

CHEHALIS BASIN STRATEGY: 2017-2019

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

(DRAFT: 3/14/18)

Public Outreach and Engagement Events/Activities

Engagement with governments, stakeholders and the public is critical throughout the process of developing and implementing the Chehalis Basin strategy. Below key issue discussions are outlined and organized by quarter over the next two years. Following the listing of issues by quarter is a list of key groups and recommendations for how to engage with them. In addition, there is the flexibility to respond to requests to provide periodic briefings and/or presentations/general updates at meetings or conferences.

Spring/Summer 2018

- Targeted outreach in advance of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)/ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping process
- News releases, social media posts, and public meetings for SEPA/NEPA EIS scoping
- Targeted outreach to landowners for Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) and Restorative Flood Protection (RFP) work elements
- Outreach to tribal governments, local governments, and the community regarding a Flood Authority Local Projects list for the 2019-2021 biennium

Fall 2018

- Continued landowner outreach for ASRP and RFP work elements
- Technical and policy workshop(s) on overall 2017-2019 work plan, results of EIS scoping, ASRP landowner outreach, RFP landowner outreach, and further development of ASRP document

Winter 2019

- Chehalis Basin Board public forums on SEPA/NEPA EIS, preliminary findings of RFP analyses, progress-to-date on ASRP, draft basin-wide floodproofing program strategy, and recommendations for 2019-2021 biennium budget
- Targeted outreach to legislators on recommended Chehalis Basin Strategy 2019-2021 biennium budget

Spring 2019

- Chehalis Basin Board public forums on draft Full ASRP, RFP analyses, and Aberdeen/Hoquiam North Shore Levee design and permitting process

Fall 2019

- Technical and policy workshops on preliminary findings within the SEPA/NEPA EIS
- Implementation of ASRP early action reach restoration projects

Winter 2020

- News releases, social media posts, and public meetings for release of Draft SEPA/NEPA EIS
- Chehalis Basin Board public forums on release of Draft SEPA/NEPA EIS, final ASRP, beginning of implementation of ASRP early action reach restoration projects, final RFP analyses, basin-wide floodproofing strategy, and draft long-term strategy assessment

Summer to Fall 2020

- Chehalis Basin Board public forums on final long-term strategy and selection of preferred SEPA/NEPA EIS alternative

Engagement and Outreach Approach for Target Audiences

The paragraphs below outline the approach for reaching out to and engaging target audiences during development of the Chehalis Basin Strategy.

Basin Landowners

Office of Chehalis Basin (OCB) and other agency staff, Conservation Districts, and consultant teams will conduct targeted outreach to landowners regarding the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) and Restorative Flood Protection (RFP) concept. OCB staff, Flood Authority staff, and local government staff will conduct targeted outreach to residential and business property owners regarding pilot floodproofing program efforts. Staff and consultants to the City of Aberdeen will engage landowners and residents regarding the North Shore Levee.

Tribal Governments

The Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) and Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation (Chehalis Tribe) are members of both the Chehalis Basin Board and the ASRP Steering Committee. In addition, OCB and other agency staff will offer to provide briefings to the Quinault Tribal Council and Chehalis Business Committee, and their respective community members and technical staff, throughout development of the Strategy. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will also engage affected tribal nations as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.

State and Federal Legislators

Board members and OCB staff will provide briefings, learning sessions, and basin tours/field trips to key State and Federal legislators and staff, and legislative committees during development of the strategy.

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority/Local Basin Jurisdictions

OCB staff will attend Flood Authority meetings as possible; and update the Flood Authority on matters related to development of the Chehalis Basin Strategy. OCB staff will also be available to provide briefings to local city and county councils or commissions as requested. OCB staff expects also to engage local planners to inform development of various elements of the Chehalis Basin Strategy.

Conservation Community

OCB and other agency staff will provide briefings, learning sessions, and basin tours to members of the conservation community at key points during development of the strategy. OCB and consultant staff will engage with local conservation interests like restoration groups, fisheries enhancement groups, land trusts and non-governmental organizations to inform landowner outreach, project implementation, and overall development of various elements of the integrated, long-term strategy.

Local Media

Board members and OCB staff will engage local media through press releases, editorial briefings, paid advertising, radio and/or television interviews/PSAs, and social media at key points during development of the strategy.

Local Civic Groups

OCB staff will provide briefings, learning sessions, and basin tours to local civic groups during development of the strategy. OCB and consultant staff will also seek to partner with local civic and restoration groups to provide materials and information at local events (fairs, festivals, symposiums, etc.).

SEPA/NEPA EIS Advisors

Ecology and Corps staff will seek input from tribes, federal agencies, and state agencies at strategic points throughout the SEPA/NEPA EIS process.