

HUMAN DIMENSIONS ON LANDSCAPE

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ABSTRACT

In the Plateau, human interactions with landscapes and the subsequent use of natural resources has been ongoing for at least 10,000 years. Within the Potlatch, Elk River, and Clearwater River drainages, all people to varying degrees have changed, manipulated, and utilized plant, game, and mineral resources as an order of survival, and as an economic endeavor defined by cultural preferences. In utilizing natural resources, people also define themselves via the landscapes which they alter and influence via their subsistence endeavors and economic preferences. In the historic period, this process continues where people occupied, utilized, and benefited from the use of natural resources derived from similar or like landscapes. Different definitions of place, self, and economy are derived from economies that overlap and mirror one another. Overall, the human desire and need to use resources necessitates an ecosystem that adapts to this presence. Leaving a landscape also creates changes to an ecosystem which influences the perception of landscape. In essence, man's presence or absence within the landscape has consequences which are all a part of nature itself. How people manage resources or how they choose not to has environmental, economic, and cultural repercussions. In nature there are no spectators only participators. How we perceive our existence versus our understanding of how we operate on a landscape and comprehend the choices we make is the dilemma human's face when we mix belief of self with our actual existence. The understanding of the importance of management in terms of resource use, landscapes, and an understanding of ourself influences how we perceive our actions on a landscape, nature and our place within.

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