

Lecture 3 overview

1. Environmental values & disputes
2. Major actors in policymaking
3. Policymaking process

Environmental Conflict

Conflicts arise over the use of shared resources and different opinions about how we should use them

Conflict likely to increase as we move towards a sustainable relationship with nature

Environmental Conflict

Conflict is part of the political landscape of democracy:

- Everyone has a voice
- Opinions are debated in public

Debate fueled by NGOs, citizen groups, businesses and individuals through the media

Environmental Conflict

Advantages of conflict:

1. Detects problems with the environment
2. Drives system to force corrections
3. Keep issues alive

Environmental values

- Disputes: how human interactions with the natural world
- Values at core of disputes
- Arguments rarely on values:
 - Science, economics & risks

Participants



Environmentalists:

- Multiple belief systems
- Often clash with each other
- Have various origins

Romantics & Transcendentalists



- Lewis & Clark, 1804-1806
- Nature Writing:
 - Catlin, 1832: proposed national park idea
 - Emerson, 1837: *Nature*
 - Olmstead, 1857: 'architect of Central Park'
 - Thoreau, 1858: *Walden Pond*

Preservationists



Preserve natural areas:

- Focus on intrinsic vs. instrumental value
- Championed by John Muir (1834-1914)
- Place to retreat & regenerate
- Founded the *Sierra Club* (1892)

Conservationists



Wise use of natural resources:

- Focus on instrumental value
- Advocated multiple, sustainable-use
- Championed by Gifford Pinchot (1865-1946)
- Appointed Chief of *Forest Service* (1898)

Conservation vs. Preservation

- Conservation ethic became federal policy
- Largely coexisted until the 1950's
- Famous clash over *Hetch-Hetchy Valley*

"Dam Hetch Hetchy! As well dam for water-tanks the people's cathedrals and churches, for no holier temple has ever been consecrated by the heart of man." -- John Muir



Environmental Protectionists



Post-WWII:

- Control pollution, loss of species
- Scientific research documented effects
- Major popular books:
 - Aldo Leopold: *Sand County Almanac* (1949)
 - Rachel Carson: *Silent Spring* (1962)
 - Paul Ehrlich: *Population Bomb* (1968)

Environmental "Warriors"



1970s:

- Backlash to failure of traditional approaches
- Solutions through anarchy
 - Earth First!
 - Greenpeace
 - Sea Shepherd

Post-modern Environmentalism

Social Ecologists

- Hierarchical power structures

Deep Ecologists

- Lack of ecocentric philosophy

Eco-Feminists

- Patriarchy

Cornucopians

- Few natural limits to growth, world has limitless supply of resources
- Technological advances will keep pace
- Focus on economic growth
- Resources only for instrumental value



'STEADY AS SHE GOES'

Cornucopians

- High value on individual liberty
- Environmentalist = socialism
- Pro free-market forces
- Humans “above” nature

Cornucopians

- **Factions:**
 - Pro-growth – economic growth key
 - Outdoorsman – individual in nature
 - Government minimalists – few laws
 - Social conservatives – uphold traditional values

Defining Problems

Goal: to shape policy arena
Advocates define positions to attract supporters
Usually involves oversimplification
Focuses on key elements, ignores others

Defining Problems

Major steps:

1. Scientific understanding
2. Economic costs & benefits
3. Risks of action or inaction

Role of Science

Environmental issues generally complex
Scientific method opens debate
Level of uncertainty
Time frame often too slow:
– Initiative → Peer-reviewed publication
(may take 2-3 years)

Role of Science

Advocates:

- Worst-case scenarios
- Overstate certainty
- Advocate precautionary policy

Proponents:

- Overstate uncertainty
- Highlight scientific dissent
- Emphasize economic costs

Marine reserves are a California solution looking for a problem

Posted by Tisman57, November 28, 2008 9:12PM

Marine reserves evolved in milder climates where sportfishing continues year-round in Oregon, however, rough seas and dangerous bar crossings already preclude sportfishing for eight months of the year. For sportfishermen, the entire Oregon coast is a de facto Marine Reserve, enforced by deadly seas, except during summer. Furthermore, state "fish checkers" count the fish landed by anglers in every Oregon port. When the total reaches a pre-determined quota, fishing is halted. Oregonians manage resident species such as black rockfish and lingcod in a precise, sustainable manner.

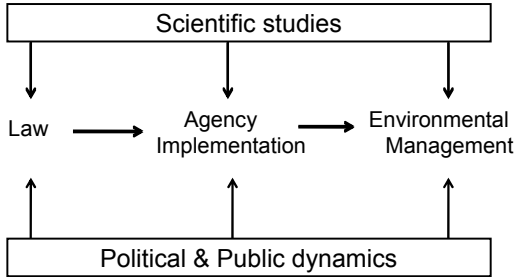
Marine reserves, by contrast, are a California idea being pushed by out-of-state interests. Unlike Oregon, California has woefully mismanaged its coastline, while dumping urban runoff and sewage from 20 million residents into the ocean. For severely degraded and overfished habitats like California, Florida and the tropical resort areas, Marine Reserves are a last-ditch conservation effort.

Marine Reserves are a misplaced California solution looking for a problem.

Anti-MPA

- Rough seas are de factor reserves
- Current management effective
- California idea pushed by special interests
- Solution looking for a problem

Actors in decision-making



Government

Legislature

- Make laws
- Strongly influenced by constituents
- *Salience*: extent of concern

Administrators

- Implement laws
- Regulations, monitoring, enforcement
- Influencing by agency mission & culture
- Executive, legislative & judiciary can change

Government

Judiciary:

- Review agency decisions
- May stop or modify

State & local government

- Can be more difficult
- Smaller impact but can be more effective

Outside Government

NGOs: environmentalists & cornucopians

- Diverse funding and membership
- Large NGOs: Sierra Club, Ducks Unlimited
- Small regional: Clark County Natural Defense Council
- Ephemeral: arise for specific issues
- Advocate through media, events, lobbying

Experts

Generate research on topic
Scientists, economists, lawyers, analysts
Academics, think tanks, foundations,
interest groups:

- Discovery Institute
- Pew Trust
- Oceana

Experts

Policy Communities: devise solutions
Not objective purveyors of “fact”
Influencing by experience, culture, work environment

Media

Television, radio, newspaper, magazines, internet
Strong influence on people/policymakers:
– What is covered / omitted
– Opinion presented Trawling
“Balance” can overstate extreme positions

Policymaking Process

↓
Agenda setting
Alternative formulation
Decision-making
Implementation
↓
Evaluation

Policymaking Process

Opportunities:

- Legal decisions
- New information
- Sudden event
- Personnel turnover

Policymaking Process

The "Perfect Storm":

1. Compelling problem defined
2. Available solution
3. Supportive political climate

Next Time. . .

- Introduction to Integral Ecology
- Reading for discussion:
 - Tissot, 2005
