

SOUTH SANTIAM WATERSHED COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

May 2008

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SOUTH SANTIAM WATERSHED COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

purpose and goals 1-7 as adopted April 1996

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

I. PURPOSE

1. Help establish for the productivity, character function, and appearance of the watershed of the South Santiam River.
2. Provide a framework for maintaining and enhancing the productivity, resiliency, diversity, and uniqueness of this watershed for all its inhabitants.
3. Establish guidance for community involvement and for public outreach and education in the South Santiam River watershed.
4. Provide a basis for assessment, restoration and enhancement activities, which consider the unique nature of the various sub-basins within the watershed.
5. Assist the South Santiam Watershed Council in coordinating habitat management activities in the South Santiam River watershed.

II. ORGANIZATION

This document is organized into three chapters. Chapter 1 describes the purpose of the action plan as adopted by the South Santiam Watershed Council in April, 1996, and the organization of the document.

Chapter 2 contains the South Santiam Watershed Council Goals.

Chapter 3 describes strategies and actions the Council will take in order to reach its goals. Goals are the broad vision statements of what the Council wants to do. Objectives for each goal add more specificity. Strategies provide different methods of reaching objectives. Strategies and actions are organized under the appropriate goals.

III. SCOPE

The geographic scope of this action plan is the entire South Santiam River watershed from ridgetop to ridgetop, headwaters to mouth. The scope of the issues to consider include all watershed processes and biological components with an emphasis on issues of critical concern. This includes social, economic and political realities. This document is intended to be flexible; changes to the plan should be made when needed by the watershed council.

IV. Current Conditions

A watershed assessment was completed in 2000.

CHAPTER TWO: GOALS (not listed in order of priority)

Goal 1: Productivity and Diversity

Provide future inhabitants and users a watershed with undiminished diversity, productivity and opportunity.

Goal 2: Education

Promote a sense of awareness and understanding among all watershed users and landowners as to how their land management practices and personal actions can positively or adversely impact the South Santiam watershed where they live, work, or play.

Goal 3: Water Quality

Maintain, enhance, or restore water quality suitable for all beneficial uses in watershed streams.

Goal 4: Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Maintain, enhance, and restore fish and wildlife habitat throughout the watershed.

Goal 5: Watershed Assessment

Complete and maintain an assessment of the entire watershed, emphasizing its major components. We recognize the complexity of this task, the need to establish priorities, and the ever-changing nature of the various natural systems that make up the watershed.

Goal 6: Citizen Involvement

Generate support and enthusiasm for the council's activities by involving as many citizens as possible to take care of our watershed.

Goal 7: Cooperation and Coordination

Foster an atmosphere of cooperation and coordination with all landowners, citizens, organizations, and agencies with responsibilities and interests in the watershed.

Goal 8: On -the -Ground Projects

Implement on-the-ground projects which improve the health of the watershed.

CHAPTER THREE: STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Goal 1: Productivity and Diversity

Provide future inhabitants and users a watershed with undiminished diversity, productivity and opportunity.

Objective	Strategy	Action	Priority	Status
Prevent loss of soil productivity	Educate landowners about soil compaction and productivity	Research areas most sensitive to soil compaction in areas which are highly sensitive to soil compaction in:	Low	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamilton Creek • Remainder of Watershed 		
		Work with Ag. Extension, Linn SWCD, NRCS, Linn Small Woodlands owners to provide soil compaction workshops		
		Research areas with highest rates of soil erosion in:	Low	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamilton Creek • Remainder of Watershed 	
		Technical assistance to landowners	In cooperation with other interested organizations, provide technical assistance to landowners	Low
	Reduce reliance on chemical fertilizer & pesticides	Encourage use of biological controls and integrated pest management	Medium	
		Work with Linn County Extension to implement a buffer strip demonstration	Low	
Maintain current diversity of plant species	Educate landowners of the functions of native plant species and diversity	Conduct landowner outreach	High	Ongoing
		Field assessment/information gathering from land owners	Medium	Ongoing
		Take actions to protect or increase sensitive, threatened and endangered plant species	High	Ongoing
	Restore native plants	Eliminate or reduce noxious non-native plant species	High	Ongoing
		Plant native species	High	Ongoing
For fish and wildlife diversity, see Goal 4: Fish and Wildlife Habitat				

Goal 2: Education

Promote a sense of awareness and understanding among all watershed users and landowners as to how their land management practices and personal actions can positively or adversely impact the South Santiam watershed where they live, work, or play.

Objective	Strategy	Action	Priority	Status
Educate the public about watershed functions, resources, and the opportunities available to improve conditions	Informational booth/display	Have representation at public events for increased South Santiam Watershed Council visibility. Use brochures and educational materials for public education	Medium	Ongoing
		Display SSWC informational booth and materials at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local public libraries • city halls • museums, schools, senior centers 	Medium	Ongoing
	Watershed tours	Continue watershed tours to increase the council's and the public's knowledge of watershed issues and current conditions	High	Ongoing
		Watershed council members suggest pertinent tour topics	Low	
	Public workshops/classes	Provide workshops and classes on topics as needed to pursue other action plan goals - only on specific subjects.	Medium	Ongoing
		Cooperate with the Linn SWCD, NRCS to hold a streambank restoration workshop. The purpose is to provide landowners with the technical knowledge to replant streambanks.	Low	
		Build programs with city parks and recreation, including City of Lebanon and Build Lebanon Trails	Medium	Ongoing
		Watershed council members suggest pertinent topics for public classes and workshops	Medium	
	Education in public schools	Provide educational presentations to schools, and partner with other groups conducting similar efforts. Implement Santiam STEWARDS Program with USFS, North Santiam WSC, and Calapooia WSC.	High	Ongoing
		Develop "watershed activity book" for use in grade school.	Medium	
	Presentations to Local Groups	Create presentation on what the SSWC has accomplished, where we are going in the next year, and why people should join	High	Completed 10/08
		Present to local government, county planners, county commissioners, and community groups	High	Ongoing
	Web page	Maintain and update web page monthly	High	Ongoing

	Outreach Strategy	Provide radio announcement on helpful project ideas, land management practices for specific audiences	Low	
	Meeting Announcements	Put SSWC Meeting Announcements in Albany and Lebanon newspapers	Medium	Ongoing
	Newsletter	Publish SSWC newsletter annually and send to members and friends of SSWC. Current circulation is 200 people.	Medium	Ongoing
		Encourage member contributions to newsletter	Medium	Ongoing
	Storm drain placards: educate general public about the effect of their actions on storm drain pollution	Coordinate with local schools, 4H, Boys and Girls clubs, and Scouts to get youth involved in storm drain project	Medium	Ongoing
		Work with local communities to get paint and supplies donated, map out drains to be painted	Medium	Ongoing
		Public service announcements on the radio explaining storm drain stenciling project	Low	
		Provide information to local newspapers on purpose of storm drain placards	Medium	

Goal 3: Water Quality

Maintain or restore water quality suitable for all beneficial uses in all streams of this watershed, such that none become or remain water quality limited.

(please note that this section will be updated as new information becomes available from the watershed assessments and sub-watershed meetings)

Objective	Strategy	Action	Priority	Status
Meet and/or exceed the fecal coliform bacteria standards as set by DEQ	Monitor and reduce fecal coliform bacteria	Cooperate with ODEQ, Linn SWCD, NRCS, irrigation districts, and other agencies and organizations to monitor and reduce fecal coliform bacteria.	High	

	Cooperate with landowners, Linn SWCD, NRCS, and irrigation districts to complete voluntary projects	See Projects Goal 8 for strategy to implement on-the-ground projects. Project focus for fecal coliform bacteria should be on Thomas, Crabtree, Hamilton, Ames and McDowell Creeks (focus should be re-prioritized as new information becomes available)	High	
	Educate landowners in the South Santiam about what they can do about fecal coliform bacteria	Provide workshops and site visits about land management practices and projects that can reduce and prevent fecal coliform bacteria pollution. Topics can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pasture/range management practices and fencing • septic tanks • livestock operations Target areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Creek sub-watershed • Hamilton Creek sub-watershed • Ames Creek sub-watershed • Crabtree Creek sub-watershed • McDowell Creek sub-watershed 	Medium	
	Media Outreach	Work with local newspapers, etc. to get articles in paper about current conditions and solutions to fecal coliform bacteria problems	Medium	
Decrease temperature in South Santiam. River and its tributaries to meet Department of Environmental Quality standards	Monitor temperature conditions in watershed	Analyze existing information that has been collected by the SSWC	High	Completed 2008
		In cooperation with DEQ, USFS, and other agencies conduct temperature monitoring on Crabtree, Hamilton, McDowell, Ames, Wiley, Little Wiley, Thomas, Canyon, Moose, Soda Fk., Middle Santiam, Litiwi, and Quartzville Creeks.	High	Ongoing
	Cooperate with landowners, Linn SWCD, NRCS, USFS, and irrigation districts to complete	See projects Goal 8 for strategy to implement on the ground projects. Project focus for temperature should be on Crabtree, Hamilton, McDowell, Ames, Wiley, Little Wiley, Thomas, Canyon, Moose, Soda Fk., Middle Santiam, Litiwi, and Quartzville Creeks.	High	Ongoing

	voluntary projects	Provide technical assistance to landowners on land management practices to reduce temperature pollution	High	Ongoing
	Educate landowners in the South Santiam on land management practices which lower temperature	Provide workshops and site visits about land management practices and projects that can reduce and prevent fecal coliform bacteria pollution. Topics can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian zones • Large Wood • Restoring natural hydrological cycles Target areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Creek sub-watershed • Hamilton Creek sub-watershed • Ames Creek sub-watershed • Crabtree Creek sub-watershed • McDowell Creek sub-watershed 	High	Ongoing
Increase dissolved oxygen levels where needed	Investigate Dissolved Oxygen levels in the South Santiam watershed	Analyze existing information from South Santiam Watershed Analysis	Medium	
		Develop monitoring plan to assess dissolved oxygen levels in watershed	Medium	
		Implement monitoring plan	Medium	
Reduce sediment/turbidity to desired levels	Implement projects	Project focus for sediment should be on Hamilton, Beaver, Crabtree, Canyon, Pyramid, Quartzville, Soda, Latiwi, Thomas, and Wiley Creeks and the Middle Santiam River (focus should be re-prioritized as new information becomes available)	Medium	
Reduce excessive nutrient loading	Educate landowners in the South Santiam about what	Provide workshops and site visits about land management practices and projects that can reduce and prevent nutrient pollution. Topics can include:	High	Ongoing

	they can do about excessive nutrient loading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pasture/range management practices and fencing • septic tanks • livestock operations • fertilization programs <p>Target areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Creek sub-watershed • Hamilton Creek sub-watershed • Ames Creek sub-watershed • Crabtree Creek sub-watershed • McDowell Creek sub-watershed 		
Maintain current high water quality conditions where they meet state standards	Prioritize areas for protection.	Focus areas should be in upper watershed and headwater streams (for example, Moose, Soda Fk, and unnamed first and second order streams).	High	Ongoing
	Educate landowners in high-water quality areas	Focus areas should be in upper watershed and headwater streams (for example, Moose, Soda Fk, and unnamed first and second order streams).	Medium	
Continue assessment program	Further define and track water quality in the South Santiam Watershed	See Goal 5 for watershed assessment strategies and actions	High	

Goal 4: Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Maintain and enhance fish and wildlife habitat throughout the watershed.

(please note that this section will be updated as new information becomes available from the watershed assessments and sub-watershed meetings)

Objective	Strategy	Action	Priority	Status
Restore, maintain, or improve upstream and	Fix impassable culverts	Survey all culverts for passage problems	High	Ongoing
		Begin volunteer culvert survey in the South Santiam. Work with USFS, ODFW, ODOT, and Linn County.	High	Ongoing
		Coordinate with ODOT, ODFW, BLM, USFS timber companies,	High	Ongoing

downstream passage for fish and aquatic species		others, to determine which culverts have been surveyed previously		
		Find funds and partners to replace and/or repair culverts	High	Ongoing
	Improve fish passage at Foster, and Green Peter Dams	Work with U.S Army Corps of Engineers and ODFW to improve passage.	High	
	Screen unscreened diversions	Identify unscreened diversions	Medium	
Work with ODFW, diversion owners to find funds to screen diversions.		Low		
Maintain sufficient in-stream flows for aquatic species	Observe and report to regulatory agencies conditions that may threaten aquatic population resulting from low in-stream flows	Visual observations at site visits and public-right-of-ways. Educate landowners about benefits of sufficient stream flows.	High	Ongoing
		Compare recommended flows to current and historical levels	Medium	Ongoing
		Identify tributaries deficient in flow	Medium	Ongoing
	Flow measurement	Identify tributaries lacking in flow information but critical to fish production	Medium	Ongoing
	Implement projects to promote practices which conserve water and increase instream flow.	Project focus for flow should be on Beaver, Crabtree, Hamilton and Thomas Creeks (focus should be re-prioritized as new information becomes available) See also Goal 8: Projects	High	
		Provide assistance to agricultural community on implementing efficient irrigation	Medium	
		Work with irrigation districts to increase water conservation, pipe ditches, work with local communities to promote practices which conserve water and increase stream flows. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lacombe <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Others	Medium	
		Encourage agricultural landowners to protect riparian habitat, minimize practices which contribute to pollution and sediment of instream habitat and to use techniques that conserve water	Medium	Ongoing

		Assist water utilities in implementing water conservation programs	Low	
	Instream water rights	Identify areas where additional instream water rights are needed to meet requirements for fish and notify ODFW.	Medium	
Improve critical spawning and rearing habitat	Identify critical spawning and juvenile rearing areas for winter steelhead, Spring Chinook and all native fish in the South Santiam Watershed	Advocate special protection of these critical areas to the respective landowners	Medium	Ongoing
		Identify strategies for restoring natural production levels, including potential sites for habitat improvement. Enhance critical areas limiting native steelhead smolt and production.	High	Ongoing
Improve and/or protect instream habitat	Utilize watershed assessment in identifying critical areas	Work with landowners to protect critical instream habitat	High	Ongoing
	Work with partners to implement projects in identified areas	Identify areas in the Santiam watershed where in-stream structure, rearing habitat, and spawning gravel have been altered due to channelization and bank stabilization projects and limit fish production. Coordinate with DSL, NRCS, ODFW Linn SWCD to minimize damage from gravel mining, fill and removal, revetment, erosion control and channelization projects.	High	Ongoing
		Identify impacted locations and coordinate with city and county agencies to minimize degradation of riparian and instream habitat from urban development projects such as construction of bridges, pipelines, city storm drains, and flood control projects. Work with Cities of Scio, Sweet Home and Lebanon, and Linn County.	Medium	Ongoing
		Encourage municipalities, sewage treatment districts and mill pond owners to acquire specialized equipment and adequately trained personnel so that catastrophic spills of harmful substances are avoided	Low	

Goal 5: Watershed Assessment

Complete and maintain an assessment of the entire watershed, emphasizing its major components. We recognize the complexity of this task, the need to establish priorities, and the ever-changing nature of the various natural systems that make up the watershed.

Objective	Strategy	Action	Priority	Status
Revise South Santiam Watershed Assessment every 10 years	Obtain funding	Complete additional analysis by 2010	High	

Goal 6: Involve Citizens

Generate support and enthusiasm for the Council’s activities, by involving as many citizens as possible to take care of the watershed

Objective	Strategy	Action	Priority	Status
Maintain a diverse, robust, and active membership	Outreach to public and media	Encourage/ request assistance from schools, youth groups, civic organizations, and retirees for full range of council activities	High	Ongoing

Goal 7: Cooperation and Coordination

Foster an atmosphere of cooperation and coordination with all landowners, organizations, and agencies with responsibilities in the watershed.

Objective	Strategy	Action	Priority	Status
Coordinate activities	Link with other agencies, schools, and/or groups with existing programs in the watershed.	Maintain and establish links with existing programs, non-government organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies within the watershed.	High	Ongoing
	Connect and share with regional watershed councils	Continue to partner with North Santiam, Calapooia, and other regional Watershed Councils. Continue to connect with Oregon Watershed Councils.	High	Ongoing
		Utilize government resources wherever available.	High	Ongoing

		Form partnerships throughout the watershed.	High	Ongoing
		Focus on long-term sustainability of environmental values and land use objectives.	Medium	Ongoing

Goal 8: Projects

Implement projects which improve the health of the watershed

Objective	Strategy	Action	Priority	Status
Implement projects that restore riparian areas on streams in order to provide shade, protect water quality, and provide habitat	Recruit landowners for restoration, obtain funding, and implement project	Continue to implement Landowner Recruitment for Restoration Project with focus on 303 (d) listed streams: Crabtree, Thomas, McDowell, etc.	High	Ongoing
		Implement Lower Crabtree Creek Restoration Planning Project	High	Done
		Continue implementing Japanese Knotweed Control Project on Crabtree and Thomas Creek	High	Ongoing
		Implement McDowell Creek Restoration Project	High	Summer 2008-9
		Continue to recruit landowners to incentive programs administered by the NRCS and FSA	High	Ongoing
		Continue to recruit landowners to OWEB small grant program and for other grant programs for larger projects	Medium	Ongoing
Implement projects that restore in-stream habitat conditions, floodplain connectivity, and off-channel habit to streams identified as deficient in this category in	Recruit landowners for restoration, obtain funding, and implement project	Implement Moose Creek Restoration Project (placing large wood into stream via helicopter and tree-tipping)	High	Summer 2008-9
		Implement McDowell Creek Restoration Project (placing large wood and/or engineered log jams into stream)	High	Summer 2008-9
		Implement Lower Crabtree Restoration Planning Project (in-stream actions to be determined)	High	Summer 2009
		Continue to monitor Ames Creek Restoration Project (Phase III, Sankey Park large wood placement)	Low	Ongoing

watershed assessment and recovery plans		Continue to recruit landowners for restoration action in streams listed as priority in watershed assessment and recovery plans	High	Ongoing
Implement projects that restore fish passage for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead	Recruit landowners for restoration, obtain funding, and implement project	Continue to implement Santiam Basin Fish Passage Barrier Inventory Project	High	Ongoing
		Replace or retrofit identified barriers in order to ensure salmon and steelhead passage	High	
		Implement Ames Creek Restoration Project: Phase IV, restoring fish passage at the mouth of Ames Creek	High	Summer 2009-10
		Continue to monitor Wiley Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project	Medium	Ongoing
		Continue to recruit landowners with fish passage barriers into programs that will assist them in removal or retrofit	Medium	Ongoing
Implement projects that restore fish passage to trout and other non-listed fish species	Recruit landowners for restoration, obtain funding, and implement project	Continue to implement Santiam Basin fish Passage Barrier Inventory Project	High	Ongoing
		Assist landowners in obtaining funding to improve non-listed fish passage	Medium	
Implement projects that enhance and protect threatened native upland habitats	Recruit landowners for restoration, refer to relevant incentive programs or grant opportunities, obtain funding, and implement project	Work with landowners to protect and enhance threatened upland habitats (i.e. oak savannah and wet prairie)	Medium	Ongoing