

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

Description

The Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) implements actions and projects across the basin to restore and protect aquatic habitats for native aquatic species populations now and into the future. ASRP serves as a science-informed, collaborative, community-oriented program outlining what the next 30 years and beyond of aquatic species habitat protection and restoration could look like with long-term funding and implementation support. The ASRP's detailed prioritization and sequencing plan serves as a roadmap to optimize investments in priority locations and actions within near-, mid-, and long-term time periods (i.e., years 1-10, 11-20, and 21-30, respectively).

Potential Principles

- **Principle 1:** Implementation of the ASRP is a fundamental and essential component of the long-term strategy for aquatic species and habitat restoration in the Chehalis Basin.
- **Principle 2:** The long-term Chehalis Basin Strategy (i.e., aquatic species restoration, flood damage reduction, and integrated actions) is a collaborative approach to restoring impaired ecological processes, protecting high function areas, and reducing flood damages that will ultimately improve the health and diversity of habitat for native aquatic species in the basin.
- **Principle 3:** Habitat is the primary limiting factor for salmonids in the Chehalis Basin. Protecting and restoring habitats, including through ASRP, supports species populations and the productivity and resilience of ecosystems facing climate change and other human-caused stressors.
- **Principle 4:** Protecting and restoring aquatic species habitat in the Chehalis Basin is imperative above and beyond mitigation required for flood damage reduction actions.
- **Principle 5:** ASRP seeks opportunities at multiple scales to integrate habitat restoration and protection actions with flood damage reduction efforts. The ASRP works together with other OCB programs such as the Community Flood Assistance and Resilience program and/or other flood damage reduction projects towards shared goals to address flood damage and improve habitat for aquatic species.
- **Principle 6:** The ASRP strives to honor the social, economic, and cultural values of the region.

Key Components

- **Habitat and Process Protection:** protecting ecosystems, unique habitats, and strategic areas that currently support critical ecosystem functions and native aquatic species. Actions include voluntary stewardship participation, incentives to landowners, improving environmental protections and regulations, and acquiring property or development

rights, as well as other creative programs devised by local governments and community/private/government partnerships.

- **Habitat and Process Restoration:** restoring ecosystem functions to support native aquatic and semi-aquatic species. Actions include removing human-caused barriers to fish passage, reconnecting off-channel and floodplain habitats, restoring habitat-forming process on rivers and in riparian areas, and addressing high-risk infrastructure.
- **Community Planning:** aligning ASRP goals and community plans to improve current and future ecosystem resiliency in the Chehalis Basin. Actions include working to ensure land use and community plans are consistent with ASRP, supporting planning implementation that furthers ASRP goals, and partnering with local governments to develop programs and policies that protect habitat and ecosystem processes.
- **Community Involvement:** engaging landowners and Chehalis Basin communities to ensure a successful plan through landowner input and support of implementation. Actions include developing an ongoing process for community engagement, developing incentives for participation with private and commercial landowners, and collaborating with organizations working on restoration outreach efforts.
- **Institutional Capacity:** building the capacity of existing organizations and individuals for restoration, protection, and planning processes to ensure the ASRP is a community-based program. Actions include providing funding for groups and individuals actively engaging in program projects, providing technical resources to partners, and supporting the work of existing organizations with overlapping missions.

Cost Estimate

These costs assume the ASRP will be implemented as preferred by the ASRP Steering Committee (i.e., ASRP Scenario 3+).

- **Total estimated 30-year cost:** \$1,104,000,000
- **Definition:** Protects/restores 555 miles of river/stream/estuary habitat, corrects 450 fish passage barriers, improving access to 400 miles of river/tributary habitat, and restores 16,700 acres of riparian/floodplain habitat. Builds on ASRP Scenario 3 below, with the addition of estuarine habitats, and focus on benefits to Chinook salmon (both fall and spring runs).

More Information

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