

EXAMPLE WEEKLY READING SUMMARY

Jenna Dolphin
ESRM 462
Week 12 Reading
November 12, 2015

Week 12 Article:

The Krettal Beaches: Management Heats Up by Smith & Rajafarah

Hypo: An expanding ecosystem approach to resource management will necessitate abandonment of our traditional single-species approaches while simultaneously reaching out to work collaboratively with often ignored (human) communities.

This article shows the importance of an ecosystem approach to aquatic and terrestrial management. In particular, the benefits of ecosystem-based approaches were contrasted with the lack of progress of single-species based approaches in the coastal zone. While the single-species approach offers a result that is clearly defined and easily measureable and the ecosystem approach (initially) does not, the ecosystem approach offers management at a whole ecosystem level involving all organisms instead of only a single species. Since it is hard to define ecosystems geographically, the USFWS decided to base its ecosystem approach on watershed/HGM units. Watersheds are widely recognized and generally have well-defined boundaries. Using watersheds mapped by the U.S. Geological Survey, the USFWS defined 53 management units across the greater Krettal region. Ecosystem teams were then formed for each unit that included local residents and stakeholders. This focus on encouraging a team effort from the start produced important benefits specific to a particular geographic region. These included the Lesser Martin's impending ecological extinction being prevented and a novel tactic to boost Trillat's sea star populations with a grade school husbandry program and the now-annual Trillat's Festival of the (Sea) Stars.

I found this article quite interesting, but a bit hard to believe at first. Subsequent research quickly showed their claims in this paper seem justified and were (if anything) relatively modest. It really does seem that the only way to have success is to address the needs of both the human and wildlife in the ecosystem simultaneously. To address these issues the USFWS developed a number of ways to allow an area to still develop while providing conservation for species in the area. It got me to thinking about how we might apply this approach here in coastal California. I can see this working well for our three perennial Ventura County Rivers, the Channel Islands, and our very own Coastal Sage Scrub communities here in the Santa Monica Mountains. Why haven't we tried this ourselves yet???

Good:

- very good graphics
- interesting use of quotes from both popular press and old timers from the USFWS

Bad:

- poor justification for the Title 6 funds
- little specifics about the example projects (I had to go "google" those projects to learn about them)