Building a Path to Peace

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Imagine a Washington...
where diverse stakeholders are empowered to creatively solve problem together,
where the divide between east & west is only geographical,
where government is trusted,
where rural communities are vibrant & resilient,
and they coexist with healthy, sustainable populations of predators.

Was it war or peace that made this possible?
What is Conflict?

- Inherent
- Destructive vs. Constructive
- An opportunity
- Provokes fight or flight reaction
- Multiple scales
- Complex & dynamic
What is Conservation Conflict Transformation?

- Peace embedded in social justice
- Multiple scientific disciplines
- Destructive → Constructive
- Focus on relationships, process, systems
- Prevent collateral damage
- Foster long term change
Why Conservation Conflict Transformation?

- The solution to war is not more war
- Destructive patterns repeat & deepen
- Yesterday’s solution → today’s battle
- 90% of challenge is social
- Emotions drive decision-making
- Multiple scales
What are the challenges?

- War is clear, familiar, rewarded, appears strong
- Peace is subtle, unfamiliar, appears weak
- The past is not an indication of the future
- Requires a change in thinking & approach
- Pursuing peace during war takes courage
- Social/news media
- Scale
An analysis of conflict
Levels of Conflict: An Orientation to Conflict Transformation

- Dispute
- Underlying Conflict
- Deep-Rooted or Identity-Based Conflict
HUMAN NEEDS

- Identity
- Recognition
- Security
- Connectedness
- Meaning & Personal Fulfillment
- Freedom
Three Dimensions of Conflict

- Process
- Substance
- Relationships
Systems Conflict
Complex Adaptive Systems

- PATTERNS in system
- AGENTS
- INTERACTIONS
Two Games: Which are you playing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finite Game</th>
<th>Infinite Game</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Boundaries</td>
<td>No Boundaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Rules &amp; Players</td>
<td>Rules &amp; Players Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predictable</td>
<td>Unpredictable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal: To Win</td>
<td>Goal: To Keep Playing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Power Dynamics in War

• Reactions vary

• Powerful:
  – Law, education, political action, money
  – Socially acceptable

• Powerless:
  – Foot-dragging, dishonesty, false compliance, desertion, poaching, slander, sabotage, threats

• Weapons of the weak are instruments for resistance and political protest
Implications: Power & War

- War oppresses all
- Contest of who has the bigger hammer
- Cycle repeats & deepens
- Casualties: people & wildlife
- Action: Balance power & secure needs

Secure, resilient communities are no longer weak, so they stop using the weapons of the weak.
What’s happening in Washington?

• It’s not just WAG or wolves
• Engaging systems & multiple scales of conflict
• Intragroup & intergroup conflict
• Creating space for creative problem solving & reconciling relationships
• Capacity building
• Institutionalizing change
If you want to go fast, go alone.

If you want to go far, go together. - African proverb
Thank you!