

Appendix C5: Addressing Reluctant Participants

One of the key phases in developing the agreement is encouraging riparian owners to shift from the awareness to the interest and evaluation phases. Some do this readily, but others need help. They may be reluctant because they are not interested in the agreement, or because they fear that it will interfere with their business or their privacy, or that they are being lobbied by other user interests not to proceed.

In all cases it is necessary to return to the offer model, to develop a comprehensive picture of the issues that prevent them moving to the interest or evaluation phases, and the types of measures that might be offered or put in place to encourage them to re-evaluate their initial decision. The types of offer that might be made will, of course, vary depending upon the situation. However, some of the approaches used in the case studies include:

Reason for Reluctance	Potential solution
Lack of interest	Data to explain the interest of others
Privacy	Limiting the agreement to certain times and days; considering portages and other types of rerouting; erection of barriers and screening
Intrusion onto land	Notices; fencing; portage platforms on the opposite bank
Pressure from other users	Experience from other agreements about the impacts of canoeing; financial incentives to offset any loss of income from other sources