

Ruckelshaus Institute



Complex Natural Resources Issues, the Land Grant University, And the Ruckelhaus Institute

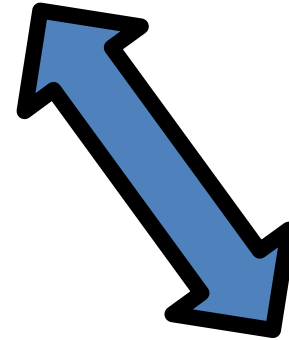
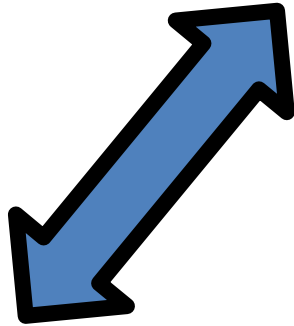


Natural Resources Issues

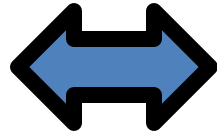
Characteristics and Challenges

- 1. Inertia:
- 2. Contentious and emotion-charged context
- 3. Complexity:
 - Spatially
 - Disciplinary
 - Kinds of people involved
 - Consequences
- 4. High degree of uncertainty in scientific base
- 5. Surprises and unintended consequences in a rapidly changing world

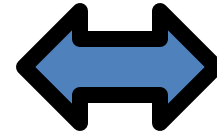
Ruckelshaus Institute



Collaboration



*Interdisciplinary
Knowledge*



*Adaptive
Learning
and teaching*

Ruckelshaus Institute Mission

Advance effective decision-making on natural resource issues by promoting and assisting collaborative, informed approaches that sustain both the economy and the environment.



Tools and capabilities

- Faculty and staff experts
 - Natural sciences
 - Wildlife, botany, soil science
 - Natural resources and agriculture
 - management, policy, law, and economics
 - Energy resources sciences
 - School of Energy Resources and Restoration/Reclamation Center
 - Spatial decision support and land use planning
 - Collaborative process and negotiation
- Diverse Board of representative Wyoming stakeholders:
 - Energy, NGO, Agriculture, Legislative, Law, etc.

Informing the public

- Neutral, objective information in lay terms
- Publications, forums, conferences
- Examples:
 - Wyoming Open Space Initiative publications
 - Plan-It Wyoming Partnerships with Albany County, Worland, Sheridan, and Cheyenne
 - Finding the Balance: Energy and Climate (Fall 2007)
 - Partnering with School of Energy Resources
 - Ozone Forum (Fall 2008)
 - Sublette County Commissioners
 - Wind Resource Guide (Spring 2009)
 - Conservation Districts



Enhancing Collaboration Convening processes

- Neutral, third-party bringing public together
- Examples:
 - Snowy Range Winter Use Collaborative Process (2001)
 - U.S. Animal Health Association Brucellosis Vaccine and Diagnostics Workshop (August 2005)



Collaborative process: Gathering Information

- Questionnaires, surveys, polls, public meetings, situation assessments
- Examples:
 - *Jackson Bison and Elk Herd Management: Situation Assessment and Process Recommendations* (July 2000)
 - *Wyoming Public Opinions - Agricultural Lands, Open Space and Natural Resources* (December 2004 and February 2008)



Ruckelshaus Institute

- Informing policy about natural resources issues by:
 - 1. Bringing forth current information:
 - Science, economics, policy assessment
 - Assessing community values
 - 2. Convening collaborative processes