

South Fork John Day River Watershed Council

Action Plan



Signature of Council Chair

Date: _____

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Chapter One: Introduction

Purpose

1. Provide a framework for maintaining and enhancing the productivity, resiliency, diversity, character function, appearance, and uniqueness of the South Fork John Day River Watershed for all inhabitants.
2. Establish guidance for community involvement and for public outreach and education in the South Fork John Day River watershed.
3. Provide a basis for assessment, restoration and enhancement activities, which consider the unique nature of the various sub-basins within the watershed.
4. Assist the South Fork John Day Watershed Council in coordinating habitat & resource management activities in the watershed.

Organization

This document is organized into four chapters.

Chapter 1 describes the purpose of the action plan as adopted by the South Fork John Day Watershed Council on April 13th, 2015, and the organization of the document.

Chapter 2 contains the South Fork John Day Watershed Council Goals, and an inventory of watershed assessments or plans. These assessments and plans will be used to determine the goals, objectives, strategies, and actions that the Council will focus on to achieve their purpose.

Chapter 3 describes strategies and actions the Council will take in order to reach its purpose and goals. Goals are the broad vision statements of what the Council wants to do. Objectives for each goal add more specificity. Strategies provide different methods of reaching objectives. Strategies and actions are organized under the appropriate goals.

Chapter 4 describes the methods the Council will use to determine project priority and project implementation. This chapter also includes the process for revisions and updates to this plan.

Scope

The geographic scope of this action plan is the entire South Fork of the John Day River watershed (Figure 1) from ridgetop to ridgetop, headwaters to mouth. The South Fork of the John Day River (SFJDR) flows northward from its headwaters in the Ochoco and Aldrich Mountains and enters the mainstem of the John Day River at Dayville, OR. Within the Watershed Council boundary, there are approximately 540 people.

In its entirety, the South Fork subbasin drains 607 square miles. The length of the mainstem of the South Fork, from its headwaters to mouth is approximately 55 miles, covering 537,708 acres. Upstream fish migration is prevented at river mile 28 by the Izee Falls, the watershed above which is referred to as the Upper South Fork of the John Day River (USFJDR) watershed.

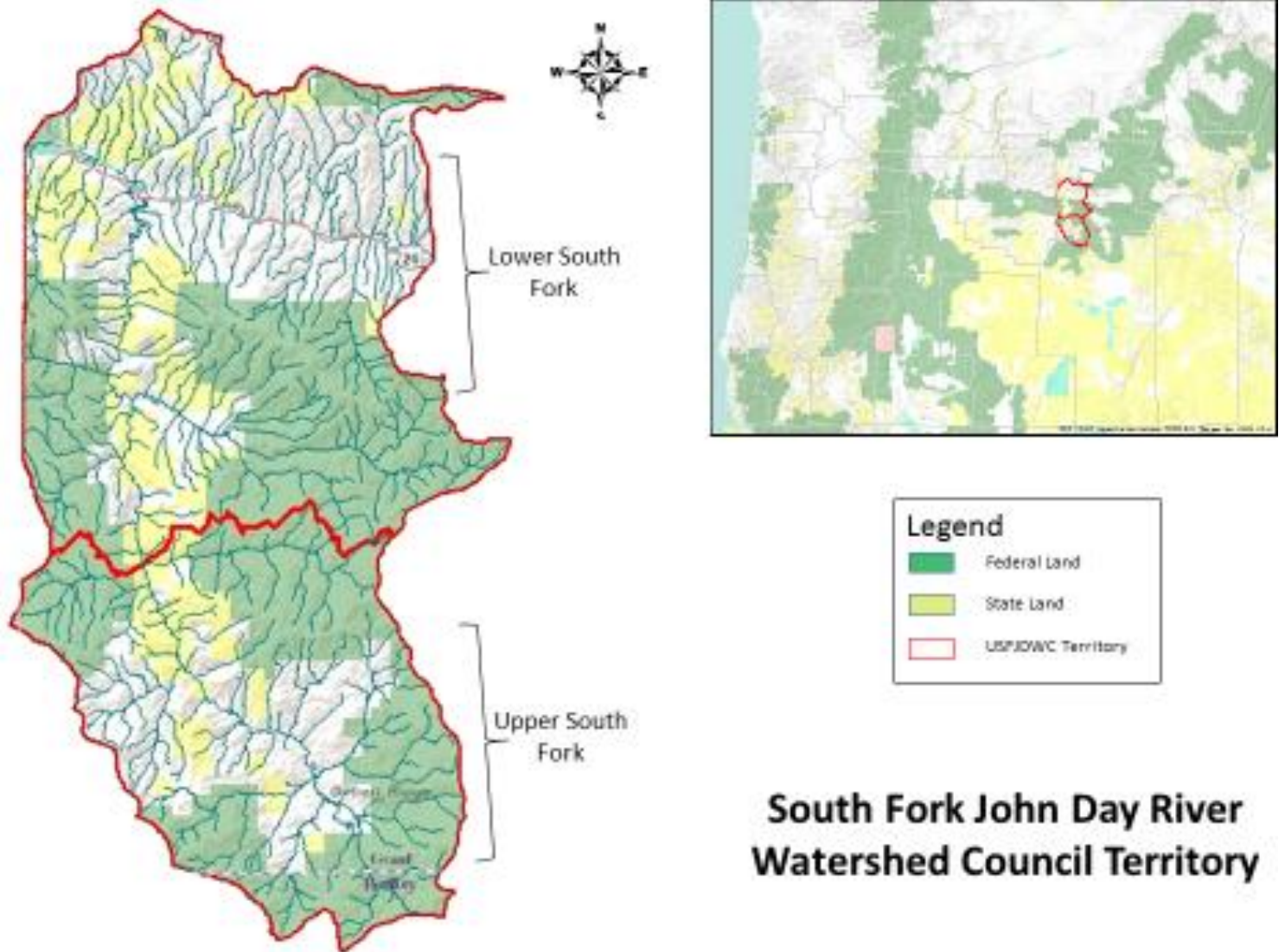
The scope of the issues to consider include all watershed processes and biological components with an emphasis on issues of critical concern. This includes social, economic and political realities. This document is intended to be living and flexible; changes to the plan should be made when needed, following the voting protocols outlined in the Council's By Laws and Operating Procedures.

Background

The South Fork John Day Watershed Council began in the late 1980s as private landowners and different government agencies working to improve the area. The Council has developed working partnerships with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife, Grant Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, Confederate Tribe of Warm Spring Reservation of Oregon, Oregon State University, and Private Landowners. In 2014 the Council signed a fiscal sponsorship agreement with Cascade Pacific RC&D. One of the main funding contributors for the Council is the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).

From the 1980s until 2014, the Council's territory covered the two uppermost fifth-field watersheds (Hydrologic Unit Codes 1707020110 & 1707020111) in the South Fork of the John Day River. In March of 2014 the Council expanded their territory to encompass the entire South Fork of the John Day River Watershed (Fig.1), increasing from 182,188 acres to 537,708 acres.

Figure 1



Action Plan Development

The mission of the Council, a volunteer organization, is to: 1) maintain or improve the health of the South Fork John Day River and its uplands, tributaries, riparian areas and fish and wildlife habitat; 2) maintain and improve the long term economic stability of the region; 3) foster better understanding of the natural, cultural, and socio-economic resources of the South Fork John Day; 4) include a broad and diverse representation of geographic and natural resource interests in the watershed; and 5) work collaboratively with people, businesses and communities to develop and carry out voluntary on-the ground watershed restoration activities.

This Watershed Restoration Action Plan is a compilation of limiting factors and potential projects identified by the SFJDWC and other agencies and local organizations working on natural resource concerns in the South Fork John Day Watershed. This document is intended to guide the SFJDWC in prioritizing and strategizing data collection and restoration projects to ensure actions address limiting factors identified for the South Fork John Day Watershed. This document is a living document that will be updated on a regular basis as new information is obtained and projects are implemented. Potential projects identified are conceptual unless indicated otherwise. The SFJDWC will only move forward on projects with willing landowners' consent. The SFJDWC welcomes new project proposals to incorporate into this action plan.

Chapter 2:

Goals (not listed in order of priority)

1. Education & Outreach

Promote a sense of awareness and understanding among all watershed users and landowners as to how their land management practices and personal actions can positively or adversely impact the South Fork John Day River watershed.

2. Partnership Development

Foster an atmosphere of cooperation and coordination with all landowners, citizens, organizations, and agencies with responsibilities and interests in the watershed.

3. Water Quality and Water Quantity

Maintain, enhance, or restore water quality suitable for all beneficial uses in watershed streams.

4. Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Maintain, enhance, and restore fish and wildlife habitat throughout the watershed.

Watershed Inventory

The goals were developed by reviewing current plans and assessments that apply to the South Fork of the John Day River. The Priorities listed in these Assessments are to be used as a reference, and do not necessarily reflect the Priority Actions for the Upper South Fork John Day River Watershed Council.

Title	Priorities	Suggested Actions
Upper South Fork of the John Day River Watershed Assessment	Channel Habitat	Restoration of riparian vegetation, streambank stabilization, check dams, instream structures, grade controls, ground truth channel habitat types, intensive field based surveys.
	Hydrology & Water Use (Also addressed in Ag Water Quality Management Plan)	Abate peak flows, increase low flow volumes, increase ground water recharge.
	Riparian Areas	Create larger buffer between land uses and streams, allow for larger trees producing more LWD, stream shading, remove riparian areas from grazing, establish off-channel watering sources, plant woody vegetation, check structures, collect more field data quantifying current conditions
	Sedimentation	Exclusion fencing for cattle and elk, off-channel water sources, Forestry practices performed protecting riparian zones, tree thinning practices, abate rural and forest road runoff, data collection
	Channel Modifications	Retain historic meandering channels, fish screens on diversions, small dams built to provide better fish passage with fish ladders, re-establish adequate food base vegetation for beavers by preventing beavers until re-establishment.
	Hydrology and Water Use	Abate peak flows, increase low flow volumes, increase ground water recharge
	Water Quality	Expand monitoring efforts
	Fish and Fish Habitat	Surveys of fish populations and habitat quality, distribution surveys, establish grazing practices to promote riparian vegetation, culvert replacement, develop and implement monitoring plans

ODFW Mule Deer Initiative: Murderer's Creek Coordinated Resource Management Area	Winter Range Habitat	Remove Juniper, and burn in sites where annual grasses are not present
		Post treatment of Juniper removal sites, such as burning, spraying, or hand removal of juniper re-growth
		Seed and plant shrubs in juniper removal areas
		Implement small acre test plots to experiment with treatment options for replacement of medusahead with desirable species
		Consult with Eastern Oregon Ag Research Station range specialists to improve PW Schneider WA grazing program
		Work with National Forest to reduce the number of wild horses to appropriate management levels
		Plant food plots to improve forage on the PW Schneider WA in the following pastures: Black Field, Ash Field, and Murderers Creek.
		Continue and promote shrub planting effort in the Murderers Creek basin.
	Summer Range Habitat	Work with the NF to promote timber management activities that open the forest canopy to increase understory production of browse species while leaving a mosaic of untreated areas for cover
		Protect and enhance aspen stands by removing conifers from aspen stands and restricting cattle and feral horse grazing. This may include using buck and pole fencing or wire fence to manage grazing activities.
Work with NF to conduct controlled burns to increase mule deer forage on summer range by increasing plant vigor and promote browse species while reducing canopy closure.		
Remove juniper on south-facing slopes in the Murderers Creek Basin		
Private Landowners	Juniper removal, seeding, and shrub planting	
Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan	Livestock Management	Grazing Management: promote streambank stability, allow plant recovery, leave adequate vegetation for shade and habitat
		Off-stream, and upland water development
		Feed, salt, and mineral placement away from streamside
	Upland Management	Noxious weed control, juniper control, grazing management
	Streamside Management	Vegetative buffer, erosion control
		Noxious weed control
		Roads and stream crossings kept to a minimum, not to impede fish passage
		Streamside grazing management
	Irrigation Management	Promote natural upstream storage and floodplains
		Irrigation scheduling
	Monitoring	Baseline conditions, water quality trends, effectiveness, and compliance
	Restoration	Eliminate fish passage barriers
		In-stream and riparian habitat restoration
		irrigation management and efficiency
Upland enhancement		
Prevention of waste into waters		
	Increase public awareness	

John Day Subbasin Plan Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day River (Listed from Highest to Lowest Priority)	Protect Existing Habitat	Acquisition & management of land, acquisition & management of conservation easements, adoption & management of cooperative agreements, implementation of special management designations on public lands. (Not a strategy action for USFJDWC)
	Passage	Replace or remove culverts, improve irrigation diversions, address other artificial passage barriers (log bridges, rocked fords, small dams)
	Flow Restoration	In-stream water right leases and acquisitions (Not a strategy action for USFJDWC), irrigation efficiency projects, floodplain aquifer recharge projects, off-stream storage basins, improve hydrological connectivity between springs and streams
	Riparian Habitat Improvements	Management of riparian grazing, vegetation management, floodplain restoration, beaver management
	Fish Screens	Install fish screens on irrigation diversions, explore potential to screen mining diversions
	Upland Improvements	Livestock grazing management, minimize sediment & erosion from forestry practices, wet meadow restoration, vegetation management, road system management, erosion and runoff control in agricultural areas, developed area runoff management,
	In-Stream Activities	Large woody debris placement, channel restoration, bank protection/stabilization, rock or log weirs
	Education and Outreach	Outreach to resource users and managers, use of demonstration projects, outreach to government officials, outreach to general public, support of regional outreach efforts
	Manage Recreation & Tribal Fisheries	Enhance and protect habitat, extensive monitoring, when appropriate open harvest and fishery seasons to control populations
	Pollution Control	Remediation of mine-related discharges, best management practices for development & waste management, appropriate management of animal feeding operations, return flow improvement projects

2015 Strategic Plan United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Oregon/Washington	Climate Change (Low Priority Action for USFJDWC)	Continue implementing Environmental Management System
		Develop policies and products using National Environmental Policy Act and climate change
		Translate global-scale information to an appropriate geographic scale
		Participation, collaboration, & partnerships
		Identify key resources and habitats that may be affected by climate change and develop options and tools to enhance resiliency
	Healthy Land - Aquatic & Riparian	Work with partners to prioritize subbasins for restoration
		Engage internally to concentrate restoration efforts in subbasins of high priority
		Pursue funding through multiple sources
		Share information
	Healthy Land – Forests	Use ecological health information to identify priority landscapes, support land use planning and decision-making.
		Minimize impacts to sensitive species, support threatened & endangered species recovery
		Supply forest products to local communities on a sustained-yield basis.
		Improve public collaboration and information sharing through new technologies, stakeholder meetings, and forest education workshops.
		Implement improved internal knowledge transfer and communication processes.
		Evaluate business processes in order to be more effective, efficient, and integrated.
	Healthy Land – Sagebrush	Maximize organizational effectiveness at the landscape level to facilitate highest quality habitat, ecosystem resiliency, and restoration of sagebrush maintenance of the ecosystems across district boundaries.
		Develop strategic partnerships to implement collaborative sagebrush management strategies at a landscape scale.
		Contribute to stability for local communities dependent upon sagebrush landscapes for income, livelihood, and identity.
	Treasured Landscapes – National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS)	Develop working groups for enhanced communication of NLCS programs
		Complete new management plans and update existing plans
		Engage volunteers, partners, communities, youth and cooperating agencies
	Treasured Landscapes – Wild Horse & Burro	Wild horse and Burro herds in herd management areas are kept within appropriate management levels
		Horses and Burros are treated humanely
Energy	Proactively address the increased demand, expectations, development, and traditional energy and associated energy transmission needs. Identify opportunities for renewable collaborative and comprehensive manner to reduce conflicts with other resource values on the public lands.	

Oregon Conservation Strategy for the Blue Mountains	Altered Fire Regimes	Implement fuel reduction, re-introduce fire/prescribed burns
	Recreational Vehicle use	Direct use to maintained trails in low-impact areas, close non-priority forest roads, maintain hiding cover along roads
	Water Distribution	Provide water for wildlife in arid areas, big game guzzlers, and wildlife escape devices on water developments.
	Invasive Species	Emphasize prevention to prevent new invasives, use site-appropriate tools to control established invasives, educate the public, use native stock for restoration and re-vegetation
	Recommended Actions for BM-05	Increase levels of large in-stream wood, reduce sediment, and improve fish passage
		Maintain and/or initiate shrub-steppe restoration and management
		Restore and maintain complex, continuous sage habitat
	Recommended Actions for BM-08	Initiate or continue wet meadow conservation and restoration efforts
		Restore and maintain riparian habitats
		Use fire and thinning to restore and enhance ponderosa pine forests
Natural Resources Conservation Priorities and Opportunities	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	The NRCS Local Work Group Priorities are listed as follows: 1. Invasive species (including juniper, annual grasses and herbaceous weeds) 2. Forest Health 3. Proper Grazing Use Water Quality and Quantity
	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	
	Abandoned Croplands	
	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	

CTWSRO Watershed Restoration Strategy & Oregon Middle Columbia River Summer Steelhead Recovery Plan	Fish Passage	Culvert and bridge replacement, diversion modifications/removal, and increased channel complexity so resting areas are available for fitness recovery
	Instream Habitat Complexity – juvenile rearing	Increasing floodplain connectivity, sinuosity,
		Adding side channels, incorporating large roughness
		Elements (large woody debris) and riparian corridors.
	Water Quantity / Irrigation Efficiency	Irrigation efficiency project target improving conveyance infrastructure and application efficiency.
		Water transaction projects aim to increase instream flow by purchasing, leasing and/or modifying water rights.
	Fencing and Planting	Protection via easements and fencing
		Planting appropriate vegetation
	Floodplain Connectivity	increase the engaged floodplain
		Modified agriculture
Create a High Bench		
Restoration Project Types	Habitat protection, passage	
	Flow restoration, riparian improvement, fish	
	Screens, upland improvements, in-stream	
	Activities, education and outreach, fisheries	
	Management, and pollution control.	
Project Prioritization	1. Protection 2. Physical/ecological process restoration 3. Habitat creation	

Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area Management Plan, ODFW 2006	Winter Range Habitat & habitat diversity	Manage native grassland and shrubland habitats by: 1) Grazing cattle, 2) seeding grass grains, and legumes, 3) planting trees and shrubs, 4) revitalizing browse and grass stands by controlled burning, thinning, chemical applications, and/or logging.
		Negotiate with United States Forest Service to maintain feral horse herd at the management objective of 100 head.
		Develop harvest plans for timbered land
		Continue to control noxious weeds
	In-stream habitat, water quality and quantity, and riparian/wetland systems	Monitor and regulate irrigation water per Oregon Water Resource Department standards.
		Promote natural stream meandering and stream bank narrowing by allowing natural processes to occur.
		Manage beaver populations
		Provide stream shade
		Maintain fenced riparian habitats
		Maintain current primitive access for anglers to ponds
	Maintain 80 acres of agriculture lands	Large woody debris, removal of passage barriers, planting riparian vegetation, partner with other entities.
		Farm 50 acres of agricultural land with alfalfa Plant 30 acres of annual food plots throughout the area to provide forage
	Recreational and Educational opportunities	Provide ~30,000 hunting, trapping, and angling use day annually. Provide ~15,000 wildlife viewing and education/interpretation use day annually.

USFJDWC Landowner Needs Assessment (Table 1):

This assessment is a compilation of 6 participating private landowners. Each landowner supplied an estimate of units and location for each restoration practice. This table represents the total units from the assessment.

Location		Practice	Unit	Totals
Private Lands	Instream/Streamside	Bank Stabilization	Feet	11040
		Grade Stabilization Structures	Each	140
		Irrigation Management Structures	Each	24
		Irr. Measurement Device(s)	Each	6
		Irrigation Tailwater Management System(s)	Each	4
		Beaver Management	Each	0
		Spring Development	Each	6
		Solar Fence	Mile	0.5
		Riparian Fence	Mile	7
		Aspen	Stands	3
	Uplands	Stock Water Development	Each	78
		Stock Water Solar	Each	12
		Juniper Removal	Acres	2847
		Sagebrush Removal	Acres	935
		Weed Control	Acres	1376
		Weed Control (respray)	Acres	55
		Seeding	Acres	1365
		Fence (cross)	Miles	17.1
		Fence riparian	Miles	12.7
		Gully Plugs	Each	35
		Fertilizer (fish)	Acre	325
	Water Gaps/hardened water crossing	Each	7	
	Ponds		Each	5
	Roads	Resurface	Miles	0
		Culverts	Each	13
		Erosion	Acres	183
		Bridges (replace crossings)	Each	1
Trails/Roads		Each	10	
Draws	Juniper Hippy Dams	Each	50	
Federal Forest Permits	Stream	Bank Stabilization	miles	700
	Uplands	Stock Water Development	Each	17
		Juniper Removal	Acres	2335
		Weed Control	sites	14
		Aspen/Conifer Removal	Acres	70
		Bank Stabilization	Feet	1815
		Juniper Removal	Acres	440
		Weed Control	Acres	20
		Spring Protection/Jack Spring	Acres	1
		Fuels/Firewood Cutting	Acres	200
Culvert Renovation	Each	2		

Landowner Prioritization (Table 2)

Table 2 details the results of a survey conducted by the SFJDWC, and completed by South Fork John Day River Watershed Landowners.

Practice		Rank
Wildlife Improvements: Vegetation establishment, Aspen Enhancement		1
Upland Improvements	Juniper Removal	2
	Public Lands Pasture Fence	
	Private Lands Pasture Fence	
	Water Source/Spring Development	
	Invasive Weed Control	
	Re-seeding/Re-vegetation	
Riparian Improvements	Juniper Removal	3
	Public Lands Fencing	
	Private Lands Fencing	
	Planting	
	Invasive Weed Control	
	Off-Channel Water Source	
	Water and Sediment Control Basins - Check Dams	
Forest Health Function		4
Water/Irrigation Efficiency	Diversion Improvements	5
	Consolidating points of diversion	
	Conveyance/Ditch Piping/Delivery Efficiency	
	Pivots/Sprinklers/Application Efficiency	
	Soil Moisture Management	
	Water Measurement Tools	
	Streambank Stabilization	
	Management of Flood Debris	
	Return Flow Cooling System	
	Water Storage for Irrigation	
	Conversion to Groundwater/Well	
	Cropland Management - Terraces, filter strips, alternate crops, less tillage	
Roads	Culvert Replacements	6
	Ford Improvements	

Chapter 3: Objectives, Strategies and Actions

This chapter describes the objectives, strategies, and actions that the SFJDWC has developed from referencing the watershed inventory.

Objective	Strategy	Actions
Goal 1: Outreach & Education		
Promote a sense of awareness and understanding among all watershed users and landowners as to how their land management practices and personal actions can positively or adversely impact the South Fork John Day watershed where they live, work, or play.		
Educate the public about watershed functions, resources, and the opportunities available to improve conditions	Watershed Tours	Continue watershed tours to increase the Council's and the public's knowledge of watershed issues and current conditions
		Examples: Fish Passage barrier tour, Aspen project tour, Riparian Re-vegetation tour
	Public Workshops	Provide workshops and classes on topics as needed to pursue other action plan goals - only on specific subjects
		Examples: Habitat Monitoring Workshop, Aspen Management Workshop, Environmental Quality Incentives Program informational workshop
	Presentations to Local Groups	Create presentations on what the SFJDWC has accomplished, and plans for the future.
		Present to local government, and area entities (Grant Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resource Conservation Services, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Grant County Court) to provide updates on Council activities
	Youth Education	Provide educational field tours for youth interested in careers in Natural Resource Enhancement.
	Council Website	Maintain and update web page monthly
Meeting Notices	Advertise meeting dates using email, phone, website, postcards, and local newspaper.	
Outreach	Contact Landowners and agencies within the Watershed.	

Objective	Strategy	Actions
2. Partnership Development Foster an atmosphere of cooperation and coordination with all landowners, citizens, organizations, and agencies with responsibilities and interests in the watershed.		
Coordinate Activities	Link with other agencies, schools, and/or groups with existing programs in the watershed	Maintain and establish links with existing programs, non-government organizations, local, state, and federal agencies within the watershed Participate in partner functions, and encourage partnering on projects.
Encourage Council Participation	Directors, Associate Directors, and Advisory Roles	Meeting notices, election notices, information distribution
Outreach	Perform outreach & participate in activities throughout the John Day Basin. Contact Landowners and agencies within the watershed	Use email, phone calls, postcard notices, newspaper articles, website development, project tours, and give community updates on watershed council activities.
Continue Active Partnerships	Remain Active in Current Partnerships	Current Partnerships: Grant Soil and Water Conservation District, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State University, Grant County Court, Cascade Pacific RC&D

Objective	Strategy	Actions
Goal 3: Water Quality and Water Quantity Maintain, enhance, or restore water quantity and quality suitable for all beneficial uses in watershed streams.		
<p>1. Improve the Water quality and quantity throughout the South Fork, and Upper Mainstem John Day River, as detailed in the Agriculture Water Quality Management Plan.</p> <p>2. Address water quality impairments for temperature, dissolved oxygen, bacteria levels, & biocriteria.</p>	Strive for a water temperature TMDL of 18° Celsius (64.4° Fahrenheit) for Salmon and Trout Rearing Migration area.	Focus Area includes the entire South Fork Watershed. Perform Monitoring Activities & Data collection
	Strive for a temperature TMDL of 13.0 degrees Celsius (55.4 degrees Fahrenheit) for salmon and steelhead spawning area.	Focus Area: below the South Fork Falls, a natural fish barrier. Upland and Instream/Streamside improvement/protection project types (Tables 1&2).
	South Fork JDR is on the 303(d) list for temperature, & biological criteria. Streams also listed include: Jackass Creek, Johnny Creek, Murderers Creek, Deer Creek, and Pine Creek.	Monitor conditions, and place restoration activities at a high priority for these water bodies.
	Achieve Bacterial TMDL load reduction goals.	Load reductions will be achieved through source reductions and transport controls. Reduce bacteria loading by 83%.
		Minimize nonpoint sources of pollution.
	Improve Riparian Vegetation.	Increase favorable riparian canopy and shade. Control noxious weeds, and encourage favorable species establishment. Encourage the use of Biological controls near streams & rivers. Plant favorable species of vegetation
	Reduce turbidity & sediment sources	Address sediment input due to slope instability, streambank erosion, wildfires/controlled burns, and rural road runoff.
		Replace culverts at risk of washing out.
	Provide education on Best Management Practices in partnership with NRCS, OSU Extension and SWCDs to reduce agricultural sources of sediment.	Upland and Instream/Streamside improvement/protection project types (Tables 1&2). Educational tours and workshops to encourage best management practices, and involve partners.
	Irrigation Improvement Practices	Tables 1 & 2
Expand Monitoring Efforts	Perform monitoring by Council Staff Partner with other agencies, & universities	

Objective	Strategy	Actions
Goal 4: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Maintain, enhance, and restore fish and wildlife habitat throughout the watershed.		
Improve habitat connectivity	Protect intact existing habitat, then maintain, enhance and restore habitats between intact habitats.	Actions Listed in Tables 1&2
Improve knowledge of Habitat requirements	Survey fish populations and habitat quality, distribution surveys, Migration patterns	Develop and implement monitoring plans
Enhance Aspen Stands throughout the South Fork Watershed	Monitoring, Education/tours, Restoration	Protection fencing, conifer removal, regeneration protection, locate stands & assess health
Improve Mule Deer Habitat as detailed in ODFW's Mule Deer Initiative	USFJDWC has adopted the Mule Deer Initiative which provides guidelines for habitat improvements (Table 1)	Actions listed in Table 1&2, and under the ODFW Mule Deer Initiative
Manage Predator & Pest Populations	Monitor predator populations and assist other agencies (ODFW, BLM, and USFS) where possible.	Provide information, population numbers, control techniques, landowner outreach
	Maintain wild horse herds to manageable levels (50-140) horses.	Assist Partners, to inform, monitor, and reduce herd numbers from 254 horses to 50-140 horses.
Noxious Weed Control	Monitor, manage, and reduce populations of noxious weeds.	Provide information on weed species, and methods of control. Monitor populations. Encourage the use of biological controls.
		Partner with Grant Weed Control, and Oregon Department of Agriculture to offer weed control options and programs.

Chapter 4: Implementation, Plan Updates and Revisions

Project Prioritization

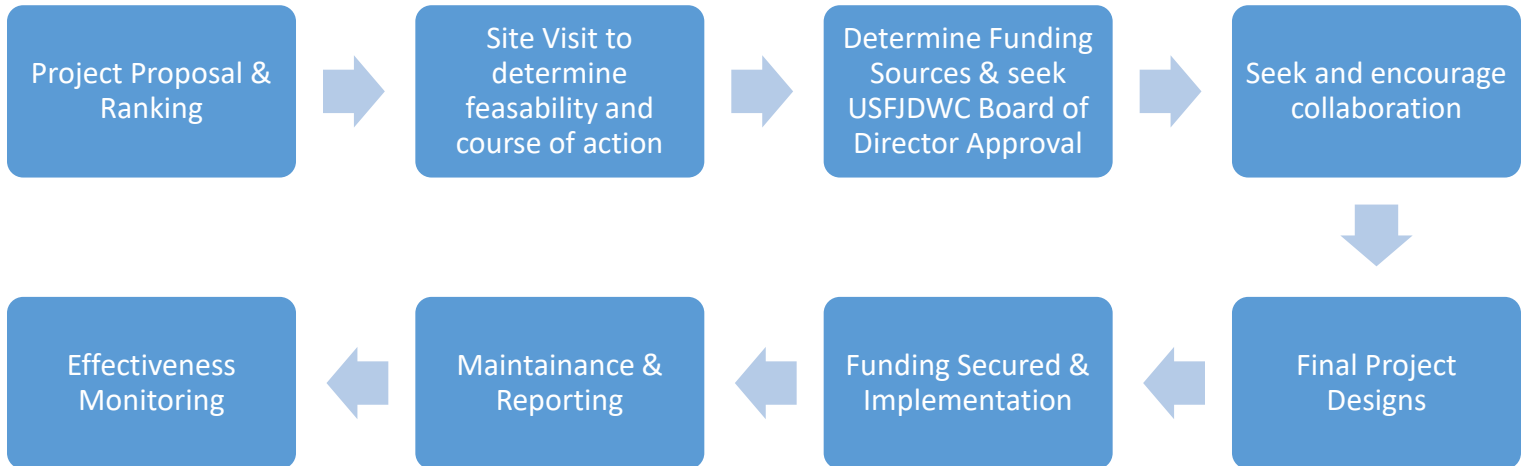
Projects will be prioritized based on the current landowner prioritization (Table 2), goals, other watershed plans, and USFJDWC Needs Assessment (Table 1). At this time, due to an increased knowledge base, restoration actions in the Upper South Fork John Day Watershed will be given priority. The Upper South Fork John Day Watershed members comprise the majority of the Council, resulting in greater knowledge and understanding of the upper 2 fifth field HUCs. In addition improvements made in the headwaters improve all reaches downstream. As knowledge and participation increase in the Lower South Fork Watershed priority status may be re-addressed.

In the event that multiple projects are proposed that will exceed the Council Staff's capacity, the following form will be utilized in order to rank and prioritize the projects that are being considered. There are a possible 28 points, with the highest ranking being 28, and the lowest 0. The SFJDWC Board of Directors will have the final decision in which projects are ultimately approved for implementation, through a majority vote.

Project Proposal Ranking/Scoring:

Action Plan Goals	Total Points
1 point for each goal that is included, up to 4 total points	
Project Location	
USF Private	5
USF Public	4
LSF Private	3
LSF Public with critical habitat	2
LSF Public without critical habitat	1
Listed in USFJDWC Needs Assessment	
1 point for each element included, up to 5 points	
Listed in Watershed Plans	
1 point for each plan it is included in, up to 5 points	
Landowner Prioritizations	
Wildlife Improvements	6
Uplands	5
Riparian	4
Forest Health	3
Water/Irrigation Efficiency	2
Roads	1
Cost Share	
0-25%	1
25-50%	2
50-75%	3
Total	

Project Implementation Schedule:



Plan Updates & Revisions

The SFJDWC Action Plan will be a flexible and living document. The Council will revisit the document as needed, but at least every 2 years, at which point landowners and agencies will be surveyed for prioritization rankings. Any revisions will be approved and voted upon by the Council Board of Directors following the Council Bylaws and Operating Procedures.

Acknowledgements

The Council would like to acknowledge all of our partners who helped assemble our Action Plan: Grant SWCD, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Bureau of Land Management.

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