

# **The Cle Elum RD Anti-Mudding Initiative**

**A case study in effective partnering**

# The setting

- Three large reservoirs
- Highly seasonal
- Easily accessible wetlands





# Mudding

- Reservoir beds
- Wet meadows
- Roads



# Who goes mudding?



- People who want to:
  - Escape boredom,
  - Test their vehicles,
  - Spend time with family or friends,
  - Explore the outdoors,
  - And have fun.

# Unfortunately...

- Mudding:
  - Destroys vegetation,
  - Compacts soil,
  - Harms streams,
  - Degrades wildlife habitat,
  - And costs taxpayers money.



# Our story begins...

- November, 1999
- Seasonal wetland damaged
- Emergency field meeting
- Emergency closure



# First partners

- **Driftwood Acres**
  - Nuisance behavior
  - Posted signs and reported violations
- **Bureau of Reclamation**
  - Supported enforcement of lakebed
  - Signing



# Objectives in Year 2000

- To raise the awareness of employees and the public about the damages incurred by mudding,
- To change its social acceptability,
- And ultimately, to prevent it from occurring.



# Strategy



- Begin with Lake Cle Elum,
- Expand to all reservoirs,
- Then target all mudding.

# Reservoirs

- Public meeting
  - Participants from motorized community, local residents, and conservation groups
  - Three options;
    - Make mudding legal everywhere,
    - Create a designated spot for mudding,
    - Do not allow mudding anywhere.
  - Attendees were in consensus that mudding should not be legal anywhere on the NF.

# Closure of Reservoir Beds

- Management shared with BOR
- Enforcement partnership
- The Great Labor Day Patrol
  - Volunteers and staff members
  - Partnerships with Alpine Lakes Protection Society and motorized community.

# Moving forward

- Focus shifted to education and outreach
  - Sought funding for educational products
  - Engaged the press
  - Distributed information to the public



# Funding for education

- Respect the River
  - Established and funded through fisheries
  - Focuses on recreation and water resources



# Mudding brochure

## Mudding

DON'T BELIEVE THE T.V. ADS

### IT'S ILLEGAL!

Damaging natural resources is illegal and subject to fines from \$100 to \$5,000.



“Mudding” is an activity done by people who drive motorized vehicles through wet meadows, fields, streams or lakeshores. Spinning their tires to throw mud, ripping up the vegetation and soil, creating deep mud holes. The objective is to test their vehicles power and get their rigs as muddy as possible, all in the pursuit of “fun”... but, at what cost?

## You Can Help!



- Report the damage as soon as possible.
- Call it in on a cell phone.
- Get a license number, description of vehicle and driver.
- Give the exact location of damage.
- Take photos or video tape of damage while it's occurring.

# Press Coverage

- Tours
- Articles
- Editorials

## Mudders make a mess destroying scenic meadows

By ANDREA PASCOE

*staff writer*

## MUDDING

### It's always out of season

By MICHEAL GALLAGHER

*staff writer*

### Mudding: Off-Road Should Avoid D

This is that time of year when irresponsible off-road drivers take it upon themselves to muddle pristine backwoods fields and bogs with illegal “mudding.” They rip up native plants, streambeds, and wet meadows for the thrill of spinning their tires and showing off their rigs’ power.

CLE ELUM – Enforcement and education efforts are beginning to make a mark on mudders.

But the marks left by mudders, people who illegally drive four-wheel drive vehicles on United States Forest Service land, continue to scar and damage the environment for generations to come.

“We’re hearing more from people who use the forest, and the community is becoming more aware of the damage caused,” said Bill Ehinger, hydrologist with the Cle Elum Ranger District.



# Public Information

- Posters
- Presentations to user groups
- Presentations to other agencies

## Does Mudding Damage Make You Mad?



### **We need your help to stop resource damage from vehicle mudding.**

- Report the damage as soon as possible.
- Call it in on a cell phone.
- Get a license number, description of vehicle and driver.
- Give the exact location of damage.
- Take photos or video tape of damage while occurring.
- Be willing to testify.

We need your help to put an end to senseless resource damage like this. The more eyes and ears out there, the more effectively we can put an end to this activity.

### **There is no appropriate place on the National Forest to go mudding. Don't believe the T.V. ads...it's illegal!**

Damaging natural resources is illegal and subject to fines from \$100 to \$5,000. For more information or to report a violation, please contact the Cle Elum Ranger District, 509-674-4411 or Kittitas County Sheriff 509-925-8534.

# Enforcement partnership

## ■ Kittitas County Sheriff

RCW 46.61.655

. . . (4) Any vehicle with deposits of mud, rocks, or other debris on the vehicle's body, fenders, frame, undercarriage, wheels, or tires shall be cleaned of such material before the operation of the vehicle on a paved public highway. . .

- Very effective for summer of 2001
- Efforts hampered by political pressure

# Video: Your Backyard

- Challenge Cost Share funding
- Contract with a local producer
- Worked with four-wheel drive enthusiasts on content





# Reception to video

- First 50 copies were gone in 2 months
- Available on FS and user group web sites
- Shown at trade shows

## MUD BOGGING IN WASHINGTON STATE

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**NOTE: This event was on private land.**

Please go [here](#) for more info on the impacts mudding has on our environment...  
and remember to [TREAD LIGHTLY!](#)

There are a lot of mud bogging pics to load, so be patient. All sorts of different types of rigs mud bogging...

# School Partnerships



# Restoration partners

- Civil damages
- Volunteer work parties
  - Kittitas Field and Stream
  - Ellensburg HS Environmental Club



# Recognition



- Caring for the Land
- Chief's Award for Partnerships

# Ongoing efforts

- Restoration
- Enforcement
- Education



# Why partnerships?

- Enhance efficiency and effectiveness
- Provide multi-actor, integrated solutions
- Allow multiple actors to move toward compromise and win-win situations
- Open decision-making processes

Brinkerhoff, J.M. 2002. Global public policy, partnership, and the case of the world commission on dams. *Public Administration Review*, 62:3. pp 324-336.

# Key Partnerships

	BOR	Kittitas County Sheriff	Pacific NW 4WD	Central Washington University	Area schools
Enhance efficiency and effectiveness	X	X		X	X
Provide multi-actor, integrated solutions	X	X			
Allow multiple actors to move toward compromise and win-win situations			X	X	
Open decision-making processes			X		X

# Partners

- Ellensburg High School Environmental Club
- US Attorney's Office, Spokane
- Chelan County Posse
- Driftwood Acres Homeowners Association
- Kittitas County Commissioners
- Daily Record
- Northern Kittitas County Tribune
- Yakima Herald Tribune
- Alpine Lakes Protection Society
- Yakima Provincial Advisory Committee
- Snoqualmie Pass Adaptive Management Area Subcommittee
- Kittitas County Sheriff's Department
- Central Washington University
- Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association
- Bureau of Reclamation
- City of Roslyn
- Boise Cascade
- US Timberlands
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Kittitas Audubon Society
- Police Department of Cle Elum, Roslyn, and South Cle Elum
- Ellensburg Police Department
- Lake Easton State Park
- Kittitas County Field and Stream Club