



Water Program

How we help communities:

- Bring seasoned, professional facilitation and conflict resolution by water issues experts.
- Create and manage diverse community coalitions and multi-party agreements.
- Mentor local leaders and new place-based institutions.
- Provide independent, scientific, and regulatory advice to aid compliance with Clean Water Act, ESA, NEPA, and state water rights programs.
- Shape and advocate for balanced state and federal policies that address environmental and community needs.
- Develop communication strategies and materials for complex or divisive subjects that move opinion leaders and the public.

A shortage of clean water is the most pressing challenge facing the US West.

The competing needs of our cities, agriculture, fish, and energy production have led to water scarcity and pollution in the Pacific Northwest. Growing populations and climate change place us further at risk. Efforts to address water challenges in rural areas are often hampered by planning, financial, and social barriers. Historically, the response has been conflict, litigation, and emergency assistance. This has left our water-dependent ecosystems and communities imperiled. Sustainable Northwest knows a better way.

A shared vision for the Northwest:

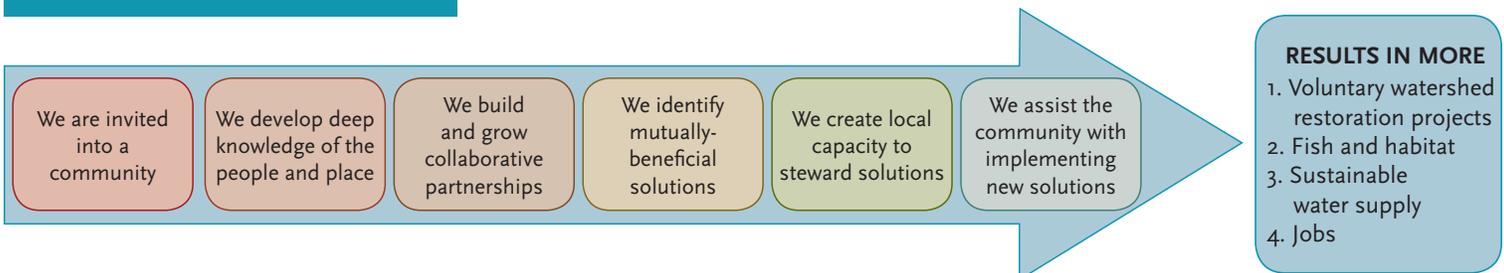
1. Enough clean water and habitat to support healthy populations of salmon and other native aquatic species.
2. More basin-scale watershed restoration.
3. Stable, sustainable water supply for cities and water-reliant livelihoods.
4. Secure living wage jobs for rural people.

Why is Sustainable Northwest unique?

Our trusted and proven collaborative approach is overcoming the rural West's most difficult natural resources challenges.

We bring diverse people together to listen and learn, find common ground, and craft equitable and durable solutions that meet the needs of the land and the people. We bring matching funds to support our work. We take the process from start to finish, or join community-based efforts already underway, to remove barriers to progress.

For a decade, our Water Program has found ways to sustain our natural resources for wildlife and local communities.



"I was surprised to learn that an environmental group had the same goals as the folks in the basin: to make things work for both the land and the people. It was the beginning of a beautiful relationship."

Dani Watson, Upper Klamath Water Users Association

We believe:

- People are an indivisible part of the ecosystems they inhabit.
- The economy and environment are interdependent.
- Trust and respect among diverse interests and cultures are essential.
- Solutions must be based in the best science and current law.
- Connections between rural and urban areas are integral.

Water Program basin-scale focus areas



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Sustainable Northwest is a 501(c)3 non-profit founded in 1994 that brings people, ideas, and innovation together so that nature, local economies, and rural communities can thrive. [Learn more: www.SustainableNorthwest.org](http://www.SustainableNorthwest.org)

OUR SUCCESSES

- In 2004, we created the first tribally-held working lands easement on non-tribal ranch land, where success is judged by demonstrated ecological outcomes.
- Beginning in 2005, we helped Country Natural Beef expand sustainable beef production and rangeland management to 39 ranches and 1 million acres.
- In 2009, we led successful advocacy for Oregon Senate Bill 76 that will help pay for removal of 4 dams on the Klamath River.
- From 2006 to 2010, we guided negotiations that resulted in the Klamath Basin Agreements, that can enable 5,000 jobs and the largest dam removal and headwaters-to-sea restoration effort in history.
- In 2010, we helped establish the UKWUA to represent local ranchers, and the UKCAN to coordinate local fish restoration.
- In 2014, we provided vital capacity and legal support for a new unique water settlement in the Upper Klamath Basin that can end the West's fiercest water war.