Chris Currie

Concept Mapping

Week of 11/7 – 11/11

The development of the concept map during the latter half of our research project was a successful attempt to visually represent Salmonid habitat segmentation in the Lapwai Creek drainage, its stakeholders, and opportunities for solution in the decision space. The concept map itself is a way to visually represent the structure of inquiry, specifically within Lapwai drainage’s socio-ecologic segmentation the concept model highlights the circuital nature of the current managerial system. The concept map though created after our integrating questions and individual outlines, still provided us with a reinforcement of our findings and solutions. Being able to represent an issue in mixed-media is a functional and needed part of the solution-equation. It was a valuable experience for our group.

During the making of the conceptual map Dr. Boll visited our work group. His visit shed light on ort conceptual design by him framing it as more a conceptual map rather than a concept model; a model in this instance being a graphical representation of fact rather than a map being a geographic representation of an issue. This led us to realize that this conceptual map was different than our individual group’s maps from the previous exercise. Lapwai Creek’s issues are more multi-disciplinary relying on not only segmented habitat but also a fractured policy-space unlike the declining Palouse Aquifers. The aquifer issue has a more concrete problem with immediate local stakeholders. Watershed issues are difficult enough to grasp but when adding Tribal influence and all of its history and precedent to the managerial decision-space it adds another layer into an already complex, intertwined problem.