LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT AND INCENTIVES IN SALMON HABITAT RESTORATION AND PROTECTION

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MY PURPOSE TODAY...

Inform-

- What are the barriers to landowner engagement?

- What programs and tools do we have to help with landowner engagement?

MY PURPOSE TODAY...

Collaborate-

• What can we do to improve it?

LANDOWNER PARTICIPATION IS CRITICAL TO RESTORING AND PROTECTING PRIORITY HABITAT

- Determines where the project managers focus their work

- Projects become opportunistic instead of strategic

- It can undermine implementing the highest priority projects

LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT AND INCENTIVES

*Incentive – a definition: a thing that **motivates or encourages** someone to do something. Alternatively it can be a payment or concession to stimulate greater output or investment (Oxford English Dictionary).*

LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT DATA

- Landowner Engagement in Salmon Habitat Restoration, LCFRB

- Landowner Perspectives on Voluntary Conservation Incentive Programs, Snohomish CD

- Thurston Waterways Landowner Survey, Thurston CD

- Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP), Chehalis Basin Strategy

- Incentives to Help Meet Priority Shoreline Restoration and Protection Objectives, Futurewise

LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT BARRIERS

Feedback from landowners and sponsors 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

- Permitting is too complicated

- It's too complicated with too many different people/groups involved

- Don't believe or understand the methods

- Fear of loss of property, loss of the use of their property, or access to their property

- Liability concerns for their property and their neighbor

- Don't want to sign a contract that they have to take care of it for 10 years

LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT BARRIERS

Feedback from landowners and sponsors on barriers to participation:

- Uncertainty of available funding

- Not enough capacity for the sponsor to work with them

- Don't qualify for existing programs

- Can't do the planting and/or maintenance themselves; no time, no money, no ability

- Can't find a contractor to do the work, especially smaller parcels

- Don't have access to plants and equipment for doing the riparian planting themselves

- Fair market value for land on acquisitions

- Property or project is too small and never gets ranked high enough to get funding

EXISTING PROGRAMS

- Grant programs (Ecology)

- Conservation easements (CREP)

- Technical and Financial Assistance

EXISTING PROGRAMS

- Tax incentives for land donation or conservation easement (Columbia Land Trust)

- Conservation Futures tax (Clark County Legacy Lands)

- Real Estate Excise tax (San Juan County Conservation Land Bank)

- Current Use tax designations; Public Benefit Rating Systems; Open Space Act (King County PBRS)

EXISTING PROGRAMS

- Special District Funding: Ports, Flood Management, Shellfish Protection, Parks and Recreation, Irrigation Districts, Utilities (Pierce Co. Flood Control Zone District)

EXISTING PROGRAMS

- Permit process streamlining

- Stormwater Permit requirements (Skagit Clean Water Program)

- Restoration in Trade – building/mitigation

- In-lieu (Cowlitz Restoration and Recovery Grant Program)

*Riparian planting funded through stormwater permit requirements.
Image courtesy of Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group*

EXISTING PROGRAMS

- Recognition and awards programs

- Education and outreach

Watershed Stewardship series class graduation photo. Image courtesy of Clark Conservation District

Washougal Waterfront Park. First Salmon-Safe Park on the Columbia River. salmonsafe.org

CONSERVATION PARTNERS WITH POTENTIAL INCENTIVES

1. Tribes

2. Special Districts (CPU)

3. Local Government

4. Land Trusts

5. Foundations (Bullitt Foundation)

6. Non-profits

7. Community Organizations

8. WSU Extension Service

Clark Skamania Flyfisher volunteers prepping carcasses at a hatchery.
Image courtesy of Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

ISSUES AND ACTIONS MATRIX

Our GOAL:

Improve multiple landowner engagement issues

Objectives :
1. Find the top issues for LEAD ENTITIES
2. Decide what actions can address those issues
3. Determine if LEs are the lead for the actions
4. Determine next steps