

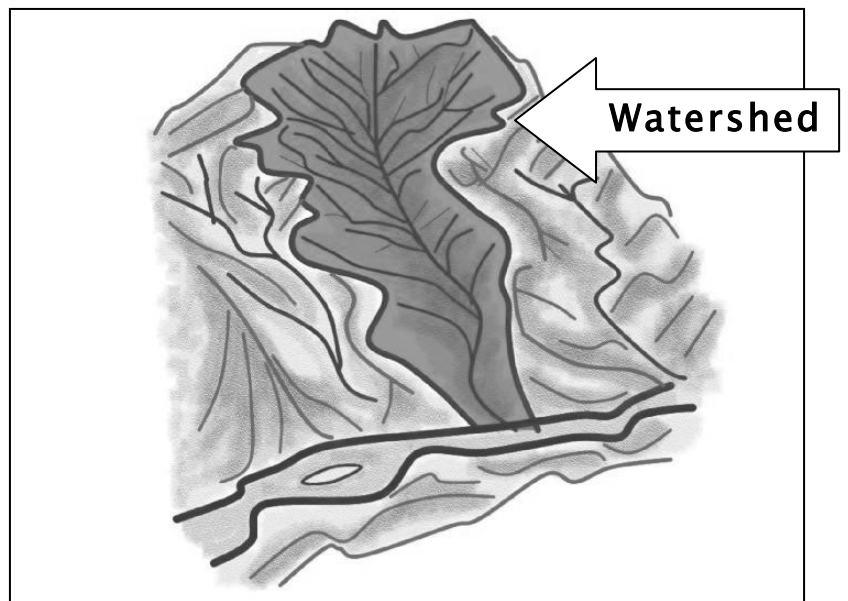
What is a Watershed

- ◆ Area of land catching precipitation and draining it to a water body. Water moves by means of a network of drainage pathways both underground or on the surface. Generally, these pathways converge into a stream and river system that becomes progressively larger as water moves downstream.
- ◆ Every stream, tributary or river has an associated watershed, and small watersheds aggregate together to become larger watersheds.
- ◆ Watershed boundaries follow major ridge-lines around the rivers and meet at the bottom where water flows out of the watershed, commonly referred to as the mouth of a stream or river.
- ◆ All land on earth is a watershed, therefore, we all live in a watershed.

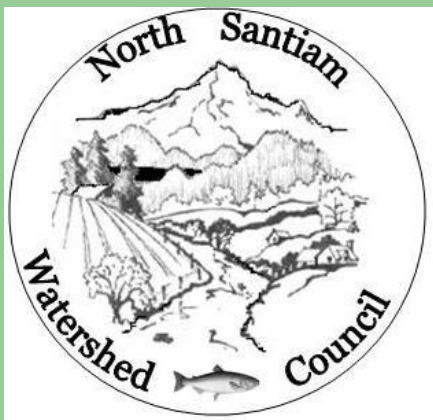
Calapooia Watershed flows from Tidbit Mountain in the western Cascades and joins the Willamette at City of Albany.

South Santiam Watershed drains approximately 1,040 square miles from the central Cascades south of Mount Jefferson to the Santiam River near Jefferson, OR.

North Santiam Watershed is the area of land from Mount Jefferson to the Willamette River, draining rain and snow to the North Santiam River.



Watershed Councils



What are Watershed councils?

- ◆ Locally organized, voluntary, non-regulatory groups established to improve the condition of watersheds in their local area.

- ◆ The 1995 Legislature unanimously passed House Bill 3441 providing guidance in establishing watershed councils but making it clear that formation of a council is a local government decision, with no state approval required.

- ◆ According to ORS 541.350, a watershed council is "...a voluntary local organization designated by a local government group convened by a county governing body to address the goal of sustaining natural resource and watershed protection and enhancement within a watershed." The two primary guidelines provided are: 1) that the watershed council be a voluntary, local group, and 2) the council represents a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed.

Benefits of Watershed Councils:

- ◆ Watershed Councils are made up of people from the local communities. They represent local knowledge and have ties to the community in all its complexity.

- ◆ Watershed councils work across jurisdictional boundaries and across agency mandates to look at the watershed more holistically. The council can be a forum to bring local, state and federal land management agencies and plans together with local property owners and private land managers. This forum provides local people a voice in natural resource management that can significantly influence watershed management decisions.

- ◆ Local watershed councils are highly effective in development and implementation of projects to maintain and restore the biological and physical process in the watersheds for the sustainability of their communities.