

Exploring Pathways to (More) Sustainable Rural Futures

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Overview



- Rural Sustainability
 - ▣ Definitions, rural context, indicators
- Sustainability Transitions
- Example: Klamath Basin
- Humanistic Perspectives
 - ▣ Sense of place
 - ▣ Emotions
 - ▣ Decisionmaking
 - ▣ Collective action
- Concluding Thoughts

Rural Sustainability

□ Sustainability

- ▣ Triple bottom line – “people, planet, profits”
- ▣ Resilience – ability to withstand disturbance

□ Rural context – SESs in transition

- ▣ Working landscapes (ag, forestry, mining)
- ▣ De-emphasis of material production relative to other objectives (e.g. consumption, restoration, ecosystem services)
- ▣ Drivers of change
 - Economic marginalization of small and mid-sized ag and forestry operations due to globalization
 - Alternative amenity-oriented uses
 - Changing societal values in re: value of ES on ag lands

- Holmes 2002, 2006; Wilson 2008



“Multifunctional” Rural Landscapes



Indicators of Sustainability/Resilience/Strong Multifunctionality

- Strong social, economic, cultural and environmental capital
- Strong adaptive governance structures that facilitate
 - ▣ new income and employment opportunities for the ag sector (e.g. PES)
 - ▣ informal arenas for establishing trust, common understandings, social learning, and different forms of cooperation and conflict mgmt among diverse, inclusive stakeholder groups
- High environmental sustainability – functional ecosystems
- *“Strong multifunctionality implies that substantial mental changes have taken place among various stakeholder groups.”*
 - ▣ e.g. expanded view of legitimate land uses and which groups have the right to access resources; expanded sense of community/place
 - ▣ Triple loop learning – openness to new rules, assumptions

- Wilson 2008, Armitage et al. 2007

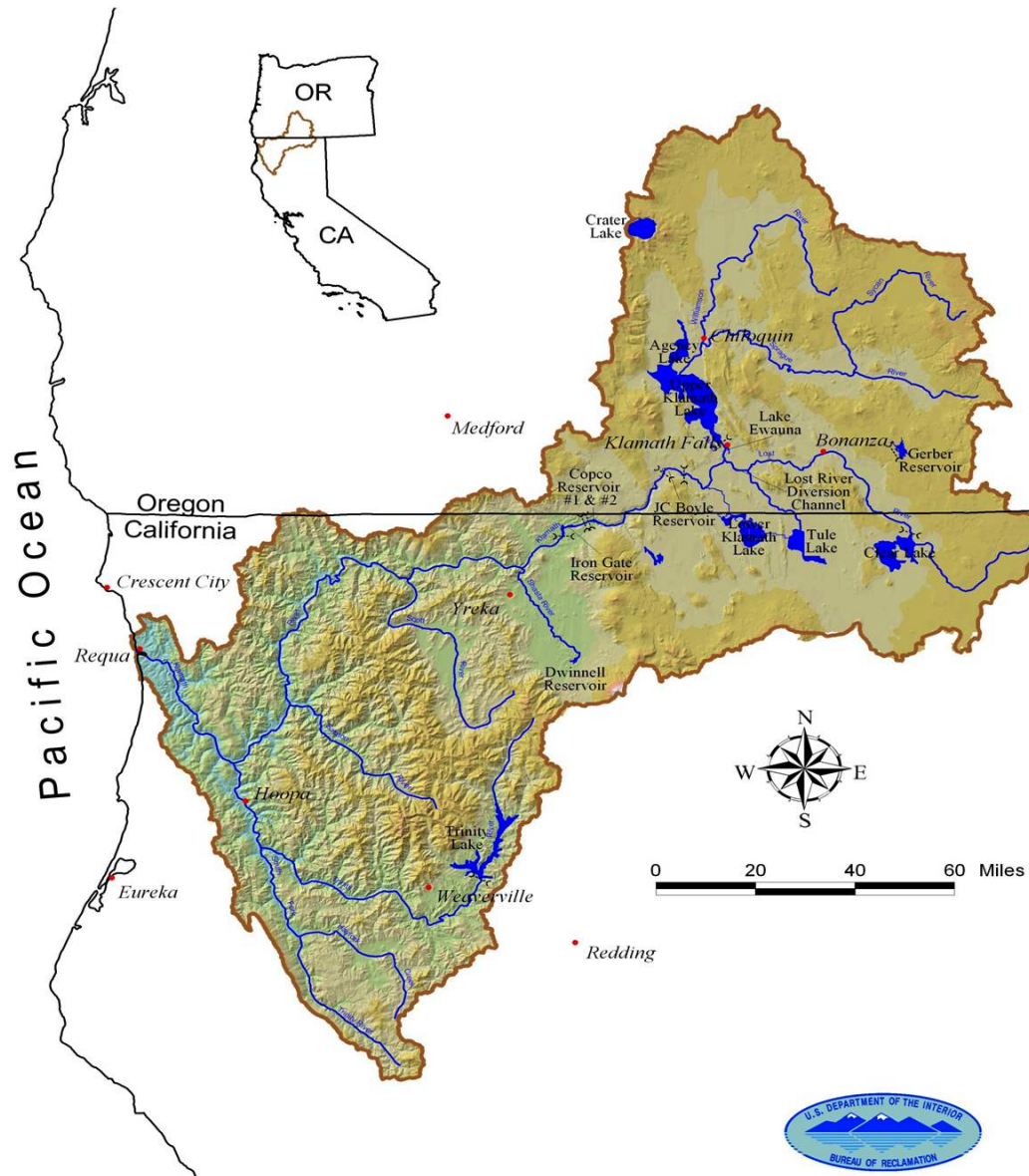
The Challenge of Transitioning

- “I feel like my entire life has been defined by a ranching community that is transitioning from whatever it may have been to something different. I don’t know a different reality.”
- “We’ll have to keep adapting. I think we don’t even know where we’re headed. What I’d like to believe is that we could keep rural people connected to land. And have them steward it into the future. And have some kind of a meaningful connection to that land. Like this land feeds us, it shelters us. So it’s not just pretty land....”
- “I mean I’d love to believe that we could morph into that, but God, what a painful ... just take all the people and put them through the meat grinder, you know? I just feel like right now we’re undergoing a giant ripping sound in this place.”

- Klamath Basin rancher



Klamath River Basin



Compiled by M. Neuman, USBR Klamath Basin Area Office, 9/99

“America’s
Aquatic
Jerusalem”

- Simmons 2008

2001

Drought

Biological Opinions

- Suckers in Upper Basin
- Coho in Lower Basin

Water curtailment

- 90% of farms dependent on water from Klamath Lake
- \$35m lost farm income

Social and political conflict



2001 Crisis

*“Death threats reported in
Klamath conflict”*

- Klamath Herald News,
August 2001



Photos by Pat Ratliff



Beyond Zero Sum Games:

Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (2008)

- Whole Basin Settlement Talks grew out of FERC “alternative” dam relicensing process, 2006-2008
- Formal monthly meetings between 28 key Basin stakeholders re: dam removal vs. retrofitting for fish passage
- Hundreds of informal “side meetings” facilitated by local collaborative group
- Goal: address all the major conflicts in one document
 - ▣ Water, power, dams, endangered species, tribal claims, etc.
- Draft 2008, final signed in February 2010

Toward a More Sustainable Rural SES?

□ Ecosystems

- ▣ 4 PacifiCorps dams removed on Klamath River in 2020
- ▣ Salmon to be reintroduced to Upper Basin (extirpated in 1917)
- ▣ Guaranteed instream flows in UKB for sucker recovery

□ Irrigators

- ▣ Certainty for Project irrigators
 - Guaranteed flows, reductions during drought years, earlier notification
 - Safe Harbor agreement to avoid liability for salmon recovery after reintroduction
- ▣ Retirement of irrigated ag on off-Project lands
 - Irrigators to be bought out on voluntary basis – 30,000 af, ~18,000 acres of land

□ Tribes

- ▣ Land for Tribes - 90,000 acres of former reservation
- ▣ \$ for economic development, including small scale forestry, biomass plant

□ Governance – Klamath Basin Coordinating Council

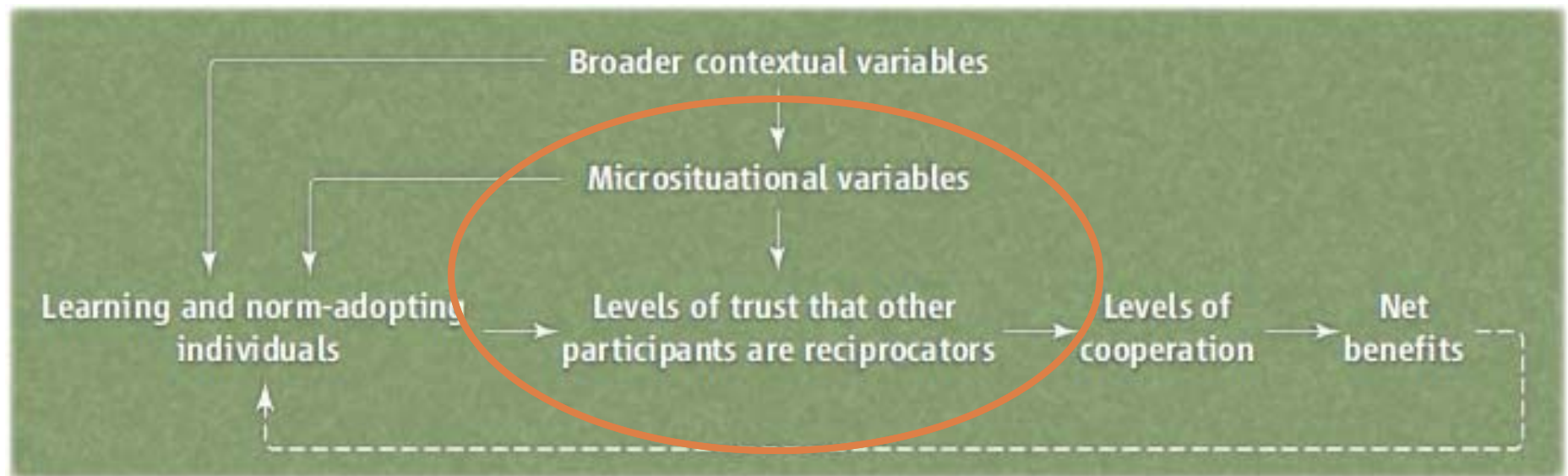
Explaining the 2001-2010 Transition



- Laws in place
 - ▣ Endangered Species Act
 - ▣ Tribal trust responsibility
 - ▣ Federal Power Act
 - Formal process for bringing people together
 - ▣ Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
dam relicensing process
 - Shifting tribal/nontribal power relations
 - Relationship building at local/regional scales
- 

Microsituational Variables

Trust and Cooperation



Trust me. "Microsituational" and broader contextual variables can influence levels of trust and cooperation in managing common resources such as forests. [Adapted from (18)]

- Volland and Ostrom, *Science* 2010

Shared Sense of Place

- Topophilia – “love of place” (Tuan 1974)
- “The emotional identification of activists with particular places is frequently of strategic importance to the construction and maintenance of personal bonds among activists and of larger trans-local networks” (Ettlinger & Bosco 2004)
- “Networks of collective action can be mobilized by creating feelings of proximity, solidarity, and shared identities, often in spite of social distance and territorial separation” (Bosco 2007)
- *How have emotional interactions and shifting senses of community and place catalyzed collective action, new forms of governance, and overall social-ecological resiliency in the Klamath Basin?*

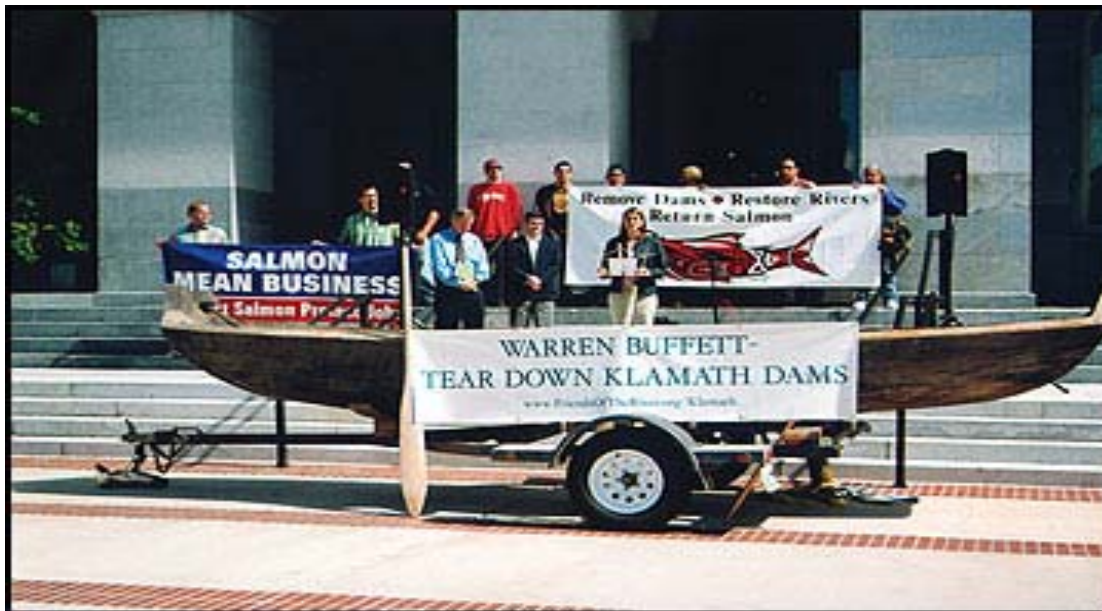
Yainix Project: Collaborative Restoration

- “So they want water [for fish], right? But they also want restoration. And to me, part of what they want is to be included back in lands that have belonged to them for thousands of years. So that’s the point that always gets missed, is a lot of this is about being included, and it’s a real need. Just to be included.”
(UKB rancher, Yainix Partnership)



Expanding Sense of Place/Community

“What’s my space? Is it my ranch or is it the Sprague, is it the Sprague plus the Wood, Williamson? You know, I think true success for the environment is going to be when I start as a land manager understanding, oh my God, the salmon are running now. What does that mean?” (UKB rancher)



“When farmers wrote letters of support for the fishermen, something changed. It can work here.”

(LKB fisherman)

Toward Collective Action

- “The other thing was we sat down and started working on those issues of trust... Sit down and talk about things that here to date you’ve been very cautious talking to people about. Some of your fears when it comes to water flows, or why is it we felt fish needed particular amounts of water at particular times of the year.”
- “And it is very challenging for the irrigation community to start talking about some of their fears, and where there might actually be savings of water, on both sides.”
- “Those kinds of discussions where you have to let your guards down are particularly sensitive... because you put your issues on the table, your bargaining chips, but you’re not gaining anything at that moment... But what you are doing is gaining the trust that’s going to enable you to get down to that final solution.”

- Yurok Tribal Leader

Concluding Thoughts

- Rural communities undergoing shifts in traditional economic sectors are vulnerable, subject to state changes --- Goal = “graceful transition”
- Klamath case illustrates critical role that social relations play in (ongoing) transition to a more sustainable, resilient system
- Some microsituational variables that result in enhanced trust and cooperation may be difficult to quantify and model
- Role of qualitative research in CHANS scholarship
 - ▣ dynamics of transformation, key variables influencing decisionmaking
 - ▣ strategies for catalyzing collaboration, innovation, experimentation
 - ▣ institutional contexts and arenas that facilitate shared understanding
- Challenge: difficult to navigate and synthesize different bodies of knowledge, methodological approaches



Humanistic Perspectives

- Other ways of knowing and explaining the world
- Qualitative methods
 - ▣ Open-ended, semi-structured interviews allow for capture of unanticipated themes, or ideas that might emerge
- “Thick analysis” of environmental decisionmaking to understand governance for sustainability (Adger et al. 2003)
 - ▣ Context and meanings of experiences, events, and scenes can be presented in detail by those involved in it (Geertz 1976)
- Klamath research
 - ▣ Emotional aspects of transition/transformation
 - ▣ *How have emotional interactions and shifting senses of community and place catalyzed collective action, new forms of governance, and overall social-ecological resiliency in the KB?*

Fish get water; farmers get sympathy

Dry canals will
signal society's
shifting values

By TODD KEPPLER
H&N City Editor

It was a week of profound change
for the Klamath Basin.

Friday's announcement by federal
officials that no irrigation water will
be diverted from Upper Klamath
lake this year removed all doubt
that endangered species will be pro-
tected at any cost.

Faced with a winter snowpack
measuring less than a third of nor-
mal and yielding to mounting pres-
sure to protect endangered suckers
and threatened coho salmon, the

700 turn out for meeting with Sen. Smith

By JOHN BRAGG
H&N Staff Writer

In the wake of a decision by the
Bureau of Reclamation to halt most
water deliveries to the Klamath
Project farmers, Sen. Gordon Smith
came to Klamath Falls Saturday
and told them it was OK to voice
their anger over the decision.

"I am here to be your whipping
post," Smith told a crowd of about
700 farmers and others packed
into a conference room and adjoining
hallways at the Shilo Inn. "I
want you to vent your frustration."

And vent they did.

Marty Macy of Newell told
Smith he was disgusted by a
March 26 presentation by officials



Cries of 'Save the Suckerfish' Rile Farmers' Political Allies

By DOUGLAS JEHL

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., June 16
— Not since the snail darter has a
creature so infuriated — and in-
spired — conservatives around the
country. The all-but-inedible, bottom-
feeding suckerfish, which makes its
home in a lake that feeds this nor-
mally fertile agricultural valley, has
become the latest rallying cry in the
battle to rewrite the Endangered
Species Act.

A federal decision to cut off irriga-
tion water in a year of record
drought to protect the endangered
suckerfish has left 1,400 family farm-
ers and ranchers here seething in
resentment and reignited a debate
over the federal law that conserva-
tives most love to hate.

The region has been without irri-
gation water since April 7, when the
Bureau of Reclamation ordered the
cutoff to guarantee maximum pro-
tection to the suckerfish and to the
threatened coho salmon.

The silencing of the sprinklers has
turned people's lives here upside
down, with at least 200,000 acres of
farmland parched and no clear idea
when the water might flow again.

The farmers and their supporters
have denounced what they call an
unconscionable betrayal. And now —
to an extent not seen since the battles
over the spotted owl in the early



Associated Press

Suckerfish: suddenly a poster fish.

1990's and the snail darter before
that — conservatives are embracing
their cause as the best example yet
of what is wrong with a law they say
demands revision. Lawmakers are
flocking to Klamath Falls to show
common cause with its people, and
conservative voices like The Wall
Street Journal's editorial page are
turning up the heat.

"This is ground zero in the debate
over the Endangered Species Act,"
Representative Greg Walden, Re-
publican of Oregon, said on Satur-
day, kicking off a field hearing in a
fairgrounds hall where bleachers
were filled with thousands of angry
men and women who wore cowboy
hats and boots and carried bitter,

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THE SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART HAS
joined The New York Times Arts & Leisure Weekend
September 14-16. Look for their listing in the July 20
program guide or call 1-866-NYT-1851 for more infor-