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An Interagency Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management Web Portal: HumanDimensions.gov or HD.gov

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A wide variety of human dimensions and applied social science information is available via the Internet. Many of the current on-line human dimensions resources contain similar information—some overlapping or redundant and others complementary. However, many gaps still remain, and a thread that shows the broad applicability of this information across management contexts is missing. HumanDimensions.gov or HD.gov is an interagency Web portal that aggregates information and provides access to diverse content from natural resource management agencies, nongovernmental organizations, academia, and the private sector in a “one-stop-shop” for human dimensions information. The intent is to provide professionals working in a broad range of conservation and environmental management contexts, geographies, and ecosystems with credible, peer-reviewed case studies, data, tools, methodologies, policy and legislative materials, and other information focused on the application of social science to natural resource management. The portal provides 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. HD.gov is developed, operated, and maintained by a network of partner groups and individuals. As of June 2007, partners and supporters of HD.gov represent more than 150 agencies, universities, and other organizations. The site continues to evolve, with submissions and involvement from an ever-growing list of partners adding visibility and bolstering the community of practice for human dimensions professionals in the U.S. and around the world.

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