

## Recovery Potential Metrics Summary Form

**Indicator Name:** WATERSHED ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

**Type:** Social Context

**Rationale/Relevance to Recovery Potential:** Organizations at the level of the specific watershed have been shown to have a key influence on restoration success through building legitimacy through local representation, fostering conflict resolution, and clarifying multiple interests and ideas. Some sources (e.g. states) of restoration assistance will not generally implement restoration efforts without active groups that indicate community support and interest. Other related metrics associated with restoration success include organizational persistence, existence of a funded watershed leadership position, and individual leader performance.

**How Measured:** Measured as a numeric indicator of the number of watershed groups located within each 303(d) watershed. EPA provides an online database that catalogues watershed groups by 8-digit HUC (EPA-ADOPT). EPA's ADOPT database (See: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>) provides organization information for watersheds. Users can download the list of watershed groups and create a table that cross-references watershed groups by HUCs for use in GIS. Intersect the watershed coverage by the statewide HUC coverage and link the watershed groups to the corresponding watersheds.

**Data Source:** EPA's ADOPT database (See: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>) provides organization information for watersheds. National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) mapping tool provides access to the boundaries of Fish Habitat Partnerships nationwide (See: <http://www.nbii.gov/far/nfhap/>) that may include more local-scale watershed organizations

**Indicator Status (check one or more)**

- Developmental concept.  
 Plausible relationship to recovery.  
 Single documentation in literature or practice.  
 Multiple documentation in literature or practice.  
 Quantification

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**Examples from Supporting Literature (abbrev. citations and points made):**

- (Sabatier 2005) p. 14 Causally prior factors [affecting collab wshed mgt success] are socioeconomic, ecological, civic and institutional conditions predating the effort. This context heavily affects the approach and probability of success. [Process as used here implies institutions for the actions being discussed]
- (Leach and Pelkey 2001) themes relating to watershed partnership success include [note that **bolded ones** are spatially representable for recovery screening with existing data while others are usually not available as spatially explicit data]: **funding, broad and inclusive membership**, committed participants, **effective leadership**, bottom-up leadership vs balanced among levels, trust, low or moderate conflict (vs none), geographic scope, limited scope of activities, adequate time, well-defined process rules, consensus rules, **formal enforcement mechanisms, effective communication, adequate sci-tech info**, monitoring data on outcomes, training in collaboration, **agency support and participation, legislative encouragement, community resources**.
- (EPA 1997) As for common characteristics of successful watershed leaders, they tend to reflect the values of the community and to know what works there. They generally are good communicators, have the ability to bring about change and set things in motion, and are committed to making their (or a group's) vision a reality. They also tend to know how



Once the group has established a level of trust and clarity of purpose a local coordinator can take over these roles.

- Finally, the **community-based watershed** group can provide a voice for policy and regulatory reform at the state and national levels in order to improve the way this problem is handled across the West.
- (Zanetell and Knuth 2002) By partnering local knowledge with expert opinion, new knowledge is created that exceeds the limits of either type of knowledge alone. This partnership melds the relevant sociological, cultural, ecological, political, and historical facets about a particular natural resource and community of concern into a comprehensive knowledge base for environmental decision making and action.
- (Constantz 2000) Local leadership is one of the most crucial ingredients for the long-term sustainability of a watershed group.