

## PRE-PLANNING QUESTIONS FOR STREAM MANAGEMENT PLANS

Beginning a stream management plan can be an overwhelming experience. There is no one “right” method, and the guidelines for developing an SMP do not dictate specific approaches. The following pre-planning questions are meant to help you think through why you are undertaking this process, who should be at the table, and what information you should know before you begin.

### 1. Exploring SMP approaches

- Have you reviewed other SMPs and CWCB’s grant guidance?
- Are there SMPs that closely mirror the goals/approach/outcomes you seek?

### 2. Understanding current knowledge and data

- Do you understand the river’s hydrology at a range of flows (base, low, flood)?
- What data are available to help you understand existing environmental conditions and water administration/management? Is the data refined and documented enough that you are comfortable using it? How does the amount of existing information affect the SMP approach?
- Have you met with the water commissioner to understand diversions, exchanges, water rights, and augmentation plans?
- Are you familiar with existing activities and initiatives in your watershed that may also qualify as, or contribute to, stream management planning such as master plans, environmental impact statements for water projects, or 319 non-point source plans?

### 3. Initiating conversations and selecting leadership

- Have you talked with the Basin Roundtable and know how this SMP will help with their Basin Implementation Plan goals?
- Which stakeholders should be on the SMP leadership team? Can you envision their specific roles?
- Have you identified key stakeholders by asking who is/is not interested in this process and why?
- Do you have existing (positive) relationships with key stakeholders? If not, who does?
- Have you identified an organizational home for the plan and subsequent implementation?
- Have you thought about the role of the broader community and whether/how they should be engaged?

### 4. Ensuring adequate funds

- Have your key stakeholders pledged financial and in-kind support? If not, why?
- Have you approach the Basin Roundtable for funds?
- Have you reviewed the budgets of other SMPs with a similar scope and scale to ensure you have adequate funds to accomplish your tasks?

### 5. Motivation and goals

- Are there acute or chronic problems (ecological and/or community benefit) that planning could address?

- Are there aspects of the river system (ecological and/or community benefit) that are functioning well that should be preserved and protected from future changes or risks?
- Are there trends or future water management or land use scenarios that planning should include?
- Have you undertaken conversations with key stakeholders to highlight and prioritize possible goals and narrow your focus?
- Have you identified the types of products that the SMP process could produce? Who is the audience for these products?
- Once the SMP is complete, how do you want to use it?

## **6. Selecting geographic scale**

- How do your goals affect the scale at which you need to work (watershed vs. reach scale)?
- Have you considered a phased approach, where you begin with a smaller number of reaches and expand in subsequent years to cover the entire basin?
- Do you have the human and financial capacity to conduct planning in a large number of reaches simultaneously?
- Are there social or political differences between sub-basins that require different goals or approaches?