

CONSENSUS INSTITUTE (CONFLICT MODULE)

February 17-19, 2010

BLM National Training Center ♦ Phoenix, Arizona



The National Riparian Service Team, in partnership with the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System and Community Partnership Office, is sponsoring the 2010 Consensus Institute. This is a concentrated 2 ½ day workshop where people will learn basic process tools for developing consensus in a highly experiential training approach. Participants will learn by doing and, at the conclusion of the session, will be capable of working within their own groups and communities to apply the lessons learned and build consensus. Following the session, the instructors will be available to assist participants as they design and conduct workshops or meetings in their own communities.

The Conflict Module is the first in a series of four (conflict, power, scarcity and diversity). During this session participants will learn about managing conflicts caused by our rapidly changing natural, political and social environments, using their own situations and experiences as learning pathways. Participants will be exposed to the basic consensus building process, as well as some of the basic tenets underlying that process. This includes an introduction to the following: a circular meeting format, a process for life-long learning, the power of worst and best outcomes, the pathway from beliefs and behaviors to strategies and actions, the role of the facilitator and recorder in consensus building and empowering others, and the importance of fostering the type of listening with respect that is critical to resolving issues. Participants will also become acquainted with conducting situation assessments as a means for convening groups of people around addressing difficult and complicated issues.

For additional information about the Consensus Institute or to register, please contact Laura Van Riper (541-416-6702, laura.van.riper@or.blm.gov). Hotel information will be provided upon registration. There is no cost associated with the session, except for the price of a catered lunch each day. The sessions on Wednesday and Thursday will run from 8am-5pm; Friday will begin at 8am and end at 1pm to accommodate return travel.

MEET THE INSTRUCTORS



Bob Chadwick of *Consensus Associates* is internationally known for his special abilities to bring differing groups together to communicate and develop consensus solutions. He has pioneered the development of consensus building techniques that foster creative solutions to old conflicts, especially relating to natural resource issues. He has facilitated consensus solutions in over 1,000 situations involving more than 45,000 people. Bob developed this workshop format.



Mike Lunn of *Sustainable Solutions* has 40+ years of experience confronting and resolving complex natural resource and community issues, including 12 years as Forest Supervisor on the Tongass, Siskiyou, and Rogue River National Forests. His strengths include problem solving and decision making in the natural resource arena, organizational development and consensus building. Mike has also been a part time member of the National Riparian Service Team since 1996.



Laura Van Riper is currently the social scientist and conflict resolution specialist on the *National Riparian Service Team*. She has spent over 15 years studying, evaluating and facilitating collaborative, community-based natural resource management efforts both in the US and abroad. Since 2002, Laura has been using the concepts and tools taught in this workshop while working with various groups across the west.

Participant Feedback

This training in building consensus around highly charged issues is very powerful. The combination of experiential learning and discussion of the underlying issue is particularly effective for creating facilitators who can get the job done. We need more of this kind of training.

*Patt Opdyke, OSU Extension Service
Washington Co. OR*

I have attended many different training sessions and other processes dealing with consensus. This is the only training I have had which has given me the tools to bring groups to consensus. All other training only discuss the value of it.

*Brian E. Lipscomb, Manager, Fish Wildlife & Recreation Division
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe, Pable MT*

This process has given me new and valuable ways to look at old problems differently. I have new tools that I am taking back to my community and my watershed council to help us move forward.

*Rob Williams, Graduate Research Assistant, Oregon State University
Facilitator, Mary's River Watershed Council*

This consensus approach has the ability to bring groups together more effectively than any approach I have used in my 28 years of public education, community development and communication training. I have used it in my work environment, my family, our family farm and in community groups I work with. It has the ability to change lives, communities and the environment. It has been my best investment in my personal education and professional development.

*Wayne Madson, NE District Director
WSU Cooperative Extension*