SATSOP MANAGEMENT UNIT SATSOP RIVER

Description:

The Satsop River basin is one of the largest tributaries to the Chehalis River that drains over 192,000 acres. The main drainages that comprise the Satsop basin are the West Fork Satsop, Middle Fork Satsop, and East Fork Satsop. These three main forks drain from the Olympic Mountains, with the East Fork Satsop considered a continuation of the mainstem (Smith Wenger 2001). Mean annual precipitation ranges from over 160 inches in the headwaters to about 80 inches in the lower reaches (Weyerhaeuser and Simpson Timber Co 1995).

Currently, the lower reaches flow mainly through agricultural land and the middle and upper watersheds are still predominantly managed for timber harvest. The East Fork Satsop River flows through low hills and flat valleys, and has several major tributaries, such as Decker Creek, Dry Run Creek, and Bingham Creek, each supporting salmon populations (Smith Wenger 2001).

The Middle Fork Satsop River joins the East Fork Satsop River at RM 11. Its headwaters are located in the foothills of the Olympic Mountains, and it flows southerly through steep valleys and canyons until about RM 23.8. The surrounding land then changes to prairie and valleys. Most of the land has been under active forest management (Smith Wenger 2001).

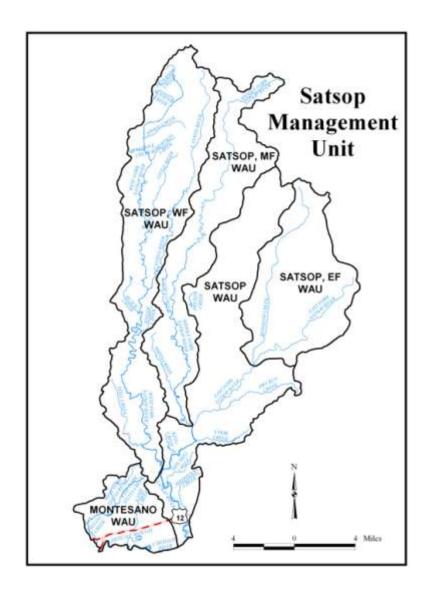
The West Fork Satsop empties into the Mainstern Satsop at RM 6.3, and is a glacial stream with flow patterns and turbidity that differ from the remaining Satsop subbasin. Its headwaters are in the steep foothills of the Olympic Mountains. In the Middle West Fork, the landform changes to moderate and low relief with short, steep tributaries. The geology changes to materials that break down quickly to gravels, sands, silts, and clays (Smith Wenger 2001).

The Satsop drainages contain 237.6 miles of anadromous fish habitat.

Major Tributaries: Bingham, Cook, Dry Run, Decker, Baker, Rabbit, Smith, Black, and Still Creeks; Middle Fork Satsop, West Fork Satsop, East Fork Satsop Rivers

Land Uses: Forestry, Agriculture, and Rural Residences

Anadromous Fish Stocks: Fall Chinook, summer Chinook*, coho, cutthroat, winter steelhead*, chum, and bull trout (* denotes depressed stocks, SaSI)



Satsop River Mainstem Tier 1	FLOODPLAIN	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
➡ Recently, the mainstem has seen more degradation, resulting in channel incision.	Partially attributed to gravel harvesting; more information needed.	➡ Protect, fee simple or easement, key properties to facilitate natural channel migration and reconnection to the floodplain
	 An estimated 10,000 cubic yards of gravel moves through the mainstem annually. In the past, this amount of material had contributed to aggradation. Timber harvest and development within the riparian zone have altered the physical characteristics and connectivity of many off-channel features. The former gravel pit site, located off Keys Road, has a perimeter dike and stockpiled soil that prohibit flooding of approximately 40 acres. Extensive amounts of riprap occur in the lower reach of the mainstem. 	 Reconnect, enhance, and/or restore potential off-channel, floodplain, and wetland habitat. Projects identified in the report prepared by Ralph et al. 1995 Five locations along the lower 6 miles of the mainstem have been identified as potential off-channel restoration projects. The quality and accessibility of these sites has been negatively impacted. Remove hard armoring (riprap) or implement bioengineering techniques in place of hard armoring Relocate gravel mining/harvesting away from shorelines, 100-year floodplains, and stream channels. Restore former gravel pit site located along Keys Road in the lower reach of the Satsop mainstem
➤ The floodplain in the lower reach of the Satsop mainstem does not accommodate natural channel migration patterns or flood storage.	 Extensive amounts of riprap in lower reach of the mainstem. The former gravel pit site, located off Keys Road, has a perimeter dike and stockpiled soil that prohibit flooding of approximately 40 acres. 	 Reconnect, enhance, and/or restore potential off-channel, floodplain, and wetland habitat Projects identified in the report by Ralph et al. 1995 Protect, fee simple / easement, key properties to facilitate natural channel migration and floodplain reconnection. Relocate gravel mining/harvesting away from shorelines, 100-year floodplains, and stream channels. Remove hard armoring (riprap) or implement bioengineering techniques in place of hard armoring Restore former gravel pit site located along Keys Road in the lower reach of the Satsop mainstem

Satsop River Mainstem Tier 1	WATER QUALITY	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
→ Listed as threatened by DOE for siltation and suspended solids.	Coo the Codiment section above for the effects of high	 → Address sediment input sources in WF, MF, EF Satsop → Reduce road densities to reduce sediment loading → Reduce exposed soils by improved logging practices.

Satsop River Mainstem Tier 1	RIPARIAN	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
→ The riparian condition for the mainstem Satsop is	→ 79% of the mainstem Satsop riparian corridor is lacking	→ Control invasive species. See Section 5.
considered to be in poor condition and will not significantly contribute LWD. See Grays Harbor County 2002 Riparian Assessment for additional information.	vegetation or is dominated by hardwoods. These impacts are attributed to past land use practices associated with agriculture and forestry.	→ Protect by fee simple or easement key properties of riparia habitat; use Chehalis Basin Lead Entity's Riparian Assessment report (2003) to identify specific locations
		→ Revegetate open riparian areas with native plants; use Chehalis Basin Lead Entity's Riparian Assessment report (2003) to identify specific locations

Satsop River Mainstem Tier 2 Concerns

Satsop River Mainstem Tier 2	FISH PASSAGE		
Symptom	Cause	General Actions	
Numerous road crossings are undersized and do not allow adequate fish passage upstream because of water velocity or perched outfall. These undersized structures also inhibit the movement of streambed material downstream and usually contribute to channel scour directly downstream.	→ Placement of undersized stream crossing structures (see Mason Conservation District 2004 Fish Passage Inventory for detailed information).	→ Correct barrier culverts. See Section 4 for guidelines.	

Satsop River Mainstem Tier 2	LARGE WOODY DEBRIS (LWD)	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
⇒ Estimated low levels of LWD in the mainstem Satsop.	→ Low levels of LWD are estimated in the mainstem Satsop	→ Determine LWD levels in the Satsop mainstem.
	because of past splash damming activities, LWD removal from channel, and poor riparian recruitment potential.	→ Develop LWD supplementation plan that will install logjams to improve instream channel structure and habitat diversity
		→ Educate landowners on the importance of leaving LWD

Satsop River Mainstem Tier 3 Concerns

Satsop River Mainstem Tier 3	SEDIMENT	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
→ The mainstem is considered incised, however, it is also the largest contributor of sediment to the Chehalis River.	ner square mile of drainage)	 → Address sediment input sources in WF, MF, EF Satsop → Reduce road densities by abandoning and/or
problems.	⇒ WF, MF, and EF contribute high amounts of sediment to the	, ,

Satsop River Mainstem Tier 3	WATER QUANTITY		
Symptom	Cause	General Actions	
➡ In recent years, the Satsop River has not met established base flows for an average of 63 days per year.	attributed to land use practices since precipitation correlations have been ruled out. However, further data is needed to determine actual cause.	Determine if water withdrawals are being followed in accordance with current water rights.	
→ The increase in peak flows shows a higher average-month-		■ Implement activities that lead for natural adulte	→ Implement activities that lead for natural aquifer recharge
per-year flow in recent years.		→ Implement forest and fish rules pertaining to logging.	
		→ Increase hydrologic continuity – reduce impervious surfaces.	
		→ Obtain data needed to determine cause. Investigate current agricultural practices.	
		⇒ Reduce stormwater discharge directly to streams	
		Restore wetlands for water storage.	

West Fork Satsop River Tier 1 Concerns

West Fork Satsop River Tier 1	FISH PASSAGE	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
Numerous road crossings are undersized and do not allow adequate fish passage upstream because of water velocity or perched outfall. These undersized structures also inhibit the movement of streambed material downstream and usually contribute to channel scour directly downstream.	Mason Conservation District 2004 Fish Passage Inventory).	→ Correct barrier culverts. See Section 4.

West Fork Satsop River Tier 1	WATER QUANTITY	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
→ In recent years, the Satsop River has not met established base flows for an average of 63 days per year.	➡ Both low summer flows and high peak flows are likely attributed to land use practices since precipitation correlations have been ruled out. However, more data is needed to determine actual cause.	 Determine if water withdrawals are being followed in accordance with current water rights Protect wetlands and springs in WF Satsop drainage
→ The increase in peak flows shows a higher average-month- per-year flow in recent years.	→ Data needed.	→ Determine cause of higher average-month-per-year flow.

West Fork Satsop River Tier 1	SEDIMENT	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
→ High sediment delivery rate and low level of quality spawning habitat.	→ The West Fork Satsop has a high level of sediment input from landslides and road surfaces. It also lacks sufficient LWD to retain and sort substrate materials.	→ Upgrade all logging roads to comply with Forest and Fish Agreement (1999) on Swinging Bridge Creek, middle and upper Canyon River, Lower Little River, Save Creek and Robertson Creek
→ WF Satsop is also listed as threatened by DOE for siltation and suspended solids.	→ Most landslide contribution originates from the upper 1/3 of the basin and most of the road surface contribution originates from Swinging Bridge Creek, middle and upper Canyon River, Lower Little River, Save Creek and Robertson Creek (Clark 1995).	 Upgrade all logging roads to comply with Forest and Fish Agreement (1999) on: Swinging Bridge Creek, middle and upper Canyon River, Lower Little River, Save Creek and Robertson Creek

West Fork Satsop River Tier 2 LARGE WOODY DEBRIS (LWD) **General Actions** Cause Symptom → Low level of LWD does not allow for the retention of courser → In the lower reach of the WF, near-term LWD recruitment is → Develop LWD supplementation plan that will install logiams in key places to improve instream channel structure and substrate materials suitable for spawning or provide low to moderate and long-term potential is low. instream structure in WF Satsop. habitat diversity → In the middle reach of the WF, near-term LWD recruitment → Low levels of LWD contribute to predicted channel incision. varies from low to high and long-term LWD recruitment → Interplant conifers in deciduous dominant areas where potential is low. appropriate. → Widespread conversion of the riparian zone from conifer to Protect by fee simple or easement key properties of riparian deciduous, particularly in the middle and lower West Fork habitat (use the 2003 Lead Entity Riparian Assessment to Satsop watershed (Smith Wenger 2001). identify specific locations). Restore riparian corridors in the WF Satsop drainage (use the 2003 Lead Entity Riparian Assessment to identify specific locations). Revegetate open riparian areas with native plants

West Fork Satsop River Tier 2 RIPARIAN Symptom Cause General Actions

- → The riparian condition for the WF Satsop is considered to be in poor condition and will not significantly contribute LWD. Poor riparian conditions exist in approximately 52% of the WF Satsop.
 - The lower reaches of the WF Satsop have a "poor" LWD recruitment potential because of hardwood dominated species composition and poor riparian conditions (lack of vegetation).
 - The middle reaches of the WF have a "poor" long term LWD recruitment potential because 40% of the riparian corridor consists of mature alder.
 - The upper reaches of the WF Satsop have a "good" rating for long term LWD recruitment because of the conifer dominated riparian corridor.

- ➡ Widespread conversion of the riparian zone from conifer to deciduous, particularly in the middle and lower West Fork Satsop watershed (Smith Wenger 2001).
 - The lower WF has naturally low levels of shade and the land uses are agriculture, rural residence, and commercial forestry with riparian corridors dominated by red alder.
 - The middle reaches of the WF are primarily dominated by dense hardwood and mixed stands.
 Restore riparian corridors in the WF Satsop drainage (use
 - The upper reaches of the WF are conifer dominated.

 These impacts are attributed to past land use practices.

- → Control invasive species. See Section 5.
- → Interplant conifers in deciduous dominant areas where appropriate.
- → Protect by fee simple or easement key properties of riparian habitat (use the 2003 Lead Entity Riparian Assessment to identify specific locations).
- Restore riparian corridors in the WF Satsop drainage (use the 2003 Lead Entity Riparian Assessment to identify specific locations).
- → Revegetate open riparian areas with native plants

West Fork Satsop River Tier 3 Concerns

West Fork Satsop River Tier 3	FLODPLAIN	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
→ Low drainage density that indicates off-channel habitat may	→ Natural geomorphology in basin.	→ Off-channel habitat enhancement.
	,	→ Assess floodplain conditions and identify impacts
➡ The West Fork Satsop is considered likely to have a disconnected floodplain based on past land use practices implemented in this basin.	levels of LWD and past splash damming activities on Canyon Creek, Still Creek, and Robertson Creek	⇒ See LWD section.

West Fork Satsop River Tier 3	WATER QUALITY	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
→ Listed as threatened by DOE for siltation and suspended solids.	→ The source of siltation and suspended solids is identified as unspecified non point sources.	→ Upgrade all logging roads to comply with Forest and Fish Agreement (1999) on:
	➡ The West Fork Satsop has a high level of sediment input from landslides and road surfaces. It also lacks sufficient LWD to retain and sort substrate materials.	Swinging Bridge Creek, middle and upper Canyon River, Lower Little River, Save Creek and Robertson Creek.
	➡ Most landslide contribution originates from upper 1/3 of the basin and road surface contribution originates from Swing- ing Bridge Creek, middle and upper Canyon River, Lower Little River, Save Creek and Robertson Creek (Clark 1995).	

Middle Fork Satsop River Tier 1 Concerns

Middle Fork Satsop River Tier 1	FISH PASSAGE	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
Numerous road crossings are undersized and do not allow adequate fish passage upstream. These structures inhibit the movement of streambed material downstream and usually contribute to channel scour directly downstream.	→ Placement of undersized stream crossing structures (see Mason Conservation District 2004 Fish Passage Inventory).	→ Correct barrier culverts. See Section 4 for guidelines.

Middle Fork Satsop River Tier 1	WATER QUANTITY	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
→ In recent years, the Satsop River has not met established base flows for an average of 63 days per year.	attributed to land use practices since precipitation	→ Determine if water withdrawals are being followed in accordance with current water rights
→ The increase in peak flows shows a higher average-month-	correlations have been ruled out. However, further data is needed to determine actual cause.	→ Implement activities that lead to natural aquifer recharge
per-year flow in recent years.	needed to determine detail educe.	→ Implement forest and fish rules pertaining to logging.
		→ Increase hydrologic continuity– reduce impervious surfaces.
		→ Obtain data needed to determine cause of flow problems.
		→ Reduce stormwater discharge directly to streams
		→ Restore wetlands for water storage.

Middle Fork Satsop River Tier 1	RIPARIAN	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
→ The riparian condition is considered to be in poor condition and will not significantly contribute LWD (See Grays Harbor County 2002 riparian assessment for additional information).	riparian loss is identified in the lower and middle reaches of the MF and Rabbit Creek. These impacts are attributed to past land use practices.	 → Control invasive species. See Section 5. → Interplant conifers in deciduous dominant areas where appropriate. → Protect by fee simple or easement key properties of riparian habitat → Restore riparian corridors in the MF Satsop drainage (use the 2002 Lead Entity Riparian Assessment to identify specific locations). → Revegetate open riparian areas with native plants

Middle Fork Satsop River Tier 2 Concerns

Middle Fork Satsop River Tier 2	SEDIMENT	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
⇒ Estimated high amount of sediment delivery.	→ High number of debris torrents (9) located in the upper	→ Abandon roads on steep geologically sensitive areas
→ More data needed on high sediment delivery.	reaches of the Middle Fork.	⇒ Educate public about driving in streams
	→ A high road density of 4.4-road miles/square mile contributes high amounts of sediment to the MF Satsop.	⇒ Eliminate motor vehicle access to streams.
	→ Instream vehicle activity in the stream channel is also a	→ Fill data gaps by identifying all sources of input.
	noted problem in the MF Satsop.	→ Reduce road densities by abandoning and/or decommissioning roads to reduce sediment loading

Middle Fork Satsop River Tier 2	WATER QUALITY	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
→ Rabbit Creek is on the 303d List for water temperature.	→ High water temperatures in Rabbit Creek are likely associated to riparian conditions.	→ Reduce water temperatures – use riparian assessment to identify specific locations in Rabbit Creek.
	See Riparian section for information pertaining to riparian conditions.	

Middle Fork Satsop River Tier 3 Concerns

Middle Fork Satsop River Tier 3	FLOODPLAIN	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
aramaga arama, marama arama arama,	→ Natural geomorphology in basin.	→ Assess floodplain conditions and identify impacts.
be limited.	→ Channel incision is likely to have occurred in the Middle Fork Satsop due to the estimated low levels of LWD, and past splash damming activities.	➡ Enhance off-channel habitat
→ Disconnected floodplain likely.	this basin. Channel incision is likely to have occurred in the Middle Fork Satsop due to the estimated low levels of LWD, and past splash damming activities.	 → Determine LWD levels. → Develop LWD supplementation plan that will install logjams to improve instream channel structure and habitat diversity. → More data is needed to assess floodplain conditions and identify impacts

Middle Fork Satsop River Tier 3	LARGE WOODY DEBRIS (LWD)	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
➤ LWD levels estimated to be low - more data is needed.	➤ Low levels of LWD may be a result of past splash damming activities, LWD removal from channel, and poor riparian recruitment potential.	 Determine LWD levels. Develop and implement LWD supplementation plan that will install logjams in key places to improve instream channel structure and habitat diversity.

East Fork Satsop River Tier 1 Concerns

East Fork Satsop River Tier 1	FISH PASSAGE	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
Numerous road crossings are undersized and do not allow adequate fish passage upstream because of water velocity or perched outfall. These undersized structures also inhibit the movement of streambed material downstream and usually contribute to channel scour directly downstream.	→ Placement of undersized stream crossing structures (see Mason Conservation District 2004 Fish Passage Inventory).	→ Correct barrier culverts. See Section 4 for guidelines.

East Fork Satsop River Tier 1	RIPARIAN	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
→ The riparian condition is considered to be in poor condition	→ About 57% of the riparian buffers are either open or	→ Control invasive species. See Section 5.
and will not significantly contribute LWD (see Grays Harbor County 2002 riparian assessment for additional information).	dominated by hardwoods. These impacts are attributed to past land use practices.	➡ Interplant conifers in deciduous dominant areas where appropriate.
mornatory.		➤ Protect by fee simple or easement key properties of riparian
		➤ Protect/preserve intact habitat
		→ Restore riparian corridors in the EF Satsop drainage (2002 Lead Entity Riparian Assessment for specific locations).
		Revegetate open riparian areas with native plants

East Fork Satsop River Tier 1	SEDIMENT	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
→ Listed as threatened by WDOE for sediment and siltation. (More data needed).	considered to contribute high levels of sediment to the FE	⇒ Abandon roads on steep geologically sensitive areas.
		→ Educate landowners.
	 Vehicle activity in the stream channel is a noted problem for 	→ Minimize motor vehicle access
	·	→ Reduce road densities by abandoning and/or decommissioning roads to reduce sediment loading

East Fork Satsop River Tier 2 Concerns

East Fork Satsop River Tier 2	LARGE WOODY DEBRIS (LWD)	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
➤ Estimated low levels of LWD; more data is needed.	 Low levels of LWD because of past splash damming activities, LWD removal from channel, and poor riparian recruitment potential. → More data is needed. 	 Determine LWD levels. Develop LWD supplementation plan that will install logjams in key places to improve instream channel structure and habitat diversity. Interplant conifers in deciduous dominant areas Protect by fee simple or easement key properties of riparian habitat Protect/preserve intact habitat Restore riparian corridors in the EF Satsop drainage (use the 2002 Lead Entity Riparian Assessment to identify specific locations).
		Revegetate open riparian areas with native plants

East Fork Satsop River Tier 2	WATER QUALITY	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
→ Listed as threatened by DOE for siltation and suspended	→ The source of siltation and suspended solids is identified as	→ Abandon roads on steep geologically sensitive areas.
solids.		→ Determine if sedimentation is a problem.
	⇒ See the Sediment section above for the effects of high levels of siltation and sedimentation.	→ Educate landowners.
		➡ Reduce road densities by abandoning and/or decommissioning roads to reduce sediment loading.

East Fork Satsop River Tier 3 Concerns

East Fork Satsop River Tier 3	FLOODPLAIN	
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
Natural channel migration zone inhibited, along with the ability to create new off-channel rearing habitat. However, the EF is considered to have an abundant amount of off- channel habitat because of its high drainage density.	⇒ Extensive amounts of riprap bank protection.	→ Protect by fee simple or easement key properties to facilitate natural channel migration and reconnection to the floodplain.
		⇒ Remove hard armoring (riprap) or implement bioengineering techniques in place of hard armoring (See Wampler 1993)
→ It is estimated that there is some channel incision, which disconnects the river channel from the floodplain within the EF Satsop.	→ Channel incision is likely to exist and may be caused from past splash damming on Decker Creek, and probable lack of instream LWD (more data needed).	 Determine LWD levels. Develop LWD supplementation plan that will install logjams in key places to improve instream channel structure, habitat diversity, and channel connection to floodplain.
		→ Protect by fee simple or easement key properties to facilitate natural channel migration and reconnection to the floodplain.

East Fork Satsop River Tier 3 WATER QUANTITY		
Symptom	Cause	General Actions
➡ In recent years, the Satsop River has not met established base flows for an average of 63 days per year.	 Both low summer flows and high peak flows are likely attributed to land use practices since precipitation correlations have been ruled out. However, further data is needed to determine actual cause. Both low summer flows and high peak flows are likely attributed to land use practices since precipitation correlations have been ruled out. However, further data is needed to determine actual cause. 	→ Determine if water withdrawals are being followed in accordance with current water rights
➤ The increase in peak flows shows a higher average-month-per-year flow in recent years.		Implement activities that lead to natural recharge of aquifers:
		→ Increase hydrologic continuity, reduce impervious surfaces.
		→ Protect key wetlands, springs, groundwater fed channels and sloughs in EF Satsop
		Protect key wetlands, springs, groundwater fed channels and sloughs in EF Satsop.
		→ Reduce stormwater discharge directly to streams (rapid runoff).
		Restore wetlands for water storage.