**Invitation for Abstracts to:**

**Coastal Management Theme Issue**

“The State of the Social Sciences in Puget Sound Ecosystem Recovery”

Abstracts Due: July 21, 2013

Please send to: katharine.wellman@norecon.com

*Full Manuscripts (Upon Invitation) will be due October 1, 2013*

**Background**

Advancing the recovery of Puget Sound ecosystems requires that we improve our knowledge of the interdependencies between nature, humans, and the economy. To date, however, ecosystem recovery efforts have been predominately the purview of natural scientists (Salz and Loomis, 2009). Social science can significantly enhance the potential success of recovery efforts when involved in problem identification (e.g., “What threatens the health of ecosystems?”) and the development of priority ecosystem recovery strategies that address the real socio-economic trends of the system. Examples of these social science contributions are reflected in the level of scientific publication of the past decade about coupled human-natural systems and socio-ecological theory (e.g. Liu et al. 2007; Young et al 2006). Within the Puget Sound region, the need for integrated social-ecological research has been described in various white papers and academic articles.

Social science is the application of scientific methods and other rigorous standards of evidence to the study of human aspects of the world. As is the case in all scientific investigations, the choice of research methods must be tailored to a research question or framework. Research may be theoretical in nature (testing hypothesis) or applied (offering information to assist in management and policy decision making). Research designs may be inductive, deductive, comparative, historical, or experimental. The social sciences draw on numerous forms of measurement and data collection. Common tools include lab experiments, sampling, census and survey design, archival analysis, remote sensing and interpretation, mapping, interviewing, and participant observation. Results vary from quantitative tables to narrative descriptions, and are presented in formats ranging from large-scale public databases to focused case studies. Analytic tools include, among others, statistics and mathematical modeling, econometrics, geographic information systems (GIS), psychometrics, and textual and discourse analysis. Through systematic and iterative analyses and interpretations of empirical evidence, social scientists, like their natural science colleagues, build and test theories explaining the dynamic relationships between people and their environments, and the causes and consequences of social and environmental change. These research practices ultimately enable more accurate predictions of human responses to environmental policies, and ideally result in improved ecosystem recovery across geographic scales.

During a recent workshop that brought together scientists and policymakers from 7 large social-ecological watershed systems, we have learned that Puget Sound is among the leaders in its development and application of social science for recovery. With that in mind, this special issue attempts to highlight several of the social science studies that have been conducted in the region relevant to recovery, and how their diverse methods and results have or can enhance strategy development.

We envision a full theme issue with 5-6 papers (or approximately 175 double-spaced word-processed pages, i.e., each paper not shorter than 20 pages or longer than 35).

* Abstracts due by July 21, 2013.
* Selected authors will be invited to submit a full draft by August 1, 2013
* Manuscripts are due October 1 for peer review, 2013
* Authors will receive reviewers responses by December 1, 2013
* Revised papers in response to peer review comments will be due February 1, 2013

We look forward to receiving your abstract.

Cordially

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