

Conservation Tools and Conservation Values: picking the right approach to fit the social context

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Categories of tools

- **Regulatory:** 404 permits; hunting & fishing; limited entry
- **Planning:** green infrastructure
- **Economic:** incentives, eco-tourism, carbon credits
- **Property Rights:** PDRs, conservation easements
- **Scientific Management:** species counts, streamside zones, controlled burns
- **Collaborative:** stakeholder groups, participatory research and management



Conservation tools have evolved over time in response to new scientific and social information

- The Yellowstone approach
- Wildlife corridors
- Biosphere reserves
- Conservation and development
- Ecotourism
- Conservation easements & PDRs
- Conservation development
- Stakeholder groups
- Collaborative management
- Carbon credits

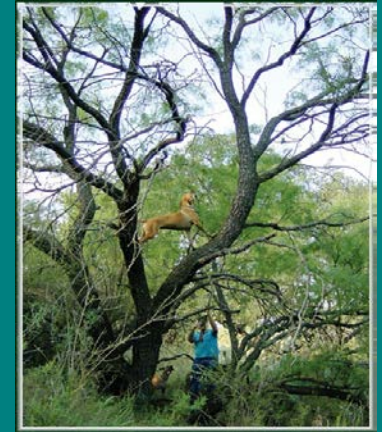


Understanding other's view on conservation tools

The conservation tool a person prefers depends on her/his conservation goals, which depend on his/her view of the natural system to be conserved and what we get from it

Example: What is the Big Thicket?

- Wilderness
- Site of high biodiversity
- Grazing commons
- An extended backyard
- A managed landscape
- Resilient/fragile



Example: What we get from the “Big Thicket”

- Products: creation of needed products is a public good
- A current way of life – (versus only historical heritage)
- Habitat for rare species
- Ecosystem services
- Recreation
- The key to human survival
- Spiritual upliftment



Some examples of values impacting acceptance of tools

Conservation Goal: Restore rare species phlox & long leaf pine

Land value reflected in this goal: biodiversity; restore to pre-settlement ecosystem

Potential tools:

replant

fire

invasive species control – i.e. hog eradication - based on view of hogs as non-native invasive pest (scientific view)

Values:

Resistance from people who value hogs as heritage and safety net and see them as belonging in the woods. Woods as site of heritage, family oriented recreation, providing for one's family

Conservation Goal: Protect endangered species (RCW)

Land value reflected in goal: we do not have right to negatively impact other species

Potential tools:

acquire previous timber production lands for a park/preserve

restrictions on private landowners

safe harbor agreements

RCW based ecotourism

Values: Potential resistance from some people for option 1 depending on how taxes, economic development and access issues are dealt with; potential resistance from those who consider the production of goods as of more service to society than production of tourism, might see resistance to option 3 from those people who feel that we have a moral imperative to consider needs of wildlife over that of landowners

Working with Communities

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Expanding Conservation Tool Kit

- Financing tools
- Incentives/Credits
- Community engagement in planning
- Collaborative learning
- Education/outreach



Move beyond

- Real estate transfer
- Law enforcement





Tools Used?

Conservation Tools?
Community Development Tools?

Tool Kits

- Conservation Tools
 - Land and Easement Acquisition
 - Conservation Fundraising
 - Ecosystem / Forest Management
- Community Development Tools
 - Building Partnerships
 - Community Outreach & Engagement
 - Sustainable Economic Development



Capacity Building for Eco-Tourism: Tyrrell County CDC

- Small Business Incubator
 - Est. 1992 to help low-income residents with entrepreneurial endeavors (esp. natural-resource based business)
 - Provides TA, business management skills, and other counseling



Capacity Building: Youth Development

- Youth Conservation Corps
 - Ages 14 – 18
 - Part time building eco-tourism infrastructure (trails, boardwalks, planting trees)
- Sustainable Careers Internship Program
 - Ages 17 – 25
 - 4.5 days a week on eco-tourism infrastructure
 - .5 days on educational training (GED, job skills, etc)



Collaboration on Cultural Events

- Scuppernong River Festival
- Pocosin Arts





Palmetto Pear Tree Reserve Tools Used

- Conservation Tools
 - Land Acquisition
 - Eco-Tourism Development
 - Youth Conservation Corps implementation project (Forest Restoration)
- Community Development Tools
 - Community Planning Process
 - Sustainable Economic Development
 - Non-Profit Creation
 - Leadership Training
 - Small Business Incubator Development
 - Youth Corps Job Creation

Tool: Asset Mapping

- Take a map of your county or community and divide it into areas to be inventoried
- Identify one or more leaders in each area who will help organize an asset mapping meeting



Tool: Asset Mapping

- Engage your **leaders**

- Elected officials & agency professionals
- Tourism, recreation & business leaders
- Arts & environmental leaders



- Engage the **community**

- Elders
- Young People
- Non-profits
- Civic Clubs
- Businesses
- Church groups
- Festival and special event groups
- Incorporated and unincorporated communities
- Community / economic development groups
- Everyone you can find...

Tool: Asset Mapping

- Get community members to identify sites, businesses, events, people, stories and more
- Focus on:
 - Natural assets
 - Cultural assets
 - Historic assets
 - Agricultural assets
 - People assets



SFHA Asset Mapping Revealed

- Landowners
- Churches, cemeteries
- Community barn- and house-raising
- Harvesting sweet potatoes
- Fox & deer hunting
- Beekeeping
- Growing gourds, gardening & woodcarving
- Sawmills & moonshining
- Building bird houses and headstones
- Entrepreneurial Activities: restaurants, barber shops, beauty salons, juke joints



Assets that SFHA Builds On...

- Old Spring Lake Civic Center
- History of Land Stewardship
- Rich African American History
- Legacy of Entrepreneurship
- Farm and Garden Heritage





Lessons Learned

- Alternative Strategies Work
 - Non-traditional strategies can bring conservation results
- Building Partnerships is Essential
- Time Spent Engaging the Community is a Good Investment
- Capacity Building is Key
- Don't Make Assumptions
- Requires Patience, Flexibility and Excellent Listening Skills
- Attracts a wide range of investment