

Title:

The Geography of Ecological Alteration

Author:

Morris L. Uebelacker
Department of Geography and Land Studies
Central Washington University
morris@cwu.edu

Summary of Presentation:

Knowing the details of human interactions with the physical processes that create and maintain biotic diversity is required in almost every management action regarding anadromous fish. Furthermore, it is essential that a detailed model of the historic habitat conditions for the Yakima River basin forms a key part of the template from which measurements of change in habitat diversity are made. Significant progress towards understanding historic habitat conditions for the major alluvial floodplains in the basin has begun but comparable mapping and data has not been assembled for other essential landscape components that enable informed modeling, maintenance, and restoration efforts. Examples include: canyon reaches, glacial valley reaches, glacial lakes and associated reaches, the mainstream meander belt, and historic conditions in tributary streams; all critical elements in the preservation, recovery, and maintenance of the basin's ecological integrity.