21 January 2009
BIOL 599
Ecological Indicators
Class Notes

-Poster Content for the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association conference on March 12th:
Abstract
Intro
Area & Extent
Biological Indicators
Chemical and Physical Indicators
Goods & Services, we may want to call this "Integration" due to the difficulty of this indicator
Conclusion
References

-Class schedule will be a hybrid of the syllabus and poster database collection

-Use Master Database to draw ideas about indicators

-Add indicator column in Master Database

-Master record: standard for sustainability or benchmark

-Use only a few important indicators for each ecosystem, for example:
Area & Extent, look through different ecosystems, choose a few (3-5) and pick the most important indicator for all ecosystems

-Idea is to pull together items out of group presentations for the poster

-You are encouraged to write the Heinz Ctr. for any questions concerning the data sets they used and how to get them

-Class time can be used, aside from snacking on algae [i.e. sea veggies], to discuss data sets in the book that are reasonable and promising for Whatcom County. Also, if data sets are used multiple times in the book, we might want to get our hands on them.

-Data sets we discussed in class:
-Altered Freshwater Ecosystems: water quality, fish, etc, out indicator might be different depending on how you define and analyze the vegetation. Erica's thesis involves this kind of information.

-National Land Cover Data sets: unclear what data is available. We may want to find availability or processed data and how you can get Whatcom out of it, if at all.

-Coat & Ocean; Shoreline Type graph, pg.73: by region. This data was collected for Environmental Sensitivity Index. We could do this for Whatcom. Instead of evaluating all

different kinds of shoreline type maybe we could just compare armored to natural. Armored shoreline would be a good indicator for this ecosystem. The Huxley Map Library is a good place to start looking for photos to compare of old shoreline vs. current.

-In Stream Connectivity: dam distance, pg. 173.

-Forest Type: this might be interesting to compare to stand age, especially after the recent mud slides that obviously occurred under harvested areas. By coupling this data we might be able to see trends in harvesting and sensitive areas.

-Private forest harvest records: may be difficult to get but a good data set for Whatcom since so much forest is private.

-Exurban definition vs. Suburban. What does exurban look like? Whatcom County looks exurban vs. Sudden Valley as suburban.

For Next Week:
Everyone pick a first and second choice indicator and email David with your choices.

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