

LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT IN SALMON HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS

*An informal survey of salmon habitat project managers
on landowner participation in our habitat restoration efforts*



LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT

Restoring habitat is a key to recovery,

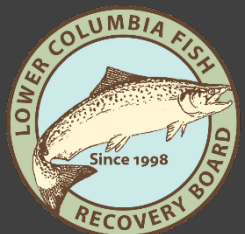
Successful landowner engagement is key to restoring habitat

- Is landowner engagement an issue?
- If so, what are the barriers to participation?
- What tools do we have, or need, to help with this issue?



PROJECT MANAGERS INTERVIEWED

Project Managers	
Shauna Hanisch-Kirkbride	Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group
Brice Crayne	Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group
Maurice Frank	Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group
Kirsten Harma	Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
Eli Asher	Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Margaret Neuman	Mid Columbia Fish Enhancement Group
Tova Tillinghast	Underwood Conservation District
Darin Houpt	Cowlitz / Wahkiakum Conservation District



LANDOWNER BARRIERS

Feedback from landowners on barriers to participation:

- Don't want government involvement
- There's no benefit to the landowner and/or doesn't meet their needs
- Takes too much time, work, or money
- It's too complicated with too many different people/groups involved
- Disbelief in the methods
- Fear of loss of property or access to their property
- Liability concerns



KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Landowner willingness and participation is the #1 constraint to getting priority habitat work done

- It influences where the project managers focus their work
- It can undermine implementing the highest priority projects
- Projects become opportunistic instead of strategic



KEY TAKEAWAYS

2. Current landowner assistance programs do not work for the majority of landowners for salmon habitat

- Landowners are diverse. There is no “one size fits all”.
- Numerous restrictions, limitations, and constraints are deterrents
- Processes are very complex, time consuming, and difficult to navigate
- Not all project managers are aware of all the programs and “tools” available
- Communication and community involvement are not consistent or even supported state-wide



KEY TAKEAWAYS

3. Project managers need more flexibility in programs, policies and procedures.

- Projects need to be adaptable to the location and landowner
- Processes (i.e., permits, cultural resources, grant approval) are long and complex
- Projects need to meet salmon recovery needs as well as landowner needs



KEY TAKEAWAYS

4. Project managers need stable funding for capacity to work with landowners

- Project development with landowners
- Funding for outreach and education
- Uncertain funding leads to unwilling landowners
- Lack of monitoring and follow up



CURRENT PRACTICES

What project managers are doing to work more effectively with landowners:

- Communication! Listening to landowners and addressing their concerns
- Compromise and be creative with solutions
- Follow through; do what you say you will
- Meet the landowner's needs (What's In It For Me?)
- Public recognition



GOING FORWARD

Addressing landowner and fish needs

- Flexibility in policy needed to ensure we get technically sound projects for fish that also meet landowner needs
- Variety of sources needed
- Fund education and outreach & communication
- Fund monitoring/adaptive management



GOING FORWARD

2. Develop additional funding sources

- Stable funding for:
 - Capacity
 - Projects
- Focus what funding we have toward recovery
 - We should align the multitude of funding sources to better achieve recovery needs



GOING FORWARD

3. Adapt current programs to provide more landowner incentives

FOCUSED ON SALMON RECOVERY

- Individual project incentives (tree purchase, bank stabilization, etc..)
- Funds for landowner issue resolution (loss of useable acreage, etc.)
- Costs for purchasing land (easing market-value restrictions, etc.)
- Include landowner incentives in review of applications
- Track incentives to determine what works and what doesn't
- Track projects that are not pursued based on landowner denial



GOING FORWARD

4. Develop landowner incentives programs and policies

- A “clearinghouse” of all programs available, and trainings on their use
 - Local, State, Federal policies and programs
 - Non-governmental programs
- Legislation for tax breaks for salmon habitat
- Tie incentives directly to the project



ACTION ITEMS

1. Legislation for tax breaks for salmon habitat
 - Discussions with RCO, OFM and lawmakers, WSAC
2. Flexibility to meet the needs of both the landowner and fish
 - Don't let the perfect get in the way of what is needed
 - Policy discussions needed between SRFB, WSC and review panel

If we are not a part of the solution, then we are a part of the problem



ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

4. Capacity funding

- Improve capacity funding for LEs and sponsor organizations to implement PPFLs and other project lists
- Support efforts to broaden capacity funding
- Need to further evaluate the scope and scale of capacity funding

5. Develop a “clearinghouse” list of all available programs

- A comprehensive synthesis of incentive tools that work for the landowner including explanations and examples of their use
- Better equip folks on the ground with tools to encourage community involvement



IN CONCLUSION...

We need the SRFB to actively pursue solutions to landowner engagement and incentive issues

1. Legislation for tax breaks for salmon habitat
2. Technical review flexibility
3. Policy discussions with SRFB and Review Panel on flexibility in addressing key salmon needs and landowner needs
4. Capacity funding
5. Develop a “clearinghouse” list of all available programs

