

10th Annual North Santiam Basin Summit

Zoom Meeting Report



Thursday, April 30, 2020



Introduction

Due to COVID-19 pandemic and the ‘stay home’ Governor’s Executive Order, the 10th Annual North Santiam Summit was held as an online Zoom meeting in 2020 with a condensed format. The Summit’s purpose was to deliver updates on projects and initiatives underway in the basin and provide an opportunity for partners to prioritize future projects and initiatives for the North Santiam basin. It included live updates from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, and The Prediction Lab. Due to the condensed format, other basin partners provided short written updates to the group.

10th Annual North Santiam Summit Agenda

Date: April 30, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Format: Online Zoom Meeting (replaced previously scheduled all-day, in-person event)

9:00	Online Meeting Protocols and Agenda (Libby Bakke, Barney and Worth)
9:05	Welcome (Robert Chandler, City of Salem)
9:10	Who’s in the Virtual Room – <i>Instant Polling</i> (Libby Bakke)
9:15	North Santiam Report Card Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Online Survey (Libby Bakke)– Summarize Results (Rebecca McCoun, North Santiam Watershed Council)– Chat Questions & Comments (Libby Bakke)
9:30	North Santiam Basin Update (Libby Bakke) <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Live Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ODFW North Santiam Update (Elise Kelley)○ Prediction Lab Summer 2019 Debrief (James Watson)○ ODF Wildfire Outreach-North Santiam Focus (KJ DeGuire)– Chat Questions & Comments (Libby Bakke)
9:45	US Army Corps Willamette Basin Projects (Erik Petersen) <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Chat Questions & Comments (Libby Bakke)
10:20	North Santiam Future (Libby Bakke) <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Online Survey Results– <i>Instant Polling</i>– Chat Questions & Comments (Libby Bakke)
10:30	Closing/Thank You

Participation

The Summit was well attended by representations from multiple organizations and agencies. 63 people participated in the Zoom meeting online and 10 people joined via telephone (see a complete list in Appendix B.)

Informational Materials

The Summit had two goals. The first goal was to provide timely updates on several of the basin's important and impactful projects and initiatives. The second goal was to prioritize future projects and initiatives for the basin. This was accomplished through:

Pre-Summit North Santiam Survey: Prior to the Summit, basin partners participated in an online survey to gain their feedback about the health of the basin and to prioritize future projects.

Written Abstracts: Partners provided project updates and informed the group of future plans for their initiatives in written updates. The abstracts were compiled into the *10th Annual North Santiam Partner Update Report*. The report was distributed to partners on April 29, 2020. The report is included in the Appendix A.

The following organizations provided abstracts for the report: City of Salem, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Marion County Emergency Management, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry-Santiam Unit, Oregon State University, Oregon Watershed Board Santiam Water Control District, The Prediction Lab, and US Geological Survey Oregon Water Science Center.

Summit Presentation: The US Army Corps of Engineers, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, and The Prediction Lab provided live updates.

These can be view on the North Santiam River Water Council website (<https://northsantiam.org/projects/north-santiam-basin-summits/>) and are included in the Appendix C.

Summit Overview

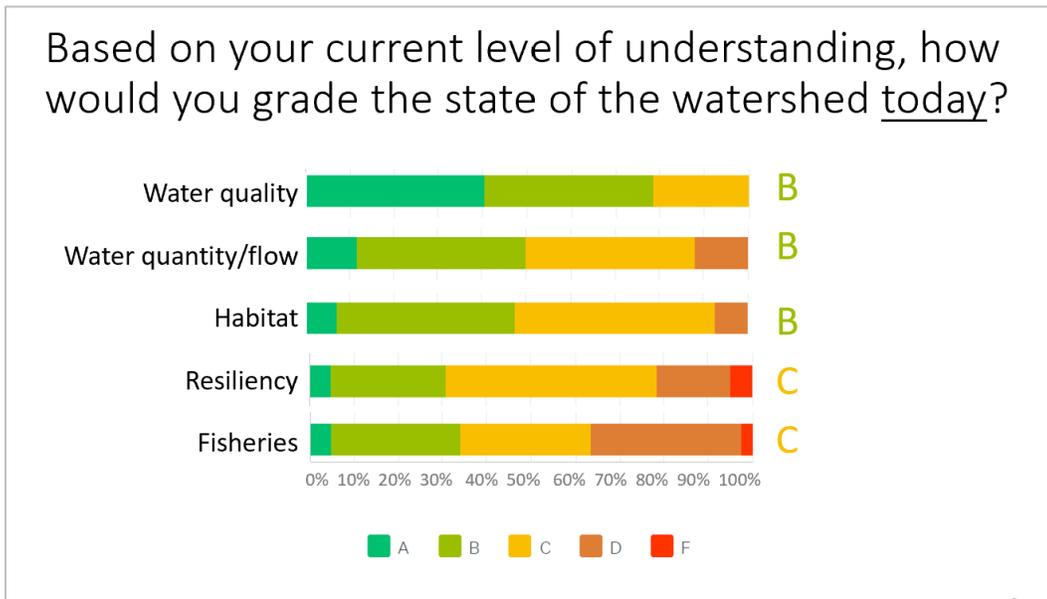
Robert Chandler from the City of Salem kicked off the Summit. The pre-Summit survey and the North Santiam report card were introduced by Libby Bakke of Barney&Worth. Rebecca McCoun of the North Santiam Watershed Council summarized the findings. The report card represented a quick snapshot of how things are going in the watershed based on participants' understanding of current conditions. The results were grouped into two categories-- watershed features and collective efforts/outcomes.



Watershed Features

Overall, the state of the watershed received an okay report card. Water quality, water quantity/flow, and habitat earned a B grade. Resiliency (the watershed ability to deal with global warming and drought) and fisheries earned a C grade. These results show the system is a high-value resource that is worth continued attention and support.

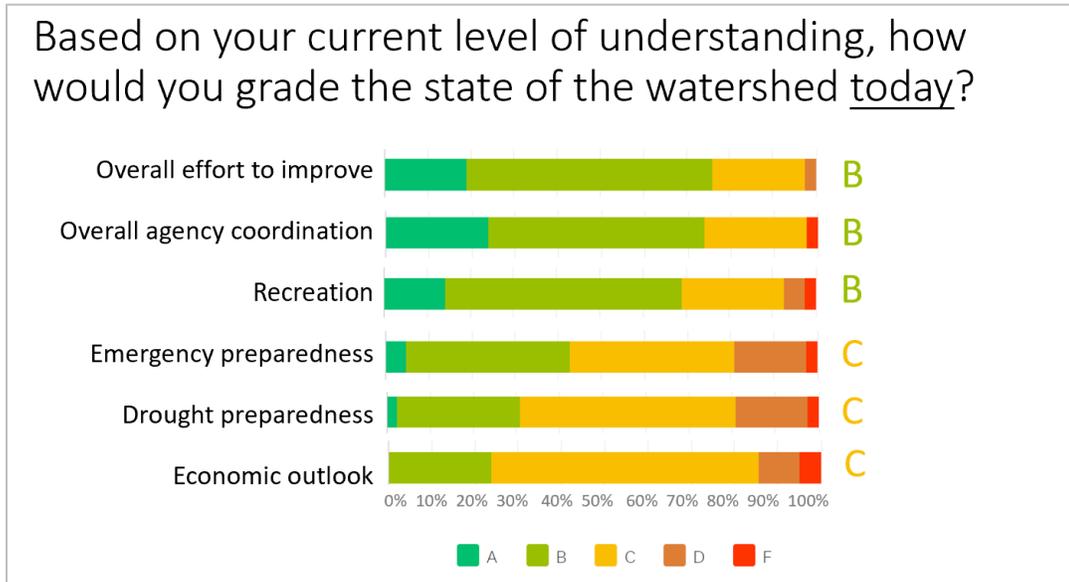
Watershed Features Report Card



Collective Efforts/Outcomes

When considering the collective effort on the North Santiam River, participants gave good grades for the overall effort to improve, agency coordination, and recreation. This shows everyone's efforts may have moved the dial on some of these topics. For emergency and drought preparedness, the grade drops a bit, and points to areas where agencies need to continue to make improvements. Economic outlook received a C grade—which during this uncertain time could be considered a good grade.

Collective Efforts/Outcomes Report Card



Following the presentation of the report card, representatives from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry and the Prediction Lab provided live program updates during the meeting. These included:

- **Elise Kelley from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife:** provided updates about the winter steelhead run and water conditions.
- **James Watson from The Prediction Lab:** provided an update on the harmful algal bloom prediction system they have developed for Detroit Lake.
- **KJ DeGuire from Oregon Department of Forestry:** provided an overview of the wildfire risk reduction programs for the North Santiam.

Erik Petersen from the US Army Corps of Engineers provided updates on a variety of US Army Corps of Engineers activities in the North Santiam. This included COVID-19, the 2020 water year, the 2019 high water event, the latest news on Big Cliff remedial action and progress updates for the Willamette EIS & Willamette BiOp Consultation, Detroit dam downstream fish passage project, and Willamette basin reallocation project. These presentations were followed with question and answer sessions.

USACE PORTLAND DISTRICT WILLAMETTE VALLEY PROJECT UPDATE

10th Anniversary North Santiam Summit
 Erik Petersen
 Operations Project Manager
 Portland District, Willamette Valley Project
 30 April 2020

The Prediction Lab Update with James Watson

End of season report
 The harmful algal bloom season for 2019 is now over. The winter weather means that it is too cold and there is too little sunlight for harmful algae to bloom. Here's a lookback at the 2019 HAB season:

A) Algae

March	Green
April	Green
May	Green
June	Green
July	Green

B) Toxins

March	Red
April	Red
May	Red
June	Red
July	Red

- Harmful Algal Bloom Prediction System for Detroit Lake with the City of Salem
- Uses novel machine learning methods
- Provide estimates of concentration of specific algal species and toxin levels

Oregon Department of Forestry - Santiam Unit Update with KJ DeGuire

- Santiam Canyon Defensible Space and Prevention Education Grant well received
- On track to meet its fuel reduction goal of 175 acres
 - Over 100 acres in progress
 - Over 90 acres completed with the help of rebates and cost-shares
- Wildfire risk reduction outreach continues through
 - Prevention education
 - Property risk assessments
 - Firewise community projects

Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife North Santiam Update with Elise Kelley

Winter Steelhead Run

- Stronger run than in past few years
- More than 5,000 winter steelhead had crossed Willamette Falls by mid-April

2017 and 2018 Sea Surface Temperatures

- Signs were indicating a gradual reverting to historical averages

Future Priorities

The second goal of the Summit was for partners to collaborate on setting the direction for future basin activities. The results of the pre-Summit online poll were shared, then participants were live polled about what should be prioritized in the future for the North Santiam basin and what actions could be taken to implement these priorities. In addition, partners were asked about their level of interest in participating moving forward. Below are the results from the online survey and live poll.

The online survey asked participants to rank on a scale of 1 (Needs more attention) to 7 (Outstanding effort!) how well has the North Santiam Basin Summit supported a number of watershed initiatives. All of the initiatives ranged from 4.5 to 5.3. Top outstanding efforts included:

- ✓ Development of interagency coordination
- ✓ Providing a venue for cross-agencies idea exchange
- ✓ Watershed activates update
- ✓ Informal networking

Looking Ahead to the Future

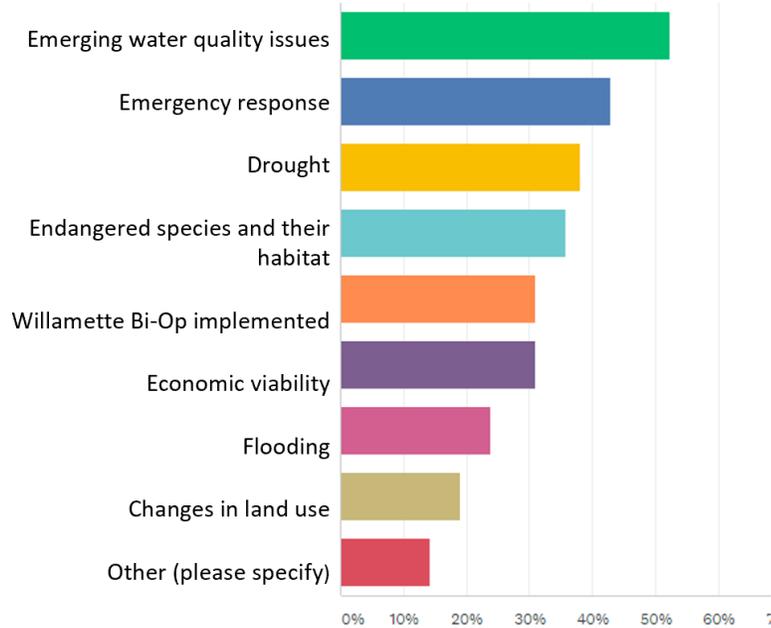
How well has the North Santiam Basin Summit supported watershed initiatives?

Rank	Needs more attention	Weighted average	Watershed initiatives
1.	Needs more attention		
2.	...	4.5	Emergency response coordination
3.	...	4.7	Education opportunities
4.	...	4.7	Contribute to a stronger more resilient watershed
5.	...	4.8	Identifying data gaps
6.	...	4.9	Planning for the future
7.	Outstanding effort!	4.9	Prioritizing watershed needs
		5.0	Informal networking
		5.1	Watershed activities updates
		5.1	Providing a venue for cross-agencies idea exchange
		5.3	Development of interagency coordination

Online survey takers were also asked to select the top three issues that are most important when thinking about the future. Emerging water quality issues, emergency response, and drought were the top three selections.

Looking Ahead to the Future

When you are thinking about the future, which of the following issues are most important for the North Santiam? (Top Three)



Live polling shows that the top two issues the Summit should focus on are implementing the Drought Contingency Plan and emerging water quality issues. The top action to take is to develop work groups that focus on key initiatives. Almost 90% of respondents said they would be willing to join a workgroup.

Looking to the future, what one or two things should the Summit focus on?

- 48% Implementing the Drought Contingency Plan
- 45% Emerging water quality issues
- 37% Developing a North Santiam Geographic Response Plan
- 36% Supporting efforts to protect endangered species/habitat
- 23% Coordinating water quality monitoring efforts

What actions we can take to help implement our priorities?

- 76% Develop work groups that focus on key initiatives
- 42% Improving education opportunities for the public
- 38% Formalize North Santiam Summit participating agencies into a coalition
- 33% Hold quarterly check-ins
- 4% Other method
- 2% Don't change a thing

What's your willingness for future participation? Would you be willing to:

- 89% Join a workgroup
- 39% Host workshops
- 22% Designate staff
- 19% Contribute funding*(inter-agency agreements may be necessary for this)
- 3% Other

Event Feedback

Eighteen attendees from the Summit provided feedback through an online survey after the event. Overall feedback about the 10th Annual North Santiam Summit was positive.

Rate the Following **1-10 Scale** (10 being highest)

Online Format 9

Content Relevance 8

Overall Rating 9

Highlights of comments on what people liked best:

- “Great facilitation, key speakers just enough detail & relaxed feel.”
- “Not too long, not too short. Solid relevant information.”
- “The polling at the end where we answered questions about how to move forward.”
- “The information and thinking of future work”
- “I still like the fact that we get together--albeit virtually today--to engage with each other, listen to one another, and better understand our professional roles and activities.”

Highlights of what could be better:

- “Since there was so little interaction, I wonder if sending out the presentations, even videos of presentation, beforehand and then giving much more time for interaction would be more valuable.”
- “I know it wasn't possible but having it in person would have been better.”
- “Invite other stakeholders in the watershed to participate. The USFS is the largest land manager in the watershed and they didn't get an invite to present.”
- “In the future...more information and discussion”
- “I think it would have been ok for each person to show a few slides, maybe next time, and take longer for the Summit. I've had some calls that went an hour, then took a 30 min break, then came back for an hour that worked out really well. Good job though, it was a great summit!”

Willingness to Participate in the Future

Thirteen attendees who responded to the post-Summit survey said they were willing to participate in the future. This included joining a workgroup, hosting workshops, designating staff, or contributing funding.

Summary and Next Steps

Given the situation during the COVID-19 pandemic, the virtual format for the 10th Annual Summit allowed participants to continue to learn and interact around common subjects of importance in the North Santiam basin. Next steps could include forming work groups around the high priority subjects (Drought Contingency Plan implementation, emerging water quality issues, developing a Geographic Response Plan and/or endangered species/fisheries). These efforts will require time for staff/agency participation and leadership of each work group to be effective.

The North Santiam Summit has been a forum to build trust and relationships between groups who work and live in the watershed. This forum has become a much-anticipated annual event.