

# **White Salmon River**

## **Watershed Action Plan**

Developed April 2008 – July 2009  
Approved by WSWMC on xx, 2009 (PENDING)

A project of the White Salmon Watershed Management Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee, facilitated by Underwood Conservation District.

For more information or copies of this plan,  
go to: <http://w3.gorge.net/ucd/wswmc.htm>  
or contact Underwood Conservation District  
at (509)493-1936 or [ucd@gorge.net](mailto:ucd@gorge.net)  
White Salmon, WA

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Bill Anderson, Husum/BZ Community Council (primary)  
Pat Arnold, Friends of the White Salmon (Alternate)  
Sue Baker, USFS Columbia River Gorge NSA (primary)  
Lance Beckman, retired USFWS fishery biologist, local citizen  
Stephanie Caballero, USFS-Mt. Adams Ranger District (alternate)  
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Jon Cole, SDS Lumber Co. (alternate)  
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Wayne Vinyard, Hancock Forest Mgt (alternate)  
Bill Weiler, WDFW (primary)  
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TAC Members and Reviewers:

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Tova Cochrane, Underwood Conservation District  
Larry Marchant, USFWS – Spring Ck. Fish Hatchery  
Bill Mason, Friends of the White Salmon  
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## **Introduction**

The White Salmon Watershed Management Committee (WSWMC) initiated an effort in April 2008 to develop an Action Plan which includes the development of a Watershed Enhancement Project List. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed to help identify and characterize projects in the watershed. In conjunction with the WSWMC a list of Watershed Enhancement Projects was developed and a Project Ranking Process and Criteria were formulated in order to consider scientific, social, and economic factors.

The end goal is to create in this Action Plan a list of high-ranking projects with short descriptions so that potential project sponsors, partners, and funding sources can easily identify high-priority work. New projects that come up may be ranked and incorporated into the Action Plan at any time.

Having an up-to-date and comprehensive Work Plan will greatly assist local agencies and governments in accomplishing work in an organized, strategic manner. Projects include site restoration/rehabilitation, land management improvements, wildlife habitat enhancement, fish passage corrections at road crossings or irrigation diversions, educational programs, etc.

## **Decision Making**

The White Salmon Watershed Management Committee (WSWMC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will work by consensus of attending committee members.

## **Project Development Method**

The WSWMC and the TAC work collectively to solicit projects and to prioritize these activities for funding and implementation. Top priority projects are submitted by sponsors to various funding sources, primarily state and federal agencies who allocate money for watershed enhancement, habitat restoration, or other priorities. To ensure that available funds target the most important projects, proposed projects are put through a basin-wide prioritization process. Public and private entities (including small private landowners) seeking funding to conduct enhancement projects in the basin are strongly encouraged to submit proposals to the Watershed Management Committee for prioritization. This ensures the best use of available funds and will increase the likelihood of project funding due to support and backing by the Watershed Management Committee. Projects being submitted should include information asked for in the *Watershed Enhancement Project Submission Form* (Appendix A). Information given in the *Watershed Enhancement Project Submission Form* will directly inform the project review process and the project descriptions which eventually make up the Watershed Enhancement Project Action Plan.

Review of proposals and project prioritization is initiated by the TAC for technical merit. Proposals then go through review by the Watershed Management Committee for socioeconomic and other considerations. The *White Salmon River Watershed Enhancement Project Development Method* is summarized below as well as depicted on the following page.

### ***White Salmon River Watershed Enhancement Project Development Method***

#### Technical Review of Projects

- Project descriptions are submitted to the Watershed Management Committee or UCD staff on a standard *Project Submission Form* (Appendix A) or equivalent (an example would be a grant application summary) and are sent to TAC members prior to the meetings.
- The TAC's main focus is to assist with the watershed enhancement project prioritization based on projects' technical merits. At the meeting, the TAC uses the *Project Ranking Criteria* to assign a numeric score to each project (see *Project Ranking Criteria* below).
- After a score is assigned, the TAC will vote whether or not a project will be forwarded on to the Watershed Management Committee. If a project is not forwarded, it is sent back to the project sponsor with comments, suggestions, and explanations, and can be resubmitted at a later date.

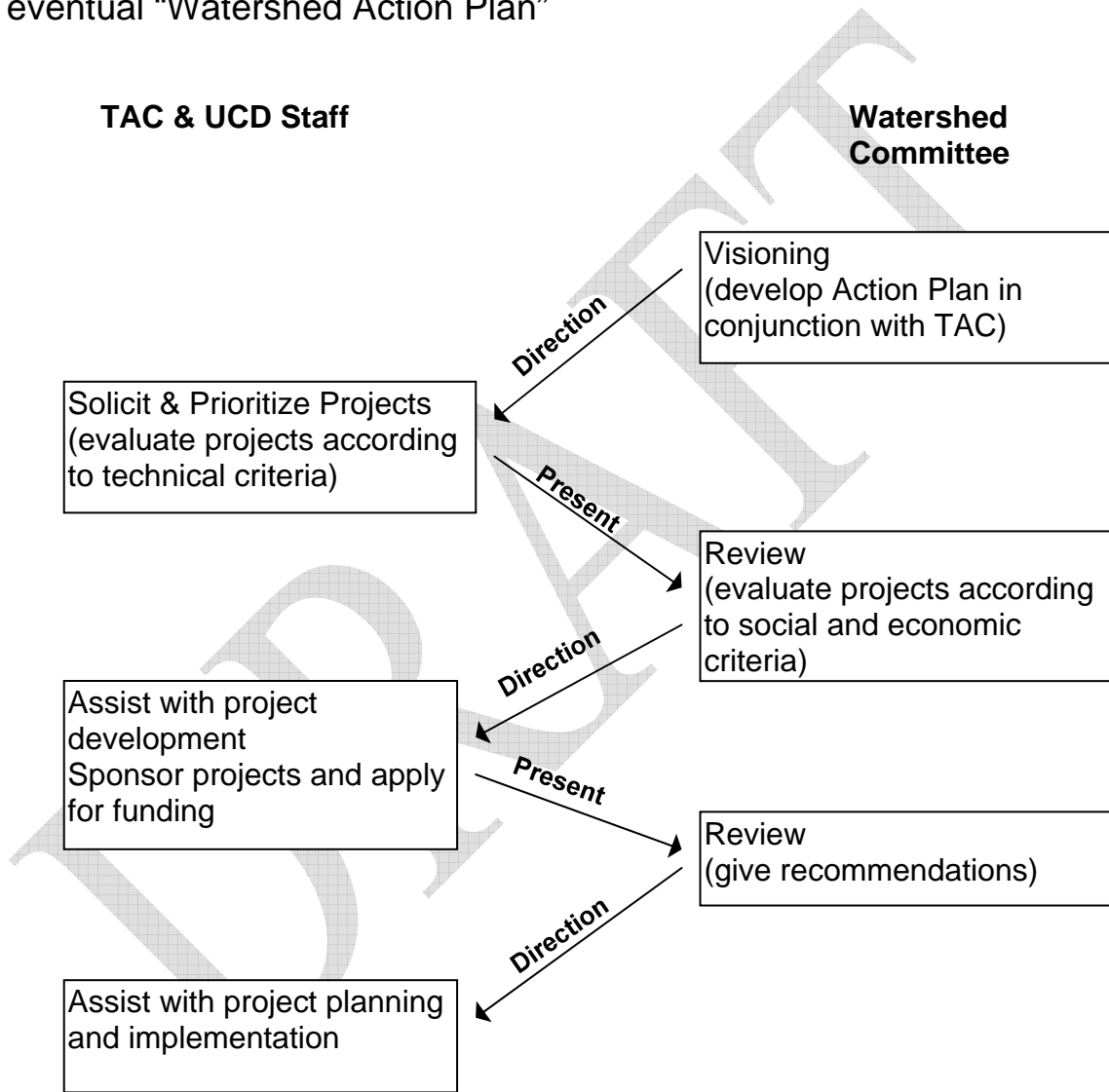
#### Watershed Management Committee Review of Projects

- Projects are forwarded to the Watershed Management Committee with a technical score and any comments by the TAC. Project descriptions are included with the mailing of the Watershed Management Committee's meeting agenda.
- At the meeting, the Watershed Management Committee reviews each project according to the same *Project Ranking Criteria* and any other special considerations. The Watershed Management Committee should consider any social, economic, or community issues related to the projects.
- The project is assigned a numeric value by the Watershed Management Committee and a sum of both the TAC's and WSWMC's scores will determine the project's overall priority. The final prioritization may be used by project sponsors to determine which projects are submitted for funding. It is worth noting that not all projects are appropriate for all funding sources; depending on the funding source, some projects may be passed over for more appropriate, but lower ranked, projects.
- The Watershed Management Committee may determine that a project is low priority or needs major revisions, in which case the Watershed Management Committee sends the project back to the TAC and the sponsor with an explanation. The project can then be resubmitted, with changes, to the TAC, and the process is repeated.

The following is a depiction of the *White Salmon River Watershed Enhancement Project Development Method*

Watershed Committee → Visioning

Watershed Committee and Technical Advisory Committee →  
Development of specific objectives for watershed enhancement -  
eventual “Watershed Action Plan”



## Project Ranking Criteria

The Project Ranking Criteria below was developed from discussions with the TAC and WSWMC, using examples from the SRFB Klickitat Lead Entity's Citizens Review Committee's Evaluation Criteria, the Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group's Project Evaluation Criteria, Underwood Conservation District's Cost-Share Project Rating Criteria, and the Hood River Watershed Group's Project Rating Methodology.

Projects will be ranked among other projects in their same Project Type. Within each Project Type, there may be 3 Tiers of projects after ranking: Important, Very Important, and Critical (low priority projects will likely be returned to the project sponsor with recommendations for improvement).

The questions below will each have one of three answers with points assigned. The higher the points in the outcome, the higher the project will be ranked.

### **Project Ranking Criteria:**

#### **1. Does the project have the biggest benefit for the costs?**

##### TAC Review

- Benefits could include:
  - feet of stream enhanced,
  - acres planted,
  - significance of species targeted.
- Costs could include:
  - monetary costs of project and amount of matching contributions from partners,
  - construction damage.

##### WSWMC Review

- Benefits could include:
  - number of people reached,
  - benefit to landowner's operation,
  - benefit to community or economy.
  - development of future support for watershed enhancement projects in the area.
- Costs could include:
  - monetary costs of project and amount of matching contributions from partners,
  - construction damage,
  - threats to downstream infrastructure or other liabilities,
  - loss of access or inconveniences to local community.

<i>Possible Points</i>	<i>Yes = 3</i>	<i>Possible = 2</i>	<i>No = 1</i>
<i>Enter Score</i>			
<i>Weight Multiplier</i>	<i>Multiply score by 2</i>	<i>Multiply score by 2</i>	<i>Multiply score by 2</i>
<i>Final Score for 1</i>			

**2. Does the project address a high-priority problem?**

TAC Review

- Is project addressing an important or overarching problem, such as a habitat forming process, or a habitat limiting factor?
- Is project addressing a T&E species?
- Does project fill an important data gap?

WSWMC Review

- Does project affect human health and safety?
- Is project addressing a community or population in need?

<i>Possible Points</i>	<i>Yes = 3</i>	<i>Possible = 2</i>	<i>No = 1</i>
<i>Enter Score</i>			
<i>Weight Multiplier</i>	<i>Multiply score by 3</i>	<i>Multiply score by 3</i>	<i>Multiply score by 3</i>
<i>Final Score for 2</i>			

**3. Is the project feasible and technically sound?**

TAC Review

- Do experts in the field or studies support the methodology?
- Are permits in place, or will the project be permissible?
- Is scope appropriate to meet goals and objectives?
- Is project timing and sequence with other actions appropriate?
- Is project planned well-enough to show attention to detail?

WSWMC Review

- Are there no major obstacles or constraints to successfully conducting the work?
- Are landowner and other partners willing (and is landowner willingness documented)?
- Are permits in place, or will the project be permissible?
- Do sponsors, partners, or landowners have good records of implementing sound projects?
- Is project safe to implement?

<i>Possible Points</i>	<i>Yes = 3</i>	<i>Possible = 2</i>	<i>No = 1</i>
<i>Enter Score</i>			
<i>Weight Multiplier</i>	<i>Multiply score by 2</i>	<i>Multiply score by 2</i>	<i>Multiply score by 2</i>
<i>Final Score for 3</i>			

**4. Is the project supported by other groups, agencies and government regulations?**

TAC Review

- Is the project supported by a documented habitat assessment, recovery plan, or other plan?

WSWMC Review

- Is project relevant to identified community issues or concerns?
- Is project supported by local community, local governments, and regulations?
- If an education project, is the approach supported by WA state learning standards?

<i>Possible Points</i>	<i>Yes = 3</i>	<i>Possible = 2</i>	<i>No = 1</i>
<i>Enter Score</i>			
<i>Weight Multiplier</i>	<i>Multiply score by 1</i>	<i>Multiply score by 1</i>	<i>Multiply score by 1</i>
<i>Final Score for 4</i>			

**5. Does the project have multiple benefits?**

TAC Review

- Does the project address more than one species, natural resource concern, or habitat type?

WSWMC Review

- Does the project include both on-the-ground and education/community components?
- If an education project, is approach interdisciplinary, involving experiential learning, multiple subjects or ages?

<i>Possible Points</i>	<i>Yes = 3</i>	<i>Possible = 2</i>	<i>No = 1</i>
<i>Enter Score</i>			
<i>Weight Multiplier</i>	<i>Multiply score by 1</i>	<i>Multiply score by 1</i>	<i>Multiply score by 1</i>
<i>Final Score for 5</i>			

**6. Do the project benefits have long-term sustainability?**

TAC Review

- Is the project methodology long-lasting?
- What is the life expectancy or design life of the project?
- Is the landowner or other partner committed to long-term maintenance?
- Are conditions stable enough for this project to last?
- Will more action be required in the future?

WSWMC Review

- Is there community, partner, and landowner support?
- Is the landowner or other partner committed to long-term maintenance?
- Is there continuous funding or resources available to maintain project?

<i>Possible Points</i>	<i>Yes = 3</i>	<i>Possible = 2</i>	<i>No = 1</i>
<i>Enter Score</i>			
<i>Weight Multiplier</i>	<i>Multiply score by 2</i>	<i>Multiply score by 2</i>	<i>Multiply score by 2</i>
<i>Final Score for 6</i>			

TAC Score (sum of all 6 weighted scores): \_\_\_\_\_

WSWMC Score (sum of all 6 weighted scores): \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Project Score (sum of TAC and WSWMC scores):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Watershed Enhancement Project Action Plan**

The end result of this ranking will be a list of prioritized projects (Tiers 1, 2, and 3 within each Project Type), and a ½ page – 1 page short description of the top priority projects listed. This creates a strategic Watershed Action Plan.

For each Project Type, there will be a list of project descriptions which include the following information, as provided in the original *Watershed Enhancement Project Submission Form*:

- 
- WEF #.
  - Project Title.
  - Project Ranking Score and Tier
  - Sponsor.
  - Landowner.
  - General Location.
  - Key Issues and Problems (short description).
  - Project Objectives and Solutions (short description).
  - Schedule and Timing of Actions.
  - Total Project Cost and Matching Partner Contributions.
-

*(Remainder of Action Plan to be Completed as Project Ranking Occurs and High-Priority Projects are Described for Inclusion in this Document.)*

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Appendix A

Watershed Enhancement Project Submission Form

*White Salmon River Watershed Management Committee  
Action Plan Development*

*\*All project submissions will be reviewed and landowner permission will be acquired prior to inclusion in the final Action Plan. Thank you for your input!  
\*\* Please return form to: **Underwood Conservation District** at 170 NW Lincoln • Park Center Building • PO Box 96 • White Salmon WA 98672 • tovacochrane@gorge.net*

1. Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Subbasin (circle one):      White Salmon River Mainstem      Buck Creek  
Rattlesnake Creek   Indian Creek      Gilmer Creek      Trout Lake Creek  
other: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Describe Location: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Landowner (if known): \_\_\_\_\_
5. Current Status (circle one):  
Proposed      Planned      Ongoing      Complete
6. Source of Project Idea (optional: name and contact information): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Potential Sponsors or Supporting Parties (who might support, help fund, or implement this project?): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Use separate paper to answer the following questions in a short narrative (questions are based directly off of the Project Ranking Criteria to be used by the TAC and WSWMC).*

8. Short Description of Problem and Proposed Solution (use back of sheet if necessary).
9. Describe Benefits of Proposed Project (includes: number of people reached, feet of stream enhanced, acres planted, significance of species targeted, benefit to landowner's operation, benefit to community or economy).

10. Will implementation of project build community support for watershed enhancement projects in the area?
11. Describe Project Budget and other Costs (includes: monetary costs of project and amount of match contributions from partners, construction damage, threats to downstream infrastructure or other liabilities, loss of access or inconveniences to local community).
12. Describe Project Feasibility and Support (e.g. Do experts in the field or studies support the methodology? Is scope appropriate to meet goals and objectives? Are there no major obstacles or constraints to successfully conducting the work? Are landowner and other partners willing (and is landowner willingness documented)? Is project timing and sequence with other actions appropriate? Are permits in place, or will the project be permissible? Is project planned well-enough to show attention to detail? Do sponsors, partners, or landowners have good records of implementing sound projects? Is project safe to implement?).
13. Is the project supported by a documented habitat assessment, recovery plan, or other plan?
14. Is project relevant to identified community issues or concerns? Is project supported by local community, local governments, and regulations?
15. If an education project, is the approach supported by WA state learning standards?
16. Does the project have multi-species benefits? Does the project include an education component? If solely an education project, is approach interdisciplinary, involving experiential learning, multiple subjects, or ages?
17. Do the project benefits have long-term sustainability? Is there community, partner, and landowner support? Is the landowner or other partner committed to long-term maintenance? Is the methodology long-lasting? What is the life expectancy of the project? Is there continuous funding available to maintain project? Are conditions stable enough for this project to last? Will more action be required?
18. Other details not covered above, but worth describing here?