

C5 - No Authority, Only Money: The Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission

Presentation title: No Authority. Only Money.

Presenters:

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Abstract

The challenge of the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC) is to fulfill a negotiated international treaty mandate with no authority. However, there is a bucket of money. The 1984 Treaty between Seattle City Light and the BC Government created the Commission and charged SEEC with the mandate to undertake conservation activities in the Skagit watershed upstream of the Ross Dam. This transborder Commission acts in the interest of the watershed, which happens to span two countries. On the USA side there is one primary land manager, the US National Park Service, but on the Canadian side there are multiple land and resource management agencies with overlaps in jurisdiction and contrasting mandates. Twenty-four years into the Treaty SEEC has learned and evolved. SEEC is prepared to share lessons learned, strategies that failed miserably and the latest tactics that are proving successful. Partnerships are helping define SEEC in this new century. Seeking out and nurturing relationships is now an intentional and budgeted activity. SEEC's partner organizations have included government agencies, non-profits, environmental educators and activist organizations. SEEC has chosen four areas to focus on and has allocated significant resources to restoration of grizzlies in the North Cascades, land & water management, recreation and education. Each focus represents a unique challenge and requires unique partnership agreements. Is this model of conservation transferable to other jurisdictions and locations? We think so, and we'd like to talk about why we think it is.

Speaker Biography

Ken Farquharson's first visit to the Upper Skagit Valley was in 1960 and he has been a tireless advocate ever since. He was a member of the Run Out Skagit Spoilers (R.O.S.S.) Committee from 1968-1983 and has considerable expertise in BC land issues. A former civil engineer, Ken's favorite hobbies are hiking, camping and nature observation.