Bear Creek Oregon – Case Study

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Bear Creek Oregon – Overview

- 361 Square Miles
- 46% Forest
- 35% Farmland
- 8% Urban
- 7% Rural
- 21% Federally managed.
One of the first TMDLs in Oregon: 1992

- Aquatic Weeds and Algae
- Phosphorus
- Dissolved oxygen,
- pH and Ammonia Nitrogen

In 2007 TMDL updated:

- Temperature
- Bacteria
- Sedimentation
Bear Creek - Who is involved?

- Urban Designated Management Agencies – 6 cities, 1 County
- Federal Agencies
- 3 Large Irrigation Districts
- Rogue Valley Council of Governments
- Oregon Department of Agriculture and growers
- Others – State Transportation, State Parks, Bureau of Reclamation and more.
Typically Quarterly
- DMA meetings coordinated by Council of Governments.
- Primarily Information sharing group
- Decision process is spelled out up front
- Collaborative approach to solving Water Quality Issues and meeting requirements
- Communication is key
- Financial Commitment
Perceived Barriers:

• It’s not our pollution
• Why should we do anything when it comes from: *insert name here*
• We’ll never be able to afford this
• Don’t have time or staff – not a priority

• DEQ data/analysis is out of date
• There is a lack of local experience
• This is only a regulatory exercise– the public really doesn’t care...
Bear Creek Oregon – Drivers for Collaborative Change

- Regulations and Rules continue to develop
- Robust Data Sets – Social and Environmental
- The collective approach
- Defined Group Structure
- Consistency
• Stress a Collaborative approach
• Defined Group structure is essential
• Take advantage of Institutionalized groups in the basin
• Address $$ shortages with creative collaboration

• Stress Flexibility of actions
• Leverage additional support
• Note that a shortage of $$ can help push regional collaboration

Bear Creek Oregon – Lessons Learned
What Does the Future Hold?

- Pollution Credit Trading
- Broad Based Outreach Campaigns
- Changing Regulations
- Increasing Volunteer Grassroots Action
- More improvements: Habitat & Water Quality
Bear Creek - Fall Chinook 2011

Photo North Mountain Park – River Mile 25
Bear Creek Oregon – Questions?

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