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

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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?

SENATE BILL 5628

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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