



Institute for Washington's Future

Mr. Peter Donaldson
Co-Founder, Watershed Legacy Learning Community
3635 88th Ave S.E.
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Dear Peter:

The Institute for Washington's Future fully supports Watershed Legacy and its Engaging the Public in Watershed Planning proposal. The Institute, as I am personally, is happy to participate in this program.

The Institute was founded as part of an effort on the part of conflicted groups –environmental organizations, community based stakeholders, and labor unions – to resolve the spotted owl/old growth timber controversy. Since our inception, we have seen these environment versus the economy conflicts grown in scope and intensity around the Northwest. We have seen much regulatory enforcement, many court actions, and all too little real change.

Our experience is that positive steps forward invariably involve:

- Building open and respectful relationships among all parties;
- bringing the collective wisdom of the parties closest to the problems to bear on their solutions;
- focusing on constructive, community based projects.

To my mind, this project and Watershed Legacy itself represent these principals in action.

The I.W.F. supports this program because, frankly, it is the first program which integrates these principals and applies them in a comprehensive way. More especially, our experience in the pilot project in Walla Walla demonstrates to us that it works. We see in this application that people who would not have dreamed of being in the same room with one another now see each other as “old” friends. We hear uncommon insights into the challenges we face and common sense approaches to problems articulated. And people have committed to action. This process works. It needs to be implemented region wide.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely Yours,

Don Hopps
Consulting Director
Institute for Washington's Future