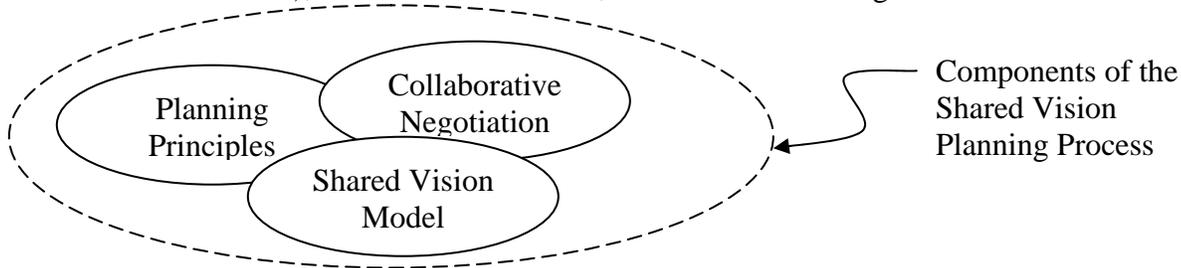


Shared Vision Planning Applied to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Regulatory Decisions

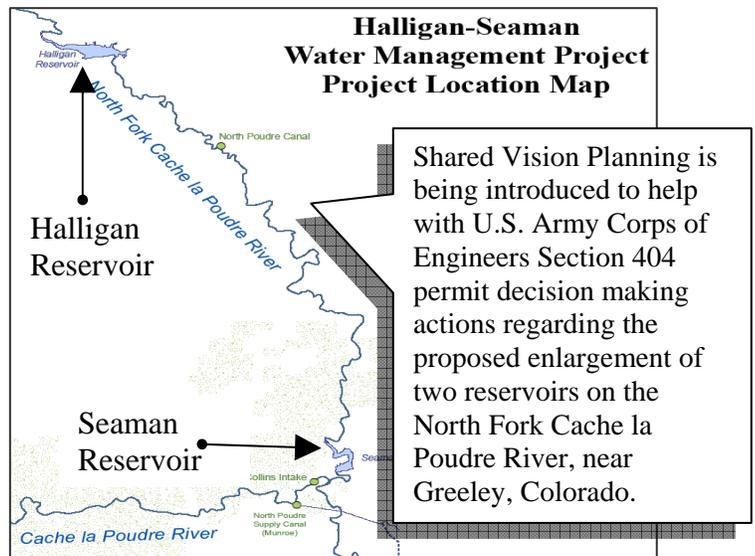
Gene Lilly¹, William J. Werick², and Hal E. Cardwell³

Competing needs and multiple stakeholders in watersheds require collaborative and comprehensive planning approaches in order to make informed decisions on how water is used. One approach is referred to as Shared Vision Planning (SVP). The three pillars of the SVP process include the application of planning principles (identify objectives, formulate alternatives, measure effects, and evaluate alternatives), a shared vision model, and collaborative negotiation.



The SVP process begins by building a team of key stakeholders and identifying their objectives. The team works with technical analysts to collaboratively create a model that represents a “shared vision” of the system. The shared vision model is designed to be used by stakeholders themselves to formulate, evaluate, and compare alternatives. The ultimate goal of this process is a recommended plan that is mutually satisfactory to stakeholders.

As part of the Western States Watershed Study, the cities of Greeley and Fort Collins CO are working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to test the SVP process in the Corps' regulatory program. Faced with increasing municipal water demands, Greeley and Fort Collins have proposed enlarging two reservoirs and applied to the Corps for a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps' Institute for Water Resources is engaging the Omaha District and stakeholders to conduct an experimental application of SVP to the issue of environmental enhancements associated with the applicant's preferred alternative. If all parties agree to go forward, a computer model of the system will be developed collaboratively to evaluate alternatives to improve the riparian environment. The experiment is limited and will not address water supply issues.



¹ Gene Lilly is the Project Manager for the Western States Watershed Study which includes a pilot scale demonstration of Shared Vision Planning to the Corps' Omaha District regulatory program.

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