POLITICS – A MONUMENTAL TASK FOR STREAM RESTORATION: AN EXAMPLE FROM TRAPPER CREEK OREGON

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PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Increase hydrologic stability of Trapper Creek
- Increase bull trout spawning and rearing habitat

DEFINITIONS OF POLITICS

- Most thought of definition- The activities or affairs engaged in by a government.
- The intrigue or maneuvering within a political unit or group to gain control or power
- Definition for this purpose- Internally conflicting interrelationships among people in a society.
POLITICS – Potentially a Project Managers Nightmare

• Social
  – Anglers, Campers, Residents, Resort Operation, Outdoor enthusiasts, etc.

• Economical
  – Project level
  – Recreational revenues

• Inter / Intra Governmental
  – NEPA, Permitting, Consultation, Compliance

TRAPPER CREEK ENTITIES

• PUBLIC
  – 2 Resorts
  – 66 Recreational residence
  – F.S. campground run by Concessionaire
  – Anglers and campers

• GOVERNMENT
  – 5 State and federal agencies

• 2 GRANTORS
• UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
• WATERSHED COUNCIL
SOCIAL POLITICS

RECREATION

- 40,033 People days at Shelter Cove Resort 1996
- 15,850 People days at Trapper Cr. boat ramp 1998
- 8,313 Campers at Trapper Cr. Campground 1998
- 17,600 Persons At One Time at Trapper Cr 1998.
PUBLIC CONCERNS

• Negative impact to kokanee salmon production
  – via loss of spawning habitat
  – increased production of bull trout equaling increased predation on kokanee.
• Loss of huckleberry picking
• No one fishes for bull trout

COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC

• Public scoping through the EA process
• Questionnaires at campgrounds
• Field Rangers
• Trap tenders
• Incorporating feedback into information dissemination.
Internal politics
– Engineering concerns
– Recreation concerns
– Economics
– Continuous changes to project team
– Interrelations based on length of project
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

- Endangered Species Act Compliance
  - Consultation/ Biological Opinion
- Integral in final design of project.
- Take Permits required
- Monitoring and fish removal.

OREGON DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

- Integral in final design of project.
- Fish sampling permits required.
- Instream Working Guidelines.
PERMITTING AGENCIES

• Division of State Lands

• Army Corps of Engineers
  – Fill and removal permitting
    • Time frames, costs, application needs

What We Did

• Provided continual updates
• Meetings for project design
• Listened to concerns
• Incorporated concerns into design
ECONOMICS

POLITICS OF MONEY

• Internally who is responsible for funding?
  – Recreation, engineering, fisheries, watershed etc.

• Grant opportunities
  – Ability to locate the necessary non-federal match apply for outside funding
GRANT REQUIREMENTS

• Restrictions spending
  – Implementation
• Tracking and billing of money spent
• Monitoring and reporting for success

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

– Liaison with funding entities
– Handles grant applicants
– Local project support
MONEY SOURCES

- USFS appropriated and challenge cost share funds
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
- National Forest Foundation
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Donations from Fish & Wildlife Service and Oregon Dept. of Fish & Game
- Youth Conservation Corp.

POLITICS ARE NECESSARY FOR SUCCESSFUL RESTORATION
REASONS FOR SUCCESS

- A multi-agency ownership project though active involvement throughout the process.
  - Trust
  - Involvement
  - Confidence
- Public comment brought about additional data collection to address concerns.
- Elevated recreational concerns initiated the intensive use of the field ranger program.
- Use of the watershed council as a vehicle for funding and promoting the project.

SUCCESSFUL POLITICS

- Old definition- Internally conflicting interrelationships among people in a society.
- New definition- Ability to combine individual interests to achieve a common goal
RESULTS OF SUCCESSFUL POLITICKING

Increase spawning habitat 878%
Pool habitat increase 91%

Rearing habitat increase 3,279%
The End