

Background

Public outreach and involvement is key to the success of the subbasin planning process. Without public acceptance and support of the plan, implementation is unlikely to be successful or sustainable over the long-term. For this reason, the public will be an integral partner in the development of the Walla Walla, Tucannon, Asotin and Lower Snake River Subbasin Plans.

This plan outlines the range of activities to be performed by Walla Walla County, Conservation Districts, Kooskooskie Commons, the Snake River Salmon Recovery Forum, Parametrix (PMX), Economic and Engineering Services, Inc. (EES), and others to implement a public outreach program in support of subbasin planning activities in the Walla Walla, Tucannon, Asotin and Lower Snake River Subbasins. The purpose of this work is twofold: 1) to provide the public with the information needed to understand the issues and decisions involved in subbasin planning; and 2) to provide mechanisms by which the public can shape the decision making process. Completion of public participation in accordance with this plan will support subbasin planning efforts of the Asotin County Conservation District, Pomeroy Conservation District, Columbia Conservation District, Walla Walla County and the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council under their contracts with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPPCC). As such, this plan is part of the larger project plan being implemented for each subbasin planning effort¹.

Following the discussion of project tasks is an update on the current status of public involvement.

Project Tasks

Task 1 – Assist with project scoping public workshops.

Task Description: In cooperation with the subbasin leads, one project scoping meeting will be held in each subbasin. The purposes of these workshops are: 1) to promote public understanding of current conditions and the proposed goals for the protection and enhancement of focal species; 2) to solicit comments and questions on the information; and 3) to solicit thoughts on what legal, economic, technical, social, and cultural factors should be considered when developing and selecting alternative management strategies.

Assumptions: Subbasin leads will assist PMX/EES in developing a list of interested stakeholders and advertising the workshops. Scoping workshops will be held in conjunction with existing watershed planning meetings (e.g. WRIA 35 Public Workshops, WRIA 32 Implementation Area Public Workshops, etc.) whenever possible.

¹ The detail provided in this plan outlines the specific activities proposed for accomplishing Task 1 of the Tucannon, Asotin Creek, and Lower Snake River Subbasin Planning Scopes of Work (PMX/EES, 6/18/03) and Task 1 of the Walla Walla Subbasin Planning Scope of Work (PMX/EES, 6/10/03).

Deliverables: Scheduled date, time and location for each workshop, list of participants, materials (handouts, brochures, etc.) for advertising workshops to the general public and summary of public comments gathered at each workshop.

Estimated Cost: Task completed in May 2003 for the Tucannon, Asotin and Lower Snake Subbasins (funded through coordination with WRIA 35 Phase 1 Watershed Planning). Task will be completed in July-September for the Walla Walla Subbasin (funded through coordination with WRIA 35 Phase III Watershed Planning).

Task 2 - Public Workshops for Developing the Assessment, Inventory, and Management Plan Components

Description: Four public workshops will be held in each subbasin to facilitate preparation of the subbasin assessment, inventory and management plan. Facilitated by PMX/EES, these will be joint technical staff/public workshops advertised through local newspapers, planning entities, and other means available.

- The first workshop reviewed the results of the EDT assessment.
- The second workshop (Management Plan Workshop #1) reviewed the preliminary management plan components
- The third workshop (Management Plan Workshop #2) reviewed the revised management plan components
- The fourth workshop reviewed the terrestrial wildlife assessment, inventory, and management plan components.

Assumptions: Subbasin leads will assist PMX/EES in developing a list of interested stakeholders, advertising the workshops and providing feedback on feasibility of potential strategies. Coordination with WDFW and Mobrand, Inc., will occur for scheduling and facilitating the workshops. These workshops will be held in conjunction with existing watershed planning meetings (e.g. WRIA 35 Public Workshops, WRIA 32 Implementation Area Public Workshops, etc.) whenever possible.

Deliverables: Five facilitated workshops including a scheduled date, time and location, press release, meeting materials (agendas, handouts, draft plan sections) and summary of the participants and issues for each workshop.

Estimated Cost: \$5000

Task 3 - Website Support

Description: Documentation developed throughout the Subbasin Planning process (e.g. list of focal species, draft and final assessment, inventory, and management plan sections) will be converted to PDF format and provided to the NWPC in for posting on their subbasin planning website. Where appropriate, links between existing planning entity websites (e.g. WRIA 32 Watershed Planning <http://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/Departments/planning/Watershed/>, WRIA 35 Watershed Planning <http://www.asotinpod.org/msww/>, Asotin County Conservation District

<http://asotin.scc.wa.gov/>, and the proposed Snake River Salmon Recovery Forum Website) will be created.

Deliverable: Publication of subbasin planning documents on the Northwest Power Planning Council subbasin planning webpages for each subbasin:

- Walla Walla: <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/wallawalla/default.asp>
- Tucannon: <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/Tucannon/default.asp>
- Asotin: <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/Asotin/default.asp>
- Lower Snake: <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/lowersnake/default.asp>

Estimated Cost: \$500

Task 4 - Develop Publications

Description: This task involves development of press releases, fact sheets, brochures and other publications addressing the scope of subbasin planning, status of planning efforts, opportunities for public comment, coordination with other planning efforts, and other issues. This task will be integrated across all four subbasins, as each would use many of the same venues for public distribution (e.g. local newspapers). At a minimum, a press release and fact sheet will be prepared to address each stage of subbasin planning (assessment, inventory, initiation of management planning, final plan review), in conjunction with the public workshops described in Task 3. These press releases will be coordinated with those provided under Task 2 where possible.

Assumptions: Subbasin leads will assist PMX/EES in identifying targets and distributing fact sheets and other publications.

Deliverables: Newspaper announcements were developed to advertise the Asotin, Lower Snake, and Tucannon Subbasin Management Plan Workshops. A combined watershed planning / subbasin planning newsletter was initiated and distributed by Walla Walla County covering activities in the Walla Walla Subbasin. This newsletter was issued three times (October 2003, January 2004, and April 2004) and distributed via email, U.S. Postal Service, and on the website to approximately 200 interested parties. Additional direct communications occurred with local stakeholders including postcard reminders of meetings, email communications, presentations to stakeholder groups, and public notice of meetings.

Estimated Cost: \$2000

Task 5 - Integration & Coordination with Existing Planning Efforts

Description: This task will involve PMX/EES coordination with associated planning efforts (e.g. WRIA 35 Planning Unit, Bi-State Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committee, etc.). Integration between the four subbasin planning efforts and other planning processes will occur through information-sharing. Members of the other planning processes will be encouraged to attend subbasin planning meetings and to provide input into the subbasin assessments, inventories, and management plans.

Assumptions: Subbasin leads will assist PMX/EES in presenting subbasin planning information to existing planning entities.

Deliverable: PMX/EES staff will prepare handouts and will present a subbasin planning update at up to four meetings of associated planning groups in the region.

Estimated Cost: \$1500

Task 6 - Issues Resolution

Description: Throughout development of the four subbasin plans, issues are likely to arise that will require focused attention from resource managers, agency staff, subbasin leads, and local planning groups to be resolved. This task will involve cooperation between subbasin leads, agencies, resource managers, and contract staff to: 1) identify issues of concern as the planning processes move forward; 2) develop a focused strategy for issue resolution; and 3) execute the resolution strategy for each issue. In addition, issue resolution will be coordinated with local planning groups where appropriate. For those issues that remain unresolved, documentation of the issue will be generated for inclusion in the subbasin plans.

Assumptions: Subbasin leads, agencies, resource managers and contract staff will work together to highlight issues under dispute.

Deliverable: Documentation of the specific concerns, resolution strategy, and outcome of attempts toward resolution for each issue. In addition, the concerns of various planning entities will be identified for any unresolved issues.

Estimated Cost: \$2000

Total Estimated Project Cost - \$11,000

Activity Update

Task 1

Workshops held in the subbasins were advertised in local newspapers, conservation district newsletters, WSU Extension newsletters, through existing lists of interested parties and through word of mouth. Attendance ranged widely at each workshop. Details on public and technical workshop dates and attendees are in the following tables. The first table provides the dates, locations, and focus area for each scoping workshop. These workshops were used to introduce the purpose and process of subbasin planning and to scope out significant issues with the public. The second table provides the dates and attendees for each subbasin planning assessment and management plan workshop held in the four Southeast Washington subbasins.

Subbasin Planning Scoping Meetings		
Date	Workshop Location	Focus Area
May 21, 2003	Pomeroy, WA	Tucannon Subbasin
May 22, 2003	Pomeroy, WA	Pataha drainage & Lower Snake Subbasin (Garfield County portion)
May 27, 2003	Clarkston, WA	Asotin Subbasin
May 28, 2003	Colfax, WA	Lower Snake Subbasin (Whitman County portion)
May 28, 2003	Lapwai, ID	Nez Perce Tribe
July 2, 2003	Dayton, WA	Upper Touchet Implementation Area
July 8, 2003	Waitsburg, WA	Middle Touchet Implementation Area
August 19, 2003	Walla Walla, WA	Walla Walla / College Place Urban Area
September 25, 2003	Dixie, WA	Dixie / Dry Creek Area
October 1, 2003	Mill Creek Fire Station	Mill Creek Implementation Area
October 7, 2003	Lowden, WA	Lower Touchet & Lower Walla Walla Implementation Areas

Subbasin Meetings - Technical and Public			
Subbasin	Meeting Name	Date	# Attending
Asotin	EDT Public	12/17/2003	11
	Management Plan #1 - Tech	2/18/2004	21
	Management Plan #1 - Public	12/16/2003	33
	Management Plan #2 - Tech	2/12/2004	13
	Management Plan #2 - Public	2/12/2004	~10
	Wildlife - Tech	3/22/2004	9
	Wildlife - Public	3/22/2004	19
Lower Snake	EDT Public	1/15/2004	29
	Management Plan #1 - Tech	3/4/2004	9
	Management Plan #1 - Public	3/4/2004	15
	Management Plan #2 - Tech	3/24/2004	8
	Management Plan #2 - Public	3/25/2004	9
	Wildlife - Tech	3/9/2004	~15
	Wildlife - Public	3/25/2004	8
Tucannon	EDT Public	12/17/2003	~10
	Management Plan #1 - Tech	2/5/2004	36
	Management Plan #1 - Public	2/5/2004	~35
	Management Plan #2 - Tech	3/18/2004	14
	Management Plan #2 - Public	3/18/2004	12
	Wildlife - Tech	3/9/2004	~15
	Wildlife - Public	3/25/2004	8
Walla Walla	EDT Public	12/3/2003	~40
	Management Plan #1 - Tech	2/18/2004	~20
	Management Plan #1 - Public	2/18/2004	42
	Management Plan #2 - Tech	3/17/2004	54
	Management Plan #2 - Public	3/17/2004	~45
	Wildlife - Tech	3/30/2004	14
	Wildlife - Public	3/30/2004	32

Task 2

In the Asotin Subbasin, a workshop was held with interested citizens to educate and obtain comments on the EDT model (part of workshop 1). Similar workshops are currently being scheduled in the Tucannon and Walla Walla Subbasins. A joint meeting of all four subbasins is planned for November 10, 2003, to review the draft wildlife assessment components.

Task 3

Draft subbasin documents were published on each subbasin's public file exchange throughout the process. .

Task 4

A combined watershed planning / subbasin planning newsletter was generated by Walla Walla County covering activities in the Walla Walla Subbasin. This newsletter was mailed to approximately 200 interested parties in October 2003. Additional direct communications occurred with local stakeholders.

Task 5

Subbasin planning updates were provided at several meetings of the WRIA 32 Planning Unit, WRIA 35 Planning Unit, and Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council.

Task 6

Critical issues were identified throughout the planning process by the Asotin, Lower Snake, and Tucannon Subbasin Planning Team and the Walla Walla Subbasin Planning Team for their respective subbasins. These issues were tracked and resolved, wherever possible.