Achieving Watershed Resilience in Working Landscapes: How Do We Get There?

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Key Concepts

• Human and natural systems are intertwined in social-ecological systems, one is not embedded in the other

• Ecological change can’t occur without social change

• Learning is a critical component of social change
Social-Ecological Resilience

Resilience-

A concept for understanding change in social-ecological systems
Salmon ecosystems are social-ecological systems. (Bottom et al., 2011)
Social-Ecological Resilience

Social Learning

Adaptive Capacity

Social Capital
Researching Social-Ecological Resilience

Legend
- Model Watershed Program
- Willamette River Watershed
- Oregon Watershed Councils

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- Oregon Watershed Council
- Willamette River Watershed
- Model Watershed Program
- Model Watershed Sub-Basin
A series of explanatory case studies-

Units of analysis watershed sub-basins

Purposive sampling strategy

Semi-structured interviews

Sample (N=61)-
1) Private property owners
   - Rural riparian landowners (n=16)
   - Agricultural practitioners (n=17)
   - Non-industrial timber producers (n=8)
2) Watershed council staff (n=20)
Results-Private Land Owners

There is a general mistrust of “government”

Peer to peer interactions build social capital and social learning

There is no “silver bullet” for outreach

Monitoring results can be important

Technical and financial support critical to adopting new land use strategies
Peer to peer interactions build social capital and social learning

Collaborations provide a framework for adaptive (co-)management

Increased flexibility in spending is beneficial

Giving up autonomy and ceding power is hard
Concluding Thoughts...

1) Watersheds are social-ecological systems

2) Learning and adaptations underpin social-ecological resilience

3) Social-ecological change needs long term support
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