

# THE WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



## Chris Page

*Project &  
Development Lead*

Chris Page is a versatile and effective facilitator and strategist with more than 20 years of experience on Pacific Northwest natural resource and governance 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

### Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF), 2013-present:

Chris facilitates this diverse collaboration of public agencies, private industries, and environmental organizations collectively attempting an innovative approach to the reduction of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) within the Spokane River. The goal of the SRRTTF is to develop a comprehensive plan to bring the Spokane River into compliance with water quality standards for PCBs. Chris works closely with SRRTTF members to anticipate and resolve issues and support implementation of the Task Force work plan. This includes developing and framing agenda topics and process options to build consensus, facilitating meetings of the Task Force and its two work groups (funding and technical), managing communications among SRRTTF members, and liaising to WSU and UW faculty for technical assistance and subject matter research.

**Capitol Lake Assessment, 2014:** Chris served as project manager, interviewer, analyst, and primary author of a report the Ruckelshaus Center submitted to the state Department of Enterprise Services (DES) exploring issues and opportunities regarding the future management of Capitol Lake in Olympia, which faces longstanding water quality and invasive species challenges—and widely divergent opinions among local parties as to how to address them. The assessment explored the perception by different parties of the relevant information base along with entities' various positions and interests and the dynamics of the situation. Chris identified and talked with a balanced cross-section of parties to capture a wide range of perspectives before analyzing the prospects for a collaborative process to address the issues. Chris orally presented findings at a historic joint committee meeting of the State Capitol Committee and the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee. DES and state legislators found the report constructive and balanced, and plan to take action on its recommendations.

## Selected Project Experience, continued

**Public Records Requests and Local Governments in Washington, 2013:** For this situation assessment, Chris served as project manager, interviewer, analyst, and primary author of a report the Center submitted to the Washington state legislature on issues and interests around public records requests to local governments. After conducting background research, Chris identified and interviewed a balanced cross-section of parties to capture a wide range of perspectives and situation dynamics. He led team meetings to synthesize and articulate the major issues and key parties involved, aggregated as common themes and recommendations for next steps. Chris orally presented preliminary findings to two committees of the WA House of Representatives before finalizing the written report, which summarized the interests and perspectives of key parties and analyzed and explored the prospects for a collaborative process to resolve differences.

**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.

**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.

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