewaterhedcouncil.org or contact Council Coordinator, Megan Finnessy, at (541)687-9076.

ⁱ Council Partner organizations include: Cities of Eugene and Springfield, East Lane Soil & Water Conservation District, Eugene Water & Electric Board, Hynix Semiconductor Manufacturing, Lane County, McKenzie Flyfishers, McKenzie Guides Association, McKenzie River Trust, McKenzie Schools, McKenzie Valley Residents Association, Mohawk Watershed Partnership, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of State Lands, US Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Weyerhaeuser Company, and 2 At-Large Stakeholders.