

## DRAFT TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Carol Murdock, Leah Johanson

From: Ken Vigil, Maureen Raad

Date: August 2010

Subject: **SWMACC District Subwatershed Characterization**

The purpose of this technical memorandum is to document a baseline watershed conditions for the Surface Water Management Agency of Clackamas County (SWMACC) District. The subwatershed characterization is divided into four sections: (1) Watershed Overview, (2) Hydrology, (3) Water Quality, and (4) Aquatic Habitat and Biological Communities.

Clackamas County Water Environment Services (WES) and their consultant team recently completed watershed action plans for the Kellog-Mt. Scott Creek and Rock Creek Watersheds. The format and organization of this memorandum are similar to the watershed characterizations found in those watershed action plans. However, although the format and organization of this memorandum are similar, this baseline characterization is unique because of watershed-specific details (environmental conditions, opportunities and constraints, and schedule and budget limitations).

WES is transitioning the County's stormwater management program from a regulatory based approach to one that is driven by integrated watershed management principles. This new approach is focused on improving the overall condition of four main watershed health components:

**Hydrology**—managing stormwater runoff in a manner that minimizes impacts from hydromodification (for example, development-induced flooding and stream channel degradation)

**Water Quality**—minimizing pollutants in stormwater runoff and surface waters

**Habitat**—promoting functioning, healthy streams and riparian/upland areas

**Biology**—maintaining viable aquatic insects and diverse fish and wildlife populations

The County is also beginning a public outreach program for residents of the SWMACC District. The purpose of that effort is to educate residents about the County's current activities in the District, and to work with area stakeholders to determine priorities for future activities.

The baseline watershed characterization presented in this memorandum and the results of the public outreach effort will help guide the subsequent watershed assessment portion of the SWMACC District watershed action plan. That plan will identify and prioritize activities to maintain, restore, and enhance the health and function of the watershed areas within the District.