

Finding Common Ground

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP IN WASHINGTON STATE

A documentary film

Synopsis

Finding Common Ground: Collaborative Leadership in Washington State is a documentary film that tells the story of people with diverse interests overcoming differences to resolve some of the most complex conservation challenges in the Pacific Northwest. It's a story about taking conflict out of the courts and into our living rooms and local meeting spaces where people can really connect.

Producers

Jennifer Huntley, TVW

Michael Kern, University of Washington
Center for Urban Waters/Puget Sound Institute

Director of Photography

Michael Peters, TVW

Above: Phil Rigdon (Yakama Nation) and Urban Eberhart (farmer and irrigator) walk together in the Yakima Basin. Photo / Michael Kern

Natural resource management in Washington state has come a long way since the “Fish Wars” of the 1960s and 70s that led to the famous Boldt Decision to uphold tribal treaty fishing rights. Never before has a film assembled the stories of the issues, outcomes, and impacts of the landmark collaborations that eventually followed that pivotal ruling.

In their own words, federal, tribal, state, and local government, agricultural, environmental, academic, non-profit, and private sector leaders describe how collaboration and shared leadership have resulted in groundbreaking outcomes in Washington from the 1970s to the present, serving as a national model.

Finding Common Ground highlights milestones like the Centennial Accord (a framework for government-to-government relationships between the State of Washington and federally recognized tribes in the state), the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (a collaboration to address water, fishery, habitat and climate challenges), and many others.

The film profiles the important figures involved in the early stages of building bridges to address these complex challenges, as well as those carrying on this legacy today. The film features interviews with W. Ron Allen, Kat Brigham, Jerry Cormick, Norm Dicks, Urban Eberhart, Dan Evans, Willie Frank III, Christine Gregoire, Gary Locke, Doreen Maloney, Jay Manning, Phil Rigdon, Mary Ruckelshaus, Dave Somers, David Troutt, Jim Waldo, Jim Wilcox, Bill Wilkerson, Daryl Williams, and others.

In the face of population growth, land development, wars abroad and racial tensions in the U.S., *Finding Common Ground* is deeply relevant to the conflicts of our world today. Insights from history show us what it takes to foster collaborative approaches to difficult problems and point the way toward building future generations of collaborative leaders.

Finding Common Ground is a story about taking risks, building trust, and being willing to listen, learn, and change in the face of difficult decisions.

It's a story of hope.



Sponsors

Anchor QEA, Eric Camplin, Ann Goos, the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lummi Nation, Nisqually Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Puget Sound Partnership, Puget Sound Institute, Puyallup Tribe Charitable Trust, Seattle City Light, Sequoia Foundation, Squaxin Island Tribe, Suquamish Tribe/Suquamish Foundation, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, City of Tacoma Environmental Services, The Tulalip Tribes, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State University Extension CED, and William D. Ruckelshaus Center

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www.pugetsoundinstitute.org/collaboration/collaborative-leadership-project