

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, SOCIOECONOMICS, AND STAKEHOLDER CONCERNS

BARBARA WYSE, HIGHLAND ECONOMICS

CENTRALITY OF STAKEHOLDERS & THEIR VALUES

- Ecosystem Services Assessment: Identifies Contribution of Natural Resources to Human Welfare
- Socioeconomic Impact Assessment: Identifies Impact of a Policy/Project/etc. on Human Welfare
- Whose Welfare? Stakeholders!

Including vocal, non-vocal, local and non-local stakeholders

Note: Socioeconomic assessment is broader than ecosystem services assessment because socioeconomic impacts can stem from non-environmental sources, but the common element is stakeholder welfare





WHY FOCUS ON STAKEHOLDERS?

Understanding Stakeholder Concerns, Values, and Interests helps to:

- Streamline (SAVE COSTS!) Focus on What People Really Care About
- Integrate (RELEVANCY!) Relate the Environment to People's Interests & Activities
- Improve Accuracy (CREDIBILITY!) Accurately Reflect People's Dependence & Interaction with their Environment





 Make Results Meaningful (COMMUNICATE!) Speak People's Language by Focusing on Outcomes They Relate to and Understand

EXAMPLE 1: STREAMLINE & INTEGRATE

NEPA Analysis: Water Management in Deschutes Basin, Oregon

- Relate Changes in All Aspects of Water Management to People The local economy, people's leisure activities, cultural values and traditions, and environmental health.
- Streamlining & Coordination Across Disciplines

Output of All Resource Analyses – Input to Socioeconomic Analysis Intense Cross-Referencing and Focusing of Sections







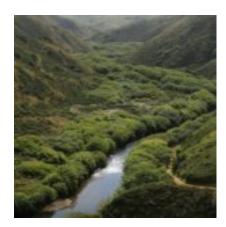
EXAMPLE 2: ACCURACY/CREDIBILITY AND COST

Flood Attenuation Benefits of Riparian Areas in Sonoma County, CA

 Many Studies: Very Costly or High Error Margin/Low Relevancy Site specific hydrologic and economic modeling is very costly, and applying range of flood control values from other studies has high margin of error.

- Instead, Focus on Actual Stakeholder Interests What infrastructure and activities are at risk in the floodplain? What losses have been suffered in past flood events?
- **Results People Understand: Tied Directly to What People Know and Care About** *Connect local value at risk with how riparian areas reduce flood magnitude (% reductions) elsewhere*







EXAMPLE 3: ACCURACY

Economic Development in Southwest

Initial Project Scope Did not Include Ecosystem Services
 Initial focus was on industries to attract/grow & built infrastructure

- Stakeholder Interviews Highlighted Importance of Natural Amenities/Environment Key economic driver for the area is its natural amenities and environment
- Result: Expansion and Improvement of Analysis
 Stewardship and promotion of natural resources connected as an economic development element







EXAMPLE 4: STREAMLINE & MAKE RESULTS MEANINGFUL

Benefits of Mitigating Environmental Impacts of Transportation Projects in North Central Texas

Narrowed Focus Based on Stakeholder Interviews
 Moved from a list of 20+ services to focus on 8 services (4 core ones)

- Identified the Meaningful Outcomes and Metrics for Stakeholders Financial benefits were what mattered to stakeholders:
 - Reduced stormwater management costs
 - Reduced vehicular collisions with wildlife
 - Reduced road maintenance costs
 - Increased property values









THANK YOU!

CONTACT INFORMATION: BARBARA WYSE HIGHLAND ECONOMICS BARBARA.WYSE@HIGHLANDECONOMICS.COM 503-954-1741