

structural and non-structural options. Cities and counties should participate in FEMA's Community Rating Program.

- 6.2 Counties and cities with comprehensive flood hazard management plans should inform and, where possible, coordinate with each other during implementation of these plans, and should consider using the Partnership as a forum for coordination/communication between Lewis County, Chehalis and Centralia flood officials. *NOTE (from Chehalis Basin Partnership By-Laws): The Partnership was created per an intergovernmental agreement dated August 31, 1998 that designates a planning unit to pursue strategies within the Chehalis River basin including the key elements of flood reduction, fisheries, recreation, water quality and water quantity and examine their relationship to economic health and sustainability [emphasis added].*

Specific Actions

- 6.3 Place elevation poles and staff gages along major rivers

7. Water Storage [Source: Water Storage report, except as noted]

General

- 7.1 Establish a general program of wetland restoration: if money becomes available for wetland projects as mitigation in the basin, restoration projects that expand wet areas or reconnect the floodplain should be given additional weight.
- 7.2 Establish a public information program (*estimated cost over 5 years: \$120,000*) including information on:
 - the effects of impervious area
 - how individuals can mitigate these effects
 - how development costs can be reduced by implementing Low Impact Development (LID)
 - the benefits of a policy of LID for new development in the basin (recommend drafting a model LID ordinance that could be easily adopted or modified by counties in the basin)
- 7.3 Establish a public information program to instruct agricultural landowners on the effects that agricultural drainages have on wetlands, water quality, and runoff. As part of this program, a database would be established to help track existing drainage systems, their condition, and the current land use (*estimated cost: \$207,000*).
- 7.4 Establish a public information program to explain the beneficial effects that beavers have on ecosystems and encourage landowners not to automatically remove beavers from an area. (*estimated cost: \$170,000*).

- 7.5 Continue emphasis on forest conservation. Recommend an advanced study to quantify the relationship between forest cover, infiltration, groundwater, and surface water. By quantifying the effects of forest harvesting on base flows, new regulations can be fairly developed and administered or proper mitigation can be specified.
- 7.6 Further investigate the possibility of expanding the storage of the Skookumchuck reservoir to the originally authorized volume of 28,500 acre-feet.
- 7.7 Monitor implementation of the Wynoochee Dam project to ensure that this project contributes to the goals and objectives of the Chehalis Basin Watershed Management Plan
- 7.8 Releases of water from existing reservoirs must be timed to support fish health and stream morphology. *[Source: Quinault Indian Nation]*
- 7.9 *(low priority)* If an aquifer storage and recovery project is to be considered, study Newaukum Artesian Aquifer: characteristics to evaluate include specific storage the aquifer might hold and hydraulic conductivity. Test wells would have to be drilled and groundwater modeling of the aquifer would be necessary before a pilot project could be established.

Public Information Goal

- Use the Citizen Advisory Committee and public education to raise awareness of citizens on watershed issues and gain input from the public in developing and adopting the Plan.
- Encourage basin residents to implement the Plan, with government support.

8. Public Information *[Source: Public Information issue paper]* ***General***

- 8.1 The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Chehalis Basin Partnership should take a leading role in developing a plan for public information, including specific roles and responsibilities. The Citizen Advisory Committee would make recommendations to and be guided by the Chehalis Basin Partnership.
- 8.2 Member agencies of the Partnership should consider what outreach techniques are a good fit for their resources and assist accordingly. The Citizens Advisory Committee should recommend options for information and involvement to the Partnership that the group feels will best meet the goals they have identified.
- 8.3 Initial efforts must focus on the water resource issues deemed most vital by the Partnership; they should begin as soon as the Plan is adopted.
- 8.4 Make clear in all communications that meetings of the Partnership are open to interested members of the public
- 8.5 Develop eye-catching informational materials such as a “Chehalis Basin Water 101” brochure
- 8.6 Revise public informational materials and efforts over time to reflect what proves to be more/less effective