Evolving Co-Management Practice: Community-Based Environmental Monitoring with Tl'azt'en Nation on the John Prince Research Forest



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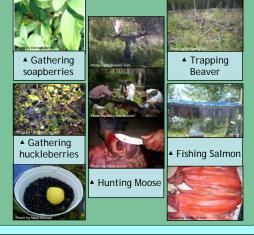


Community-Based Environmental Monitoring

- Community-based environmental monitoring (CBEM) is an approach to achieving effective co-management that uses bottom-up, community centered methods to translate local values and beliefs into formal monitoring frameworks that contribute to improved management practices
- Through CBEM, First Nation communities can realize local visions of environmental health and contribute to the sustainable management of resources through culturally relevant means
- CBEM builds communities into the co-management framework as an essential component of the feedback loop that informs current and future management decisions
- CBEM can utilize indigenous and scientific knowledge in a complimentary manner; co-production of knowledge can generate a more holistic understanding of the environment with benefits to co-management (Berkes 1999)

Tl'azt'en Environmental Monitoring

Tl'azt'en environmental measures of co-management success are being developed for 5 focal plant and animal species representative of traditional use activities. These traditional use activities and representative species are:



Research Objectives

Our principal objective is to develop and apply communitybased methods that will allow us to identify and evaluate Tl'azt'en measures of environmental health and sustainability. Through a case study with Tl'azt'en Nation and the John Prince Research Forest (JPRF), we will:

- develop and evaluate a community-based process for identifying Tl'azt'en environmental measures of comanagement success;
- identify Tl'azt'en environmental measures for 5 plant and animal species that will contribute to the development of a Tl'azt'en CBEM system;
- 3. work with Team members to pilot and evaluate a proposed CBEM framework for select Tl'azt'en measures of environmental health and sustainability; and,
- assess the challenges and opportunities involved in community-based environmental monitoring and recommend improvements for future projects.

Research Design

Participatory Research Framework & Tl'azt'en Environmental Measures Development Process

This collaborative research project with Tl'azt'en Nation uses participatory research methods and seeks to develop an integrative, adaptable framework for applying indigenous and scientific knowledge in community-based environmental monitoring.

Participatory Research Framework

•Welcome & orientation session to the project

Establish
 participant
 teams:
 -Forest Team (FT)
 -Elder Team (ET)

•First FT Focus
Group

•In-progress Methodological Evaluation •FT

Photovoice

generation

Focus Group & individual interviews
•In-progress

Development of environmental measures

•In-progress Methodological Evaluation

•Second FT

•ET Retreat Workshop

•In-progress Methodological Evaluation •Develop a Tl'azt'en set of environmental measures from content analysis of FT and ET feedback.

•Community
Product
Development
Workshop with FT
and ET members to

develop collaborative community products

Assessment, modification, and verification of environmental measures

•Third FT

Focus Group

In-progress

Evaluation

Methodological

 Develop monitoring protocols for a subset of recommended measures, including

methods of data collection, sources of data, scale of measurement, timeframes, and methods for reporting to JPRF partners and

Application of proposed

environmental measures

stakeholders.

•Final Methodological Evaluation

•Celebration

wrap-up dinner

with FT and ET

members

Present

completed

community

(collaborative

book and DVD)

to FT and ET

members

products

- •Compare Tl'azt'en environmental measures with those generated by other First Nations or co-management partnerships.
- •Evaluate and suggest modifications to the methods used to develop Tl'azt'en measures of co-management success.
- Elaborate a set of criteria used to define 'good' environmental measures from an indigenous perspective.

Comparison of environmental measures with other studies & methodological evaluation of environmental measure development process

Environmental Measures Development Process

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