



Annual Report

2005

Formed in 1993 the McKenzie Watershed Council (Council or MWC) 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.

McKenzie Watershed 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 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.



McKenzie Watershed Council Goals & Accomplishments

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's future vision is to support exceptional water quality and habitats in balance with human economic livelihood and quality of life. The Council operates within the framework of the five goals listed below. Along with each goal are the Council's 2005 accomplishments (goals are listed in accordance with the *Conservation Strategy*).

Goal: Protect and Restore Key Fish and Wildlife Habitats

- The Council worked with 26 different landowners in the watershed on riparian enhancement projects aimed at improving fish and wildlife habitat.
- A total of 12,500 native tree and shrubs were planted within the watershed as a part of these watershed enhancement efforts.

- Nearly 2,000 feet of riparian protection livestock fencing was constructed along watershed streams.
- The Council coordinated the physical replacement of 1 culvert that prohibited fish passage in the watershed, and coordinated the design and permitting of 2 other fish passage obstructing culverts that are to be replaced in 2006.
- The Council continued to work on controlling invasive weeds in the watershed through partnerships with private landowners and public lands agencies.

Goal: Protect and Restore Water Quality and Quantity

- The Council continued its ambient water quality monitoring program on the mainstem McKenzie River at seven locations. Resulting data was analyzed by the OR Department of Environmental Quality. In the most recent report 6 of the top 10 monitoring sites statewide were located in the McKenzie Watershed (2005).
- The Thurston HS Water Quality Monitoring Team completed its 9th year of monitoring at Cedar Creek. Over the years data from this effort 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.
- The Council conducted its 13th 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



Goal: Promote Partnerships to Support Local Stewardship Actions

- The McKenzie-Willamette Confluence Steering Committee received the OR Department of Geology and Mineral Industries' 2004 OR Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Award for implementing an alcove project in collaboration with Delta Sand and Gravel.
- The Council continued working with the City of Springfield Eugene Water & Electric Board, Gossler's Farm, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Springfield Utility Board and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to coordinate planning efforts in the Cedar Creek subbasin.
- Community members in the Horse Creek area began developing a plan for future action in the subbasin.
- The Mohawk Watershed Partnership, a subbasin group of the MWC, saw its 7th 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 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.
- Once again the Council partnered with Lane County Parks, McKenzie Guides Association and McKenzie Flyfishers Association to conduct the Annual River Clean-up. The 2005 event saw over 45 volunteers cleaning up 55 miles of the McKenzie River. Hundreds of pounds of trash, along with some very interesting items were collected by participants.
- For the 6th year the Council partnered with Lane County Parks to participate in SOLV’s Down-by-the-Riverside event. The 2005 trail development event was conducted at Leaburg Hatchery.



Leaburg Hatchery Spawning Viewing Trail Development

Goal: Council Accounts for and Provides Investments in the Watershed

- 97% of the total budget was spent within the local area; including the Eugene/Springfield area.

McKenzie Watershed Council Fiscal Resources

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 2005, The Council was awarded educational and project grants from: The Bella Vista Foundation, The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation, Eugene Water & Electric Board, Oregon Watershed and Enhancement Board, and U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The table below outlines the funding stream received in 2005 according to Council programs.

Program	2005 Funding
Council Coordination	\$186,000
Education	\$14,000
Monitoring	\$75,000
Projects	\$288,500
In-Kind Donations	\$55,000
Total	\$618,500

In an effort to diversify Council funding and ensure its longevity the MWC has spent considerable effort developing a *Business Plan*. 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.mckenziewatershedcouncil.org or contact Council Coordinator, Megan Finnessy, at (541)687-9076.