

CHAPTER THREE

Stakeholder Involvement

This chapter summarizes the stakeholder involvement activities conducted during development of this Basin Plan. Stakeholders were identified and contacted to inform them of the planning process and to solicit information on basin issues. The project team held three public meetings and conducted two surveys by mail during the basin planning process. Stakeholders were continually involved in plan development, and throughout the development of recommendations.

3.1 IMPORTANCE OF STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholders are people, agencies, or groups of people with an interest in the outcome of the basin plan. Effective stakeholder involvement is an important component of Pierce County's basin planning process. Stakeholder involvement is needed to ensure that stakeholders are aware of the basin plan and that they have the opportunity to participate.

Stakeholder involvement is also important for floodplain management. The Nisqually River Basin planning area encompasses several areas on the Nisqually mainstem and major tributaries that have been mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as flood hazard zones. Property owners within these designated floodplains may be eligible for coverage under the *National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)*. FEMA developed the *Community Rating System (CRS)* to recognize and encourage community floodplain management that exceeds the minimum NFIP standards. Under the CRS, communities with strong floodplain management programs can qualify for lower flood insurance premiums.

The following bullets list key FEMA CRS criteria for public and agency involvement:

- Public meetings at beginning of planning process
- Public meeting at end of planning process
- Public information activities that encourage input
- Questionnaires asking the public for information
- Solicitation of input from advisory groups
- Contact with other agencies
- Meetings with other agencies and stakeholders
- Public involvement in plan development
- Stakeholder involvement in plan development
- Consider community land use plans
- Review of draft plan by other agencies

3.2 STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT FOR NISQUALLY RIVER BASIN PLAN

The stakeholder involvement strategy for the *Nisqually River Basin Plan* was designed to support the basin planning process by:

- Facilitating basin characterization and problem identification.
- Helping to develop solutions that are realistic and acceptable to the community.
- Fostering support for basin plan implementation.

In addition, the stakeholder involvement strategy was designed to help Pierce County maintain a favorable CRS ranking by including the CRS public and agency involvement elements listed in Section 3.1 above.

The first step in the planning process was to identify potential stakeholders and their likely level of involvement in the basin planning process. The planning team identified a broad range of stakeholders, including state and local governments, citizen groups, environmental groups, local businesses, and basin residents.

Residents and landowners in the Nisqually River Basin planning area are the primary stakeholders. Citizen stakeholders include landowners within the floodplain and riparian areas, lakeside homeowners, landowners who reported drainage-related problems, and other basin residents. Larger landowners and businesses are Tacoma Power and Centralia City Light. Until recently Weyerhaeuser was a large land holder; they have divided up and sold their land within the basin.

Federal and state agencies consist of Fort Lewis, Mount Rainier National Park, the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), Washington State Parks (Nisqually Mashel State Park), Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Pierce County departments include Pierce County Surface Water Management, Planning and Land Services (PALS), and Transportation Services. Other local governments are Thurston and Lewis Counties and the Cities of Roy and Eatonville. Other entities include the Nisqually Tribe, Nisqually River Council, Nisqually Land Trust, the Thurston Shellfish Committee, Nisqually Salmon Habitat Workgroup, Pierce County Conservation District, Eatonville Land Use Committee, Upper Nisqually Land Use Advisory Commission, University of Washington Pack Forest, and the WRIA 11 Planning Unit.

The various stakeholders may be involved at different levels during the plan development process. All stakeholders will be informed at key junctures in the process and will be provided opportunities for input at public meetings.

Figure 3-1 shows the Pierce County basin planning area and its relation to other jurisdictions in the Nisqually River watershed. The following sections summarize the stakeholders and their involvement in the development of this Basin Plan.

3.2.1 Pierce County Surface Water Management

The *Nisqually River Basin Plan* will serve as the basis for the Pierce County Surface Water Management's *Capital Improvement Program (CIP)* and future activities in the basin. Surface Water Management's staff developed the scope of work for and managed the project team throughout development of this Basin Plan.

Based on the information contained in this plan, Surface Water Management will select the recommendations (projects, proposed policies, other suggestions in the Draft Basin Plan) that will be presented to the public and to the *Storm Drainage and Surface Water Management Advisory Board (SWM Advisory Board)*. The SWM Advisory Board will then provide its recommendations regarding the basin plan to the Pierce County Planning Commission, County Executive, and County Council.

Surface Water Management will transmit a proposed basin plan and *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* to the Pierce County Executive, who will then refer it to the County Council. Basin plans must be approved and adopted by ordinance.

3.2.2 Nisqually Tribe

As the co-manager of Nisqually River fisheries, the Nisqually Tribe (Tribe) has a strong interest in protecting water quality and aquatic habitat throughout the Nisqually River watershed. The Tribe has played a lead role in the development of the *Watershed Management Plan (HB2514)* for WRIA 11, development of the *Nisqually Basin Salmon Recovery Plan*, and the identification and implementation of habitat restoration and preservation projects. The Tribe also plays an active role on the Nisqually River Council. Parts of the Nisqually River Basin are Nisqually Indian Reservation, as depicted in *Figure 3-1*.

The Tribe was a major contributor to development of this Basin Plan, providing key information concerning a number of areas:

- Existing and potential water quality problems within the basin planning area.
- Current conditions of habitat within the basin planning area, including an extensive evaluation of stream habitat.
- WRIA 11 technical assessment, management plan, and monitoring plan.
- Salmon recovery planning and projects.
- Completed, current, and proposed habitat restoration projects.
- Proposed land acquisitions for conservation and/or restoration opportunities.
- Recommendations for habitat restoration projects and additional studies.

3.2.3 Federal Entities

The basin planning area includes a number of areas administered by the U.S. government. While the Nisqually River Basin Plan does not directly apply to federal lands, it is possible that activities on federal lands could affect surface water management in some portions of unincorporated Pierce County. The federal agencies administering lands within the planning area boundary were important sources of information to planners and were therefore involved in the planning process. These federal installations are discussed below.

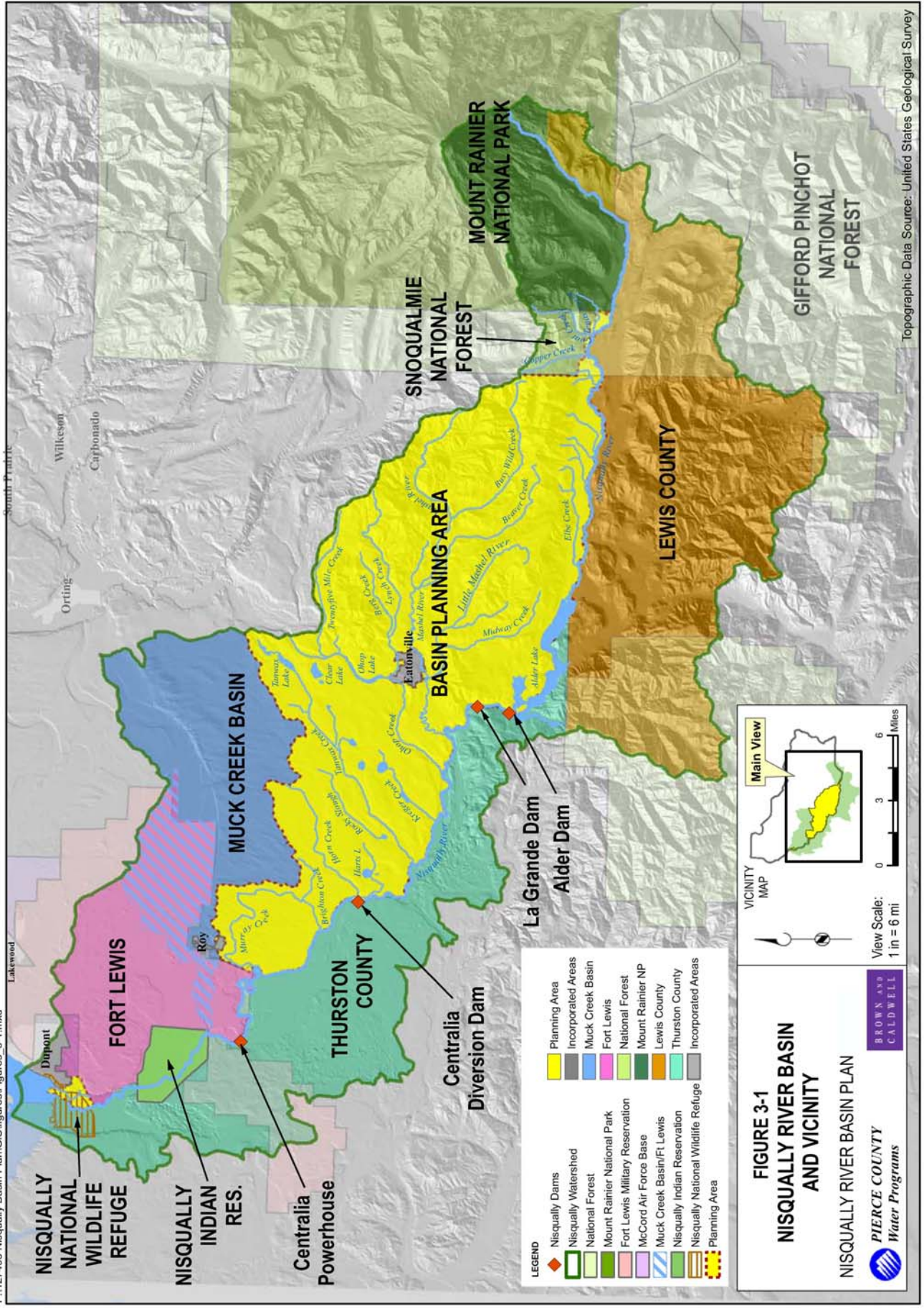
Mount Rainier National Park

The headwaters of the Nisqually River are located in Mount Rainier National Park (Park). The Park covers the uppermost portion of the Nisqually River Basin and forms the eastern boundary of the planning area (see *Figure 3-1*).

The Park maintains several facilities along the Nisqually River. The two most notable are Sunshine Point Campground and Longmire Wilderness Information Center, as described below.

- Sunshine Point is a campground and picnic area approximately 0.25 miles inside the park boundary. The campground has been affected by flooding along the Nisqually River in the past. Pierce County maintains a levee along the north bank of the Nisqually River near the Sunshine Point Campground. The levee extends approximately 1,800 feet east of the park boundary. The County is currently renegotiating an agreement with the Park for a right-of-way (ROW) permit to maintain these facilities.
- Longmire Wilderness Information Center is approximately 6 miles inside the park boundary and is a relatively large development consisting of several structures. These facilities are also affected by flooding along the Nisqually River. As a result the Park has constructed some revetments at this location for bank protection.
- Other Park facilities within the Nisqually River Basin include the Jackson Visitor Center and the Paradise Visitor Center near the Paradise River, which is a tributary to the Nisqually River. The Park also maintains bridges on Tahoma Creek and Kautz Creek.

The Pierce County project team reviewed the Park's land use plan/EIS and consulted with Park staff to notify them of the basin plan and to obtain information regarding the Park's facilities and future development within the Nisqually River Basin. Pierce County and Park staff discussed basin planning issues on a number of occasions during plan development.



- LEGEND**
- ◆ Nisqually Dams
 - ▭ Nisqually Watershed
 - ▭ National Forest
 - ▭ Mount Rainier National Park
 - ▭ Fort Lewis Military Reservation
 - ▭ McCord Air Force Base
 - ▭ Nisqually Indian Reservation
 - ▭ Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
 - ▭ Planning Area
 - ▭ Incorporated Areas
 - ▭ Muck Creek Basin
 - ▭ Fort Lewis
 - ▭ National Forest
 - ▭ Mount Rainier NP
 - ▭ Lewis County
 - ▭ Thurston County
 - ▭ Incorporated Areas

VICINITY MAP

Main View

View Scale:
1 in = 6 mi

0 3 6 Miles

FIGURE 3-1
NISQUALLY RIVER BASIN
AND VICINITY

NISQUALLY RIVER BASIN PLAN

PIERCE COUNTY
 Water Programs

BROWN AND CALDWELL

Fort Lewis

Fort Lewis (Fort) covers a large portion of the lower drainage area of the Nisqually River Basin. Much of the area covered by the Fort is in the Muck Creek Basin, for which a separate basin plan has been developed. The Fort also covers areas of the Red Salmon Creek drainage and encompasses several miles of the Nisqually mainstem.

Fort Lewis is under federal jurisdiction. However, the project team consulted with Fort Lewis environmental staff to notify them of the basin plan and to obtain information regarding activities along the Nisqually River mainstem. The Fort Lewis staff indicated that most of the Fort's permanent facilities are located outside of the Nisqually River floodplain, and at this time the Fort does not have any projects planned along the mainstem. The Fort does have one crossing on the Nisqually River, which was damaged by flooding in the late 1990's. The Fort described this crossing as not a typical bridge or "hard" structure. The crossing has not been used or maintained since the flood damage occurred and would require improvements before it could be used in the future. Currently, there are no plans to make those improvements.

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

The Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), also under federal jurisdiction, located in the Nisqually River Delta. The 2,925-acre refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The refuge protects valuable estuarine habitat for wildlife including migratory birds and salmon. The refuge is divided between Pierce and Thurston Counties.

The project team contacted the Refuge to notify them of the basin plan and obtain relevant information. The team also reviewed the recently completed Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuge (USFWS, 2004). The plan describes several alternatives for future management of the refuge and recommends a preferred alternative, which would involve:

- Expansion of the refuge boundary by adding an additional 3,479 acres, including areas of Pierce County.
- Removal of existing dikes and construction of new dikes to reduce the protected area and restore 699 acres of estuarine habitat.
- Removal of some existing recreational trails and adding new trails, including a loop on the Pierce County side of the river.

3.2.4 State Agencies

The following state agencies administer programs and policies that impact stormwater management within the Nisqually River basin.

Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)

The *Washington State Department of Ecology* (Ecology) is the permitting authority in Washington under the federal *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System* (NPDES). Pierce County Surface Water Management has a “Phase I” *Municipal Stormwater NPDES Permit*. Actions recommended in basin plans must comply with the NPDES permit terms.

Ecology also is responsible for many aspects of watershed protection grants and activities, administration of the *State Environmental Policy Act* (SEPA), and enforcement of sediment, groundwater, and surface water quality standards.

The federal *Clean Water Act*, Section 303(d) requires that every two years, Ecology must identify all water bodies that do not support their designated beneficial uses, as indicated by water quality standards. The resulting list of “impaired” or “polluted” waters is called the “303(d) list.” Ecology is responsible for establishing water clean-up plans, or total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), for the impaired or polluted water bodies in order to bring them into compliance with the applicable water quality standards. After a TMDL has been established by Ecology and approved by the US EPA, Ecology must revise the affected NPDES permits to require compliance with the applicable TMDLs.

Surface Water Management staff has had extensive interaction with Ecology regarding current and potential NPDES and TMDL issues. The insights gained through these interactions have been factored into this Basin Plan.

Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is the agency responsible for issuing hydraulic project approval (HPA) permits for in-stream work in state waters. Primary WDFW interests in the Nisqually River Basin are:

- Salmon recovery
- Watershed management
- Protection of other fish and wildlife species

The basin planning team met with the regional WDFW biologist to discuss the basin plan and obtain input regarding potential problems, issues, and opportunities related to fish and wildlife habitat in the Nisqually River Basin. The biologist confirmed that WDFW does regular surveys of Nisqually streams, but did not identify any specific problems or opportunities in the basin. He noted that HPA permits will be required for any County projects that include in-stream work. This includes the removal of beaver dams which are a common problem in the Nisqually River Basin. WDFW allows the removal of beaver dams, but does not have a specific policy for beaver dam removal. Each case is reviewed individually.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Washington State Parks has begun a project to establish a new state park at in Pierce County, near Eatonville. This destination park is adjacent to the Nisqually River, and it is bordered by the Mashel River on the East and the Ohop Creek on the West, and Highway 7 to the North.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages the Elbe Hills State Forest which is located southeast of Eatonville. The DNR is charged with protecting and managing lands and natural resources for long-term productivity; habitat; and other conservation, education, and recreation benefits. As discussed in Section 2.2.9, the DNR administers the state *Forest Practices Act*, which regulates forest practices on private and state land.

3.2.5 Pierce County Agencies

The basin planning team also exchanged information with and sought input from the following Pierce County agencies.

Pierce County Planning and Land Services (PALS)

Within unincorporated areas of Pierce County, the County's Department of Planning and Land Services (PALS) provides the following public services:

- Administers the County's environmental review regulations.
- Enforces compliance with the County's land use zoning and development codes.
- Issues development permits and authorizations.
- Conducts long-range land use planning for unincorporated county areas.

As discussed in section 2.2.9, PALS has a role in the regulation of timber lands that are converted to non-forestry land uses. Such conversions require a *Forest Practice Application* (FPA) from the state DNR, and are subject to Pierce County SEPA review and development regulations. PALS is responsible for administering Title 18H of the Pierce County Code, which provides procedures and review criteria for County approval of special conversion forest practices, general forest practices, and conversion option harvest plans.

The project team consulted with PALS regarding project areas and permit review areas that extend into the Nisqually River Basin planning area. PALS staff provided information concerning the following:

- Effects of storm drainage and surface water management activities on existing and planned land uses.
- Effects of planned land uses, density, and current development regulations on surface water management objectives.
- Growth management policies regarding land use and public facilities.
- Future land use in the Eatonville and Upper Nisqually areas, as described in the *Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Eatonville* and the *Upper Nisqually River Community*

Plan. Chapter 4, Current Conditions, summarizes these community plans and their potential implications for the Nisqually River Basin Plan.

- Conversion of commercial forest land to rural residential land uses.

The PALS staff noted that large areas of forest lands are being converted to low-density rural residential land uses (one home per 10 or 20 acres). This trend will likely lead to reduced tree cover, slightly increased impervious surface area, and increased domestic animal population in the basin. In addition, some lakes in the basin are experiencing increased residential development.

Pierce County Transportation Services

Pierce County Transportation Services provides road maintenance on all county roads, including all associated bridges, culverts, and storm drains. The project team consulted with Transportation Services staff regarding roads in the basin planning area and obtained information as follows:

- Road maintenance problems related to storm drainage and surface water management activities.
- Other observed problems within the study area related to flooding and storm drainage, water quality, and/or riparian habitat.
- Current or future transportation projects within the planning area that could affect storm drainage and surface water management activities.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD)

The *Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD)* provides many programs for health care and disease prevention. Programs relevant to the Nisqually River Basin Plan include:

- *Source Protection Program* – TPCHD promotes environmental protection and distributes public information on well water, household hazardous waste, and boating and recreation.
- *Septic System Program* – TPCHD works to ensure that septic systems are located and installed correctly and kept in good working condition in an effort to reduce the risk of contaminating groundwater and surface water and to reduce the risk to public health.
- *Safe Shellfish Program* – TPCHD promotes safe harvesting and consumption of shellfish on local beaches and waterways in Pierce County. TPCHD receives financial support from the Surface Water Management Division to fund its Shellfish Program.

TPCHD also monitors for toxic blue-green algae blooms in local lakes and streams and cautions citizens when public waters become unsafe.

The project team met with TPCHD staff to discuss potential problems related to septic systems and lake water quality in the basin.

3.2.6 Other Municipalities

Although the Basin Plan focuses on unincorporated Pierce County, surface water follows topography without regard for political boundaries. For example, stormwater runoff within cities may flow into unincorporated areas and vice versa. Drainage conditions and decisions in cities have the potential to improve or worsen flooding, water quality, and fish habitat conditions in unincorporated areas. Conversely, stormwater management decisions for County-governed areas could affect the surface water volume and quality in other jurisdictions. With these relationships in mind, other municipalities were included as stakeholders. The Nisqually River Basin contains a number of local jurisdictions as listed below:

- Town of Eatonville (1.7 square miles of basin)
- City of Roy (0.5 square miles)
- City of DuPont (2.4 square miles)
- Thurston County (129 square miles)
- Lewis County (193 square miles).

Town of Eatonville

The Town of Eatonville is centrally located in the basin planning area (see *Figure 3-1*). The Eatonville Comprehensive Plan was developed in response to the *Growth Management Act* of 1990, and was completed in 2005. The urban growth area specified in the Plan lies in both the Lynch Creek and Mashel River drainage areas. Future decisions by the town with regard to land use and stormwater management is of interest to the basin planning effort because of the town's stormwater discharge to Lynch Creek. As noted above, the project team met with PALS staff to obtain information about the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Eatonville (Eatonville, 2005). The project team also met with the Town Administrator to discuss the Town's future projects and future development areas. The Town Administrator noted that water quality in Lynch Creek is a key concern. Runoff from the town and from unincorporated lands discharges into the Creek via a large ditch. Several residential subdivisions have been built recently or are underway. Subdivisions are required to follow the Pierce County stormwater management manual requirements. He also noted that the town owns land on the lower portion of the ditch, which might be available for a stormwater treatment facility.

City of Roy

The City of Roy is located on the west side of the basin planning area. Most of Roy is located within the Muck Creek drainage area (not included in this basin plan). However, parts of Roy extend into the Murray Creek drainage area. The project team spoke with the City of Roy's planning consultant by phone to discuss surface water management problems and the future projects. According to the City of Roy's planning consultant, Roy does not anticipate substantial growth in the near future. No major projects related to surface water management are planned for the future.

City of DuPont

The City of DuPont is located at the north end of the Nisqually River Basin near Puget Sound. Only a portion of the city boundary extends into the Nisqually River Basin; most of the city lies within the Sequimitchew basin. The project team consulted with staff at the City of DuPont to notify them of the basin plan and to obtain relevant information. The City of DuPont did not identify any issues related to the Nisqually River Basin. Surface water management in the city is primarily concerned with Sequimitchew Creek.

Thurston County

Thurston County forms the southwestern boundary of the planning area along the Nisqually River mainstem (*Figure 3-1*). The project team consulted with the Thurston County planning staff regarding problems that may exist along the shared reach of the Nisqually River, and any Thurston County activities or initiatives planned for the basin. Thurston County staff did not identify any problems or planned activities relevant to the basin plan.

Lewis County

Lewis County forms the southern boundary of the planning area along the upper reaches of the Nisqually River mainstem (*Figure 3-1*). The project team consulted with the Public Works Department of Lewis County regarding current or potential problems along the shared reach of the Nisqually River. The upper Nisqually River is an active braided channel and rapid channel migration has led to flooding problems along the valley floor. One such area was the Hidden Valley subdivision on the Lewis County side of the river. Pierce County and Lewis County are currently working together to map the “Channel Migration Zone” (CMZ) of the upper Nisqually River.

3.2.7 Other Entities

The planning team also contacted several other agencies and companies that serve the planning area as described below.

Nisqually River Council

The Nisqually River Council (NRC) has been actively involved in water resources and land use management activities in the Nisqually River watershed for almost 20 years. The NRC was originally formed to guide the development and implementation of the *Nisqually River Management Plan*, which was adopted in 1987.

The NRC is composed of a broad cross-section of local, state, and federal agencies and organizations, including Pierce, Lewis, and Thurston Counties; the Nisqually Tribe; the WDFW; the Washington Department of Natural Resources; the cities of Eatonville, Yelm and Roy; the Washington Conservation Commission; Fort Lewis; Tacoma Public Utilities; the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge; the US Forest Service; and the University of Washington Pack Forest. The NRC also includes several members of the Nisqually Citizens Advisory Committee and manages the Nisqually Land Trust. Therefore, the NRC is a key group for stakeholder involvement in the *Nisqually River Basin Plan*.

The NRC recently completed the *Nisqually Land Trust Stewardship Plan* for the watershed. This plan considers the Nisqually Watershed an integrated whole and provides for a balanced stewardship of the basin's economic, cultural and environmental resources. It is a community-based plan that will be voluntarily implemented by landowners and neighbors and communities, cities and counties, state and federal government, and the Nisqually Indian Tribe (Nisqually Land Trust Stewardship Plan, 2005).

Pierce County Surface Water Management staff attended several monthly meetings of the NRC. County staff met with the NRC and its members about the basin plan to provide an overview of the basin plan scope and objectives, ask for information regarding problems and opportunities within the basin, and notify the NRC of public meetings. The project team had numerous discussions with members of the Nisqually Tribe who are involved with the NRC.

Pierce Conservation District

The Pierce Conservation District (Conservation District) is a special-purpose district authorized by Chapter 89.09 of the Revised Code of Washington to help citizens manage natural resources wisely. The chapter authorizes conservation districts to conduct surveys and research, conduct educational and demonstration projects with the consent of landowners, design improvements, and recommend actions by individuals and governments to conserve natural resources. A conservation district cannot regulate or require adherence to its programs or recommendations. The Conservation District administers a dairy waste management program, a farm assistance program, salmon recovery programs, and a stream team program. Water quality, soil conservation, fish habitat protection, and habitat restoration are at the heart of these Conservation District programs.

The Conservation District created a database of culverts throughout the Nisqually River Basin. The database includes evaluations by District staff of each culvert's potential for fish passage. This database was used in this Basin Plan report to help identify fish barriers within the planning area.

Tacoma Power

Tacoma Power owns and operates the Nisqually River Project, which consists of Alder Dam, La Grande Dam, the reservoirs and associated lands. The Nisqually River Project is subject to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing requirements and was issued a new FERC license in 1997. The project team consulted with staff at Tacoma Power staff to obtain information regarding current water quality and habitat related activities at the Nisqually River Project. Staff referred us to their operating rules affecting surface water management, which are outlined in Chapter Four of this Basin Plan.

Centralia City Light

Centralia City Light operates a small diversion and powerhouse on the lower Nisqually River. The diversion canal alignment is on the Thurston County side of the river. The project team consulted with Centralia City Light staff to obtain information regarding existing conditions at the diversion and whether any problems have been observed in the area.

University of Washington Pack Forest

Pack Forest is an approximately 4300-acre research and demonstration forest owned and managed by the University of Washington's College of Forest Resources. Pack Forest staff is responsible for maintaining the setting and forest diversity so that academic and research opportunities may continue and expand.

3.2.8 Citizens within the Nisqually River Basin

Public involvement was an integral part of the basin planning process. The project team held its own public meetings and attended others. Two surveys of the basin residents were also conducted.

Public Meetings

The project team held two public meetings during the basin characterization phase of the basin planning process in an effort to involve and solicit input from basin residents.

The first meeting was held on June 1, 2005, toward the beginning of the characterization phase, at Weyerhaeuser Elementary School near Eatonville. This meeting was intended to inform residents of the planning process and to solicit information regarding drainage/flooding, water quality, and/or fish habitat problems in the basin.

A second meeting was held in September of 2006 to present the draft findings of the basin characterization and obtain citizen input.

As noted above, Surface Water Management staff attends the Nisqually River Council (NRC) meetings, and will continue to attend throughout the basin planning process. The first meeting occurred at the start of the basin planning process. At that initial meeting, Surface Water Management presented an overview of the basin planning process and invited NRC members to participate. Surface Water Management staff provided basin planning status reports at subsequent meetings. The key findings of the basin characterization phase were presented to the NRC on July 21st, 2006. The NRC was asked to provide input on the problem areas identified during basin characterization and on the proposed data gaps to be addressed during basin plan development.

A list of public meetings and presentations conducted by the project team is provided in "Appendix B."

Basin Residents Survey

In March 2005, the County mailed a questionnaire to basin residents, along with a cover letter explaining the basin planning process. The intent of this questionnaire was to collect information on flooding and drainage, water quality and/or fish habitat problems and priorities. "Appendix B" contains a copy of the questionnaire.

In July 2007, the County mailed a second questionnaire to basin residents. This questionnaire was sent to nearly 800 lakeshore property owners on 16 lakes to collect information regarding

lake use and problems associated with flooding, water quality, and aquatic habitat. The methodology and results for this survey are summarized in [Chapter 7](#).

Basin residents receiving questionnaires were property owners that met one of the following criteria:

- A portion of their property is in or nearly in the FEMA designated floodplain (Zone A).
- A portion of their property is near a water body
- A drainage, water quality, or fish habitat related problem was reported on or near their property and was entered into the County's Service Response System (SRS) database.

The mailing list was developed based on a series of geographic information system (GIS) database queries. The County's tax parcel database was queried to identify parcels that were at least partially within the FEMA 100-year floodplain, or within 200 feet of a mapped watercourse or water body. The selected parcels were filtered to only include those parcels with an improved value greater than \$25,000 to filter out vacant or unimproved parcels. The SRS database was also queried to identify all parcels that contained reported drainage, water quality, or fish habitat problems. The SRS database query encompassed all parcels in the study area (not just parcels in the FEMA floodplain or riparian corridors described above).

The GIS and SRS database queries described above identified approximately 1,700 property owners. The questionnaire was mailed to every property owner identified. Approximately 120 completed questionnaires were returned to Surface Water Management. The questionnaire results are summarized in [Chapter 5](#).

Tanwax Citizens Group

The Tanwax Citizens Group is an organization of citizens living in the subbasin of Tanwax Creek and its tributaries. Pierce County Surface Water Management staff attended a Tanwax Citizens Group meeting in December of 2005. Surface Water Management staff gave a presentation on the Nisqually River Basin Planning process. Citizens were encouraged to identify surface water management-related problems and to provide input for the basin planning process. Several people mentioned problems involving beaver activities and lake level management. The Tanwax group has been instrumental in obtaining grant funding for revegetation projects on Rapjohn Lake and Tanwax Creek (Personal communication with David Hymel, June 2006).