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scope and effectiveness  
of conservation

# Counting on the Environment



## Building Regional Capacity to Implement Multi-Credit Ecosystem Services Markets

### Need

The Willamette Partnership recently secured a multi-agency agreement to implement an ecosystem credit accounting system that includes a package of metrics to calculate multiple ecosystem services from the same action and a standard credit issuance process that works across agency boundaries. This process, called Counting on the Environment, was designed as a model to be implemented in other watersheds that would eventually link emerging markets throughout the Northwest. Securing multi-agency agreement in Oregon was a big milestone. Now we need to expand this multi-credit approach to other watersheds to ensure consistent, ecologically sound and transparent market operation throughout the region. Under this grant, the Willamette Partnership will conduct the feasibility analysis, convening work, and planning required to successfully implement the Counting on the Environment process in at least two additional watersheds in the Pacific Northwest.

### Objectives

In the summer of 2009, the Willamette Partnership conducted an initial screening of 30 watersheds in the Pacific Northwest to gauge potential to implement multi-credit markets. The Willamette Partnership will use this initial screening and follow-up interviews to develop more complete viability assessments in at least 8 watersheds to determine where ecological need and political acceptability are most promising.

Based on the results of viability assessments, the Willamette Partnership will select at least four watersheds with high potential to implement the Counting on the Environment process and manage a multi-credit marketplace. The Partnership will work with local stakeholders to develop implementation

strategies for market design, valuation metrics and user tools needed for market implementation. Final implementation strategies will include locally appropriate process design and key stakeholders required to gain necessary approvals, a list of target currencies, and identified adjustments to the credit issuance process and tools.

### Timeline and Work

This project will be carried out over 18 months with screening interviews with stakeholders taking place in the fall of 2009 and winter of 2010. Workshops with targeted watersheds will take place in the late spring and summer of 2010. The Partnership will begin fundraising for program implementation with local stakeholders in the fall of 2010.



### Budget

The total project budget is \$300,000.00. This project is funded through two \$75,000 cash grants from the Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets and \$150,000.00 in technical work that will define currencies for a temperature trading program in the Snake River Basin.

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