Principles for democratic resource management

going from theory to practice
Complexity and Participatory Democracy

- Complexity creates challenges for resource management
- Complexity creates opportunities for constructive democratic engagement
Sources of Complexity

- Socio-cultural
- Economic
- Institutional
- Environmental
Complexity and resource management

Complexity demands an Ecosystems-Based Management approach
How democracy complements complexity
What democracy is and isn’t

- **Is:** an inclusive process for authoritative decision-making
- **Isn’t:** a single, prescribed set of institutions and procedures
What kind of democracy and why

Participatory and deliberative
Important concepts, easily misconstrued

- “Embracing error”
- Finding order in—not instead of—chaos
- Accepting the existence of “multiple truths”
Complexity, democracy and institutional design
How theory informs practice

- Everything in complex systems is always contestable.
- Constructive contestation requires deliberation among equals.
- Both issues and processes must be subject to deliberative processes.
- Solutions are never fixed or static.
- 3 major problems must be attacked simultaneously and revisited as new information warrants: representation, institutional design, and problem articulation.
Representation

- Provide multiple and open-ended methods of stakeholder (self-) identification and inclusion.

- Continually assess and compensate for the obstacles that formal and informal venues place on the full participation of particular groups of stakeholders.
Institutional design

- Accommodate diverse identities, interests and discourses
- Access multiple modes of communication and problem solving
- Address multiple levels of policy making and interdependencies among institutions and organizations
- Be receptive to multiple sources and types of information
- Recognize the impossibility of complete and final resolutions
- Embrace the inevitability of conflict
- Create capacity to contend with additional issues that will result from the impacts of global change
Problem articulation

- Recognize a multiplicity of problems emanating from the same source
- Address the underlying sources of conflict while addressing specific disagreements
- Gather, exchange and communicate knowledge of the world views and histories of participants and apply them to institutional processes and design
Conclusions???

- Complexity and deliberative democracy imply that in a conventional sense there should be no conclusions, just:

  - QUESTIONS, COMMENTS and APPRECIATION FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND YOUR THOUGHTS