

3.0. THE JACKSON CREEK WATERSHED PLANNING STRUCTURE.

3.1. Jackson Creek Stakeholders Advisory Committee.

The Jackson Creek Stakeholders Advisory Committee is formed in coordination with the Bear Creek Watershed Council, which is Chartered in accordance with HB2215. The Committee depends entirely on voluntary efforts and is not a regulatory or enforcement body, nor does it adopt plans or rules in a legal sense. Instead, the Committee makes recommendations to decision-makers, landowners, and managers on ways to protect and enhance the Jackson Creek watershed. Implementation of the recommendations in the Action Plan also will be a completely voluntary effort. The Jackson Creek Stakeholder Advisory Committee provides a framework for communication, collaboration, and cooperation among its member organizations and others. Staff support and technical assistance is provided to the Committee by the Rogue Valley Council of Governments under the purview of the Bear Creek Watershed Council, and is funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Environmental Protection Agency Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (319 Program), U.S. Forest Service Rogue River National Forest Northwest Forest Plan (Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative), and local governments.

The Jackson Creek Stakeholders Advisory Committee was organized by local stakeholders, area residents, and representatives of local governments and organizations during a series of public meetings held during Spring 2000. The RVCOG arranged for staff support to organize the meetings, and begin the technical assessment. Technical information on watershed conditions was compiled and presented by the Technical Advisory Committee (a group of natural resources professionals) to the Stakeholders Advisory Committee (local representatives of the community and community organizations) during the public meetings. The Committee then identified stakeholder groups representing various interests that should be involved in the watershed assessment and planning process.

3.2. Stakeholders Groups.

The stakeholder groups identified by the Committee were:

- ◆ Area residents
 - ◆ Agricultural interests (including irrigation districts)
 - ◆ Bear Creek Watershed Council
 - ◆ Cities of Central Point, Jacksonville, and Medford
 - ◆ Developers (residential, commercial)
 - ◆ Environmental organizations
 - ◆ Fisheries management agencies
 - ◆ Floodplain residents (100 year floodplain)
 - ◆ Forest-land owners and forestry organizations (including ODF, USFS, BLM, and private timber companies)
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- ◆ Jacksonville Woodlands Association, greenspace conservation and environmental educational organizations

- ◆ Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
- ◆ Mining interests (rock quarries, and recreational gold panning, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industry)
- ◆ Public land managers (OSU Extension Service, USFS J. H. Stone Nursery, and Parks and Recreation Departments of the respective cities)
 - ◆ Public utilities (Pacific Power, Bear Creek Valley Sanitary Authority)
 - ◆ Recreation interests, motorized off-highway vehicles, hiking, mountain bicycling etc.
 - ◆ State, county, and city road maintenance departments

3.3. Public Involvement and Organization Process.

Information for this section contributed by John Morrison and Beth Franklin (RVCOG), and Debra Kidd (USBR).

The participation of local citizens and technical personnel is a critical component of the Jackson Creek Watershed Assessment, as local citizens will live in the watershed and protect and enhance its resources. It is necessary to inform the public about data, information, issues and concerns developed through the assessment process. Consequently, as part of this assessment, a public involvement program is being carried out so that:

- ◆ key issues can be accurately identified;
- ◆ stakeholders can meaningfully participate in the assessment process;
- ◆ public awareness and understanding of the assessment process and assessment results can be generated; and,
- ◆ a foundation of support for the assessment outcomes can be built as a result of the forgoing understanding and participation.

Communication among local citizens and interest groups provides for feedback and interaction throughout the process, and is directed at building consensus about decisions based upon a clear understanding of the problems, the options available, and the consequences of the decisions. Three broad strata for public involvement within the Jackson Creek Watershed are:

- ◆ **Stakeholders** - Those with very focused, often tangible interests in the matters covered by the watershed assessment. Frequently, stakeholders are such people as property owners, businessmen, community leaders, or others with a social, financial, or legal interest.
- ◆ **Organized Interest Groups** - Multiple organized groups within the community will be impacted by the actions taken as a result of the assessment. These groups have a need for timely, in-depth information about the assessment and action planning process, and will perform a key role in implementing watershed restoration activities. These groups include the Irrigation Districts, Jacksonville Woodlands Association, Motorcycle Riders Association, Jackson County Historical Society, local governmental agencies and political officials, local developers, and other interested

organizations.

- ♦ **General Public** - The larger Jacksonville, Central Point, and Medford community.

Shown below is the strategy developed to implement the SAC Process and Community outreach process.

Figure 3.1. Public Involvement/Public Outreach Strategy

Phase	Technical Purposes	PI/PO Purposes	Communication Techniques
I	1. Conduct Assessment 2. Develop preliminary Action Plan 3. Identify demonstration projects	1. Involve SAC 2. Outreach to Interest Groups 3. Distribute information to General Public	The SAC maintains communication lines to general public, letters, phone calls, review and comment on documents. Send mailings to 430 tax lots adjacent to Jackson Creek, articles in Assoc. newsletters, speakers bureau, one-on-one meetings. Provide information materials to Cities of Central Point and Jacksonville, and distribute at library branches, press releases, articles in Jacksonville Review, feature story in Central Point Times.
II	1. Implement demonstration projects 2. Modify/refine Action Plan	1. Involve Interest Groups 2. Outreach to general public	Form work crews to participate in demonstration projects and conduct tours, hold a public meeting on refinement of the Action Plan, prepare a flyer in irrigation district billings and city utility bills, hold open house meetings, prepare media releases, and school projects.
III	Implement modified Action Plan	Develop guidance document for PI/PO Planning	Write and produce guidance document. Develop and implement distribution plan.

3.4. Technical Advisory Committee.

The Jackson Creek Watershed Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is comprised of federal, state, and regional natural resources professionals and local officials. This group is charged with completing sections of the assessment associated with their technical expertise based on the guidelines provided by the Oregon Watershed Assessment Manual and providing technical assistance in making key decisions during the progress of the project.

The Technical Advisory Committee is composed of professionals from the following disciplines:

engineering, hydrology, fish biology, water quality and wetlands. The cities, agencies, and local community organizations represented by the Technical Advisory Committee include: Rogue Valley Council of Governments, City of Jacksonville, City of Central Point, Bureau of Reclamation, Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The committees also agreed to respect each other's areas of expertise and alternative points of view. The SAC agreed to rely on TAC for their technical expertise and the TAC agreed to respect the SAC's input and local experience on the land in the watershed. The Committee works closely with multiple local, state, and federal agencies and organizations. Implementation of the actions described in the Phase II Action Plan would not be possible without the commitment, collaboration, and technical expertise of these groups. A separate Technical Appendix supplements the watershed assessment, providing background information used in developing the watershed assessment.

Many Technical Advisory Committee members have provided in-kind assistance match for grant funding and have greatly contributed to the success of this project. The contribution of many hours of their time has provided this assessment with a thorough compilation and analysis of current data. Where time and available resources have allowed, limited on-the-ground field surveys were also performed. In instances where field surveys were not possible, the need for them has been noted and data gaps have been identified. Preparing watershed assessments is an iterative process that develops fully over time as further data is compiled, and ground-truthing, monitoring and enhancement activities take place. The assessment provides baseline data for the Jackson Creek watershed that will be added to as more is learned about the functioning of the watershed.

The Stakeholders Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee share many duties, including:

- ◆ Review and comment on all phases of the planning process, and on project actions,
- ◆ Input and direction on reports summarizing progress and accomplishments,
- ◆ Educating the public about the project and the decision-making process,
- ◆ Providing local perspective on the assessment, action plan, and monitoring plan.

3.5. Mission and Goals for the Jackson Creek Watershed.

On May 16, 2000 the Stakeholders Advisory Committee met and agreed upon the following Statement of Purpose to provide ground rules and a framework for discussion during the Watershed Assessment and Action Planning Process:

"We are a Committee with a shared purpose. We each commit to partnering with our fellow members to successfully achieve our purpose. As a member of the Committee, I represent a unique constituency and perspective, I will communicate my perspective and act as the communication link to my constituency about the project. I consider each member of the Committee to be a valuable resource. I commit to hearing and integrating alternative points of view."

The Committee then formulated a Statement of Mission, and formed Goals to address the restoration and protection needs identified from the technical information. Representatives of the respective stakeholder groups conducted several work sessions to define watershed mission and goals, and plan the administration of the program. The Goals were formed through a consensus process by stakeholders in an open group meeting on August 14, 2000. The Mission formulated was:

Mission: *To protect and enhance the quality of life and natural resources of the Jackson Creek Watershed.*

- Goals:**
- 1. Promote and enhance the beneficial human uses of natural resources in the Jackson Creek Watershed in balance with the economic livelihood of the Jackson Creek Watershed Communities.**
 - 2. Initiate and support natural resource data collection, analysis, and monitoring in the Jackson Creek Watershed (including surface and ground water sources).**
 - 3. Provide technical assistance and support funding for implementation of the Jackson Creek Watershed Action Plan and its component water quality improvements.**
 - 4. Assist and support Jackson Creek Watershed agriculture and irrigation districts in addressing SB1010 objectives.**
 - 5. Reduce contaminants in both surface and ground water sources to improve water quality.**
 - 6. Develop drainage, stormwater runoff, and flood management programs for the Jackson Creek system.**

- 7. Develop upland forest and urban interface zone management plans to reduce fire hazards.**
- 8. Promote management of vegetation in the watershed to increase native plant species, control exotic species, enhance riparian habitat, and reduce streambank erosion.**
- 9. Protect and enhance existing wetlands and encourage development of new wetland areas.**
- 10. Support and maintain a public involvement and education program to address the concerns of landowners, stakeholders, resource managers, and people in the Jackson Creek Watershed.**

The *Mission Statement* directed the selection of *Goals* for the program, which in turn leads to the formulation of *Objectives* for restoration, and *Actions* for implementation.

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