

From Conflict to Collaboration



Discussing Water Rights, A Western Pastime





Presented by

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Brief history of the basin

- Yakama Nation – Senior water right in the basin
- Western Water Law “first in time, first in right”
- More water users than water available during drought
- Acquavella water rights adjudication – 44 years (1977-2021)
- Declining snowpack
- Declining salmon, steelhead, and bull trout





Motivations to Collaborate

- Reached Stalemate
- 1999 ESA Listings
- \$4.5 Billion Annual Farm Economy
- 110,000 acres private forest for sale
- Blackrock Reservoir Proposal



2009 - Diverse stakeholder coalition formed



Washington
Department of
**FISH &
WILDLIFE**



& Many More!





Obstacles to overcome

- **Behavior change from fighting to collaborating**
- **Risky to trust the same people been fighting**
- **“Buy in” from their authorizing organizations**
- **Needed a Plan – YBIP completed in 2012**

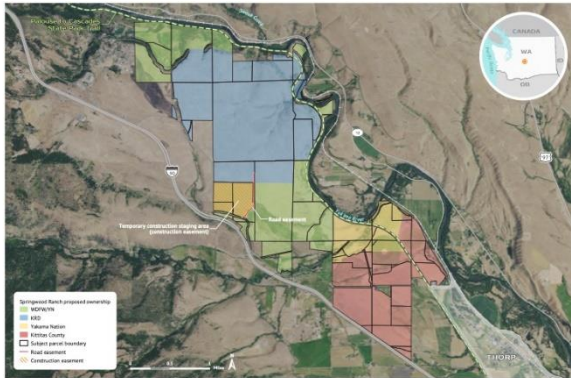




Open ditch to buried pipe



Teanaway River & Forest



Springwood Ranch
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



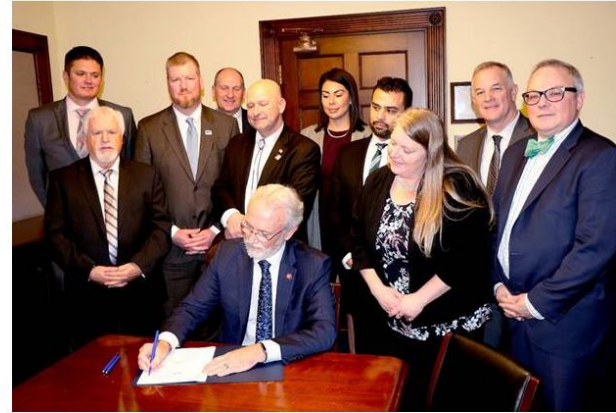
South Fork Cowlitz & Shrub Steppe Protected





Where does it stand today?

- **12 years later**
- **State authorization 2013**
- **Federal authorization 2019**
- **\$750 million invested**
- **National model**



Rep. Newhouse signing H.R. 1048 for introduction with members of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Implementation Committee





Nelson Dam Removed

Describe what partners or other leaders did that was critical.

- **Who led the way and what were their leadership behaviors?**
- **What made them effective, and how did they help motivate others to act?**
- **What did people do to resolve controversy or disagreement?**





Describe any lessons learned.

- **Were there key processes, steps, or sequence of events?**
- **Would you do something different next time?**
- **What can the rest of us learn from your experience?**

Thanks

