Justice at the Interface in Environmental Governance

Sara Hughes

National Center for Atmospheric Research

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Goals:

1. Introduce definitions and criteria for justice in environmental governance

2. Discuss mechanisms of injustice

3. Explore tools for change

John Rawls:

Justice as Fairness

- Terms of allocating benefits and burdens are such that a reasonable person would accept them and expect others to do the same

- Difference principle: Social and economic inequalities are just only if they work to the greatest benefit of the least-advantaged members of society

Amartya Sen:
Enhancing Justice and Removing Injustice

- Just institutions vs. Just "comprehensive outcomes"

- Comparative principles for evaluating the advancement or retreat of justice and choosing between alternatives

- Enhancing Freedoms

Susan Fainstein:

Democracy

Diversity

Equity

Julian Agyeman:

Equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people in decision making and implementation *and* the equitable distribution of benefits.

What is justice in environmental governance?

1. Representation of Disadvantaged Groups in Planning (Process)

2. Priority Setting and Framing that Recognizes the Needs of Disadvantaged Groups (Outcomes)

3. Benefits and Their Distribution Enhance Freedoms and Capabilities of Disadvantaged Groups (Impacts)

Why would people be left out?

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Political Economy of Poverty	Thick Injustice
Technocratic Governance	Institutional Capacities

Hughes, Sara. (Forthcoming). "Justice in Urban Climate Change Adaptation: Criteria and Application to Delhi," *Ecology & Society, Special Issue: Governing Adaptation*

Political Economy of Urban Poverty

Lack of accountability to, and representation of, the poor

- Poor have few opportunities to participate in policy making processes and little influence on elections
- Often no government agency, department or ministry with responsibility, programs, or funds
- Social and economic policy perceive poverty differently and incompletely

Hughes, Sara. (Under Review). "Justice in Urban Climate Change Adaptation: Criteria and Application to Delhi," *Ecology & Society, Special Issue: Governing Adaptation*

Thick Injustice

Deep, densely concentrated, and opaque injustices

- Historical roots
- Legacies of past policies and resource allocation
    - Suburbanization and privatization
- Long-lasting spatial differentiation (infrastructure, urban design, neighborhoods, etc.)

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Technocratic Governance

People marginalized by dominance of technical information in policy making

- How information is produced
- What information is used
- Dominance of western-style scientific information, especially in environmental policy
- Epistemologies become institutionalized

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Institutional Capacities

Local governments have the authority but not the administrative, financial, or technical capacity

- Lack qualities of good governance: decentralization and autonomy, transparency and accountability, and responsiveness and flexibility
- Under-funded
- Under-trained

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Questions for Good Governance:

1. Are we meeting all three justice criteria for environmental governance (process, outcomes, impacts)?
2. If not, what mechanism(s) are at play?
3. **How can we change the system to produce the governance outcomes we would like to see?**
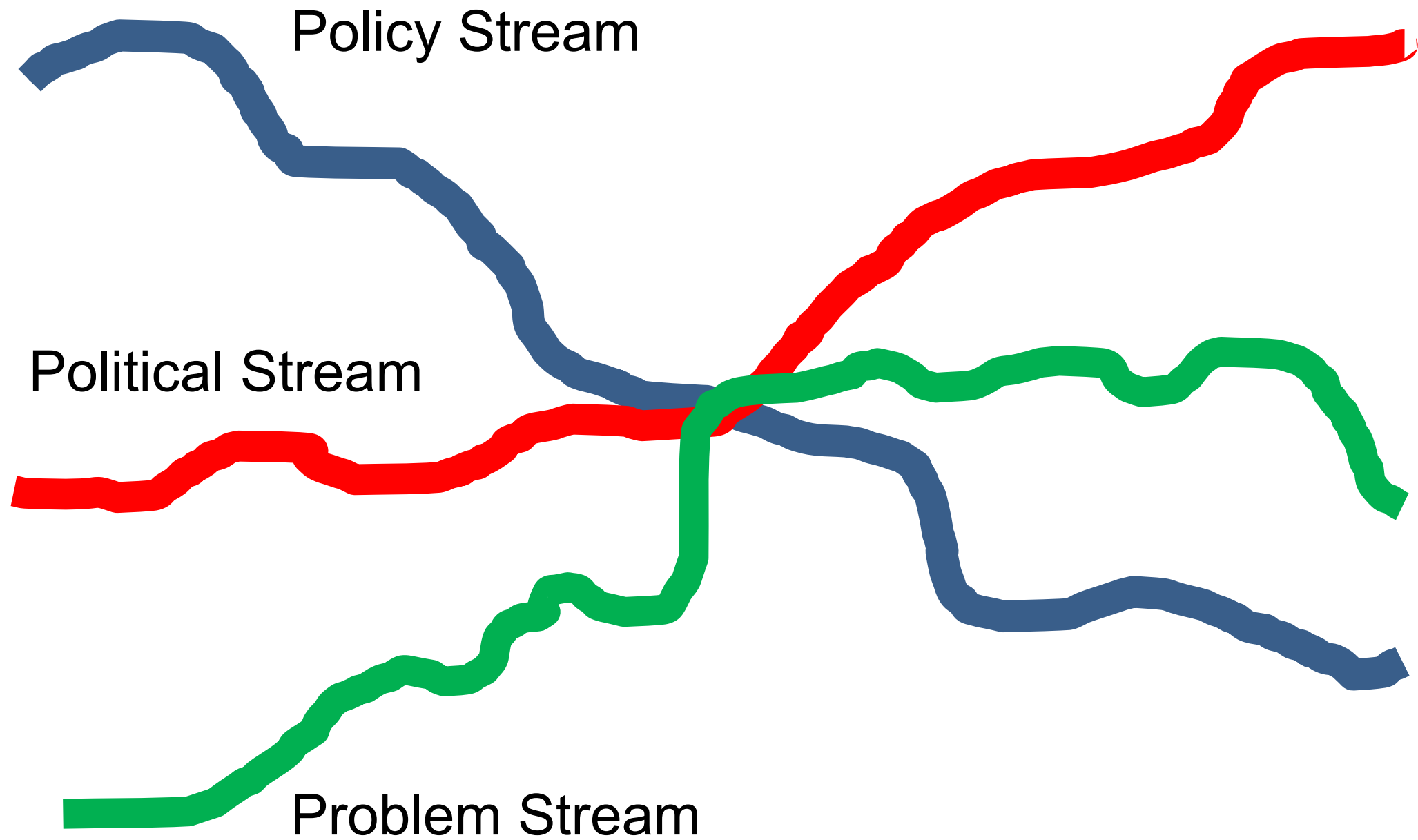
Policy Stream

Kingdon 1984
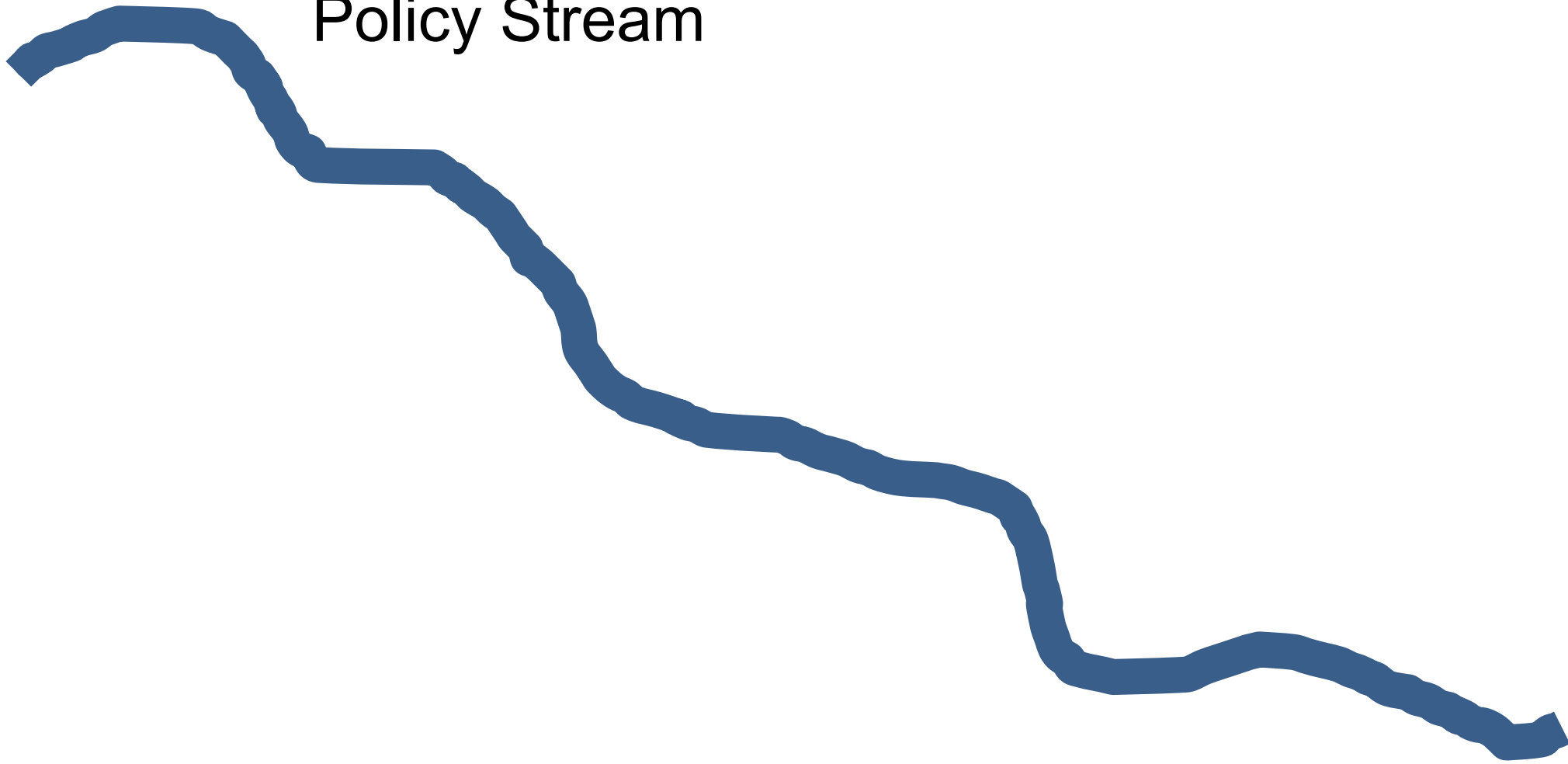
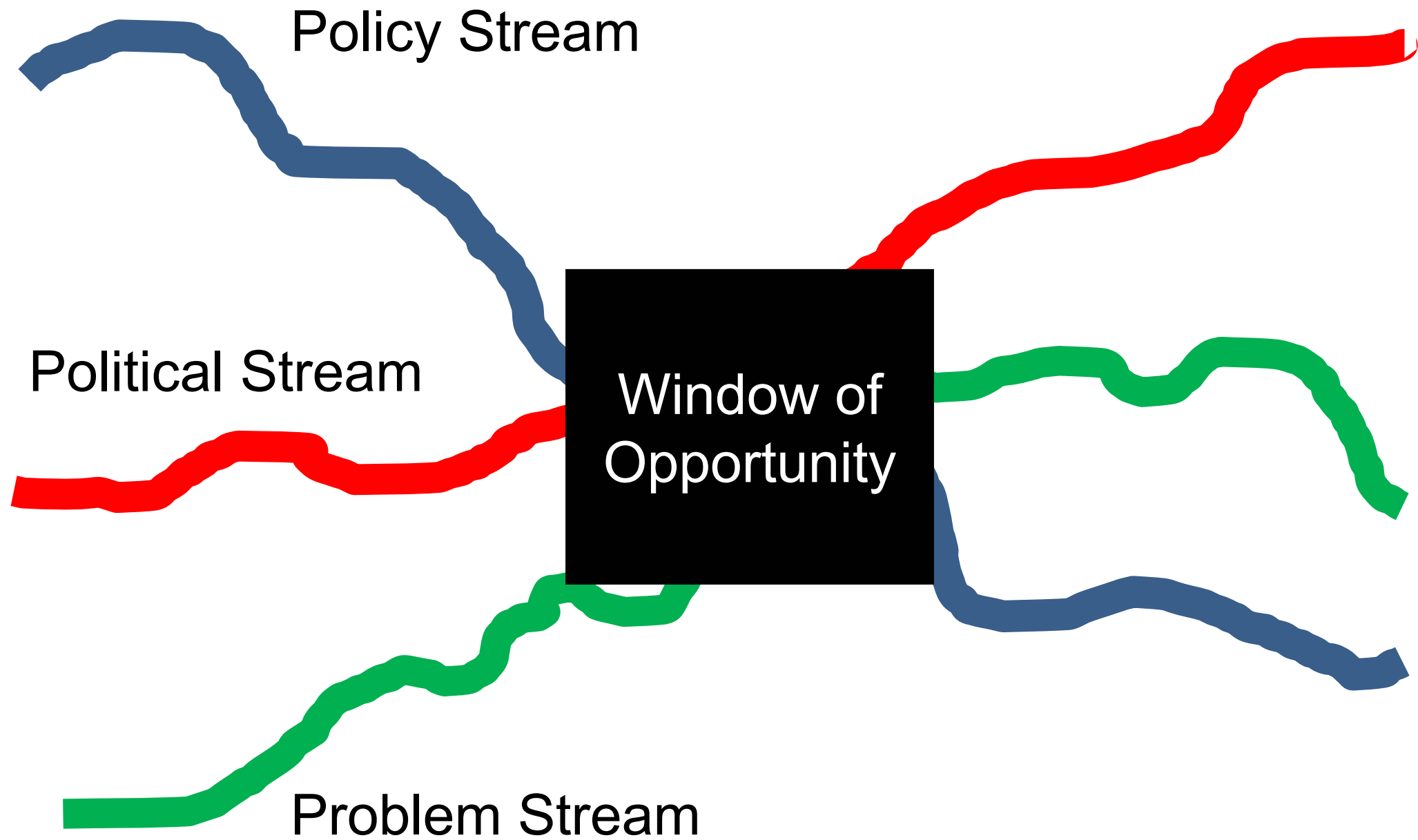# Tools for change

Policy Stream

Political Stream

Kingdon 1984

Policy Stream

Political Stream

Problem Stream

Kingdon 1984

Policy Stream

Political Stream

Window of
Opportunity

Problem Stream

Kingdon 1984
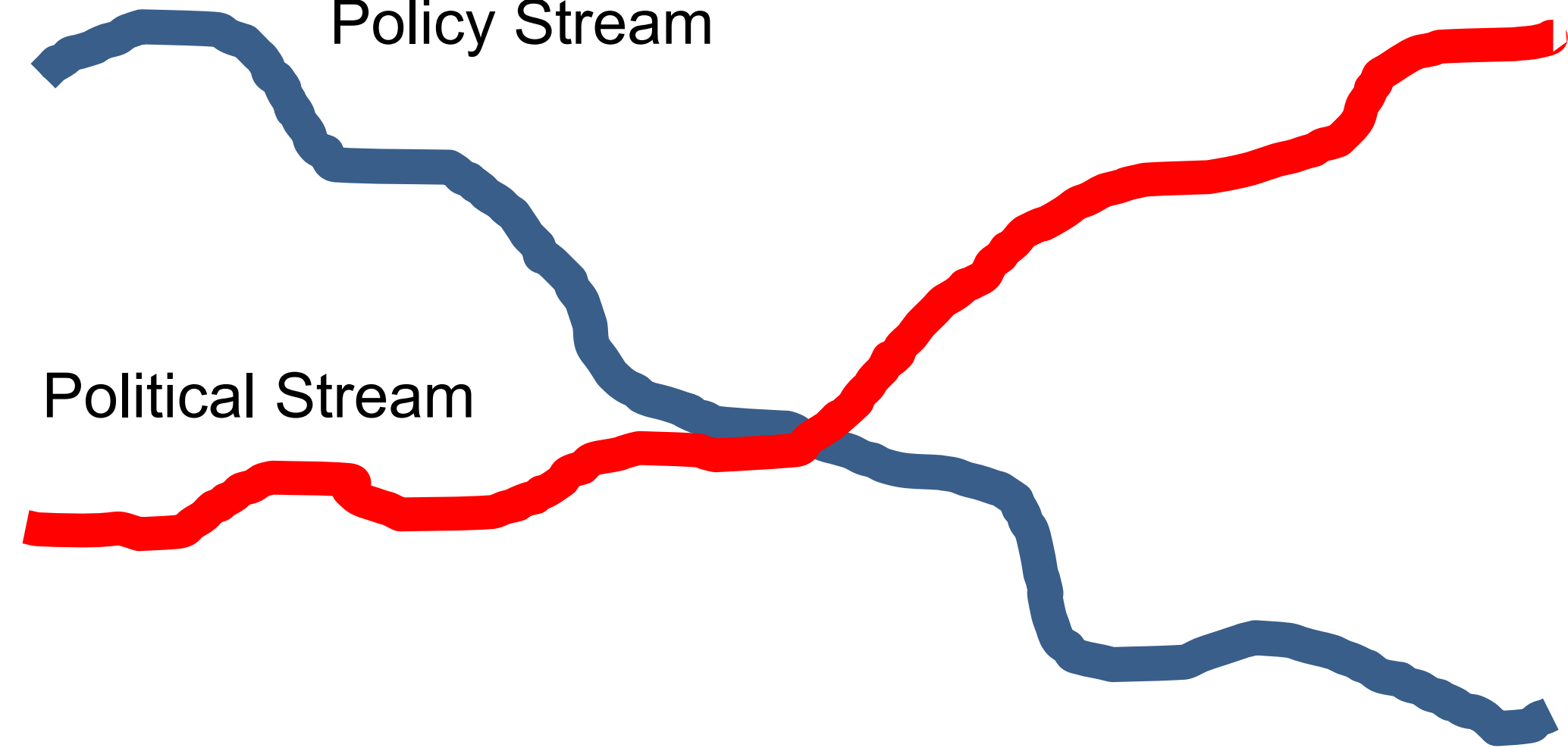
Role of Science: Shaping the Problem Stream

- Framing
- Preparation for windows

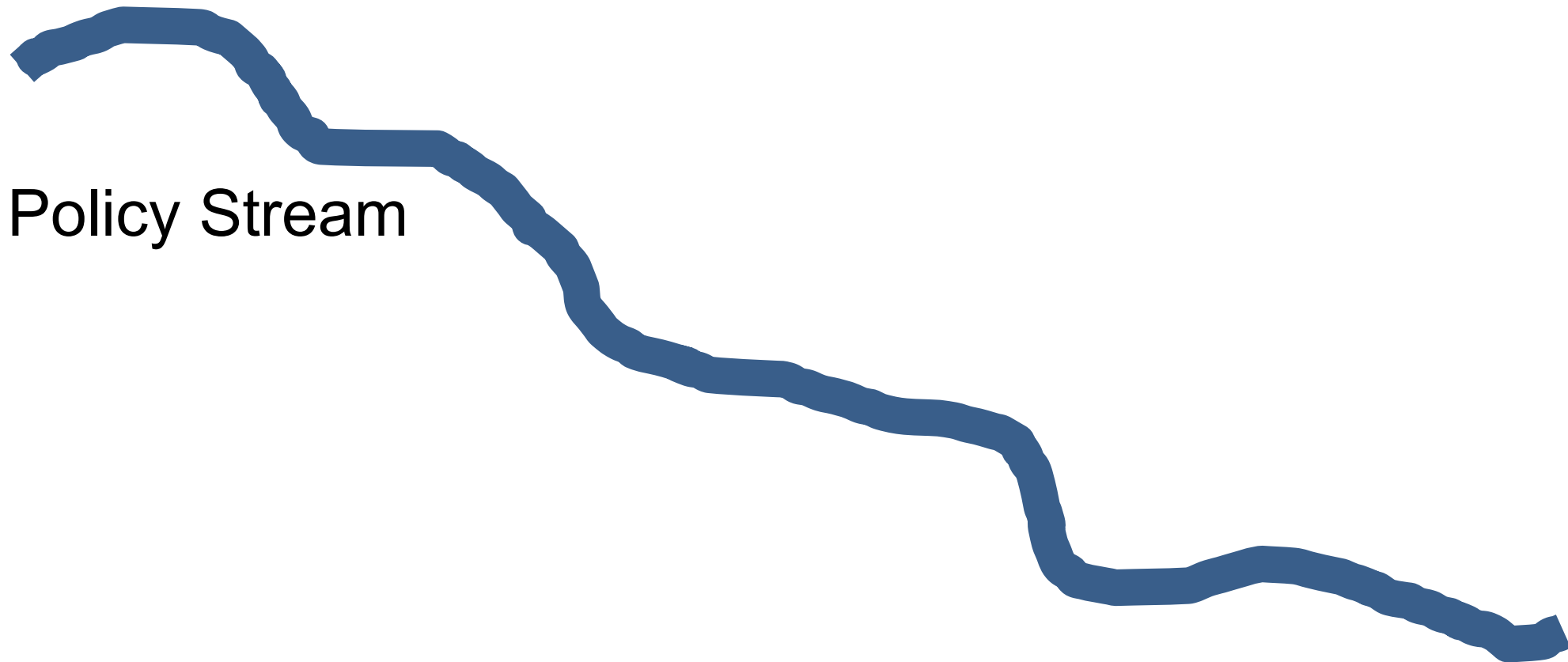Problem Stream

Role of Advocates: Shaping the Political Stream

- Awareness Raising

- Mobilization

- Preparation for windows

Political Stream
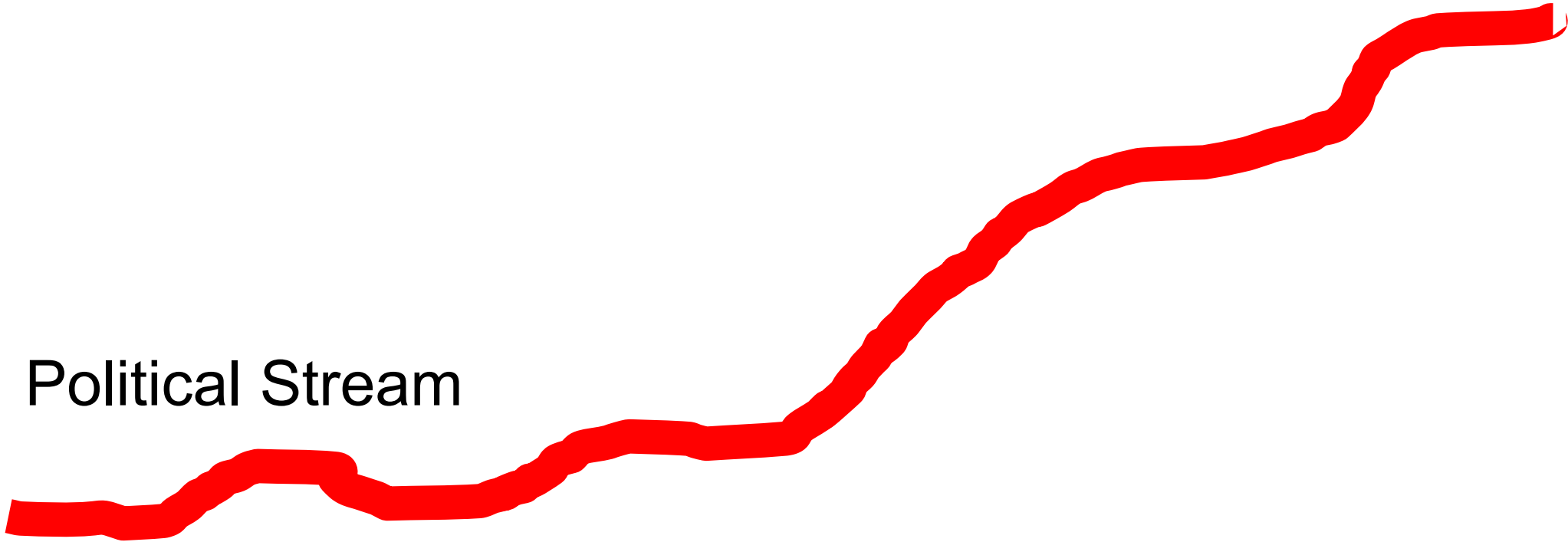
Role of Decision Makers: Shaping the Policy Stream

- Venue Shopping
- Preparation for windows

Policy Stream

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Thank You

shughes@ucar.edu