

McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group

Operating Agreement

Purpose:

The McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group (MWSG) is a group of diverse stakeholders with the common goal of enhancing ecological functions within the McKenzie Watershed and promoting the economic viability of local communities. The MWSG partners with Willamette National Forest and other federal land management agencies to use stewardship contracting and other innovative tools that support priority ecosystem restoration projects.

The MWSG is a forum for information sharing, coordinated planning and collaboration around common restoration goals. This forum enables early identification of potential opportunities or concerns about planned forest management activities.

Desired Outcomes:

- Restoration of healthy ecosystems, protection of municipal water supplies, and improved economic viability of local communities within the McKenzie Watershed
- Stewardship contracts implemented on the McKenzie River Ranger District and supported by diverse stakeholders
- Stewardship contracting and other innovative tools increase the pace and extent of habitat restoration and protection of water quality in the McKenzie watershed
- Enhanced communication and trust between stakeholders in the watershed
- Excess receipts generated by stewardship contracting support agreed-upon watershed restoration priorities on both public and private lands
- Projects have multi-party monitoring and successes are recognized, recorded and communicated

Membership:

At the time of this agreement the MWSG consists of the following organizations. All organizations have one vote each with the exception of the Forest Service.

Organization
Bureau of Land Management, Eugene
Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development
Cascadia Wildlands

Organization
Eugene Water & Electric Board
McKenzie River Trust
McKenzie Watershed Council
Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon Wild
University of Oregon, Ecosystem Workforce Program
Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District
U.S. Forest Service, Willamette National Forest
Whitewater Forests LLC

*Desired additional members could include: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and Industry Representative

Organization representatives will be designated by their respective organizations. New members may be added by a consensus decision of the current membership. Members may decide to leave the group at any time.

Guests are welcome to attend as observers and may participate in discussions at the discretion of the facilitator. Guests that participate in the meetings agree to respect the operating procedures of the group.

The MWSG may appoint task teams to work on specific projects on behalf of the group that include other interested parties as needed to ensure diverse representation, outside expertise and participation from local communities. Teams will report to the full membership for action on projects.

Roles and Responsibilities:

MWSG members work together to:

- Identify priority restoration projects within the McKenzie Watershed
- Provide input and recommendations to the Forest Service line officer on forest and watershed restoration projects and use of stewardship receipts
- Share technical resources, local knowledge and ideas for initiatives

Forest Service:

Staff representatives from the Willamette National Forest and Northwest Region:

- Provide technical expertise on resource management to the group
- Share specific plans and projects that could benefit from collaborative input at the beginning stages of planning

- Work with the group to bring financial resources to collaborative projects
- Support restoration efforts across the watershed to encourage whole-watershed restoration
- Communicate decisions pertaining to activities on national forest lands within the McKenzie Watershed to the group

Operating Procedures

All members of the MWSG agree to:

- Support the purpose and objectives of the group.
- Participate actively by attending meetings, providing input and honest feedback, and communicating with other members and interested parties about MWSG activities.
- Work towards common ground for coordinated action, not necessarily agreement.
- Listen fully to seek understanding of other's perspectives and address ideas, not individuals.
- Air problems, disagreements and critical information during meetings to avoid surprises.
- Disclose any potential or perceived conflict of interests in advance of any group decisions.
- Respect and support the role of the facilitator in managing group process by engaging in civil discourse and holding others accountable to do the same.
- Provide timely notice if unable to attend meetings.
- When communicating with outside groups and/or the media about MWSG activities, represent your own organization's perspective unless otherwise agreed to by the group.

Decision-Making

The MWSG will strive to reach consensus in decision-making in a way that meaningfully addresses the interests and concerns of all members. If all parties cannot support, or at least live with, a decision after full discussion of a topic, consensus cannot be reached. In this case, a vote will then be scheduled for the following meeting so that all members have an opportunity to participate in the decision, unless there is significant time-sensitivity to a decision.

When a decision-making process requires voting, a simple majority, not including Forest Service representatives (and other federal agencies) and guests, is required to take a position and allow the group to move forward. However, the level of agreement and reasons why some members cannot support the majority will be recorded. Minority reports may also be submitted.

Participating members can send proxies to participate in decision-making if they cannot attend the meeting and have given advance notice to the group. Proxies must be an informed representative of the MWSG membership. Members can also convey their decisions/votes electronically when appropriate.

Amendments

This operating agreement may be revised at any time by consensus of the membership.

Definitions

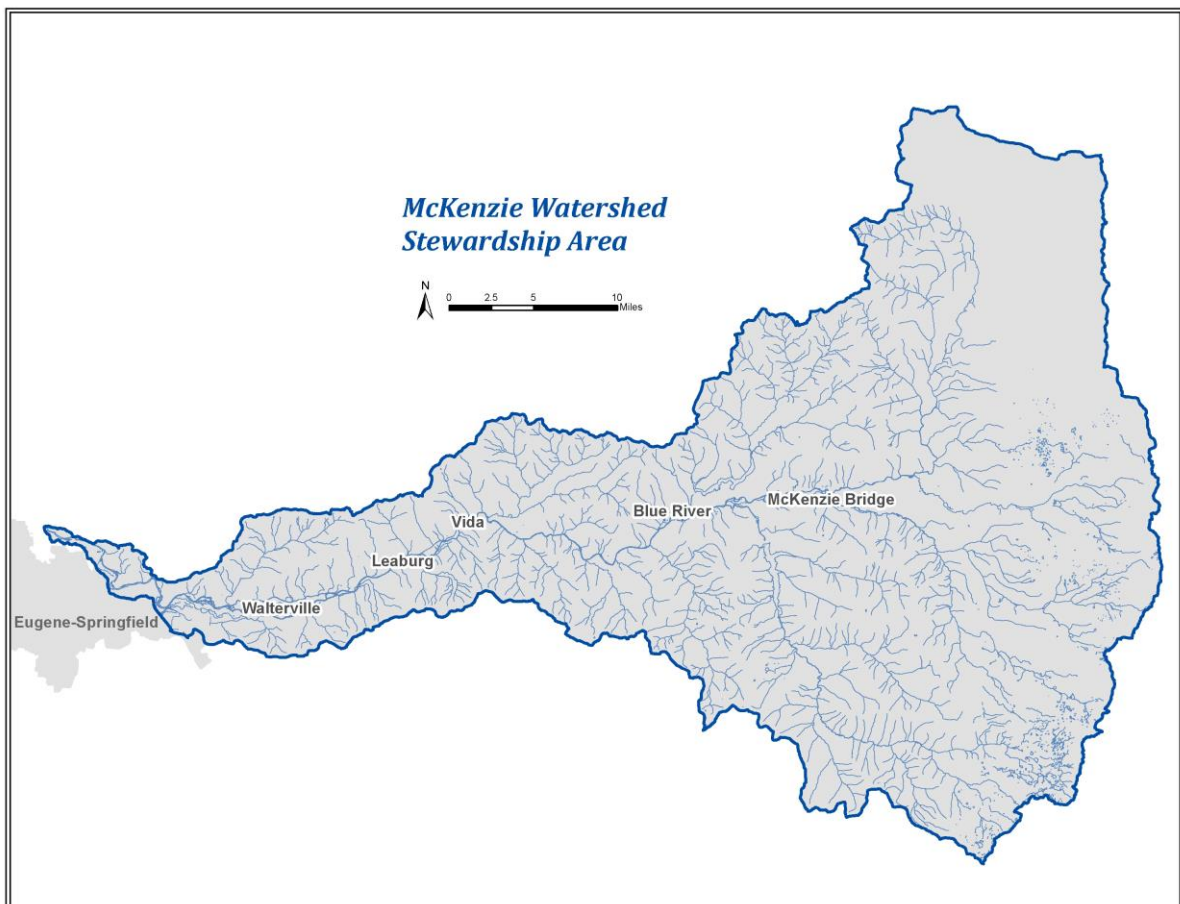
Stewardship contracting: a set of tools that allows the Forest Service to enter into contracts and agreements to implement integrated forest and watershed restoration projects and create local benefit.

Conflict of interest: a situation where a member or any of his/her immediate family would obtain personal financial gain or avoid financial detriment from a decision made by the group that would not otherwise be realized if not participating in the group.

Consensus: A consensus decision is made with the support of all participants. Consensus is reached when all members agree on a single alternative or action to move the group forward. Each member, at a minimum, “can live with” the decision even if it is not his/her preferred alternative. If a member feels that he or she cannot participate in the decision and would oppose action, consensus has not been reached.

Stewardship Area

The McKenzie River Watershed, minus the Mohawk River drainage.




Statement of Commitment

All members of the McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group agree to the Operating Agreement above.

AGREED:

By 
Karl Morgenstern
Environmental Management Supervisor
Eugene Water & Electric Board

Date 7/17/14

By 
Terry Baker
District Ranger
McKenzie River Ranger District, U.S. Forest
Service

Date 3/10/14

By 
Kirk Shimeall
Executive Director
Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation &
Development

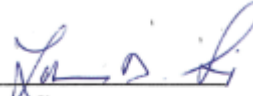
Date 3/10/14

By 
Josh Laughlin
Campaign Director
Cascadia Wildlands

Date 3/10/14

By 
Joe Moll
Executive Director
McKenzie River Trust

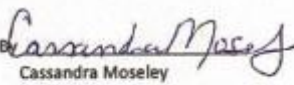
Date December 5, 2014

By 
Larry Six
Council Coordinator
McKenzie Watershed Council

Date 3-6-2014

By 
Greg Wagenblast
South Cascade District Forester
Oregon Department of Forestry

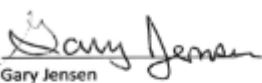
Date 12/1/2014

By 
Cassandra Moseley
Director, Institute for a Sustainable
Environment Ecosystem Workforce
University of Oregon Program


Date 4/8/14

By 
Chandra LeGue
Western Oregon Field Coordinator
Oregon Wild

Date 3/12/14

By 
Gary Jensen
Board Member
Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation
District

Date 10 March 2014

By 
Brett Blundon
District Fish Biologist
Eugene Bureau of Land Management

Date 7/14/14

By 
Gordon Culbertson
Whitewater Forests LLC

Date 12-8-14