Scenario-Based Studies to Focus Planning in Coastal Regions

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Urban Area



Desert Research Institute University of Nevada, Reno Rutgers University

Scenario-Based Studies The Process

Identify framing issues and critical uncertainties that face a region
 Develop scenarios – "storylines"
 Spatially allocate alternative futures in a GIS framework
 Assess impacts



Framing Issues, Critical Uncertainties, and Scenario Formulation

Methods
Planning Studio
Questionnaires
e-mail surveys
Delphi method



Why Use Scenarios?

Planning by agencies and municipalities typically focuses attention and resources inward

- However, long-term success will be determined, in part, by external factors
- Scenarios provide a context for discussing planning options among leaders and planners internally and with diverse stakeholders regionally



Study Areas in Southwest

Upper San Pedro River Watershed
Mojave Desert
Camp Pendleton & MCAS Miramar
SW Range Complex



Urbanization in Southern California



Santa Margarita River Flooding



Practical Impacts of Urbanization

Decreasing habitat in region

- Edge effect
- Noise impacts
- "More eggs in one basket" in remaining natural areas
- > Altered base flows in streams
- > Wetlands
- Flood attenuation
- > Quality of water and air
- > Impaired scenic views and aesthetic impression



Camp Pendleton-Miramar Study Area 2000



Region of MCB Camp Pendleton & MCAS Miramar Existing Conditions 2000 Land Use/Land Cover





Suburban and Urban

98925 acres (11.5%)

Population Increase500,000

• 1,000,000

> Uncertainties

- Water
- Energy
- Mass Transportation
- Acceptance of high-density living
- Public value of conservation



Alternative Futures 2025



100-Year Storm Event Hydrographs for Santa Margarita River

4,000

4,000



% of Selected T&E Potential Habitat on DoD Lands

	2000	Coastal		Northern		Reg L-D		3-Centers	
		0.5m	1.0m	0.5m	1.0m	0.5m	1.0m	0.5m	1.0m
Willowy Monardella	30	32	35	32	35	33	36	30	30
Fairy Shrimp	70	76	82	75	79	77	82	70	70
Calif. Gnatcatcher	33	36	39	36	38	36	52	34	34
W. Snowy Plover	45	47	47	46	47	46	46	45	45
S.W. Wil. Flycatcher	18	19	20	19	21	20	24	19	20
Least Bell's Vireo	16	16	18	17	19	18	21	17	18

Environmental Decisions and Uncertain Futures Scenarios for the Region of MCB Camp Pendleton & MCAS Miramar. California

Utility for Camp Pendleton

> Use futures to inform planning:

- Biodiversity [ESA Sect. 7 & Recovery Plans]
 - Habitat segmentation
- Changes in watersheds
 - Flooding regime
 - Water supply & quality
 - Erosion/sediment transport regime
- Fire regime
- Compatible development
 - Location of urban growth
 - Transportation infrastructure and usage
 - Air quality



Santa Margarita River Water Quality Sampling





Geomorphology & Habitat Assessment Santa Margarita River



Scenarios and Collaboration



- Contributes to enhanced communication among stakeholders
- Provides compelling framework for visualizing future landscapes
- Illustrates possible conflicts, their causes and potential solutions
- Assists stakeholders to:
 - Plan for future and protect against uncertainties
 - Promotes understanding of potential consequences of current choices
 - Motivates joint action

Conclusions

- Scenario-based studies enhance:
- Planning processes
 - Understanding how consequences of today's policy choices may affect future social and environmental conditions
- Collaboration
 - Intersections of urban growth with priority areas for landscape conservation provide partnering opportunities to influence patterns of growth and mitigate ecosystem impacts
 - Calibrate discussion of consequences to the scale of human action
- Environmental Consultations
 - Adaptive management programs



Conclusions

Scenarios Lead to Better Plans

- Plans robust to multiple potential futures are better than plans focused on the extrapolated present and near past
- Broadened perspective raises institutional resilience
- Functions as vulnerability assessment
- The specificity of description required for the scenarios can lead to concise, measurable objectives
 - Provides more concrete view of future consequences of today's choices

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