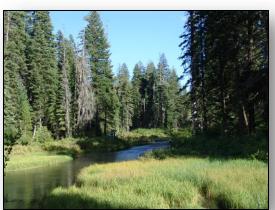
## Bear Creek Oregon – Case Study











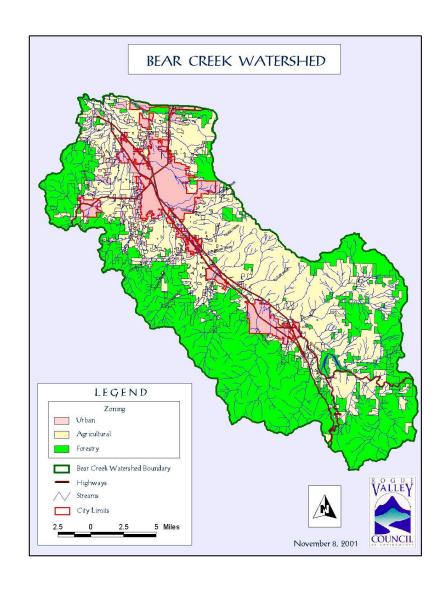


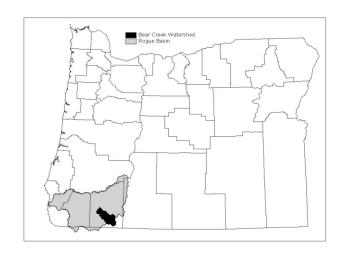
Bill Meyers

DEQ Rogue Basin Coordinator
541-776-6272
meyers.bill@DEQ.State.Or.us

Oregon DEQ 221 Stewart Ave Medford, Oregon 97501

## Bear Creek Oregon – Overview





- 361 Square Miles
- 46% Forest
- 35% Farmland
- 8% Urban
- 7% Rural
- 21% Federally managed.

## Bear Creek – Original Situation

## One of the first TMDLs in Oregon: 1992

- Aquatic Weeds and Algae
- Phosphorus
- Dissolved oxygen,
- pH and Ammonia Nitrogen

#### In 2007 TMDL updated:

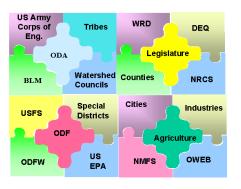
- Temperature
- Bacteria
- Sedimentation





#### Bear Creek - Who is involved?

- Urban Designated Management Agencies 6 cities, 1 County
- Federal Agencies
- 3 Large Irrigation Districts
- Rogue Valley Council of Governments
- Oregon Department of Agriculture and growers
- Others State Transportation,
   State Parks, Bureau of Reclamation and more.



# Bear Creek – Organizational Summary

- Typically Quarterly
- DMA meetings coordinated by Council of Governments.
- Primarily Information sharing group
- Decision process is spelled out up front
- Collaborative approach to solving Water Quality

Issues and meeting requirements

- Communication is key
- Financial Commitment

## Bear Creek – Barriers & Perspectives

#### **Perceived Barriers:**

- It's not our pollution
- Why should we do anything when it comes from: insert name here
- We'll never be able to afford this
- Don't have time or staff not a priority



- DEQ data/analysis is out of date
- There is a lack of local experience
- This is only a regulatory exercise— the public really doesn't care...

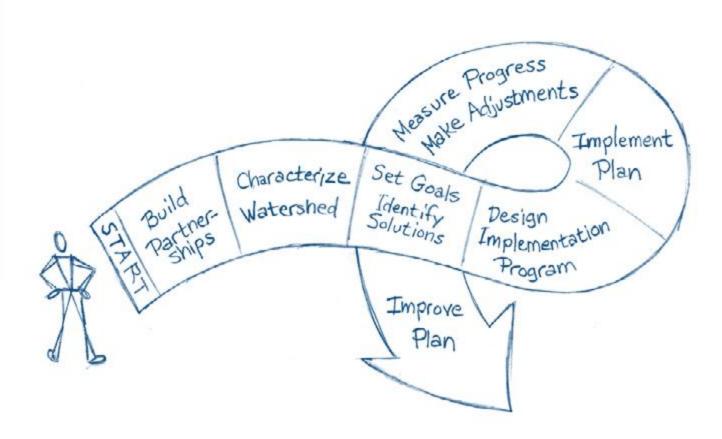
## Bear Creek Oregon – Drivers for Collaborative Change

- Regulations and Rules continue to develop
- Robust Data Sets Social and Environmental
- The collective approach
- Defined Group Structure
- Consistency



## Bear Creek Oregon – Case Study





## Bear Creek Oregon – Lessons Learned

- Stress a Collaborative approach
- Defined Group structure is essential
- Take advantage of Institutionalized groups in the basin
- Address \$\$ shortages with creative collaboration



- Stress Flexibility of actions
- Leverage additional support
- Note that a shortage of \$\$ can help push regional collaboration

### What Does the Future Hold?

- ✓ Pollution Credit Trading
- ✓ Broad Based Outreach Campaigns
- ✓ Changing Regulations
- ✓ Increasing Volunteer Grassroots Action
- ✓ More improvements: Habitat & Water Quality





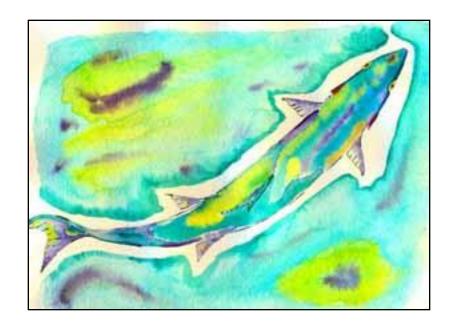
## Bear Creek - Fall Chinook 2011

Photo North Mountain Park – River Mile 25



## Bear Creek Oregon – Questions?





Bill Meyers
DEQ Rogue Basin Coordinator
541-776-6272
meyers.bill@DEQ.State.Or.us