

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

THE WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Fostering Collaborative Solutions to Planning and Other Policy Challenges

*American Planning Association
Washington Chapter, Bellevue
October 3, 2013*

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION
W EVANS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Governance and Funding

- Advisory board composed of prominent state, tribal and local leaders.
- Funding from a mix of sources (universities, Board, individuals, organizations foundations, fee-for-service).



Mission

- Neutral resource for collaborative problem solving
- Improve availability and quality of voluntary collaborative approaches.
- Help leaders work together, build consensus, resolve public policy conflicts.
- Advance teaching and research missions of the universities.



Project Criteria

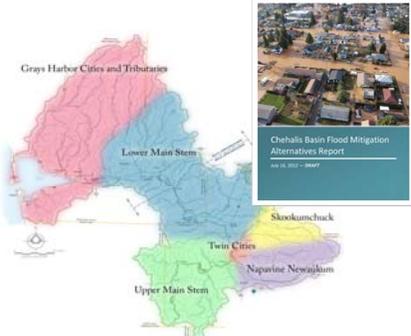
- Project is consistent with Center's vision, mission, policies and scope.
- Center's involvement is acceptable to those directly affected and in authority.
- Project addresses important public policy issues or community needs.
- Potential sponsorship and support sufficient to promote meaningful results and follow through.
- Project is cost-effective.
- Universities add unique value, contribute expertise and other resources that can help project reach a successful resolution.

Services

- Neutral Forum
- Situation Assessment
- Facilitation, Mediation, Conflict Resolution
- Project Management, Strategic Planning
- Applied Research
- Information Portal
- Training
- Policy Discussions



Chehalis Flooding



Voluntary Stewardship Program





COUNTIES OPTING-IN TO THE VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



Other Projects



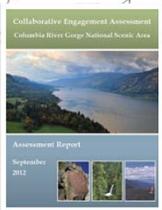
- Spokane River Toxics
- Columbia River Salmon Assessment
- Eldercare Workforce
- Aviation Biofuels
- WA Coast Marine Advisory Council
- Whatcom Jobs Summit
- Civil Public Discourse/ Collaboration Training

Columbia River Gorge Assessment





- National Scenic Area created by Congress, Oregon and Washington
- Interviews with >80 individuals and groups
- Key themes and recommendations



Collaborative Engagement Assessment
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
Assessment Report
September 2012

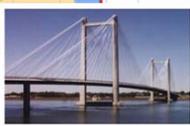
Recurring Lessons



- Goals and objectives need to be clear, concise, and shared by those at table and those receiving the results.
- Start with a shared vision of the future.
- Include all whose support is needed for implementation.
- Determine if anyone has a “BATNA”
- Make sure everyone is at the table voluntarily.
- Avoid consensus “fallbacks.”
- Have a clear definition of consensus.
- Involve a neutral, third party facilitator.

Tri-Cities Governance



Tri-Cities Governance Study: Phase I
Water Resources Center

Discussion/Q&A



- How are these projects similar to or different from one another?
- What obstacles or challenges were faced? How were they overcome?
- What was the value of a university-based neutral being involved? Was it important? Why?
- What is one thing you learned from the project that you will take with you to future projects?
- Did the project include a situation assessment? If so, was that of value?