The Human Dimensions of Conserved Forest Ecosystems

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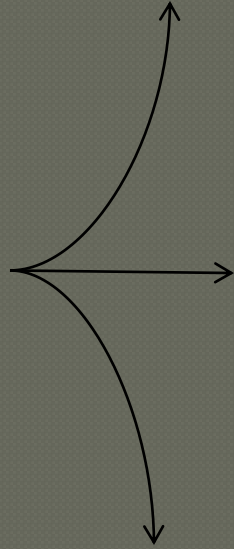
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Policy

Economics

Social-
Psychological

Economics:
Understanding the value of natural resources

Research can quantify and prioritize

Marketed Products/Services

- Timber and Non-timber products

- Recreation & tourism: hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, camping, boating, etc. (partial)

- Carbon sequestration & climate stabilization (partial)

- Water supply (sometimes)

Non-Marketed Services

- Watershed protection (flood & erosion control)

- Pollutant abatement, nutrient cycling, waste decomposition

- Wildlife habitat & biodiversity

- Education & therapeutic value

- Intrinsic/existence (non-use) value & option value

Economics Examples

- ## Southern Pine Beatle Cost-Share Program Evaluation
  - Choice experiment used to determine preferences for various forest management practices

  - All states should offer replanting **w/ more SPB-resistant pines** as an eligible treatment option

- ## Economics of Spatially Explicit Harvesting Restrictions
  - Spatial restrictions such as adjacency constraints may impact landscape diversity in a positive manner at minimal cost if defined appropriately.

  - Restrictions increase rotation ages. The cost of these restrictions rises exponentially with degree.

Research can

- Understanding impacts of decisions

  - how policy scenarios will impact management, individual behavior, and ecosystem processes

- Improve governance and administrative decision-making
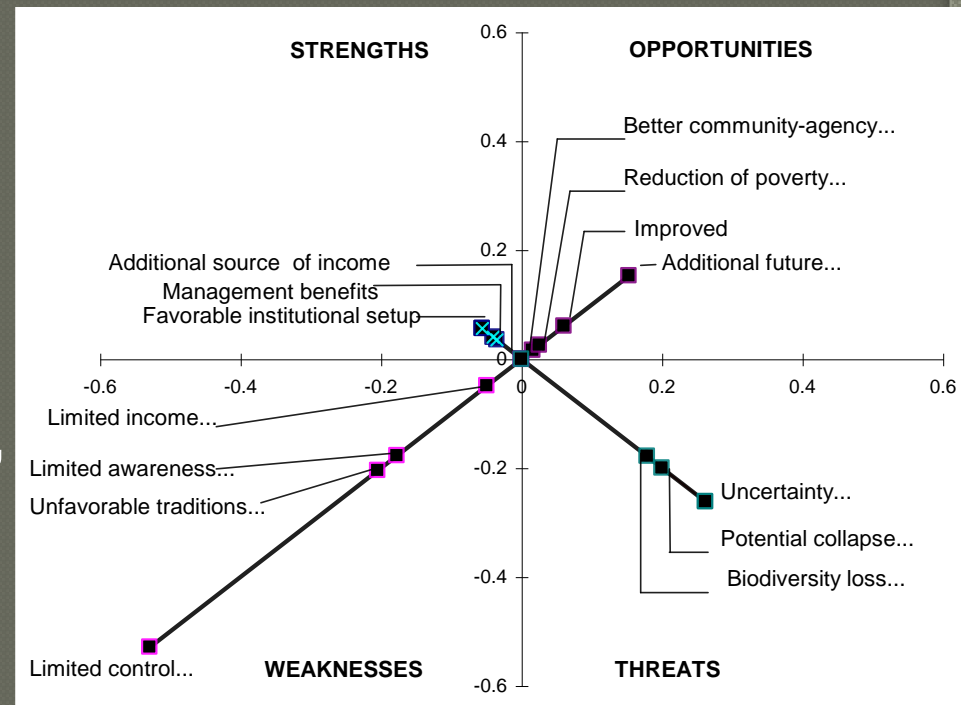
  - Identifying values and priorities

Policy Research Examples

- Conservation easements
  - Cost effective and socially acceptable.
  - Duration and transferability issues of CE are critical

- Collaborative Forest Management
  - Forest dependency, participation in planning, and incentives = Critical factors

Social-Psychological: Understanding the people affected by natural resources

Research can

Understand:
- Human attitudes
- Visitation patterns and visitor perceptions
- Marketing and community interactions
- Knowledge and awareness of forest issues
- Communities and trust in agencies

Improve:
- Management
- Recreation and tourism
- Communication
- Education and interpretation
- Collaboration

Social-Psychological Research

Visitor Assessments
* Counting and describing visitors (USFS, Greenways)

* Determining visitor preferences for recreation and management (NOAA, USFS, Fish and Wildlife, others)

* Applying economic value to visitor preferences and travel (F&W, FL DOT, USFS, others)

Collaboration
* Analysis of scenic byway designation

* Initiating county-wide planning

Human Dimensions Research is Everywhere