

# Columbia Basin Floodplain Restoration – Challenges & Opportunities in Policy and Law



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**

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# Overview: Different scales in different places

- Federal:
  - Change rule curves
  - Treaties (international, tribal)
  - ESA, CWA, NFIP
- State
  - Shoreline, Growth Management Acts (WA)
  - Voluntary Stewardship Program (WA)
  - Integrated Water Management
- Local:
  - Flood Control Zone Districts
  - Implementation of state regs



# Federal floodplain management

- FEMA NFIP BiOp
- Corps levee law/policy
- ESA driven changes in flows
- International river mgmt. agreements
- Federal restoration funding
- Land management policies
- Integrated water management
- Implementation of federal laws by state and local gov'ts



# State government

- Implementation of CWA, ESA, CZMA, etc.
- Restoration funding programs, e.g., Floodplains by Design (WA)



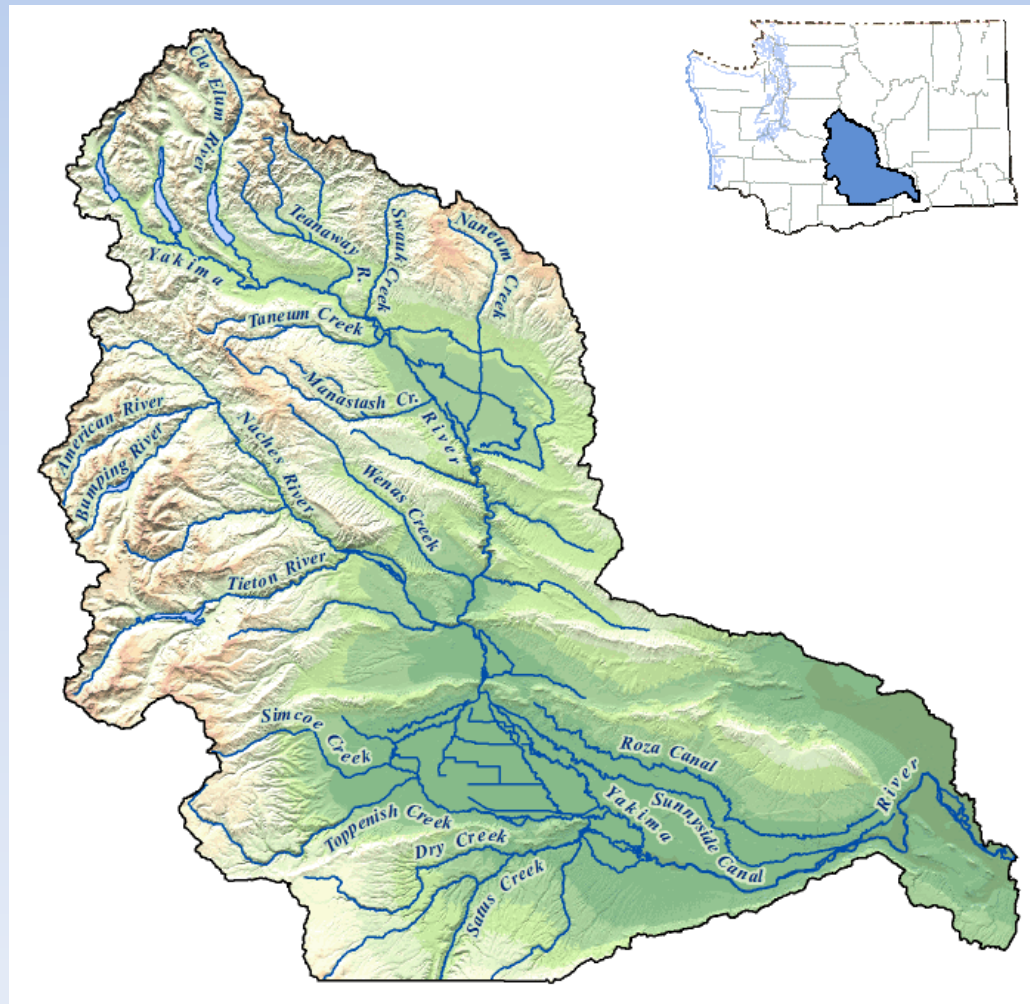
Calistoga Levee Setback on Puyallup River, WA. Photo credit: Floodplains by Design, WA Ecology

# Local government

- Implementation of federal and state laws
- Transportation and water utility planning decisions
- Flood Control Zone Districts



# Yakima Basin Integrated Plan: Passage, flows, and habitat



# Yakima Plan priorities overlap with benefits of floodplain restoration

- Fish restoration
- Ecosystem protection and restoration
- Reliable water supply
- Climate change adaptation



Photo credit: Tom O'Keefe

# Headwaters protection/meadow restoration

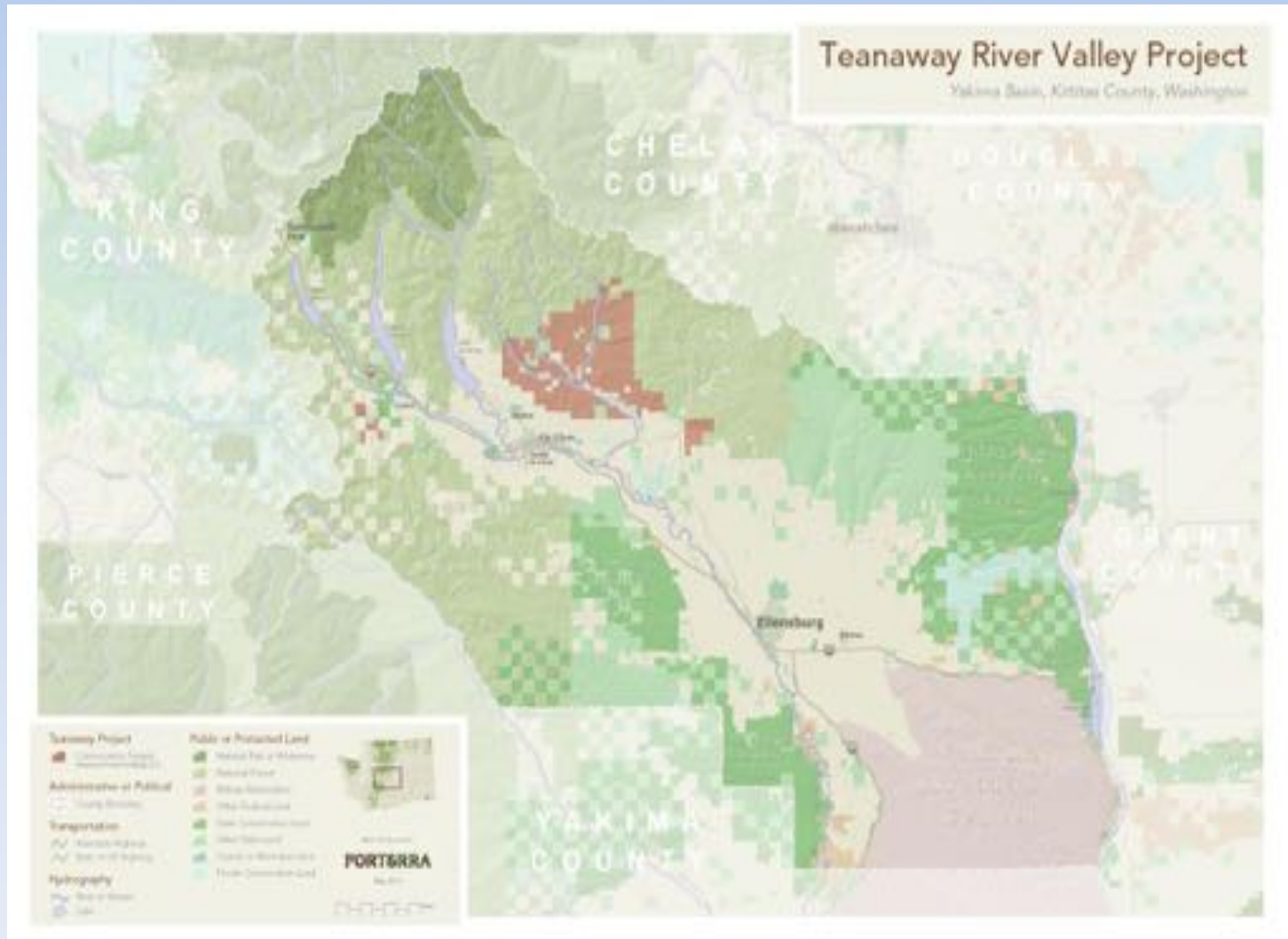






Photo credit: Scott Nicolai, Yakama Nation Fisheries





Photos courtesy of Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County

# Army Corps levee management policies: Lessons from lower Green River process





# Increased state funding?

S-0544.4

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SENATE BILL 5628

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State of Washington      64th Legislature      2015 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Hatfield, Braun, Hobbs, Warnick, and Chase

Read first time 01/27/15. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1      AN ACT Relating to providing for storm water, flood control, and  
2 water supply infrastructure in the state; adding a new chapter to  
3 Title 70 RCW; creating a new section; and providing for submission of  
4 this act to a vote of the people.

# WA funding discussion

- Flood management, floodplain restoration
- Natural stormwater solutions
- Integrated water supply



# Questions?



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