TOLT RIVER: SETTING THE STAGE FOR PROCESS-BASED RESTORATION THROUGH LONG-TERM, STRATEGIC ACQUISITION

Sally King and Mary Maier
King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Tolt River Location
Lower 6 River Miles

Map showing the Lower 6 River Miles with marked river reaches and landmarks.
Valley Reach

- Dynamic river processes:
  - channel migration
  - avulsion
  - landslides
- Small parcels
- Homes and road
Leveed Reach

- Alluvial fan
- Continuous levees
- Disconnected floodplain
- City of Carnation
Lower Tolt Floodplain Reconnection Project

Levee removal

Setback levee
Public ownership = 52%
- Valley reach = 45%
- Leveed reach = 67%

Tolt McDonald Park
Snoqualmie River
Tolt River
Valley Reach
Leveed Reach
Acquisition Trends

- Recent changes in acquisition drivers
- King County expenditures since 2008:
  - Habitat restoration = $2.7M
  - Flood risk reduction = $8.6M
Example 1: San Souci
Off-channel Habitat
- Overflow channel
- Groundwater channel

River Facilities
- Roads

Tolt River Road
SUBJECT PARCEL
houses
Tolt River Mainstem
San Souci Public Ownership

77% public ownership
Example 2: Tolt 1.1 / Frew
Tolt 1.1 / Frew Restoration Potential

State Highway

Snoqualmie Valley Trail

Tolt River

River Facilities
Leveed Reach
Project Reach
Tolt 1.1 / Frew Ownership

63% public ownership
Key Messages

• Goals for flood risk reduction and habitat restoration line up
• Combining flood and habitat resources gets you farther
• Large scale restoration requires acquisition of extensive real estate over long time scale
• So buy early, buy often!!
Thank you funders!