

Partnership News Report



Special points of interest:

- New Staff
- "Counting on the Environment" Set to Kick-off with first Working Group Workshop Scheduled for November 20, 21, 2008,
- Updated Website
- New Publications



*Increasing the pace, scope,
and effectiveness of
conservation in the
Willamette Basin*

WP: In the News

In early September the Willamette Partnership published a response to an article run by The Oregonian that touched upon many of the environmental quality issues that the Partnership addresses on a daily basis.

Follow the link below for the full-text of the response: [Time to Support DEQ](#)

Our Team Is Growing

With the help and support of our Partners, the Willamette Partnership has accomplished a lot in the last couple of years. Now, as a result of that support, we have gained enough momentum to attract an outstanding team that will help us accelerate progress toward our mission.

Mac Martin has joined us in support development of the functions based accounting system and user tools as part of the "Counting on the Environment" project funded by our Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant. His natural resource management background includes non-profit work with Defenders of Wildlife, the National Forest Foundation and public work with Clean Water Services.

Bobby Cochran has joined as the lead project manager on the NRCS project. Bobby has been a consistent presence in nearly all of the Partnership's activities in the past two years. We are fortunate to have him officially in a project management capacity. Bobby specializes in developing collaborative policy tools and approaches at the intersection between economics, technology, and the environment.

Joni Shaffer has joined us as our administrative associate. Her background is as a legal assistant and office manager. She brings years of experience that will help us stay better organized and maintain more frequent contact with stakeholders. Joni will be our information hub—providing access to information people need to stay engaged.

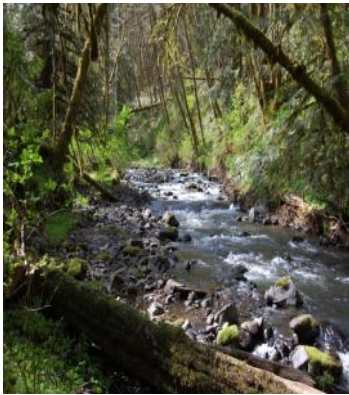
— David Primožich, Executive Director

"Counting on the Environment" Set to Kick-Off

Willamette Partnership and Willamette University are hosting a Kick-off Workshop November 20-21 for the Counting on the Environment project. This is the first of five workshops funded by a grant from NRCS that will be held over the next two years to get agreement on the science and tools needed for emerging ecosystem markets to work. Participants include 25 representatives from state, federal, local government, and non-governmental organizations. There will be opportunities for broader involvement as the project moves along. Keep track of current and new products on the Partnership's website. (See "Counting on the Environment" on page 2)

Finalizing the Temperature Trading Handbook

When the Willamette Partnership was awarded a Targeted Watershed Grant by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2006, it took on some significant responsibilities related to the design and application of an ecosystem service marketplace in the Willamette Basin. Currently, the Partnership is wrapping up a few loose ends in order to create a trading handbook for buyers and sellers interested in trading temperature credits in such a marketplace. This publication will provide the practical information that non-experts with an interest in water temperature trading can use to enter and operate in the marketplace effectively. The Partnership expects to deliver the handbook to the EPA by December and make it available to the public soon after. (See "Handbook" on page 2)



Sain Creek in the Tualatin Basin

“Counting on the Environment” (Continued)

As the Willamette Partnership wrapped up its work on its Targeted Watershed Grant to build a framework for ecosystem markets and a functioning market for water temperature, it was clear there was more work. Farmers and foresters needed an easy way to turn their restored stream corridors, protected wetlands, and sustainable practices into credits that could help finance this work.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service stepped in with a major grant over the next

two years to help do just that. With the contributions of many partners, this Counting on the Environment project will get agreement on a method that allows land managers and regulators to efficiently calculate several kinds of potential ecosystem service credits, and make them available for sale.

The Partnership will engage federal, state, and local agencies to get their thumbs up to use the method in real markets. Finally, the project will build a set of user-friendly tools that

make it cheaper and easier for landowners to access these new markets.

There are other projects working on similar tools around the country. The Partnership is actively working to make sure tools are compatible and to avoid reinventing any wheels.

Look for the first draft methods to come up in Winter 2008 or Spring 2009 with tools following shortly thereafter. This work will be completed by August 2010.



Fish Ladder, Clear Creek, Tualatin Basin

“Handbook” (Continued)

The handbook will include a brief introduction of the history of basin-wide restoration and conservation initiatives in the Willamette Basin; a more detailed description of what a credit is, what activities can generate a credit and the service areas it might be used in; a critical look at the processes credit sellers and buyers must engage in; and finally a dedicated section for buyers and a

dedicated section for sellers that takes each through the entire trading process. Actual examples of trades, and descriptions of existing buyers and sellers, will be used whenever possible to demonstrate how a temperature credit trade really works.

The handbook will also touch on some of the long-term concerns involved with trading tempera-

ture credits, such as longevity issues and verification responsibilities.

As this handbook is still in development, critical comments and suggestions are welcome. Please contact Mac Martin with your contributions.

Willamettepartnership.org: New Publications Available



Sunrise on the Willamette River

[Developing the Willamette Ecosystem Marketplace](#). This report documents work completed under our Targeted Watershed Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. People have enjoyed the full report, but if you only have a little time, we suggest you read the lessons learned sections of chapters 3-7 and the full chapters of 9 and 10

[Policy Playbook for an Integrated Ecosystem Services Marketplace](#). This document is the result of hard work by attendees of two policy work sessions, one in January, one in May, that explored how we can bring an integrated ecosystem services marketplace to fruition. Working with a diverse group of stakeholders, we considered current state policies and practices, and identified specific

strategies for moving away from a command-and-control system based on regulatory prescriptions to an outcomes-based approach allowing for innovation and problem-solving.