

THE WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



Chris Page

Project and Development Lead

Chris Page is a versatile and effective facilitator and strategist with more than 20 years of experience on Pacific Northwest natural resource issues. He works closely with parties to assess complex situations with big picture thinking and a systematic approach. His listening skills, positive attitude, flexibility, and focus on results enables groups to work efficiently and productively. His written and verbal communication skills bring clarity and precision. His ability to understand and bridge conflicting perspectives enables groups to come together and accomplish challenging goals.

Chris has done development work throughout his career since 1991 including donor and major gift cultivation; foundation and government grant research, writing, management, and reporting; special event coordination; direct mail appeals; donor stewardship; and special project fundraising.

KEYS AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Facilitation/Mediation
- Dispute Assessment/Conflict Resolution
- Project Management
- Strategic Planning
- Public Involvement/Visioning
- Fund Raising
- Organizational Development

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (ECR)
- National Roster of ECR Professionals
- International Association for Public Participation

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- University of Washington (UW)
- MPA, Environmental Policy, Evans School of Public Affairs, 1999
- Certificate, Conservation Biology, UW, 1999
- B.A., Cultural Anthropology, Williams College, 1990

Selected Project Experience

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program Technical Work Group, 2012-2013: Served as lead facilitator to this diverse group of stakeholders, which provides recommendations on science and budget priorities related to the operations of Glen Canyon Dam, at the upper end of the Grand Canyon. The Technical Work Group (TWG) includes representatives from seven Colorado River Basin states, five Native American Tribes, six federal agencies, private consortia of power and water distributors, recreational interests, and environmental organizations. Chris worked closely with the Chair of the TWG to develop agendas, communicate with stakeholders, resolve disputes, devise strategies for framing issues and facilitate quarterly meetings.

Merced Wild & Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan EIS, 2013: Facilitated a series of public workshops for Yosemite National Park (YNP) designed as "listening sessions" for citizens and stakeholders to provide input on management actions proposed for the Merced River corridor. These meetings culminated a 15-year process that included two lawsuits, and featured heightened local passions and concerns. Chris also developed and recommended strategies and next steps for YNP to conduct additional public meetings and communications.

Yosemite-Sierra Executive Council, 2013: Designed and facilitated a one-day workshop for ten leaders of federal public land units in California, including two National Park Superintendents, six National Forest Supervisors, and a Bureau of Land Management Director. Chris guided the group in reaching consensus agreement on a vision statement, a mission statement, rebranding their collaborative effort, and identifying goals for the coming year's work together. He also developed and recommended strategies and next steps for addressing common issues such as fires, invasive species, and managing visitor impacts.

Selected Project Experience, continued

Lake Ozette Steering Committee Sockeye Recovery Planning, 2011-2013: Worked with stakeholders with broadly divergent views on how to recover a unique fish population. He led the Committee's planning of quarterly meetings, guided discussion of tools to publicize the plight of fish, and facilitated Committee quarterly meetings. The Committee includes the Olympic National Park; Washington State Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife and the Governor's office; the Makah and Quileute Tribes; and lake shore landowners, community members, environmental interests and timber representatives.

King County School Siting Task Force, 2011-2012: The King County Executive convened this Task Force to recommend ways to align city, county, and school district planning for future schools "to provide quality education for all children and maximize health, environmental, programmatic, fiscal and social objectives." Chris facilitated technical committee meetings, supplied strategic suggestions, created issue papers, wrote summaries, drafted recommendations, and coordinated the project team. The diverse group of interests reached 100 percent consensus on a comprehensive suite of recommendations.

Mercer Island School District Community Outreach, 2012: This outreach was designed to inform preparations for a future bond that would need 60% voting approval to pass. Chris served as project manager for a team that designed and conducted a multi-pronged public engagement process to gauge community support for three alternatives to address school overcrowding and facility aging. Chris facilitated public meetings and dialogue with community groups. He oversaw online public engagement using Mind Mixer (a collaboration and outreach platform) and social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Chris also developed meeting agendas and supporting materials such as flow charts, FAQs, PowerPoint presentations, comment cards, and project graphics. At the conclusion of the public outreach effort, Chris wrote a summary of findings which the MISB used to design the new bond.

King County Murray Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Facility, 2011: This project involved outreach, planning and facilitation of public meetings for the design of the King County Wastewater Treatment Division's Murray Basin CSO control project. Chris created outreach materials and strategically designed the format and approach to an all-day community design charette to identify public values and visions for the site of the facility (a one million gallon storage tank). Chris led the project team in preparing this complex event then guided attendees in developing conceptual designs for the site. The event provided the County with a strong foundation for designing a site supported by the community.

Manchester Stormwater Retrofit Study, 2011-2012: Chris led public involvement for Kitsap County Surface Stormwater Management to identify and prioritize potential "green infrastructure" projects to alleviate flooding and other problems related to stormwater management in the Manchester area while providing other benefits to the community. He developed and implemented a public involvement plan to create public awareness about the study and gain input from citizens and homeowners to identify areas with stormwater issues along with potential sites for green infrastructure.

Executive Director., Homewaters Project, 2005-2010: Chris managed the staff and operations of educational nonprofit organization, including supervising a staff of 4 employees. He was responsible for fundraising, strategic planning, administration, management, and a host of additional task areas. He cultivated partnerships with school districts, local government agencies, institutions of higher education, community groups, and other nonprofits. Chris oversaw program development and growth of service levels (from 1,400 students per year to 2,500 students per year). He also coordinated and facilitated regular meetings of the Board of Directors and several subcommittees over six years before managing a merger with the larger nonprofit IslandWood in 2010.

City of Renton NE 3rd/4th Street Redesign, 2003-2005: Designed and implemented a public involvement plan to solicit public input on transportation and land use decisions for the City of Renton. Chris facilitated open houses and ensured public input was considered in decisions on this major urban arterial.

Kitsap Peninsula (WRIA 15) Watershed Plan, 2000-2004: As part of a small team of project leaders, Chris helped develop and implemented successful water resource planning group processes. Chris facilitated the planning group in reaching consensus decisions on technical studies and on recommendations for actions on issues of concern. This included collaborative multi-party dialogue on contentious issues with tribal/state/local governments and other stakeholders such as businesses, environmental interests, property rights coalitions, developers, and citizens at large. he wrote and edited the majority of the end product, a 225-page water resources management plan.