

# NGO Response to Water Policy

November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009

# Water Policy Recommendations

- Leadership and Direction
- Strong Foundation for Science and Monitoring
- Create a Culture of Stewardship

# Leadership and Direction

- Oversight and Management:
  1. Show leadership and joint responsibility
  2. Manage at a watershed scale
- Regional Capacity and Support:
  3. Enable regional NSE Staff to assist watershed groups, “ground-truth” planning maps, set and enforce regulations

# Strong Foundation for Science and Monitoring

- Ecological Monitoring
  4. Assess ecosystem integrity not just water quality
  5. Standardize monitoring protocols and link with community involvement
- Targets and Plans
  6. Set water quality goals for primary watersheds and management plans to meet goals
- Best Practices
  7. Incorporate beneficial management practices into regulations

# Create a Culture of Stewardship

- Financial Incentives
  8. Create a watershed management fund
  9. Provide sustainable support for watershed groups through alternate funding models
  10. Re-direct income from water withdrawals to Watershed Management Fund rather than general revenue
- Governance
  11. Formalize role of community-based watershed groups in water strategy
- Establish and Maintain Connections
  12. Integrate water policy with coastal policy and wetland policy

# Signatories

