



# Nisqually River Notes

A Publication of the Nisqually River Council

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The Nisqually River Council is a broad-based organization committed to the protection and enhancement of the Nisqually watershed through collaboration, advocacy, and education. The Council was created in 1987 after the Washington State Legislature approved the Nisqually River Management Plan, which called for creation of the Council, a Citizens Advisory Committee, and allied nonprofit organizations.

The twenty-one member Council is the coordinating body for the program. Its members represent a variety of interests including the U.W. Pack Experimental Forest, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Fort Lewis, Mount Rainier National Park, Washington Departments of Ecology, Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources and Agriculture, Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission, Washington Secretary of State, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Tacoma Public Utilities, Lewis, Pierce, and Thurston Counties, and the cities of Yelm, Roy, and Eatonville.

Twenty one citizens serve on the Council's Citizens Advisory Committee. They represent citizen interests and concerns, and assist in the development of recommended policies for implementation of the management plan.

Nisqually River Management Program projects include Nisqually River Basin Land Trust, Nisqually River Education Project, Nisqually River Interpretive Center Foundation, Nisqually Stream Stewards, Nisqually Basin Watch, Public Access, Sign Project, and Salmon and Water.

The public is encouraged to attend and participate! The Council meets on the third Friday of every month from 9am-noon Call for more information (206) 407-6783 or email to [info@nisquallyriver.org](mailto:info@nisquallyriver.org).

The Nisqually River is the only river in the U.S. that has its headwaters protected by a National Park and delta by a National Wildlife Refuge.

## Nisqually Glacier to Sound Stewardship Project

The Nisqually River Council is launching an effort to update the 1987 Nisqually River Management Plan. The new plan will identify how landowners, if they choose, can voluntarily participate in developing a stewardship corridor between Mount Rainier National Park to the Nisqually River National Wildlife Refuge. Nothing that is being contemplated would be mandatory. Instead the project provides a set of voluntary actions that can be taken by landowners to conserve existing land use and a set of incentives for enhanced stewardship practices.

The end result will be an economically viable and aesthetically pleasing region where people can live, work, and play in a healthy, sustainable environment.

The Nisqually River Basin Land Trust, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, and the Nisqually River Interpretive Center Foundation are working together on this project. Technical and funding assistance is being provided through Stewardship Partners by the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service, the Russell Family Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Apex Foundation.

This is the first in a series of updates that will be included in future publications of Nisqually Notes.



## Project Goals & Objectives

The goal is to update the 1987 Nisqually River Management Plan. Major components of the project are: (1) Establish a Geographical Information System (GIS). (2) Develop a Habitat Management Plan and prioritize areas to concentrate stewardship efforts. (3) Develop a Stream Catalog and prioritize stream restoration projects. (4) Develop voluntary community development standards and architectural guidelines. (5) Identify important view areas between the Park and Refuge.

## Project Organization:

The first phase of the project has four stages, as described below:

### **Stage I** – Information Gathering (June - December, 2003)

The first stage includes hosting a series of public meetings; establishing a GIS system; collecting and digitizing data on property ownership, habitat, streams, and scenic views.

### **Stage II** – Analysis (January – April, 2004)

All the information gathered in Stage I will be used to make preliminary decisions about land categories, priorities for stream restoration and conservation.

### **Stage III** – Community Visioning Workshop (April, 2004)

In April, 2004, the public will be invited to review draft recommendations for voluntary low impact development and architectural guidelines for the corridor.

### **Stage IV** – Draft and Final Plan Production (May, 2004 – January, 2005)

A series of public meetings will provide communities and landowners within the Nisqually Watershed the opportunity to review and comment on the revised draft River Management Plan.

## Public Involvement:

Throughout the planning process communities and landowners will be informed about proposals being considered and will be invited to participate in the process. Four public meetings will be held at the beginning of the project. The first meetings will be held at the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge on **June 7<sup>th</sup>** from 10 AM to Noon, at the Prairie Motel on **June 9<sup>th</sup>** from 7 to 9PM, in Ashford on **June 10<sup>th</sup>** at the Ashford Fire Hall from 7 to 9PM and the Ohop Grange on **June 25<sup>th</sup>** from 7 to 9 PM. These are being sponsored by the Nisqually River Council to inform people about the project and to obtain public comments about the scope of the project.



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