



Watershed Planning in Washington State: A Decade of Experience

Clare M. Ryan, University of Washington

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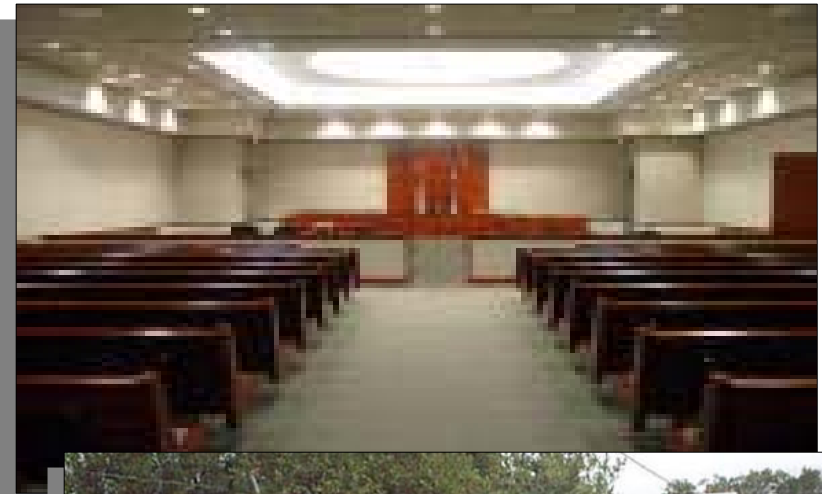
Overview

- Context for Watershed Planning
- Watershed Planning Process
- Research Findings
 - Planning Processes
 - Planning Outputs
- What next?



Planning and Decision Making: Administrative Procedures

- “Traditional”
Administrative
Procedures
- Notice-and-
comment
- Many challenges
- Implementation
often delayed



Collaborative Environmental Management

- Key stakeholders involved
- Often Voluntary
- Seek mutual solution
- Implementation?

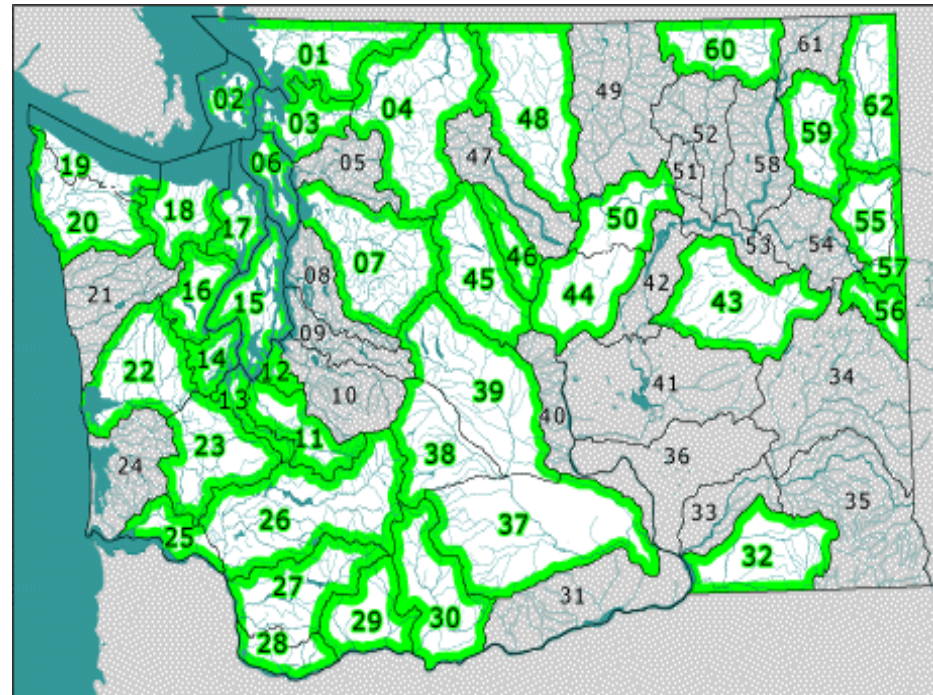


Watershed Planning Act (1998)

- Local citizens, local, state, and tribal governments
- Planning units initiated by local lead agencies, with Ecology support
 - Plans must address: water quantity
 - Plans may address: instream flows, water quality, storage, fish habitat
 - Required participants: all counties, largest city/town, largest water purveyor.
Others: tribes, public, state agencies

Context for Planning

- Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs)
- Watershed Scale
 - Watershed Planning Act
 - Salmon Recovery Planning Act



Watershed Planning Phases

Phase	Task	Funding	Timetable
Phase I	Planning Unit Organization	\$50,000/WRIA \$75,000/Multi-WRIA	~ 1 year
Phase II	Data Collection and Assessment	\$200,000/WRIA, extra \$100,000 for each optional element*	~ 2 years
Phase III	Watershed Plan Development	\$250,000/WRIA	~ 2 years °
Phase IV	Implementation	varies	~ 5 years

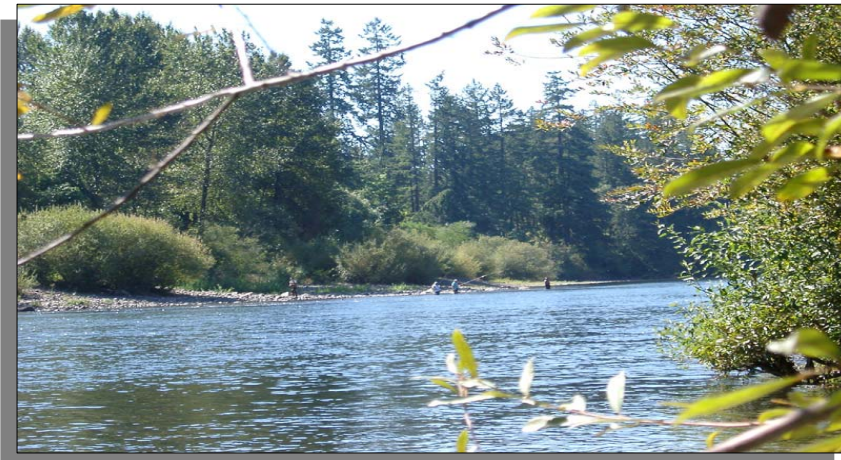
Findings: Planning Processes

■ Benefits

- Establish relationships/trust
- Gain capacity to address water issues

■ Challenges

- Participation
- Trust is complex
 - Personal and institutional
- Inadequate Tools
 - Timelines
 - Funding
 - Technical Assistance

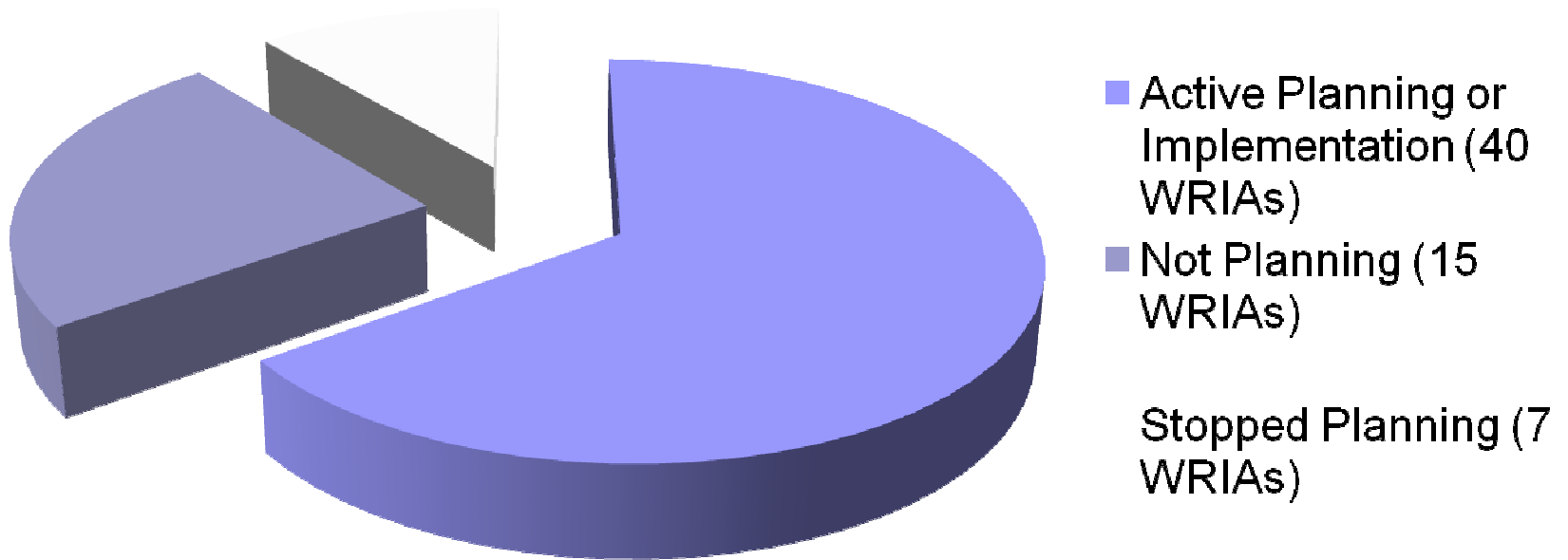


Findings: Institutional Development

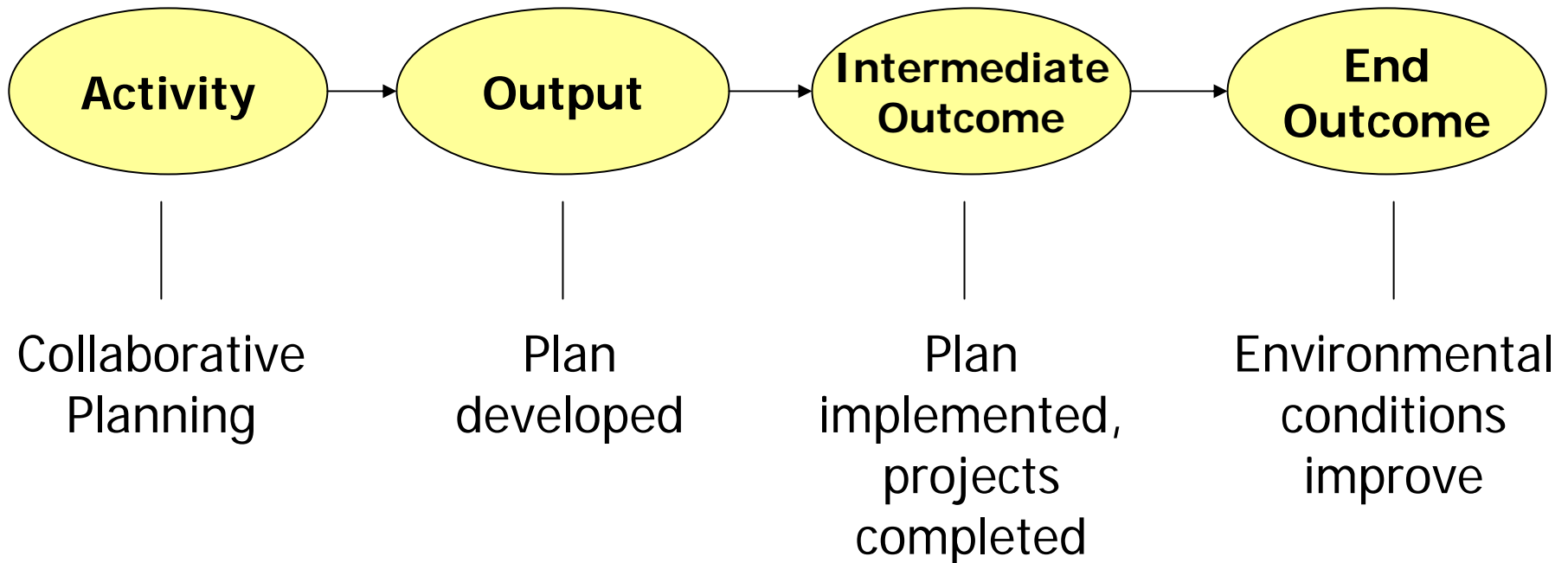


- Mandated participants present
- Underrepresented?
 - “Public”
 - Tribes
- Planning Processes
 - Timelines difficult
 - Developing “trust”

Watershed Planning Activity



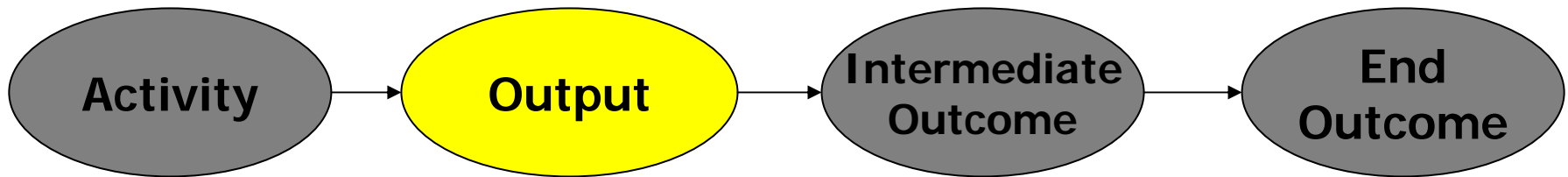
Outputs from Collaboration



- Output – work completed by an entity or program

- Outcome – events or changes in conditions resulting from outputs

Outputs and Outcomes



■ Evaluating *outputs*:

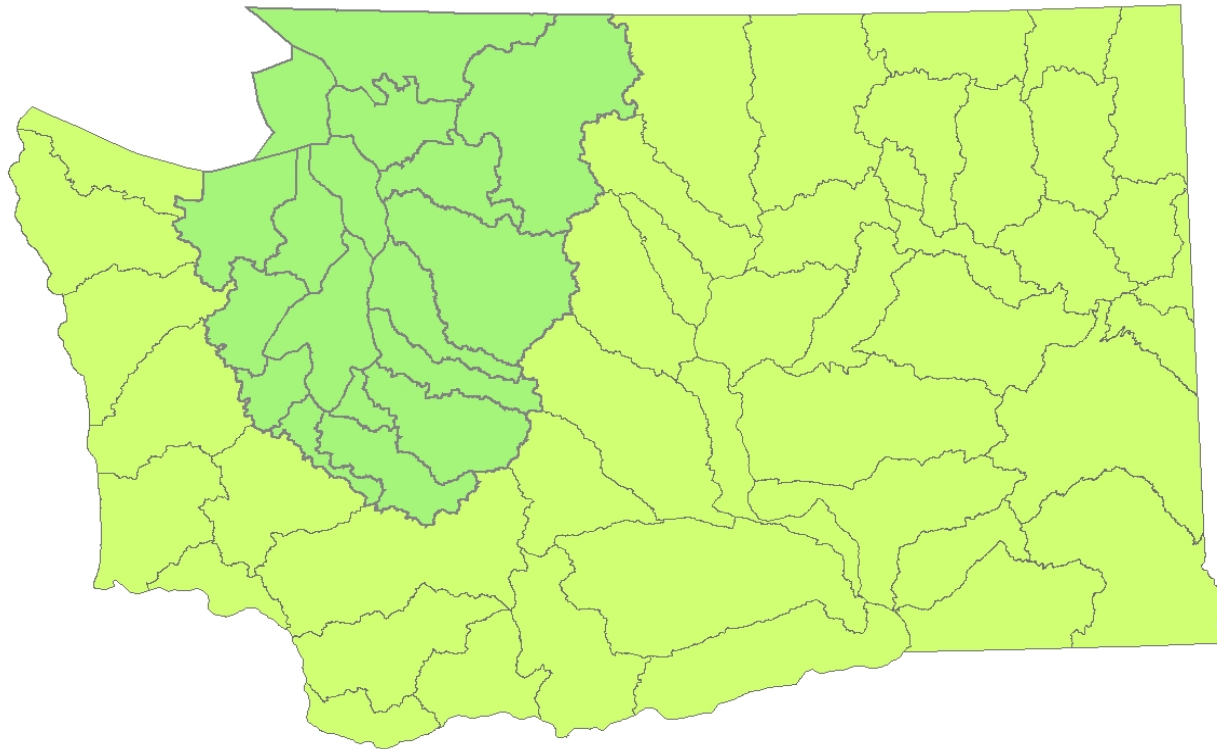
- Illustrates whether policy objectives are being achieved
- Indicates *capacity* for achieving outcomes
- Provides a base of information for future attempts to link outputs to outcomes




Scope of Current Research

- Watershed Planning Act
 - Are plans developed and adopted?
 - Do plans contain required/optional elements?
 - Do plans contain recommendations/priorities?
 - Do plans address instream flow issues?

Puget Sound Watersheds



Legend

-  Puget Sound WRIAs (1-18)
-  Other State WRIAs (19-62)



Criteria and Plan Evaluation

- **Status of plans** – Were plans produced and adopted? (in some areas, yes)
- **Plan contents** – Which elements are present? Do plans contain specific goals, recommendations, and priorities? (highly variable, but more than minimum)
- **Stream flow** – Do plans address low stream flows for salmon recovery? (not very well)

Sample Data Analysis Matrix

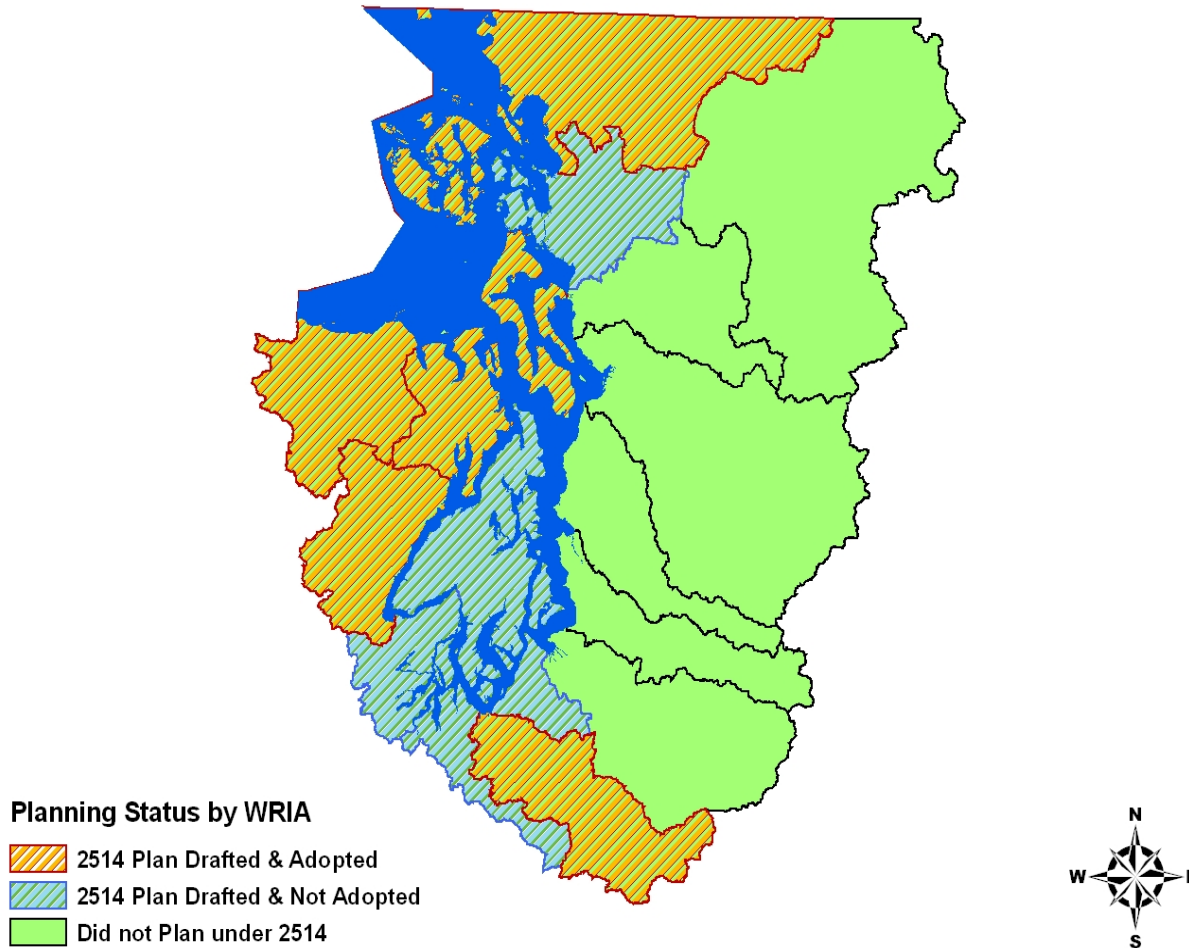
	WRIA 1	WRIA 2	WRIA 3	WRIA 6	WRIA 11	WRIA 12	WRIA 13	WRIA 14	WRIA 15	WRIA 16	WRIA 17	WRIA 18
Is importance of sufficient flows for salmon noted?	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Yes
Are low flow problems identified?	Yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	Yes
Does the plan outline goals for restoring flows?	Yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Does the plan offer specific flow-related actions?	Yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Are instream flow rules a priority?	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes
Are quantitative target flows offered?	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes
Are flow improvements prioritized by needs of ESA-listed species?	no	n/a	no	n/a	no	no	no	n/a	no	no	yes	yes

Watershed Plan Outputs

- 12 plans produced
 - 7 plans adopted
 - 5 drafted and not adopted
 - 6 areas not planning under 2514

- 11 plans include at least one optional planning element
- 9 plans address all optional elements
- 7 plans include both recommendations & priorities (four adopted)

Watershed Planning Status





Adopted Watershed Plans

- 7 adopted plans – 5 of these address all planning elements
 - Some groups going beyond minimum requirements
- 5 plans indicate pre-existing watershed planning efforts
 - Only 2 plans adopted in WRIAs where policy spurred planning

Planning for Stream Flows

■ Plans consistently mention:

- Flow importance
- Flow problems
- Goals
 - 10 plans identify goals

■ Plans do not consistently mention:

- Link to ESA-listed species
- Recommendations
 - 7 plans include
- Instream flow priorities

Summary of Findings

- Watershed plans achieved some policy objectives
 - Policy spurred planning in some areas
 - Plans developed and adopted in some areas
 - Many units doing more than minimum
- Failures are evident as well
 - Non-adopted plans not likely to achieve outcomes
 - High variability in plan content
 - Implementation uncertainties
- Potential for addressing stream flows is limited

Next Steps

- Examine planning outputs statewide
- Examine inner workings of planning units
 - Leadership, Participation, and Representation
- Implementation Activities
- Modify Watershed Planning Act?
 - Plan structure and contents
 - Plan review

Thank you and Questions??

Thank You!!

- Jason Wilkinson
- Dr. Karma Norman, NOAA/NMFS

More on Watershed Planning:

- Ryan, C.M., and R.D. Bidwell. 2007. Assessing New Governance Strategies for Watershed Planning. *International Journal of Organization Theory and Behavior*. 10(4): 547-577.
- Bidwell, R.D., and C.M. Ryan. 2006. Collaborative Partnership Design: The Implications of Organizational Affiliation for Watershed Partnerships. *Society and Natural Resources*. 19(9): 827-843.
- Ryan, C. M., and J. Klug. 2005. Collaborative Watershed Planning in Washington State: Implementing the Watershed Planning Act. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*. 48(4): 491-506.