

Designing your monitoring strategy

Goals have to precede Strategies

Strategic decision arenas:

WHEN
WHERE
HOW

Potential Biol. Monitoring Goals

from a Watershed Councils' perspective

- Visibility
- Education
- Influencing Decision Processes
- Determining Status
- Monitoring Trends

Multiple goals are fine, but likely each needs a strategy

Issues of “When”

- Rivers have a rhythm [fall-winter growth period followed by a Spring emergence; summer growth period followed by a late summer/fall emergence]
- Educational events probably do best with peak biomass just prior to major emergence periods
- Serious status/trends monitoring requires consistent sampling times (index sampling of noisy signal)
- People have a rhythm too

- When has bigger consequences than where...

Issues of "Where"

- Safe Access [traffic, depths/vels, WQ issues]
- Legal and Friendly access
- Maximize site diversity [good, bad and ugly]
- Target larger natural units that people recognize: major tributaries before minor
- Don't under sample; rolling allocations

Issues of “How”

- RAP versus “census” approaches
- Taxonomic level: Order, **Family**, Genus, {species}
- Get local expertise; save collections; get them checked
- Train your collectors, people can't find what they can't imagine
- QAPs