A scenic view of a rural landscape with a large body of water, trees, and a barn. The image is used as a background for the title text.

# Implementing Habitat Restoration in the Chehalis

Large Scale Integration of Stakeholders

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# Introduction

- Applying funding to on the ground projects
- An example relevant to statewide conversations:
  - *“Would we be able to ramp up and implement high priority projects if provided with more money?”*
- Relationships Count – Know your Human Capital



# Presentation Outline

1. Engaging Restoration Partners
2. Doing more of what we do well
  - How we did it
3. Doing what we haven't done yet
  - How we will do it

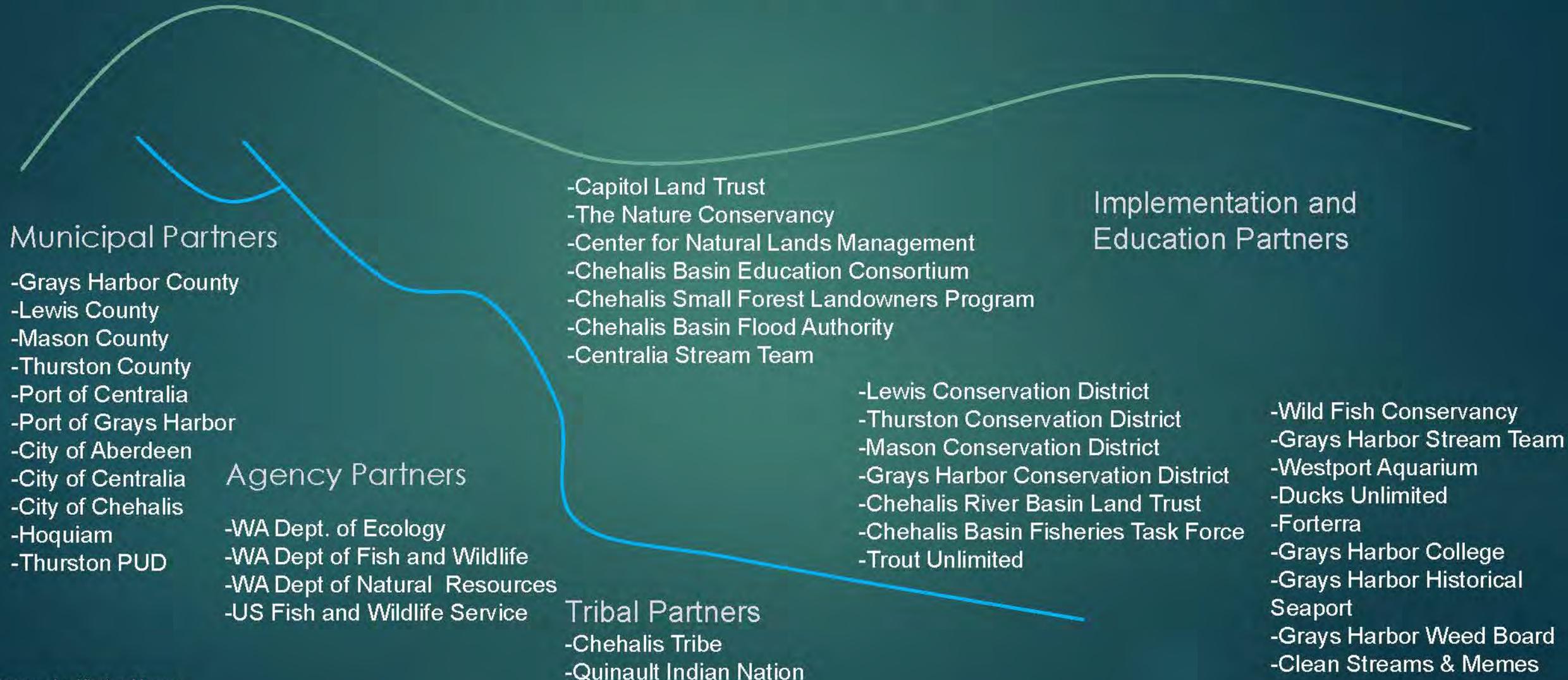


# 1. Engaging Basin Partners



# Chehalis River Watershed

## Partners in Ecosystem Restoration and Salmon Recovery



## 2. Doing more of what we do well – How we did it



# Restoration in the Chehalis Before the Chehalis Strategy

- \$600,000/year SRFB + sponsor match
- \$19.2 million applied to ground since 1999
- 210 miles habitat opened
- 2,500 acres protected
- 62% of Projects were Barriers
- Fit to Strategy:
  - Barriers are a top limiting factor in 11 of 14 Sub-Basins



# Results - \$10 million from the ASRP

- \$10 million from ASRP in 4 years
- 54 Barriers Addressed
- 87 miles of Habitat Opened
- Invasives, planting, surveys
- 11 Sponsors



# Factors in Success

- 20 years experience in correcting fish passage issues
- Projects developed through sponsor relationships with landowners and partners built over many years
- Barrier designs “in the queue” in anticipation of future \$
- No match required on ASRP funds
- Use of the Lead Entity infrastructure & process



# 3. Doing what we haven't been able to do – How we will do it.

- Why aren't other limiting factors being addressed?
- How is the ASRP working to address those limiting factors?



# Barriers to Implementation

- Water quality degradation comes from non-point and is hard to address by stand-alone projects
- Banks eroding too fast to revegetate
- Addressing erosion needs to happen as basin scale
- Mistrust of large wood
- Private land ownership
  - Conflicting values for land use
  - Resistance to government involvement



# Factors in ASRP Success To Date

- Conservation Districts engaged for landowner outreach
- Financial support for CD capacity
- Listening sessions – meet landowners where they are at
- Concepts designed around landowner needs



# Additional Implementation Needs

- Streamline permitting process
- Build local capacity to develop projects
- Enable contractor base to take on non-traditional project types
- Provide certainty of funding availability and a “design-train”
- Incentives for private landowners
- Engage large timber



# More Engagement Still Needed

## Chehalis River Watershed

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# Summary

- On-the-ground project implementation requires relationships that have been built over years.
- More money for restoration can be applied quickly where relationships exist and existing priorities have been identified.
- Expanding implementation to include large scale riparian and instream work takes addressing complex social factors



We welcome your  
ideas on how to  
involve partners in  
restoring the Chehalis

Thank you!

