

HD.GOV: AN INTERAGENCY WEB PORTAL FOCUSED ON THE HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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Through the Internet, we have access to a large volume and great variety of potentially useful information on the human dimensions of natural resource management. Much of this information, although produced with public funds, is hard to find and access because it is scattered across a great number of servers hosted by different governmental and nongovernmental agencies. Often, useful social science information is buried deep within websites that, on the surface, seem completely unrelated to the social sciences.

HD.gov (HumanDimensions.gov) is a Web portal that was developed to address this problem. It provides “one-stop shopping” for credible, peer-reviewed case studies, data, tools, methodologies, policy and legislative materials, and other information that are available for public use. It also contains an integrated content management system, facilitating the submission and peer review of all content contributions to the portal.

Through *HD.gov*, users can quickly find and access a wide range of diverse social science content from natural resource management agencies, nongovernmental organizations, academia, and the private sector. The integrated access provided by *HD.gov* also makes it possible to identify and address the many gaps that still remain in the applied social sciences.

HD.gov is an interagency effort led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service, with the support of more than 150 agencies, universities, and other organizations. Its contents focus on the application of social science to natural resource management within a broad range of conservation- and environmental-management contexts, geographies, and ecosystems.

The portal provides useful information to users with all levels of knowledge or experience in human dimensions and the social sciences, from novices who wish to learn about terminology, concepts, or methods, to natural resource managers, practitioners of social science methods, and experts.

The site serves two distinct communities: those who develop social science information and tools and the natural resource managers who need the information and tools. *HD.gov* will continue to evolve through the growth and engagement of these two communities,

providing a community of practice for human dimensions professionals in the U.S. and around the world.

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