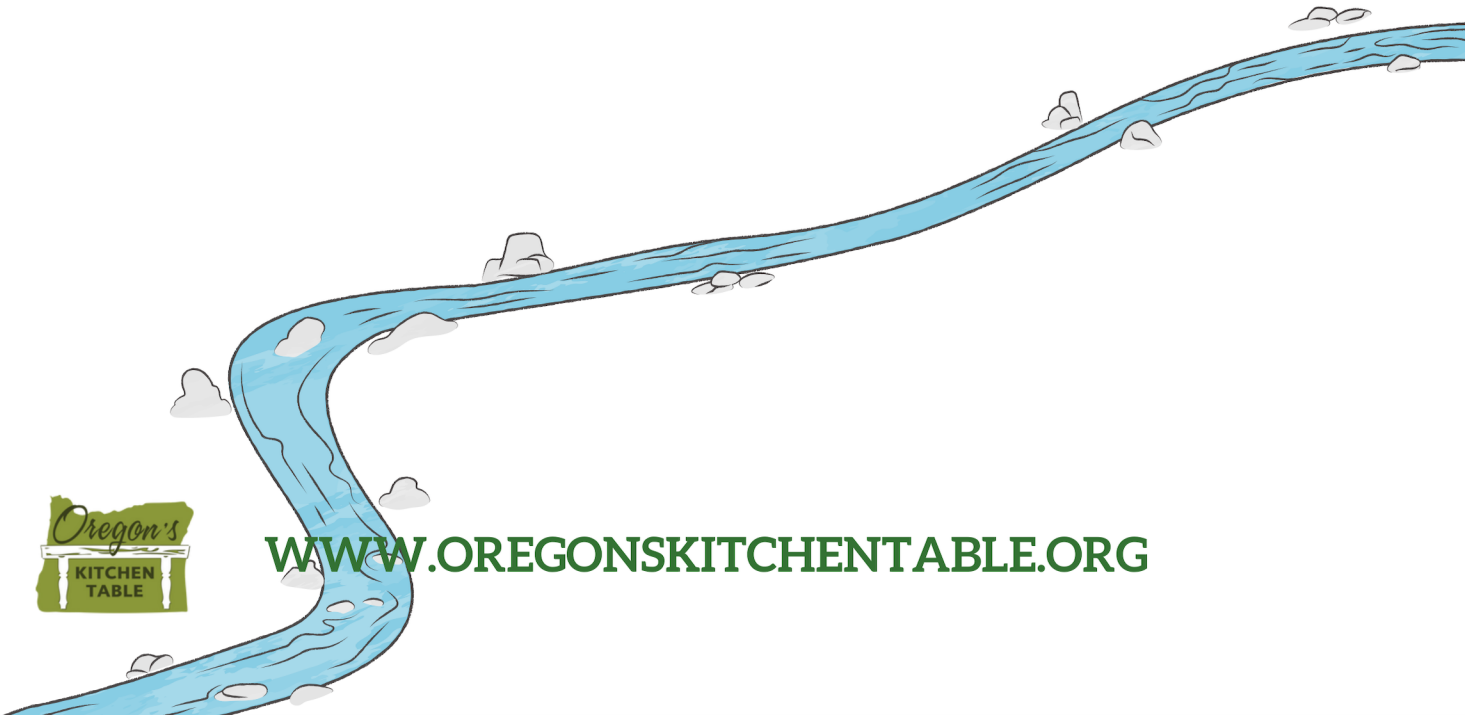


KITCHEN TABLE CONVERSATION GUIDE: Upper Rogue River Community Engagement



WWW.OREGONSKITCHENTABLE.ORG





This Guide is for people who are organizing and hosting a Kitchen Table Conversation with others about your values, beliefs and desires for the Upper Rogue River between the old Gold Ray Dam site (river mile 126) and Lost Creek Dam (river mile 157).

We hope this Guide provides helpful ideas for organizing a community conversation, a structure for what to talk about during the conversation, and a clear way to summarize what people shared and get it to OKT. We ask you to use the same questions as in other conversations and to send us the notes from your conversation.

We are happy to work with you to provide outreach materials and can help coach you on facilitation if you need it. If you want support or assistance, please reach out! Email info@oregonskitchentable or call (503)725-3420.

CONTENTS

Our Approach

Gathering People

Purpose / Background

Guiding the conversation

Gathering input

Tips and templates

OUR APPROACH

Oregon's Kitchen Table strives to include all Oregonians in the decisions that affect their lives, with a particular focus on reaching, engaging, and hearing from Oregonians who have been left out of traditional public processes.

We work with organizers, translators, and interpreters so materials and online and in-person consultations are available for Oregonians who speak a wide variety of languages and learn in a variety of ways.

We recognize that people bring all different levels of knowledge and familiarity regarding issues / policies. We use approaches to ensure those who may not have as in-depth knowledge can still respond and share what they believe and have experienced. People participate in many different ways: through online and paper surveys, individual or small group interviews, culturally specific and community events, festivals, listening sessions, or public meetings open to anyone.

One of the approaches we use is what we call a Kitchen Table Conversation: a group of people gathering together to learn from each other and share what they think in the language, setting, and format that is most comfortable for them.



GATHERING PEOPLE TO TALK

INVITATION

Use whatever method people will pay attention to, but make sure it feels warm, welcoming, and inviting. It might be a text, a phone call, What'sApp, a social media post, or an email. Some people set up e-invites. Make clear the time, place, purpose, what to expect (food or participant incentive), and if they need to RSVP.

GROUP SIZE

10-12 people is a nice size. But larger groups can be broken up into smaller groups. And you can still have a good conversation with 2-3 people.

FORMAT

You can meet in person, over Zoom, or group chat (people have used WhatsApp before, for example). You can talk while planting trees or clearing out invasive species. You can have the conversation on a bus during a field trip. Hold the conversation in a space that is easy and comfortable for people in your community.



WELCOME

HOST

Think of yourself as the host, welcoming people at your table,

FOOD

If you are in person, have food! Even a simple snack (popcorn, cookies, water, fruit) will help people feel welcome.

FUN

If you're in-person or virtual, have some element of fun and joy that makes sense for your group: music, a short game, decorations.

ACTIVITY!

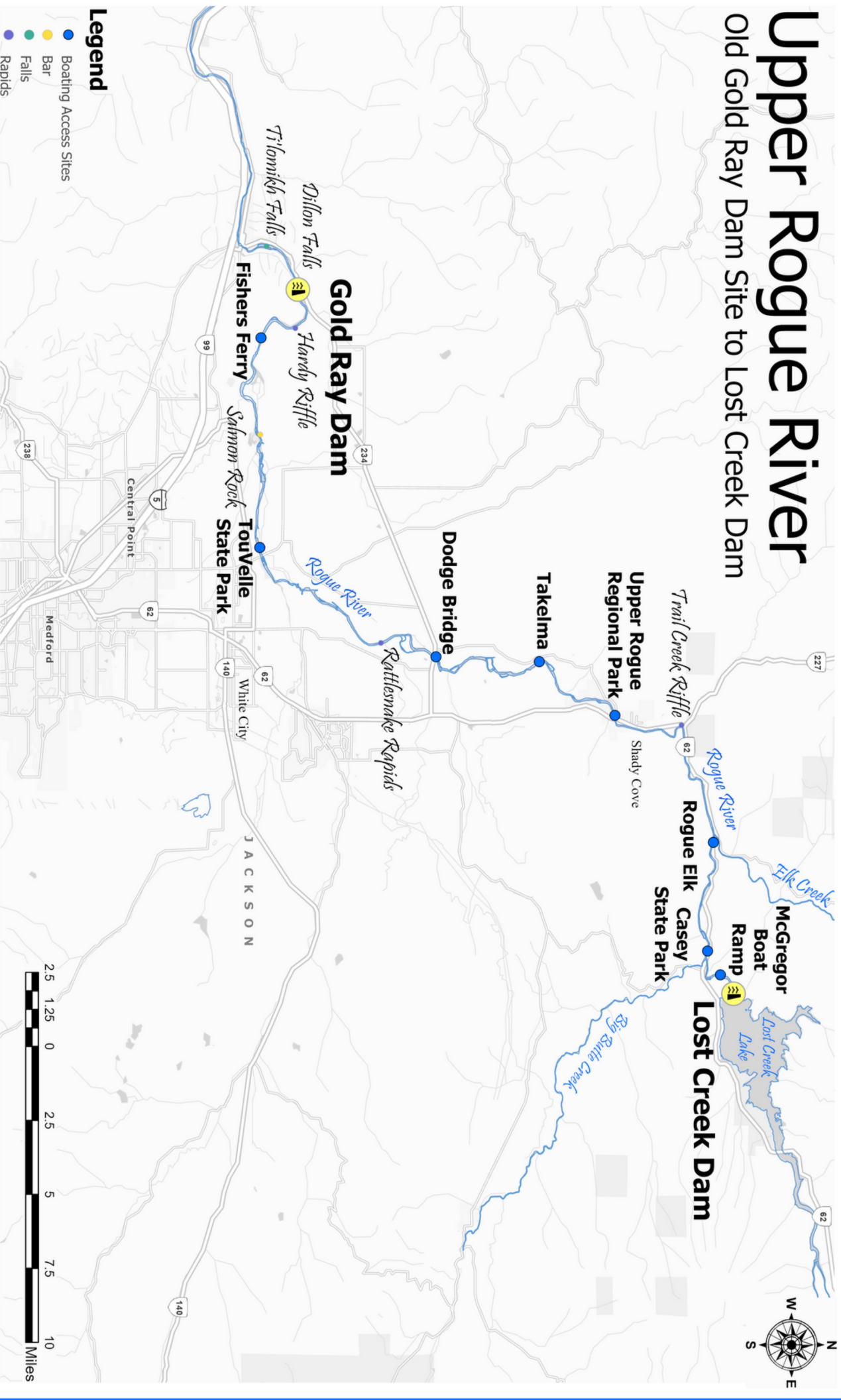
Have an opening activity that allows for all to say something at the beginning so that they can get comfortable. For example, we suggest that you start by asking people to share their connection to this part of the Upper Rogue.

As part of this conversation, you could consider having people mark their connection on a map. On the next page, we've provided a map of this section of the river. We suggest that you have people mark their activities on the map! Use highlighters or markers to show what you do and where you do it. Send us the pictures!



Upper Rogue River

Old Gold Ray Dam Site to Lost Creek Dam



ROLES FOR CO-HOSTS

If you are working with a partner or a team to co-host a conversation, decide who will take which role. Here are some common roles. You could also invite participants to join you and take on one of these roles.



- Facilitator: Guides conversation, asks questions, and helps capture themes, commonalities, or differences.
- Notetaker: Captures what people say. Bullet points are fine! If the notetaker can get any good quotes, that's great but not required.
- Timekeeper: Use a clock (phone works!) to help make sure that there's enough time for each part of the conversation. Give facilitator / group time warnings.
- Reporter: If there are small group discussions, shares a summary of what the group discussed for the whole group.
- Observer: Helps the Facilitator make sure everyone gets a chance to talk or that no one person takes up too much time.

GUIDING THE CONVERSATION

1. BACKGROUND

People have different experiences and knowledge about the topic. We honor all of those experiences and knowledge. Share the basic background provided in the "Purpose for Gathering" section.

2. QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION



OKT has developed a few questions with the decision maker. We usually have a few main questions to ask people. We also have follow up questions if people need some direction in responding or if there's extra time.

3. HOW TO SPEND YOUR TIME TOGETHER

It's ok if people want to spend time on just one or two questions. We want to know where their interests and energies are, so that's fine!



4. CONFIDENTIALITY



Let people know that their names or anything that identifies them won't be shared. You'll give OKT a summary of what you all talked about. OKT will combine all the input from different conversations, surveys, and other ways people share what they think.



CONVERSATION AGENDA

Welcome

How we will use our time together

Discussion Guidelines:

- Help us hear everybody
- Be respectful of your neighbors
- Listen with curiosity
- Everyone brings different experiences and ideas
- Speak from your direct experience (what you have seen, felt, heard)

Project Background

Introductions

Discussion (break into smaller groups as needed!)

Next steps

Goodbyes and Appreciations

PURPOSE FOR GATHERING

Explain why you've invited people in your community to talk about their values, beliefs, and expectations regarding outdoor recreation and natural resource protection on the Upper Rogue River.

Below is a description of what the decision is and why it matters. You can read this or summarize in your own words.



Many people use the Upper Rogue River (specifically between the old Gold Ray dam site, river mile 126, to the Lost Creek Dam, river mile 157) for a whole variety of activities. Some people fish and swim or want to protect fish and animals in the river. Some people enjoy the river using boats, either with paddles or motors. And there are several businesses that take customers up and down the river, some in rafts and some in power boats, like jet boats.

Over the past few years, there has been some conflict about how people are using and enjoying this stretch of the Upper Rogue. Some of those people believe that increased use of motor boats, especially the businesses using jet boats, make those activities difficult or impossible. Some other people believe that everyone can enjoy the river together, including jet boats. The river is also changing over time because of things like lower water and more people wanting to use it at the same time.

The State of Oregon is considering making changes that some people have suggested related to this stretch of the Upper Rogue. So, a group of state agencies – the Department of State Lands, the Oregon State Marine Board, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – have partnered with Oregon's Kitchen Table to hear from people who live in Jackson County and anyone who visits the Upper Rogue about their experiences, values, and desires for the future of this part of the river.

Your experiences and perspectives will help these state agencies better understand your values and hopes for the river as they make decisions on how best to manage the Upper Rogue and surrounding lands now and in the future.

QUESTIONS

What is your connection to this part of the Upper Rogue River? (What do you do on the river and where?)

What is your hope for the future of this part of the Upper Rogue River?

Hearing other peoples' hopes for the future--what is one thing you can agree on?

There have been several approaches suggested to reach people's desired futures for this part of the river:

- (Ban) If some people use the river how they want to, it means other people or animals can't use the river the way they want to. Some activities should be banned.
- (Limitations) Everyone can share the river. Rules should limit some activities in some places to protect other activities or wildlife.
- (Education) There may be conflict among river users, but what we need is courtesy, respect, and awareness, not more rules

Which of these approaches do you think will help get us to the future you want to see? (Or you can write/share your own idea.)

CONNECTING BACK

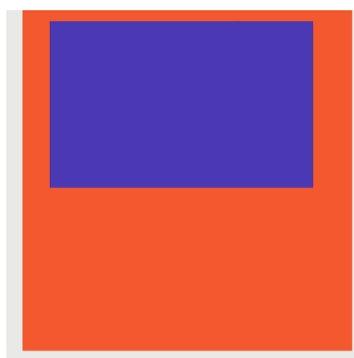
Let people know where their input will go and how it will be used. You can use the timeline on the next page. Also let them know that you will connect with Oregon's Kitchen Table with whatever questions came up and circle back to people with any answers.

APPRECIATIONS

Let people know how important their input is and we appreciate hearing their ideas, thoughts, experiences and time on this important issue. You can invite everyone to share their appreciations for each other.

ACTIVITY

If there's time, you can invite people to share aloud. If there's not time, have post-it notes or cards for people to write or draw their response to a closing question: One example: *What's something you learned from this conversation?* Or, *Share something you appreciate from this conversation.*



GETTING

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

1. LET US KNOW WHAT YOU HEARD!

Send your summary to feen@pdx.edu by July 5, 2024.



2. OKT REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

OKT will provide a report of what we heard to the state agencies in August 2024. We will post the report and a summary of that report on the OKT website. We will also share it with anyone who gave us their contact information.








You will be able to see the report here:

<https://www.oregonskitchentable.org/results>

3. HOW STATE AGENCIES WILL USE THE INPUT

Your input will help several Oregon state agencies (Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, Oregon State Marine Board, Department of State Lands, and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife) better understand your values and hopes for the river as they makes decisions on how best to manage the Upper Rogue River and the land around it now and in the future.

TIPS FOR SUMMARY

-  Bullet points are fine! This is a summary not a formal report.
-  Let us know any areas where there is agreement or disagreement in people's perspectives.
-  Let us know if there are any unique perspectives (an idea / experience / belief one person shared even if others didn't have it).
-  Add your observations/reflections: Feelings, sense of issues, concerns, positive experiences.
-  Let us know if there's anyone we ought to follow up with on any ideas they shared.
-  Share any questions about the project that you couldn't answer and who to follow up with.
-  Include any pictures from the conversation. Make sure to ask permission first!

SEND YOUR SUMMARY BY JULY 5, 2024 TO: FEEN@PDX.EDU



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Date / Place:

of people:

General description of the group (age ranges, languages spoken, any ways the group might identify themselves):

Opening activity (what you did, anything anyone shared):

What's your connection to the river?



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

What is your hope for this part of the Upper Rogue River?

Hearing other peoples' hopes for this part of the river -
what is one thing you can agree on?

Which of the approaches do you think will get us to the future you want
to see? Other ideas, approaches?



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Closing activity (what you did, what people shared)



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Areas of agreement among the group

Areas of disagreement among the group

Unique perspectives



SUMMARY TEMPLATE

Areas where someone was persuaded by someone else's point of view

Any observations you had

Direct quotes

SEND YOUR SUMMARY BY JULY 5, 2024 TO: FEEN@PDX.EDU



QUESTIONS?
IDEAS?
NEED SUPPORT?
CONTACT US!



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