



Aquatic Species Restoration Plan Update

Implementation Planning

November 5, 2020

Shifts in ASRP Program



2020 ASRP Work Plan: Major Elements

- Implementation Planning



How can we successfully ramp up program implementation?

Planning Workgroup

- Implementation Planning workgroup developed to advise the Steering Committee on recommendations for implementation structure and processes
- Represent diverse expertise in implementation planning and execution

Participants:

- Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor CD
- Brandon Parsons, American Rivers
- Greg Green, Ducks Unlimited
- Kirsten Harma, Lead Entity/Steering Committee
- Luke Kelly, Trout Unlimited
- Mara Zimmerman, Coast Salmon Partnership
- Ryan Walker, Forterra

Goal of Implementation Planning

Develop two options for an implementation framework and processes that can rapidly scale up to be capable of restoring and protecting approximately 555 miles of rivers, streams and floodplains by 2050

Option 1: Streamline and improve existing framework and organizations to minimize bottlenecks to successful implementation

Option 2: Larger changes to streamline and improve framework, organization and processes to successfully implement the ASRP

Trending towards a hybrid between Options 1 and 2

Major Challenges to ASRP Implementation Success

- **Necessary scale and pace of implementation**

ASRP aims to implement 5x number of projects per biennium at increased complexity than currently funded through existing programs in the Chehalis.

- **Landowner willingness**

Nearly 80% of the basin is in private ownership, partnering with willing landowners is essential for program success.

- **In-basin capacity to implement**

Capacity and expertise to manage and implement projects needs to match the scale and pace of program and will provide economic benefits to the community.

Key Assumption: Sustained funding is available for full implementation of program

Successful ASRP Implementation

Solutions need to:

- Utilize processes that provide overall direction, priorities and support to local creativity, relationships and project implementation expertise.
- Decrease time for reach scale project execution from 3-5 years to 1-3 years
- Continue to build in-basin capacity and expertise to implement projects
- Ensure projects continue to meet ASRP goals
- Continue to build landowner and other stakeholder support for program that is aligned with the scientific recommendations
- Maintain basin-wide management that can adapt over time to fix implementation challenges and adjust priorities based on M&AM results.

Implementation Planning

Case Studies were evaluated as part of implementation planning effort to understand how other programs have successfully implemented large programs at a rapid pace

- Examples include:
 - Delaware River Watershed Initiative
 - 2013 Colorado Flood Recovery Effort
 - Washington Floodplains by Design
 - Oregon Salmon Superhighway
 - Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Program
 - Early ASRP Implementation

Implementation Planning

- Case Study Takeaways:
 - Major challenges that face this program have been overcome elsewhere
 - ASRP is not “reinventing the wheel”
 - Keys to success:
 - Broad participation in shared vision for program
 - Simple and transparent processes
 - Certainty of funding
 - Creativity and willingness to adapt when something isn’t working

Necessary scale and pace of implementation

Goal:

ASRP aims to implement 5x number of projects at increased complexity per biennium than currently funded through existing programs in the Chehalis

To achieve this, the program will:

- Utilize a project facilitation model instead of competitive grant rounds
- Create efficiencies in project review and permitting
- Seek to provide reasonable certainty of funding once projects are initiated

Necessary scale and pace of implementation

Case Study Example: 2013 Colorado Flood Recovery Effort

Goal: Rapid watershed approach to ecosystem recovery

Length: 5 years

Outcomes: 65 miles of river/floodplain improvements; 700 landowners engaged

Key takeaways for Chehalis:

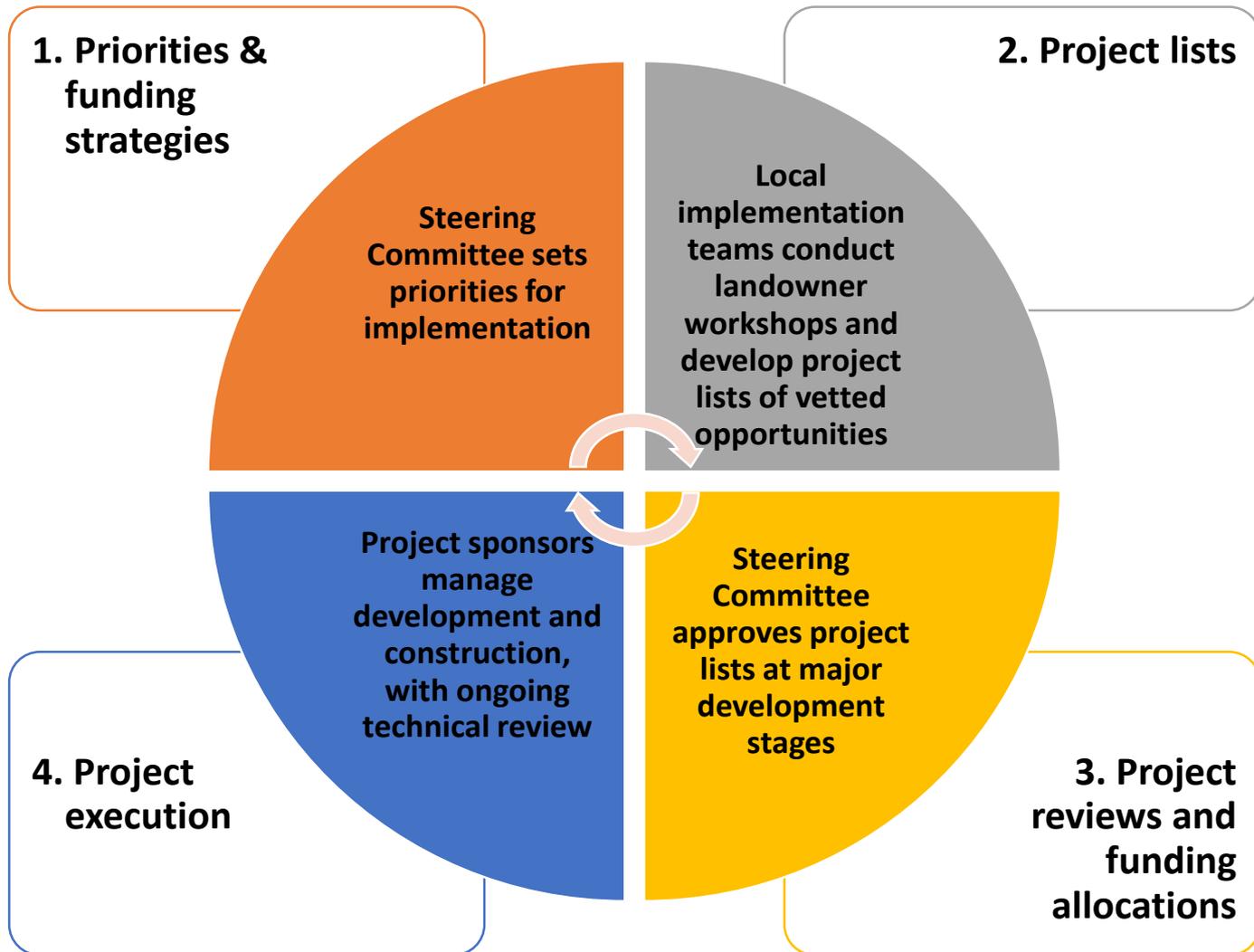
- Engage landowners early in process; develop project lists with their input
- Establish upfront standards (ex. contracting, design, costing, permitting)
- Shift away from a competitive grant cycle; provide certainty of funding if standards and goals met



Necessary scale and pace of implementation



ASRP Project Facilitation Model



Landowner Willingness

Goal:

Build community support for ASRP actions in priority areas of implementation

To achieve this, the program will:

- Create local implementation teams to coordinate outreach efforts in priority areas
- Understand and cultivate landowner willingness as 1st step to project viability & project list creation
- Develop meaningful incentive options that meet the goals of the Strategy

Landowner Willingness

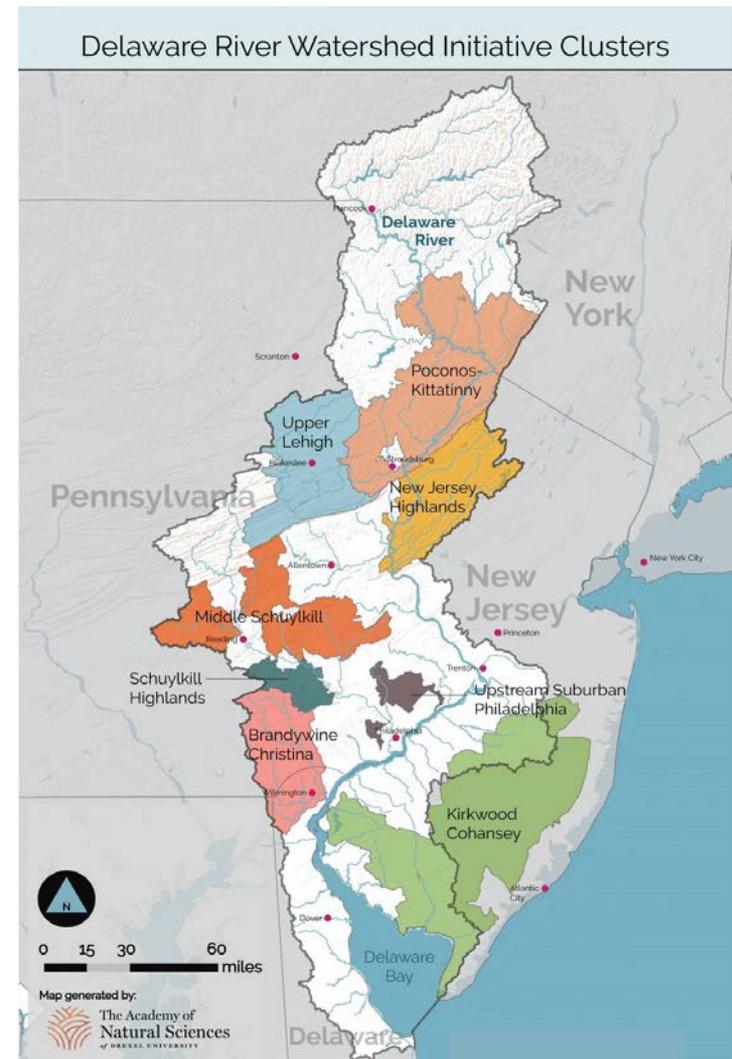
Case Study Example: Delaware River Watershed Initiative

Goal: Protect and enhance rivers and streams that provide drinking water for more than 15 million people across four states

Length: 6 years (ongoing)

Outcomes:

- Protected nearly 20,000 acres of high-value forestland
- Restored more than 50 miles of riparian habitat
- Conserved over 150 acres of wetlands



Landowner Willingness

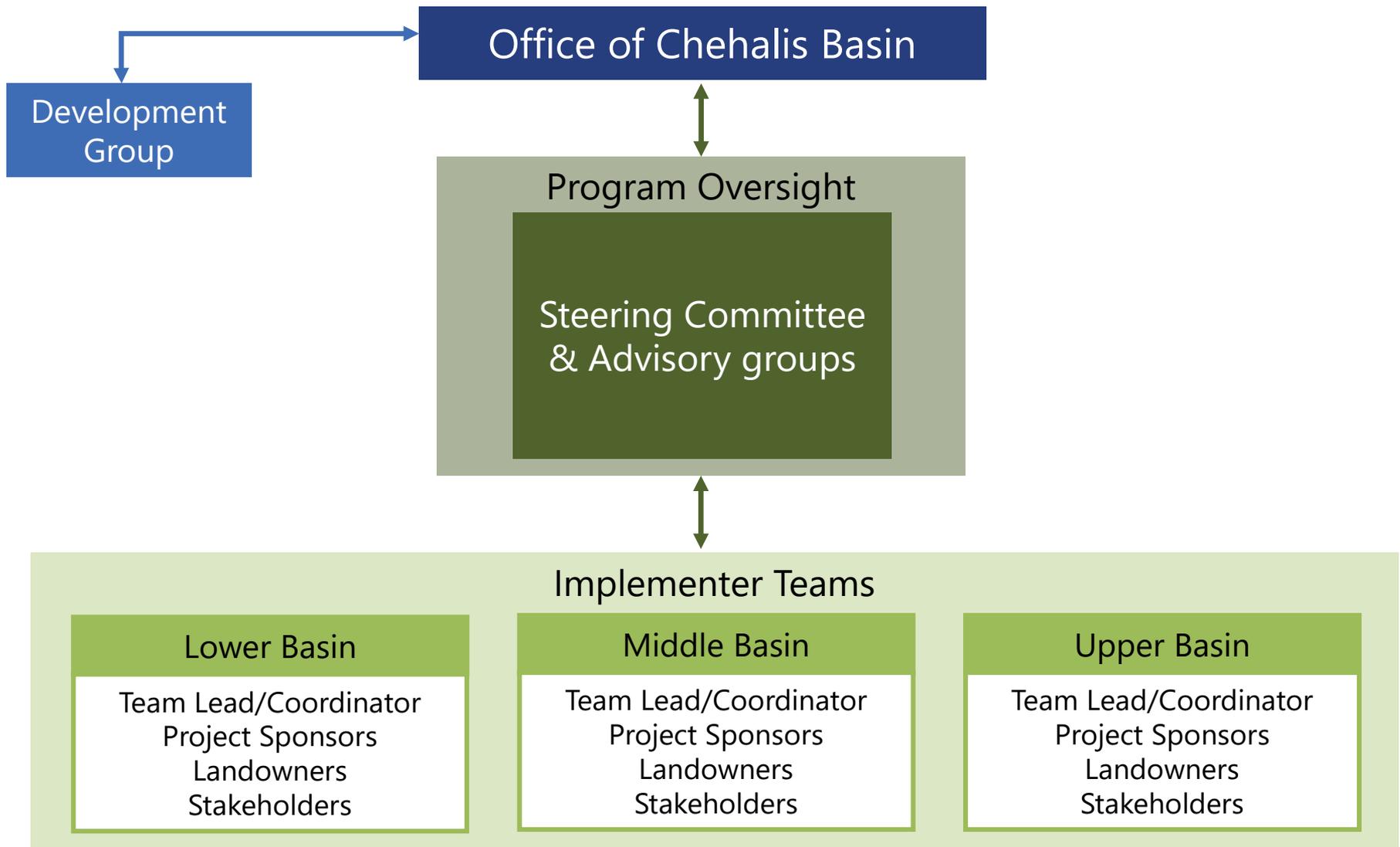
Case Study Example: Delaware River Watershed Initiative

Key takeaways for Chehalis:

- Have funding allocated
- Establish priorities/criteria informed by science and landowner willingness early
- Utilize geographic implementation teams to focus funding and relationship building with landowners
- Consider funding reserve and criteria for projects with a willing landowner, but lesser immediate priority



Proposed Program Framework



In Basin Capacity to Implement

Goal:

Capacity and expertise to manage and implement projects matches the scale and pace of program

To achieve this, the program will:

- Develop transparent expectations on the qualifications firms and contractors must have to be eligible for ASRP contracts
- Incorporate mentoring processes for design or construction firms
- Approach materials sourcing needs by building partnerships with in-basin producers



Expected Benefits

Community

- Landowners, stakeholders informing project development
- Community support for ASRP is cultivated with funding certainty and on-the-ground success

Economic

- 8,000-10,000 jobs supported through ASRP implementation
- Significant lasting benefits of ecological resiliency

Programmatic Costs

- Shift in oversight costs from Plan development to focused investment on project facilitation

Expected Benefits



Questions

Nicole Czarnomski, WFDW to further discuss implementation planning

Breakout Room Prompts

- What are your initial reactions to the recommendations on program scope, sequencing and implementation structure of the ASRP?
- What more information would you like to have over the next couple of months as you consider your recommendations for the Chehalis Basin Strategy?
- What guidance or direction do you have for the Steering Committee on the direction of the ASRP?