Black River, Cascade Mountains, and Willapa Hills Water Use Strategy (ASRP 23-1808)

The goal of this project is to identify water conservation projects with water users that will increase the amount of water in streams impacted by low summer flows in the Chehalis Basin.

Max Trujillo, Project Manager

WASHINGTON WATER TRUST

Check out our website!

Project Overview

This project consists of two major components:

1) STRATEGY

Development of a local strategy for water use project implementation, informed by water use analysis & prioritization, partner collaboration, and water user outreach.

2) OUTREACH

Landowner outreach, guided by water use analysis and partner coordination, will identify potential future water use projects.

ASRP Species Benefiting

- **Salmonids**: fall and spring-run Chinook, coho, chum, and steelhead
- **Non-salmonids:** Oregon spotted frog, Olympic mud-minnow

ASRP Limiting Factors

- High Water Temperatures
- Low Flows

Project Deliverables/Metrics

Strategy

Metrics/Deliverables

- ❖1 Water Use Dashboard
- ❖1 Portfolio of Priority Water Use Projects
- ❖1 Implementation Plan
- ❖1 Final Report

Outcomes

- ❖Initial Dashboard Developed
- ❖Priority Project Selection in Progress!
- ❖Implementation Plan and Final Report Upcoming.

Lessons Learned

- ❖Multiple subbasin assessment = large amount of eligible projects
- ❖Project Criteria or Geography Can Be Assessed in Future Assessments

Outreach

Metrics/Deliverables

- ❖Water Rights Workshops in Target Ecological Regions
- ❖# Water Users Reached
- ❖# Workshop Attendees
- ❖# Landowner Engagement & Site Visits
- ❖# Letters of Interest

Outcomes

- ❖Cascade Mountains/Willapa Hills Workshop
  - ❖~30 Attendess
  - ❖4 Interested Water Users
  - ❖2 Site Visits
- ❖Black River (Scatter Creek) Workshop
  - ❖~20 Attendees
  - ❖4 Interested Parties
  - ❖2 Site Visits
  - ❖1 ongoing collaboration
- ❖Upcoming Additional Black River Workshop in Nov. 2025
- ❖Outreach Ongoing!

Lessons Learned

- ❖Workshop Timing is important for attendance
- ❖Developing landowner relationships is time intensive
- ❖Survey/Data Collection Needed to Better Understand Effective Modes of Outreach

Project Timeline & Budget

Total Project Cost = $239,094

	TASKS	2023	2024											2025												2026					
		Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1	**ADMIN & PROJECT MANAGEMENT**																														
	General Administration & Planning																														
	Project Management & Coordination																														
2	**WATER USE ASSESSMENT**																														
	Water Rights Due Diligence																														
	Water Rights Prioritization																														
	Irrigation Delineation																														
	On ground validation (windshield tour)																														
	Water Use Decision Support Dashboard																														
3	**OUTREACH PLANNING**																														
	Internal Review WR Assessments																														
	Outreach Strategy: Coordination and Engagement																														
	Outreach Activities: Water Rights 101 workshops (3)																														
	Landowner Visits																														
4	**IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING**																														
	Water Transaction Projects Prioritization																														
	Implementation Planning																														
5	**FINAL REPORT**																														
	Memo: write final memo including outreach & implementation findings																														

Water Use Project Types

- Purchase/Lease
- Irrigation Efficiency
- Change Crop Type
- Source Switch
- Temporary or Permanent Trust Donation

Project Objectives

1) **First Round of Outreach** in Black River and Willapa Hills Ecological Regions, with priority water users identified from 2020 Water Use Assessment.

2) **Implementation Plan** for potential water conservation projects following landowner outreach.

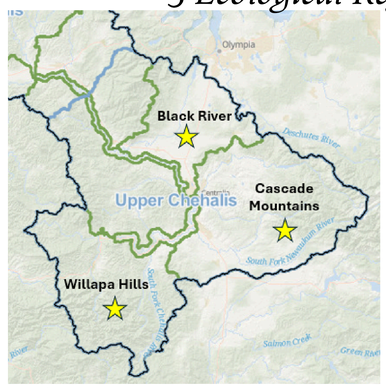
3) **2024 Water Use Assessment** within the Black River, Willapa Hills, and Cascade Mountains Ecological Regions.

4) **Second Round of Outreach** to landowners based on 2024 Water Use Assessment.

5) **Final Report** summarizing outreach and assessment findings, and implementation plan.

Project Location

3 Ecological Regions



Willapa Hills

- S. Fork Chehalis River
- Stillman Creek
- Lake Creek
- Crim Creek
- Elk Creek
- Chehalis River

Black River

- Scatter Creek
- Beaver Creek
- Black River

Cascade Mountains

- S. Fork Newaukum River
- N. Fork Newaukum River
- Skookumchuck River