

Integrating the “Social” in Social Ecological System Decision Making

Projected Outcome: Idaho scientists are learning how citizens and decision-makers envision goods and services that their local environment provides. Through engagement with stakeholder groups, they are developing tools which use climate and watershed data and build virtual worlds in a game-like platform.

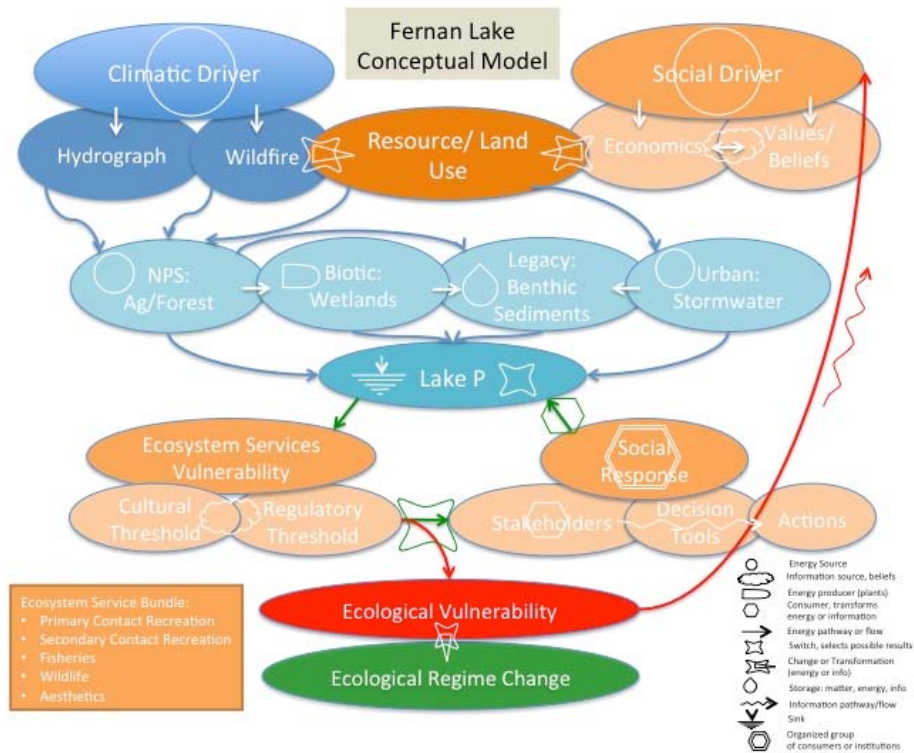


Figure 1: Case study conceptual model.

Impact: Engaging stakeholders as research partners early-on makes better and more effective tools. Using new computer expertise and social media can create interactive decision-making tools with real-life virtual worlds. We finally can close an open social ecological feedback loop, providing informed iteration of future urban development and climate change scenarios to stakeholders and policy-makers.

Explanation: Decision makers, whether individuals or delegated authorities, often operate in a data poor environment that may fail to optimize opportunity. Accurate, replicable characterization of the complex web of individual and social behaviors is a necessary first step in identifying and reducing the changes in the goods and services ecosystems provide and humans rely on.

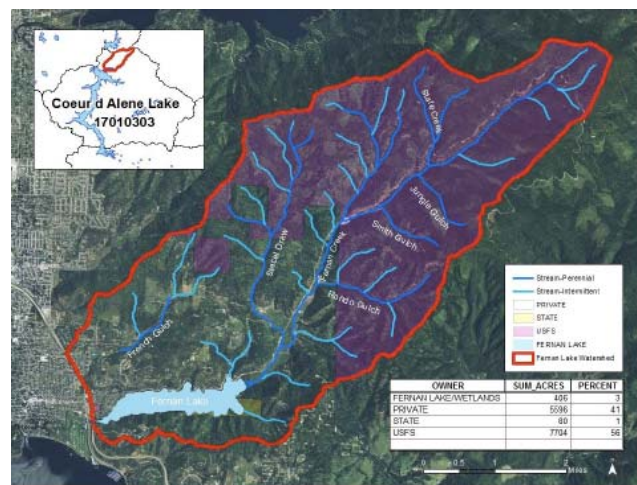


Figure 2: Case study location- ecosystem services at the urban growth boundary.