**Week of 24 October 2011**

At the group meeting during the previous week, a mutually agreed upon time for the next meeting was set for Monday, October 24th, however, various members of the group missed this meeting without notification sent to the others. This presented the possibility of conflict but, more importantly, the opportunity for the group to overcome it. Since we had already established open lines of communication, the members that were present at the meeting called the absence to the attention of the others. The absent group members apologized and suggested a new meeting time for the next day which was accepted by all and the meeting was held. During that meeting, ground rules were re-established and the group was strengthened. Conflict was avoided because we followed the guidelines set by Prof. Maureen Laflin in her lecture to the Water Resources 506 class (30 Aug. 2011) on group dynamics and how to manage conflict effectively.

The eventual meeting proved fruitful in furthering our progress on the assignment, as well. Each group member brought what he or she thought to be an integrating question representative of the Lapwai Creek Watershed problem. The integrating questions were read aloud and discussed, merging the common themes, ideas and disciplines into the following: How do historical and legal issues result in water and habit quality issues for Steelhead populations? This question clearly and concisely defines the problem; it is narrow enough in scope for the purposes of our project; and it establishes the importance of this problem (Repko, 2008 p. 147).

We chose to begin this process by writing individual integrating questions so that each group member could highlight what he or she thought were the most important aspects of the problem. The integration process allowed us to discuss the pros and cons of each question, eliminate disciplinary bias, and create what we all agreed would be the focus of our group project. The establishment of an integrating question was essential in narrowing the scope of the problem as the Lapwai Creek Watershed is extremely complex and could potentially include many disciplines. Using the integrating question, each of us identified what topic within the scope of the question we would focus on and set a goal for the next week of researching our respective disciplines as they pertain to the problem.

**References:**

Maureen Laflin, Team Building – Cultivating cooperation, collaboration and communication (Aug. 30, 2011).

Allen F. Repko, Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory 147 (Vicki Knight ed., 1st ed. 2008).