

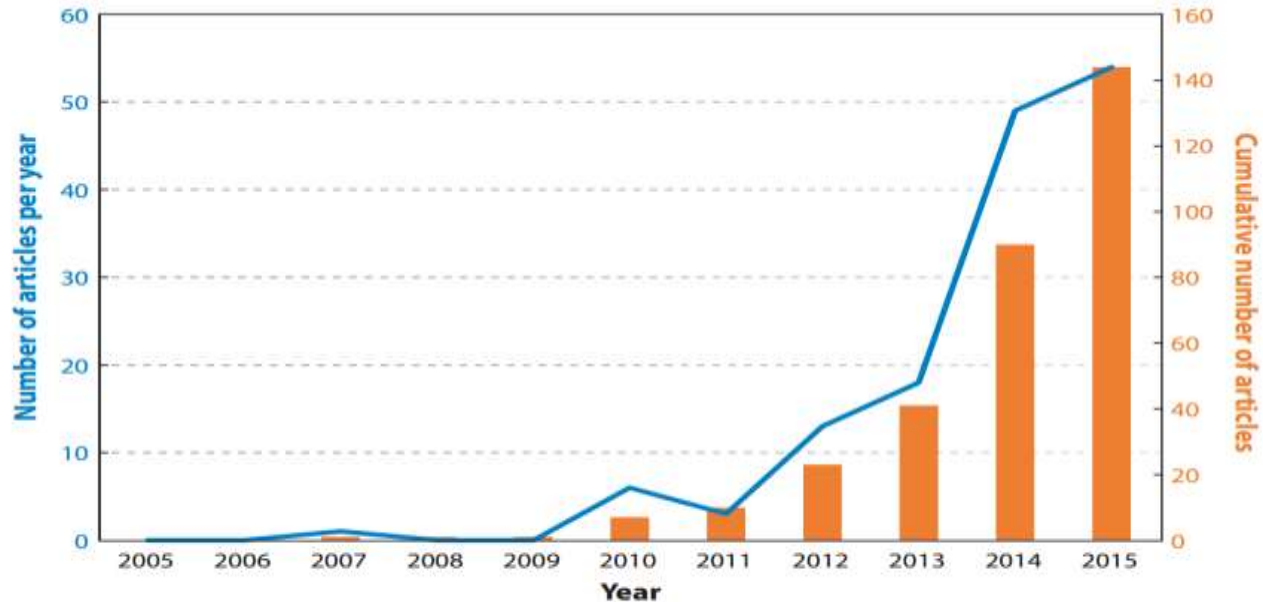
# Cultural Services as a Limiting Case for the Ecosystem Services Paradigm

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A Community on Ecosystem Services  
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# Articles on ‘Cultural Ecosystem Services’



**Figure 1**

Number of articles returned on Scopus with a title, abstract, and keywords search for “cultural ecosystem services.” Illustration of growing academic interest in cultural ecosystem services.

# ES stocks & flows



Nature

Flow of services



Happy human

# ES stocks & flows

Ecosystem services involve “the intertwined notions of natural capital ‘stocks’ and the ecosystem services that flow like interest or dividends from those stocks” (de Groot et al., 2010, p. 13).



Nature

Flow of services

Happy human



# What are 'cultural ecosystem services'?

- **Nonmaterial benefits** people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, reflection, recreation, and aesthetic experiences” (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment - Reid et al. 2005)
- Are cultural ES what remains of 'nature's benefits' after accounting for biophysically-based services?
- How useful and robust is this concept?

# Examples of cultural ES

Whale  
watching

Pollen  
record

Pottery  
remains

Monet  
landscape

Sioux sacred  
sites

TV nature  
shows

American  
eagle

Preservation  
of ANWR

## Examples of cultural ES

Whale  
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**Theoretical coherence?**

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TV nature  
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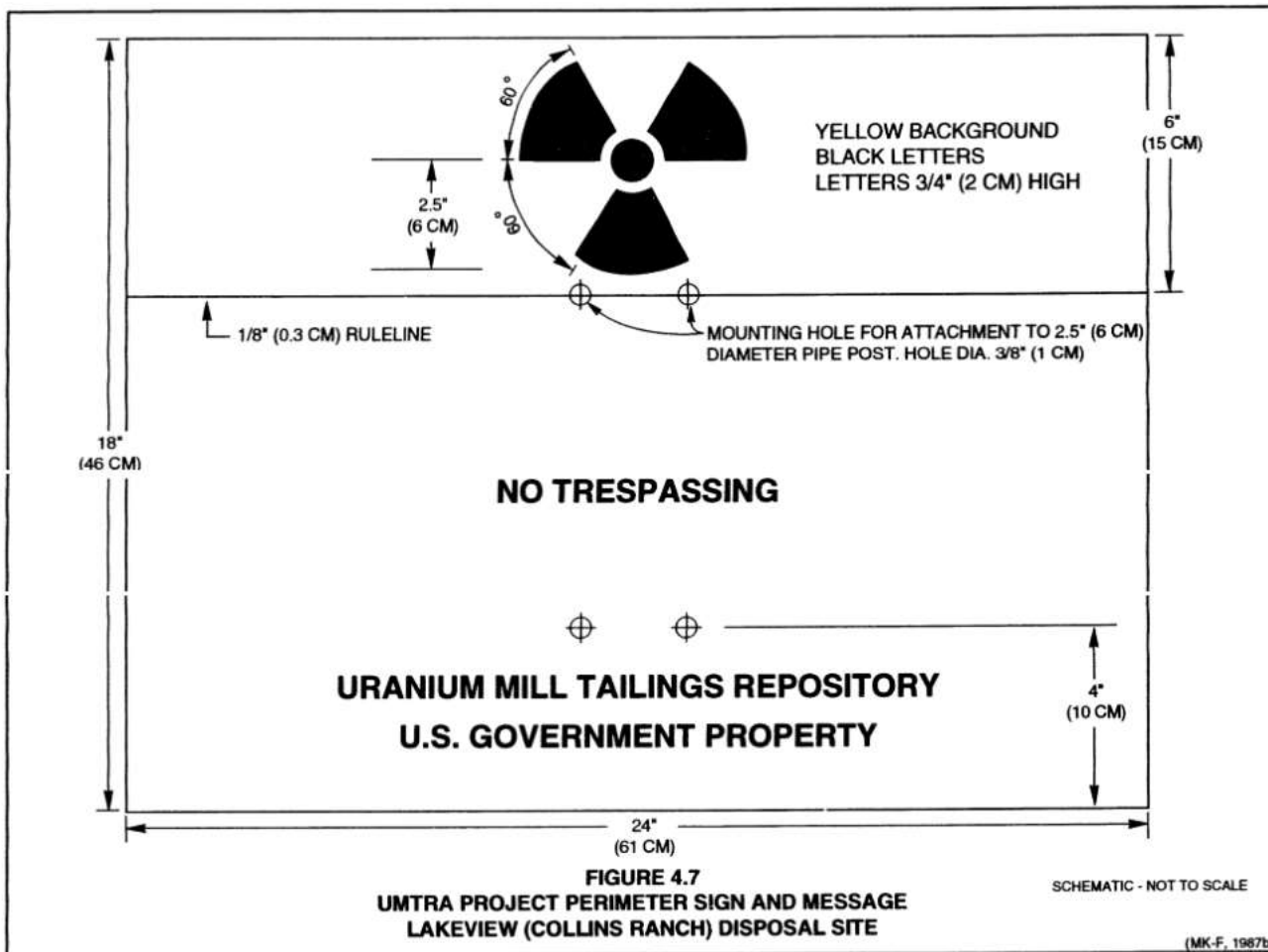
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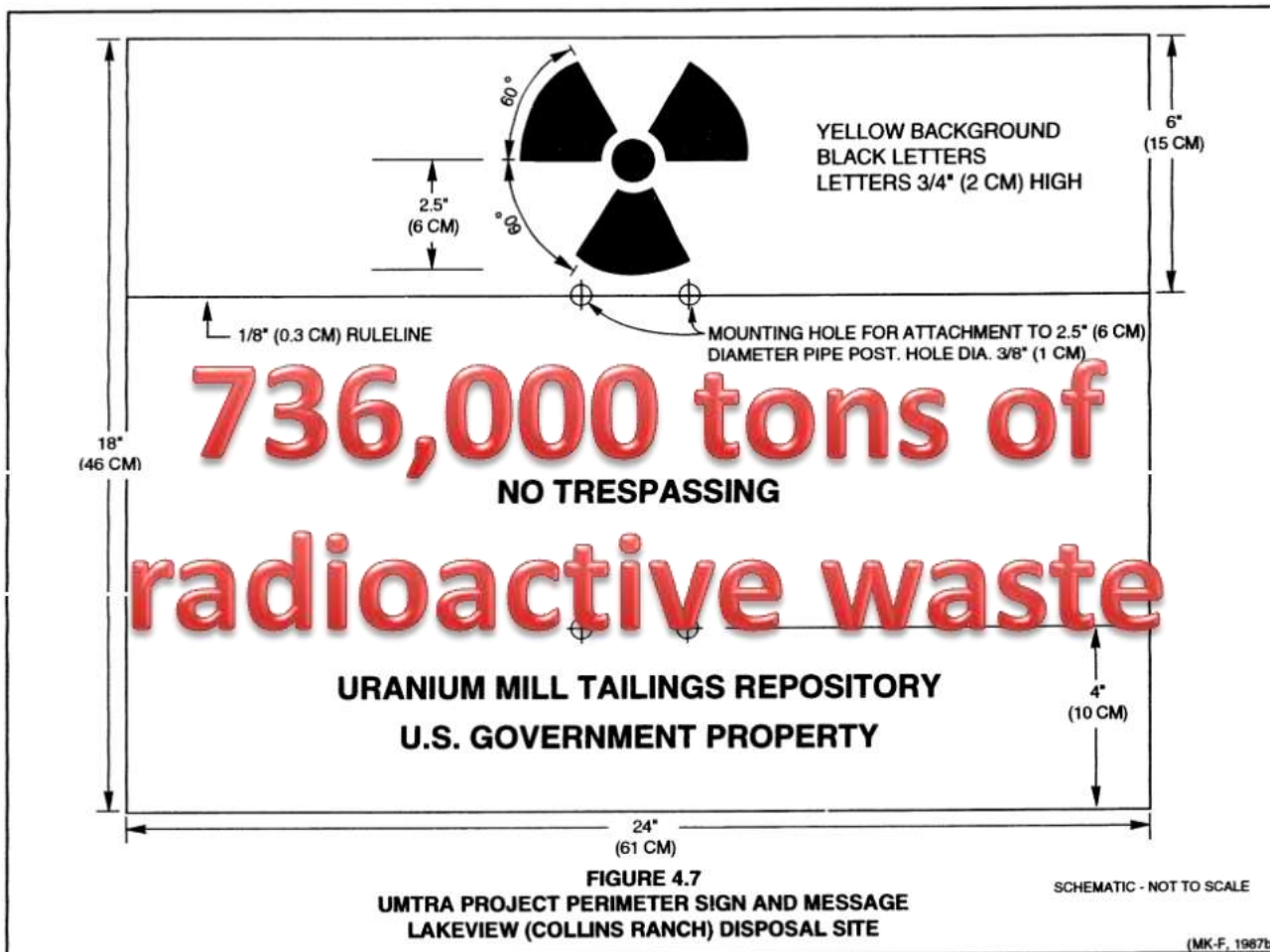
Preservation  
of ANWR

# Southern Oregon, c. 1985









## Tribal response – proposed radioactive waste siting

- “It was at these sites (Drake Peak, Hart Mountain and Steens Mountain) that members of the aboriginal Northern Paiute Bands sought communion with the Ancient Power. And it is at these same sites, like the Drake Peak area, that now, centuries later, Gidutikad people continue to seek spiritual help.”

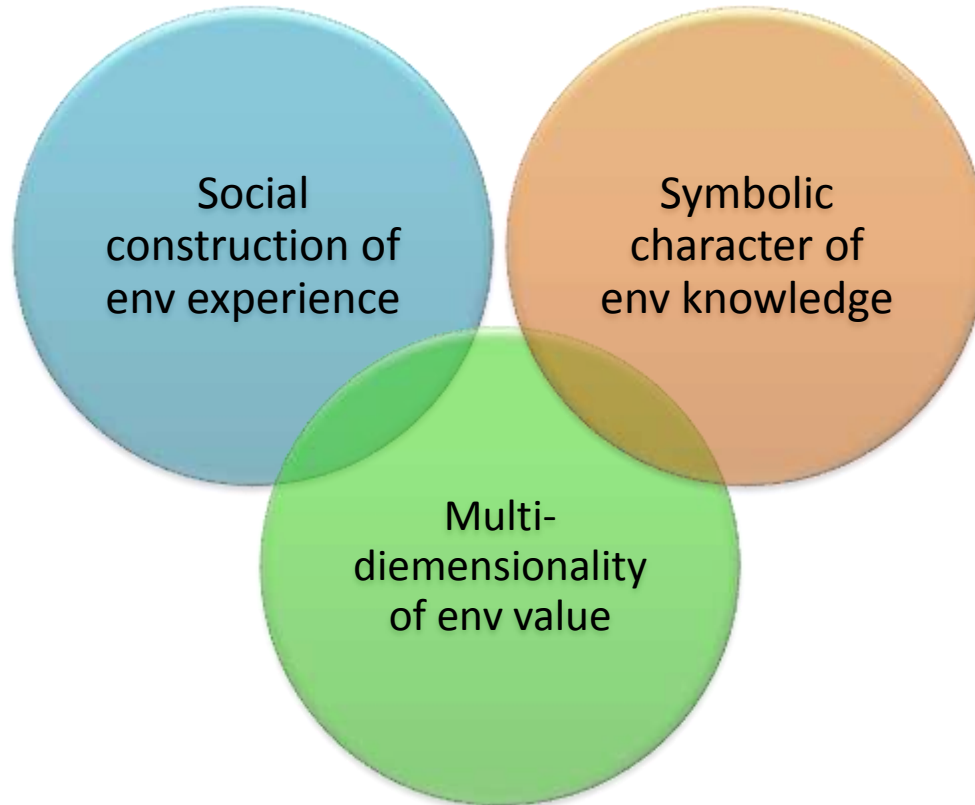
- Mr. Washoe: We pray to the mountain. We pray when we drink the water that comes off the mountain. That's our God. Everything on the mountain. [. . . .]
- Q: You said that Drake Peak was sacred. Is that right . . . there's spirits there?
- Mr. Washoe: Yeah, that's the old Indians. They never leave. They're over there now. All the dead Indians. Their spirits are still there.
  - (in R. Winthrop, “Persistent Peoples,” 1990, 129)



Economics treats ‘culture’ as a special category of commodities: those involving “the enlightenment and education of the mind” (Throsby, 2001, p. 4), such as films, paintings, and dance.

In anthropological usage, ‘culture’ refers to a system of understandings through which social life is transacted.

# Environmental stewardship



## Social construction of environmental experience

- In real life people are neither autonomous nor wholly selfish. They participate in social systems – villages, tribes, communities, firms – that shape their lives and inform their values. This shared experience is often termed *a way of life*.

## Symbolic character of environmental knowledge

- The universe of cultural knowledge is far larger than the world of information. Every tradition involves knowledge that is largely tacit and contextual.
- Such knowledge must be expressed, transmitted, and understood by participating in a way of life.



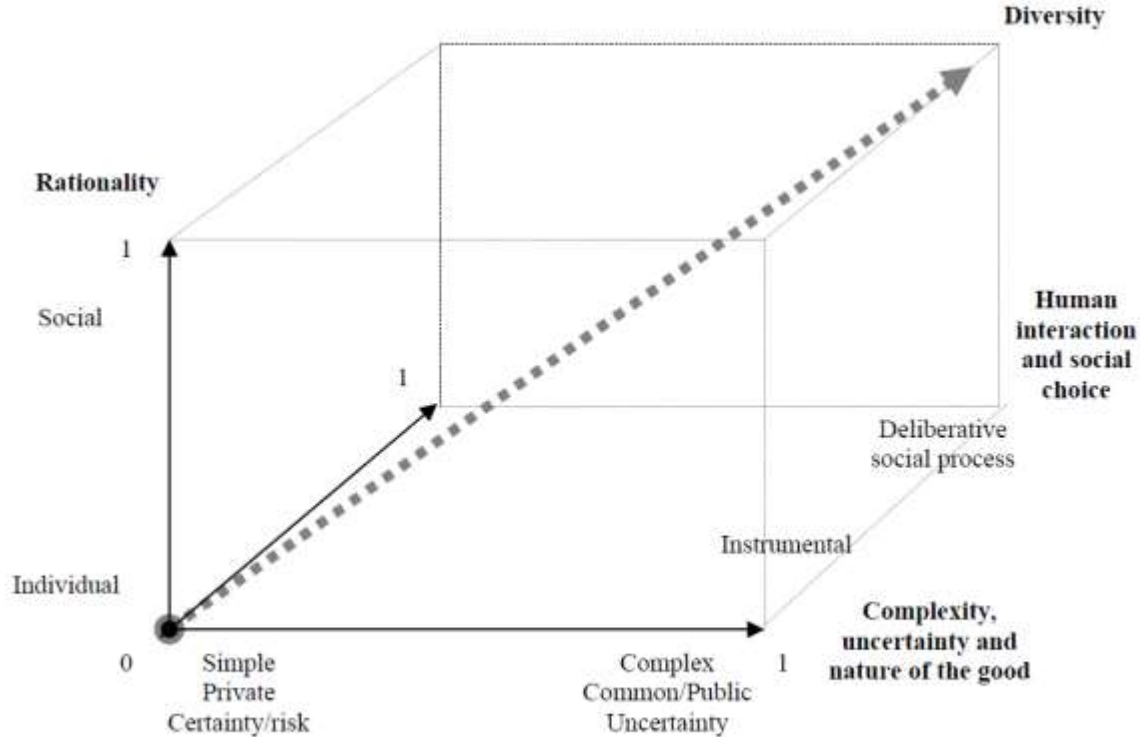
## Multidimensionality of environmental value

- For Indian communities, both past and present, environmental value is multidimensional, reflecting cultural frameworks for rightly experiencing, honoring, conserving, and appropriating places and their resources.

# Culturally reflexive stewardship (CRS)

- CRS entails actions to promote the sustainable and appropriate use of nature. . .
  - that are motivated in part by socially transmitted understandings and values . . .
  - expressed through symbols and practices . . .
  - that affirm a social identity . . .
  - and transmit cultural knowledge.
- CRS seeks to preserve the cultural life world within which particular actions and understandings remain meaningful.

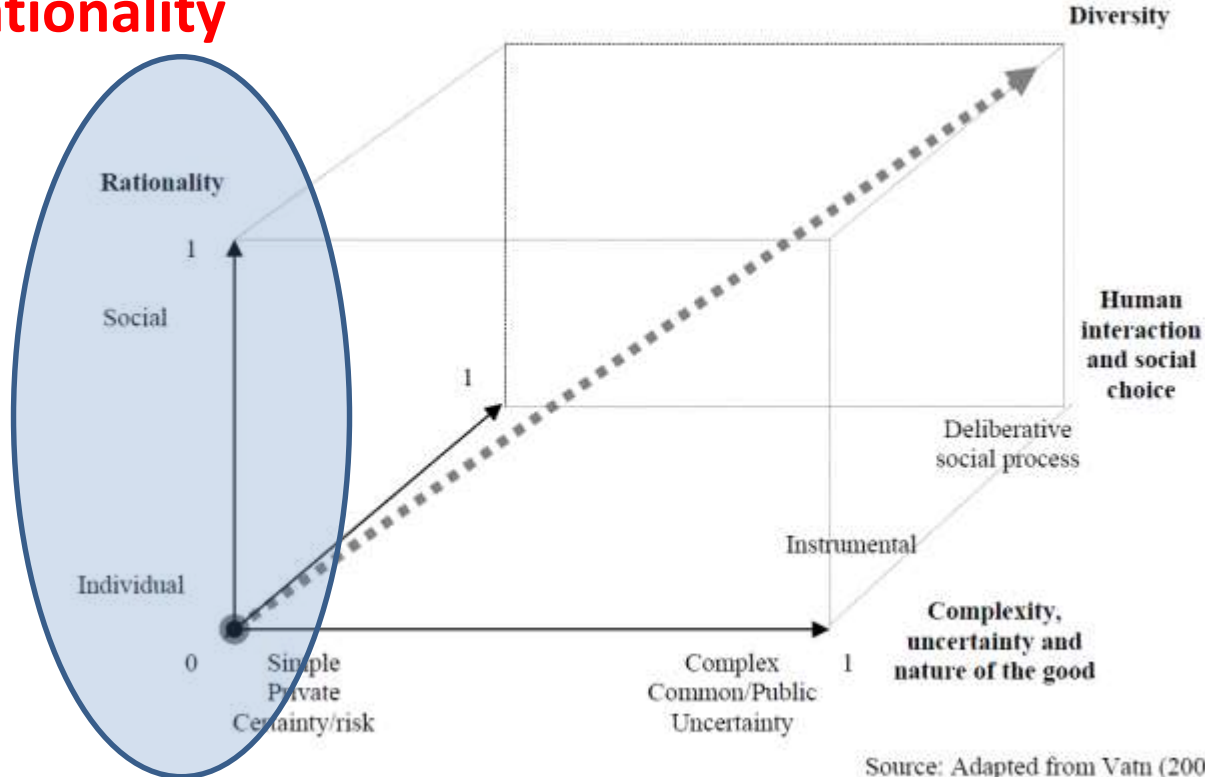
# Characteristics of resource regimes



Source: Adapted from Vatn (2005)

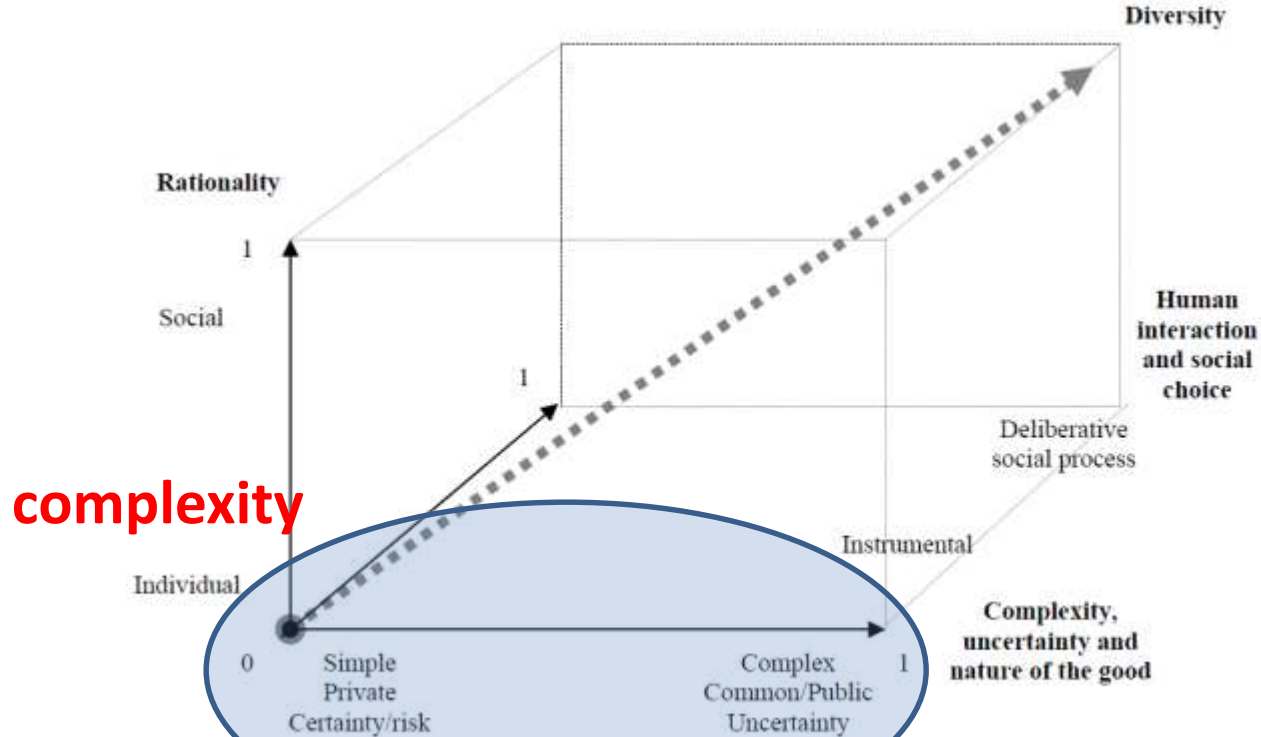
# Characteristics of resource regimes

rationality



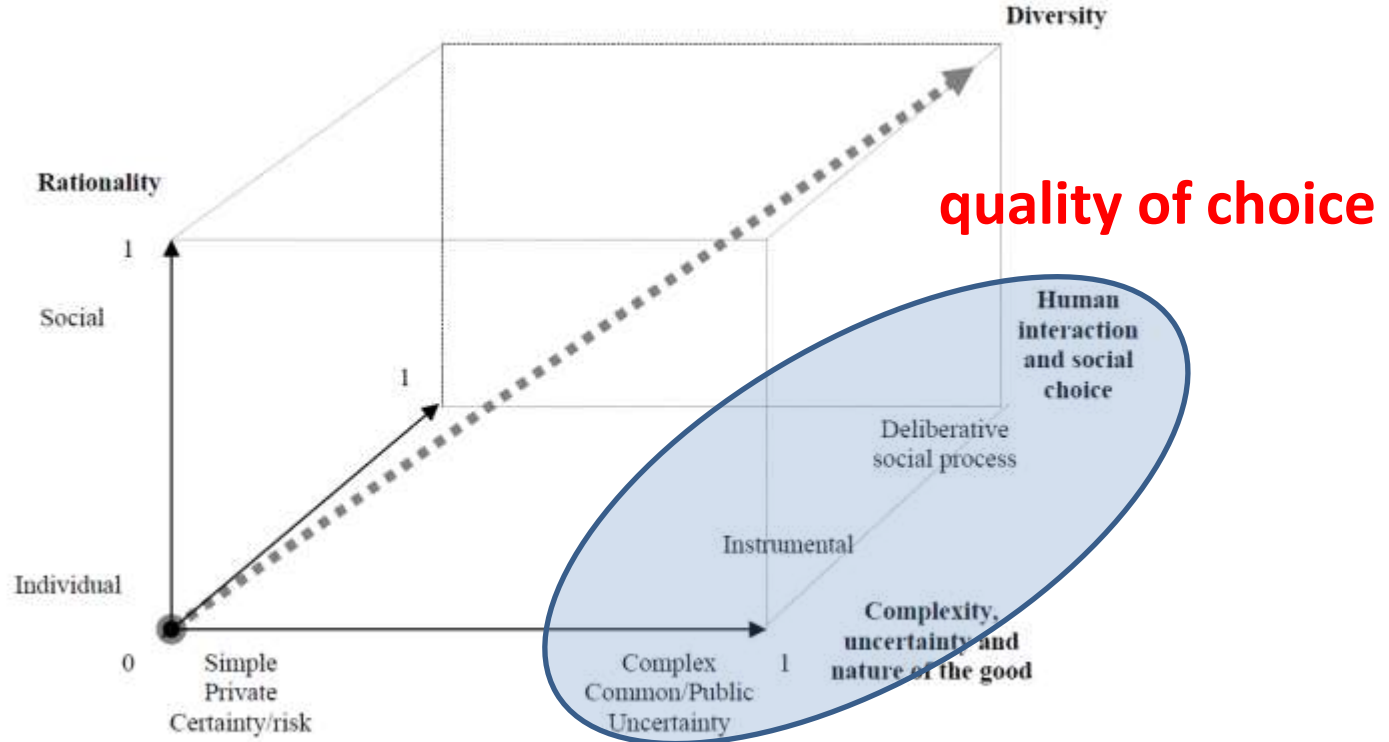
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# Characteristics of resource regimes



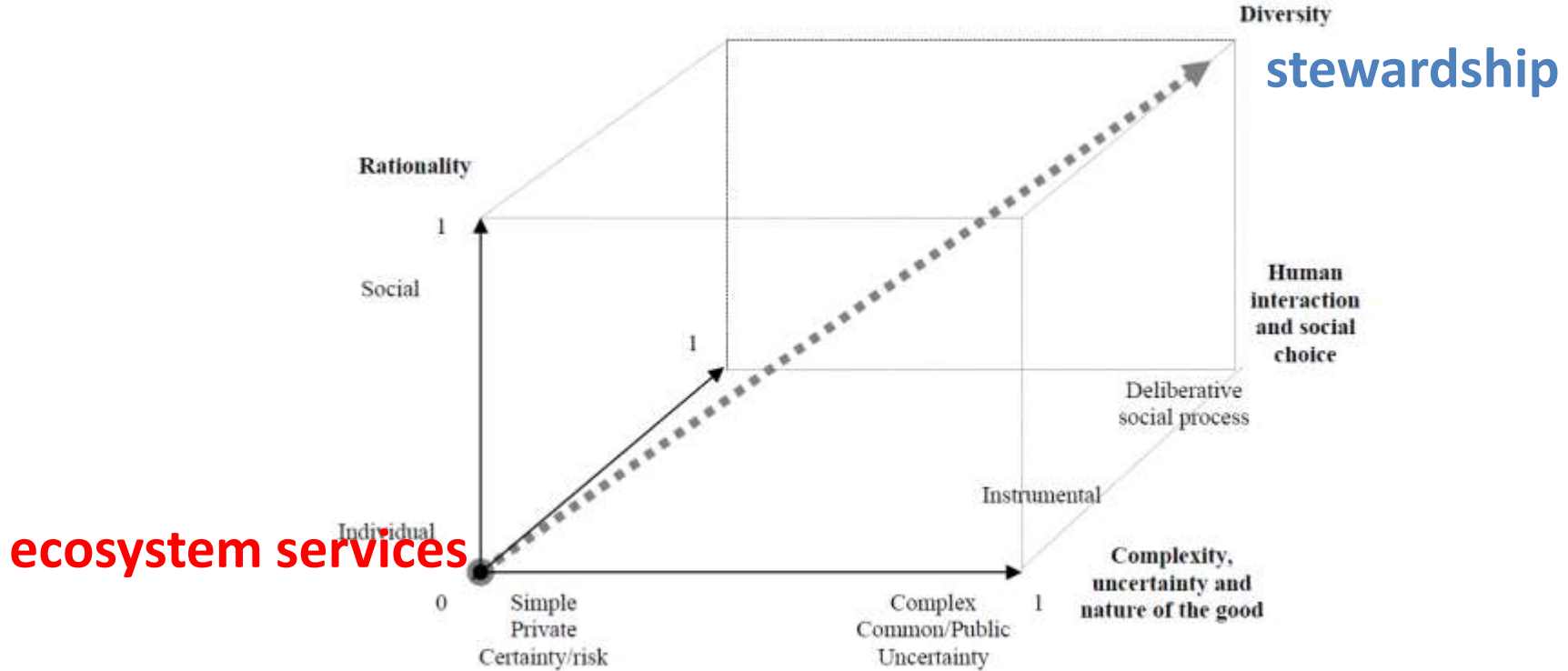
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# Characteristics of resource regimes



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# Questions?

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