

PREFACE

The purpose of this watershed assessment is threefold. First, it provides a compilation of basic information regarding the environmental characteristics of the Seven Basins Watershed. Secondly, it identifies data gaps and makes recommendations for the development of action plans that will address the data gaps. These two goals are typically developed and presented in most watershed assessments. However, the Seven Basins Watershed Council envisioned an assessment that was more than just a compilation of facts; they wanted a document that could be used to educate themselves and other stakeholders in the watershed. Thus, the third purpose of this assessment is that it provides an introduction to some of the basic physical, chemical, and biological processes that control factors, such as:

- Slope stability;
- Sediment Production and Transport;
- Water Quality;
- Water Quantity;
- Stream Flow;
- Groundwater Flow; and
- Surface Water/Groundwater Interaction.

While the first two items are necessary to develop an appreciation of the information that exists for the watershed, we feel the background and educational information presented is equally if not more important. This material provides a basis for understanding the processes that control and shape a watershed. This material is important for those who will be involved in

the development of specific action plans. However, it is even more critical to those who will be involved in designing monitoring programs and/or interpreting the results from such programs. A basic understanding of the processes one is attempting to evaluate is imperative. Without this knowledge it is difficult to develop sampling and testing programs that will generate meaningful results.

Longer chapters in the assessment such as Chapter 4–Hydrology and Water Uses, Chapter 5–Riparian/Wetland Assessment, Chapter 7–Sediment Sources, Chapter 9–Water Quality, and Chapter 10–Fish Assessment provide background and educational discussions related to the basic processes that control the various topics to be discussed. This information sets the stage for the discussion of how these fundamental processes influence the conditions observed in the watershed. For those readers who may not be interested in these educational sections, you are invited to move directly to sections specifically related to the watershed.

Throughout the document, attempts have been made to incorporate examples from the watershed of the different phenomena being discussed. It is intended that such an approach will interject a sense of realism, ownership, and personalization to the assessment and its readers. Through this approach it is hoped that stakeholders will be motivated to participate by volunteering and take a proactive role in improving the wellness of their watershed.

This assessment represents the information available at the time this document was prepared. The intention of the Seven Basins Watershed Council was to create an organic document that would be easily updated as new and additional information and data become available, growing in content as the community’s knowledge for their watershed expands. This document was intended to inspire, motivate, and enable the community for which it was created.