

Participatory Water Governance: Who Participate and Why?

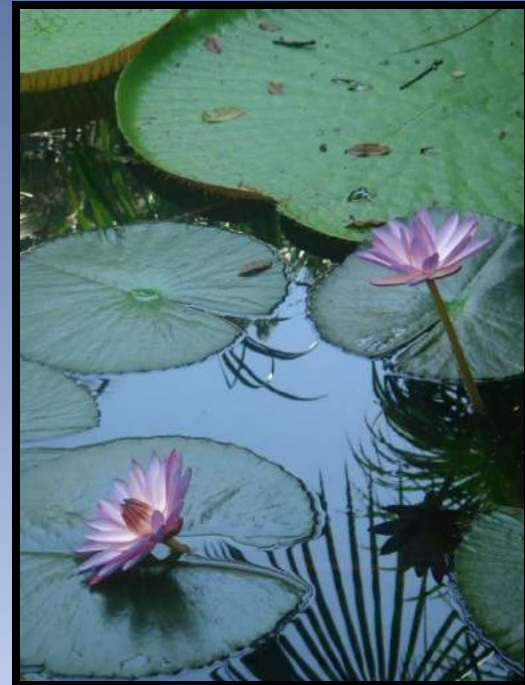
Presentation at Tsukuba University

May 23, 2016

Kate A. Berry

Professor of Geography

University of Nevada, Reno



What is participatory water governance?

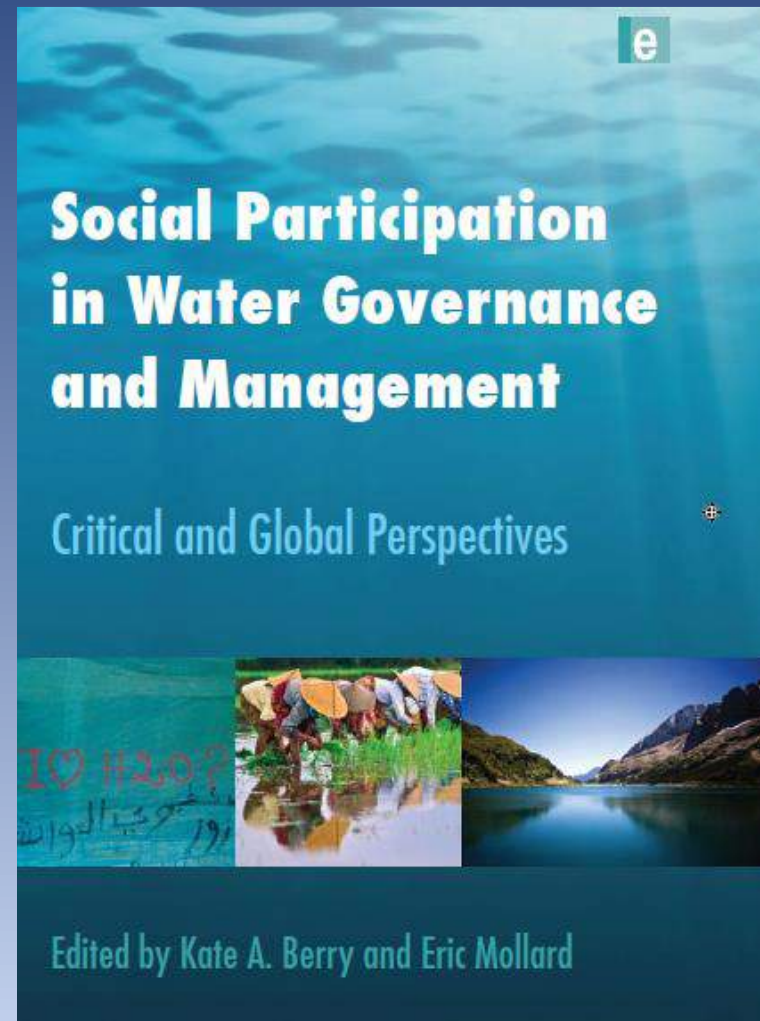
- At a minimum, participatory water governance involves individuals and/or groups in having an opportunity to express their voices and articulate their arguments in public forums
- Direct involvement of an array of people in decision-making or implementation of water policy or management
- This includes a wide range of different situations and scales from the grass-roots to the international
- What are some examples of participatory water governance?

Examples of participatory water governance around the world

- In the U.S., the Timbisha Shoshone Indian Tribe negotiated a water settlement with the federal government in Death Valley National Park
- In the Brazilian Amazon and Turkey, local community groups challenged the authority of the federal agencies involved in building hydropower dams
- In France, Mexico, and Quebec (Canada) watershed or river basin organizations rely on stakeholder participation as part of their governance processes
- Governance of the irrigation sector in Yunnan, China includes participation of the state, water user associations, and communities

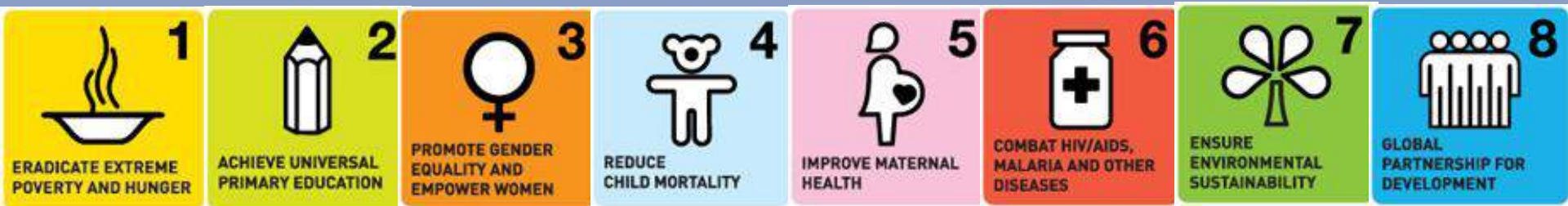
More examples from around the world

- In South Africa, post-apartheid water laws require public participation for catchment (i.e., watershed) level water governance
- In Sri Lanka, community involvement is evolving to address key water & sanitation development needs



Why is participatory water governance considered so important?

- Proponents of participatory water governance include the World Bank, other international organizations, many national & local governments, and many non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Participation envisioned as a means of enhancing citizenship, building democracy, creating equitable solutions to water problems



Original Millennium Development Goals

Selections from the 1992 “Dublin Principles”

1. Fresh water is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment
2. Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policymakers at all levels
3. Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water
4. Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognized as an economic good

Potential problems with participatory water governance

- It's not a panacea; democracy, social justice and/or the environment may suffer – rather than benefit from social participation
- May serve as a façade, rather than meaningful involvement for a broad range of stakeholders
- If required, alternative interests may be discouraged from meaningful participation
- May ignore or overlook power differences that tend to perpetuate the status quo

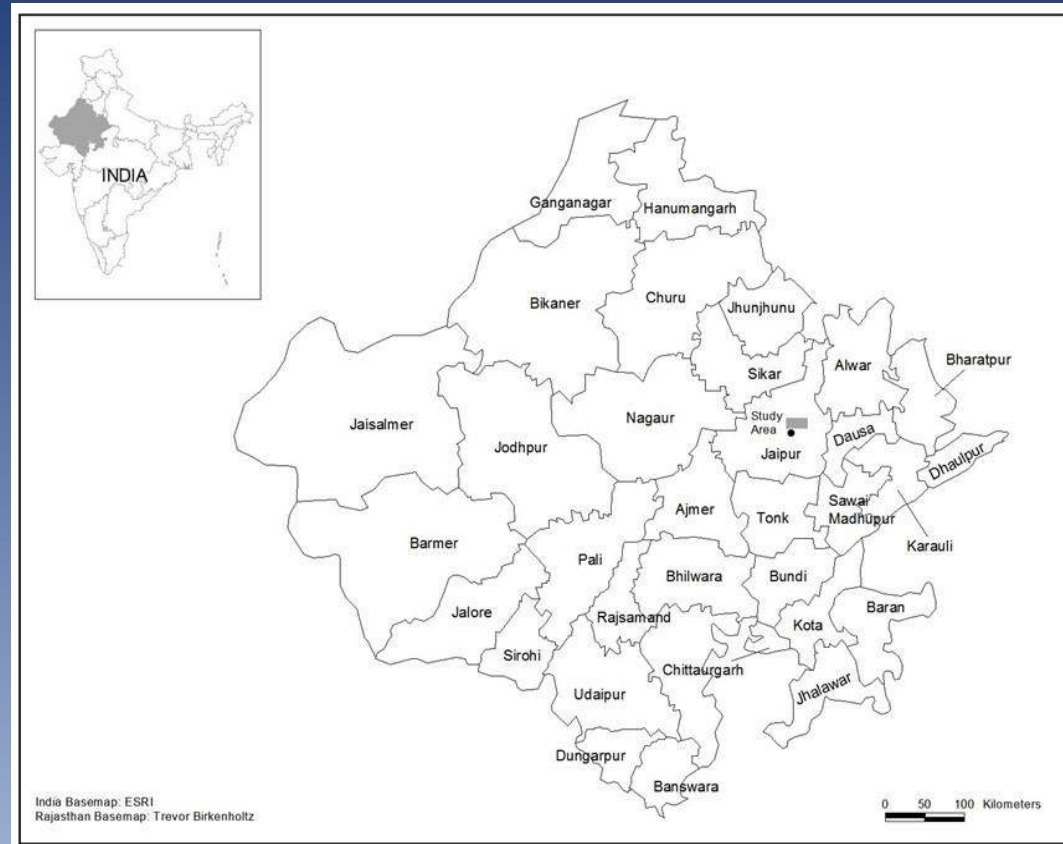
Many important questions remain about participatory water governance

- Best to look at specific cases & consider the context
- Here I will present two case studies about participation and will focus on the questions about who gets to participate and why
- The first involves work I did in Rajasthan, India in 2008 and considers the situation of an NGO and getting women involved (gender dynamics)
- The second involves work done with a graduate student on participation in major negotiated settlements in the Klamath Basin, California and Oregon, US

Gender Dynamics and Water Matters:

Participatory Water Development and Women in Rajasthan, India









Connecting participatory water development & governance to gender



**Gender is dynamic
and is spatially
and temporally
situated**



Inequities based on gender are rooted in social stratification based on roles and responsibilities assigned to men and women and the differential values of these roles

Water is used
and controlled
in a variety of
gender-specific
ways through
household &
community
practices as well
as through
broader
institutions



“Water is essentially a woman's issue. Men are not really bothered about it. They just wash their hands and sit down for food. It's the woman who has to arrange water for all day. Women need the water. And if there is no water in the house, the man will take a stick in his hand and ask--you didn't get water? It's the women who have to pay the price. It's the woman who needs water for the household work and to sustain the family. It is a woman's resource”

K. Bai, Rajasthani activist and grandmother quoted in Parmar, A. 2004. Ocean in a Drop of Water: Empowerment, Water and Women. *Canadian Woman Studies* 23(1):124-132.





Women may be unwilling or unable to participate in water management



**Disproportionate
emigration of men
has created
changes in
household water
matters and
imposed new
gendered roles and
responsibilities for
water**



Time and circumstances also alter gender as it gets expressed in water matters

Institutional Issues

New water technologies may affect men and women differently

Distribution of benefits from water projects may be differentiated by gender



Gendered differences in how water institutions are engaged and information is exchanged





Society & Natural Resources
An International Journal



ISSN: 0894-1920 (Print) 1521-0723 (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/usnr20>

Influences on Stakeholder Participation in Water Negotiations: A Case Study from the Klamath Basin

Alexandra Horangic, Kate A. Berry & Tamara Wall

To cite this article: Alexandra Horangic, Kate A. Berry & Tamara Wall (2016): Influences on Stakeholder Participation in Water Negotiations: A Case Study from the Klamath Basin, Society & Natural Resources, DOI: [10.1080/08941920.2016.1144837](https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2016.1144837)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2016.1144837>



Published online: 15 Mar 2016.



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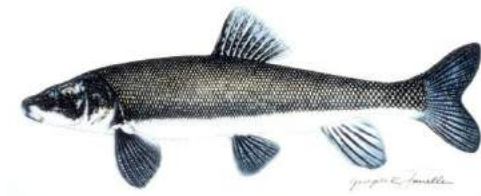
Coho



Shortnose C'wam



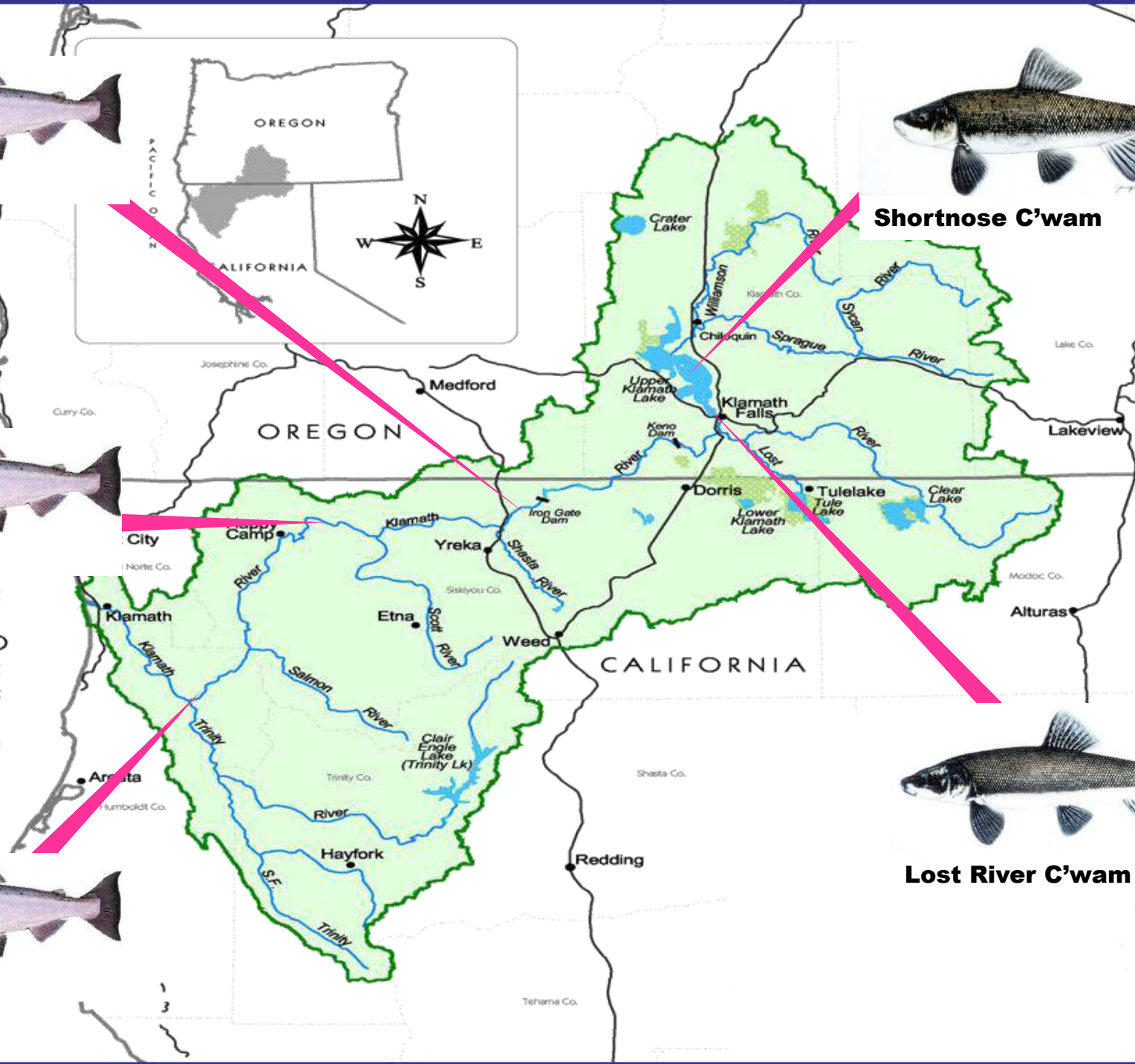
Chinook



Lost River C'wam



Steelhead



The Klamath Basin



Upper Basin



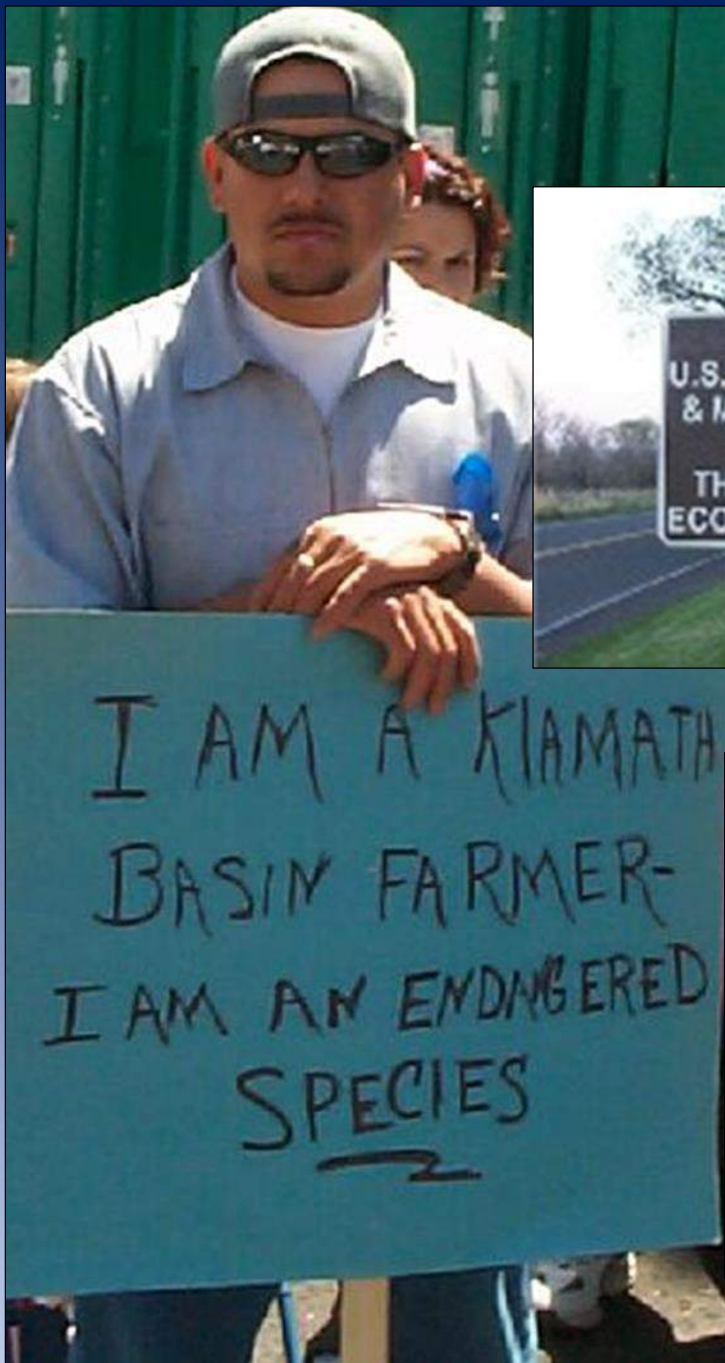
Middle Basin



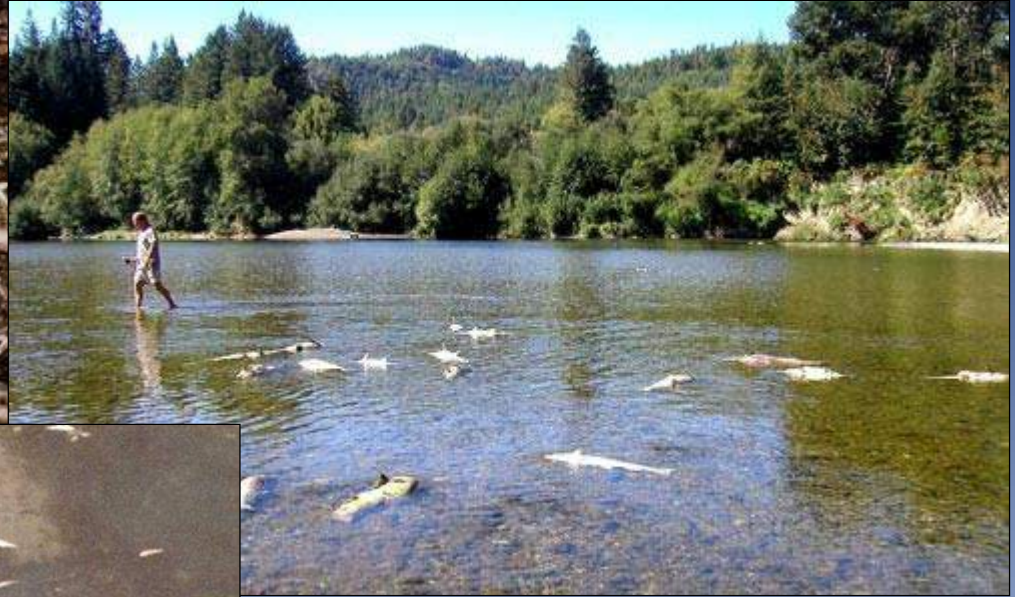
Mouth of the Klamath, Lower Basin

2001

Klamath Falls



2002 Lower Klamath River



Negotiated settlement agreements in 2010

Klamath Basin Restoration
Agreement (KBRA)

Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement
Agreement (KHSA)

Interviews with Stakeholder Representatives

Stakeholder Representatives	Number of Interviews
Tribal Community	4
Irrigation/Farming Community	3
Conservation Community	5
Commercial Fishing Community	2
Federal Agencies	5
State Agencies	2
Hydropower Owner	1
Total	22





Factors Influencing Participation

Objectives



Past Experiences



Relationship Building



Political & Geographic Context

Process Legitimacy

Regulatory Framework



Personal Values & Identity

Process Support & Progress

Results

Past experiences

- We found that previous negative experiences with other stakeholder groups did not necessarily translate into a decision not to participate
- Instead, participatory experience of any sort contributed more to a desire to participate

Relationship building

- Concerns about the development of relationships as the negotiations occurred and with the value of those relationships suggests that relationship building may be viewed as part of the negotiation process itself

Political & geographic contexts

- Political & geographic contexts were significant, being intertwined in nearly all factors influencing participation in negotiation in our study
- Perceptions of who had “skin in the game” not only encouraged some groups to participate in negotiations but allowed others to be excluded
- In some cases, those excluded actively opposed the 2 negotiated agreements

Personal values & identity

- Many stakeholders mentioned putting aside their differences in values and identity so as to negotiate for the broader public good and to protect the environment
- Yet during the negotiations some significant changes in values and identities occurred for some of the stakeholders as a result of the negotiations
- These changes in values and identities encouraged some to continue participating, while others chose to oppose the negotiated settlements



Both studies emphasize the significance of recognizing why stakeholders participate

The subtleties of what influences stakeholders to participate is complex but it is important to understand if just and equitable outcomes are to be achieved



Any comments or questions?