

A HEALTHY SALMON CREEK WATERSHED

The Vision for the Salmon Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan (Plan) reflects common ground between landowners, program partners, and resource agency staff. The primary aim of this Plan is to better understand and address the conditions necessary for ensuring a healthy and functioning watershed ecosystem, to develop a program to improve habitat for native species, and to promote conservation-oriented land management practices while safeguarding the viability of Salmon Creek Watershed's agricultural heritage.

The Salmon Creek Watershed ecosystem can be considered healthy and functioning if we achieve the following goals and can measure results.

1. Water supply in the Salmon Creek Watershed is adequate for the needs of the landowners and the ecosystem.

This means that the amount of the stream flow in the tributaries and in the mainstem of Salmon Creek support the ecosystem such that:

- a. Freshwater quantity is sufficient to support the needs of the rural residential and agricultural landowners.
- b. Freshwater quantity is sufficient to support the needs of the native terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and the habitats upon which they depend

2. Water in the Salmon Creek Watershed is clean and is of consistent high quality.

This means that the quality of the water in the tributaries and in the mainstem of Salmon Creek meet or exceed regulatory requirements and both point and nonpoint sources pollution have been reduced in order to support freshwater, estuary, and upland ecosystems.

- a. Sediment loading does not exceed the level consistent with the requirements of fish and other aquatic species.
- b. Nutrient pollution from human and other sources is minimized to the point where it is no longer detectable in freshwater.
- c. Loadings of any pollutant source do not exceed levels which may impair healthy ecosystem functions.

3. The quality of life for landowners in the Salmon Creek Watershed is supported by a healthy and functioning ecosystem.

This means that a healthy Salmon Creek Watershed can support the social and economic vitality of its landowners.

- a. The natural resources of the Salmon Creek Watershed are ample enough to support agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism.
- b. The Salmon Creek Watershed's economic prosperity is compatible with the protection and restoration of a healthy and diverse ecosystem.

4. Stewardship activities in the Salmon Creek Watershed build and support landowner capacity to protect and sustain the environment.

This means that landowners and decision makers should have the information and resource capacity necessary to monitor ecosystem health.

- a. Landowners are provided with the education and technical support needed to make proactive and local decisions regarding water resources.
- b. Coordinated strategies are supported and encouraged at all levels of government.
- c. Resource Conservation Districts are supported and funded in order to participate in collaborative processes at the ecosystem level.