

Committed Project Participants:

- Quinault Indian Nation
- Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Terry Willis
- Grays Harbor Public Development Authority (Ross Read & Stan Ratcliff)
- Department of Ecology (Steve Craig)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife Water Team (Tera Hegy - gauges)

Project Resources Needed:

- Interagency cooperation
- Making sure all agencies with jurisdiction are involved
- Funding for consultants to facilitate, write, and provide legal advice

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- May require changes to the Revised Code of Washington and/or Washington Administrative Code

Special Notes:

Coordinate development with Interim Milestones 1.2 (page 11) and 3.1 (page 18).

Interim Milestone 3.5: Recommending instream flow levels

A work group representing basin-wide interests and agencies will convene to oversee the current and future scientific studies, and to develop and oversee the public process to recommend instream flow levels.²¹

IM 3.5a: Administration and Coordination

This task involves setting up and administering the instream flow study.

²¹ WMP Action 54

Tasks:

1. The CBP designates the proposed Water Quantity Committee to coordinate all activities. This task is coordinated with Interim Milestones 3.2 (page 20).
2. Any application of Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) to WRIA 22-23 subbasins would be through this committee.
3. Recruit instream flow specialists by:
 - a. Identifying the types of specialists needed to prepare instream flow study
 - b. Identifying agencies and organizations where specialists could be found
 - c. Doing outreach to agencies and organizations to ask for assistance
 - d. Obtaining commitment from agencies and organizations for use of specialists
4. Identify and secure consistent funding sources, including preparing a scope of work that includes:
 - a. Identifying specialists needed to complete the study
 - b. Determining what costs will be involved
 - c. Creating a marketing plan/strategy for bringing in grant funding
 - d. Administering grant funding
 - e. Achieving the outcomes required for the funding received
 - f. Deciding what "trade offs" will be needed if there is not enough project funding
5. Identify the legal constraints, requirements, parameters, and options for the instream flow study by:
 - a. Finding a specialist in instream flow/water rights law
 - b. Getting input from CBP and stakeholder groups about concerns
 - c. Define the political constraints to determining instream flow

Project Participants:

- CBP and proposed Water Quantity Committee
- Agencies and organizations providing specialists,
- Washington Department of Ecology
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project Resources Needed:

- Staffing
- Grant writing
- Marketing
- Administrative costs
- Plan 2 Fund
- Facilitator for identifying concerns of stakeholders
- Specialist in instream flow methodology and water rights law

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Individual agency and organization agreements of commitments

IM 3.5b: Data Gathering

Knowing what data is needed, understanding the gaps, and determining how to fill the gaps is critical to the study. Additionally, it will be important for study participants to clearly understand IFIM as well as other possible methodologies used for setting instream flows.

Tasks:

1. Review approaches to instream flows and evaluates IFIM
 - a. Identify alternatives
 - b. Evaluate methods, including IFIM

- c. Create a presentation that explains what is IFIM, where it has been done, and the range of possible methodological alternatives
2. Evaluate flow data at 1976 instream control points to determine its adequacy and what it tells us
 - a. Have WDOE prepare a gauge report from WDOE and USGS flow stations
 - b. Determine daily low flow periods
 - c. Present this data to the instream flow study group/Water Quantity Committee
3. Determine what information is available and what is missing
 - a. Determine what data we should be looking for
 - b. Gather available assessment data
 - c. Contact Streamkeepers or other pertinent organizations for additional flow data
 - d. Use the GIS Clearinghouse to help the instream flow study group/Water Quantity Committee undergo data adequacy analysis
 - e. Define our data needs
 - f. Write up analysis
4. Determine if data and methodology is adequate to move forward by fulfilling the following steps:
 - a. Review the adequacy of stream gauge network
 - b. Turn to stakeholders for identifying instream flow needs relating to habitat, recreation, and aesthetics
 - c. Commence inventory of streams with no instream flow data
 - d. Conduct instream flow studies if necessary
 - e. Develop consensus on instream flow methodology
 - f. Encourage voluntary flow monitoring at other sites
 - g. Install new gauges for synthesized flows

- h. Write scope of work for any new studies needed
5. Ensure all data collected goes the GIS Clearinghouse by:
 - a. Collecting existing data
 - b. Developing standardized collection and submittal procedures
 - c. Converting data as needed (GIS Clearinghouse)
 - d. Developing and maintaining a bibliography

Project Participants:

- Washington Department of Ecology
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Legislature (appropriation)
- CBP and proposed Water Quantity Committee, GIS Clearinghouse

Project Resources Needed:

- Instream flow experts
- Individuals familiar with experience elsewhere
- Funding for tasks and gauging equipment and maintenance
- Staffing

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Individual agency and organization agreements of commitments
- Release of information from agencies, organizations, and other entities
- Legislative approval of appropriations request
- CBP

IM 3.5c: Analysis and Recommendations

This task begins by analyzing the data collected in IM 3.5b and concludes by making recommendations regarding instream flows for WRIA 22-23.

Tasks:

1. Reach agreement on the rationale of the analysis:
 - a. Determine instream values to protect (fish, aesthetics, recreation, etc.)
 - b. Define what constitutes a "protective flow" and what can be negotiated.
 - c. Design a negotiation process
 - d. Implement negotiation process and get results
2. Develop recommendations for instream flow or rules (WAC) changes by:
 - a. Applying the rationale to guide inflow recommendations
 - b. Using the process chart in under Section IV-34 of the Watershed Plan
3. Determine the legality of the recommendations, including possible rule changes
 - a. Request legal review assistance, possibly through the Office of the Attorney General
 - b. Forward review to CBP for consideration
 - c. Amend the recommendations if necessary
 - d. Send to the Washington Department of Ecology for rule writing
4. Identify stakeholders and begin dialog on instream flows
 - a. Determine what the process needs from stakeholders
 - b. Identify the stakeholders
 - c. Recruit stakeholders with consistent message
 - d. Set up stakeholder infrastructure (schedule meetings, appoint chair)

- e. Hold consultation meetings with stakeholders
 - f. Identify stakeholders needs/wants
5. Determine what flows are hydrologically achievable
- a. Convene a workshop with both the Water Quantity Committee and the stakeholders to describe and explain "hydrologically achievable" using experts
 - b. Run analysis to determine what is hydrologically achievable for each subbasin; including developing a methodology to measure "achievable"
 - c. Package information and present to the CBP for approval

Project Participants:

- CBP and Water Quantity Committee
- Stakeholders
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Washington Departments of Ecology,
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Health
- Instream flow methodology experts

Project Resources Needed:

- Facilitator
- Staffing
- Funding for legal services
- Educational materials
- Experts in instream flow methodology

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Agreement of stakeholders, tribes, and Washington Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife
- CBP

IM 3.5d: Outreach and Implementation

Outreach to the public and individual stakeholder groups starts from the onset of the project. Without public “buy-in” for the instream flow setting process and adoption, statewide experience shows implementation will be difficult at best.

Tasks:

1. Develop and implement a continuous outreach program that includes:
 - a. Visual graphics
 - b. Target audience
 - c. Design assistance from Public Information Offices from Washington Department of Ecology
 - d. Stakeholder resources
 - e. A budget and scope of work
 - f. A committee and plan that identifies outreach delivery methods
2. Involve supportive state agencies in outreach program by:
 - a. Determining how they should be involved
 - b. Identifying which agencies could help
 - c. Contacting agencies and securing their commitment
 - d. Maintaining on-going communication between the program and the state agencies
3. Coordinate the instream flow process with land use planning groups and agencies by:
 - a. Identifying the links between the Growth Management Act, land use planning, and instream flow regulations

- b. Involving state and local planning staff
- c. Recruiting the involvement and support of agencies
- d. Establishing links to the GIS Clearinghouse
- e. Actively interfacing instream flows with comprehensive planning and subsequent updates

Project Participants:

- CBP
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- Water Quantity Committee
- State agencies with Public Information Offices (PIO)
- GIS Clearinghouse
- Local and state land use planners
- Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, Division of Growth Management Services

Project Resources Needed:

- State PIO resources
- Staffing
- Funding
- Drops of Water
- Completed outreach strategic plan

State or Local Approvals Needed:

- Commitment from state agencies offering PIO resources, CBP
- CBP