

Are People Happy Where Nature is Happy?



Whitney Fleming

Human Wellbeing and Ecosystems

- Human wellbeing includes both subjective experience and objective Ecosystem improvement is generally not motivated by human personal attributes.¹ wellbeing.
- Improvement of ecosystems and links to metrics of human wellbeing have not been studied holistically.
- - Ecosystem services have been identified as important environmental components that benefit people, and are used as a justification for ecosystem improvement.

Research Questions

- I) Are there correlations between human wellbeing indicators and ecosystem health indicators in different areas of the Puget Sound?
- 2) Do these results hold in similar climatic regions in a developing areas?

Linkages between Ecosystem Services and Human Wellbeing

Ecosystem Services

Constituents of Wellbeing

GAPS IN HUMAN WELLBEING & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES RESEARCH²

Human Wellbeing

Eurocentric Most literature on this subject comes from case

studies in Europe

Aggregated

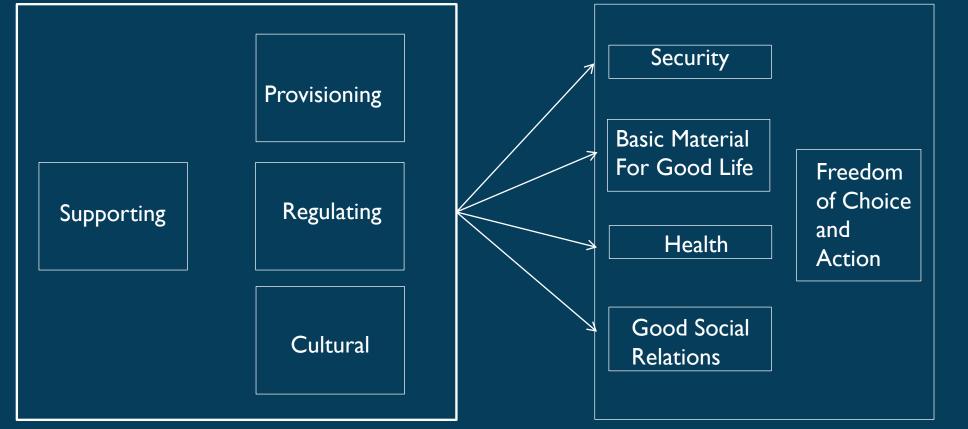
Often literature does not differentiate wellbeing between groups (e.g. gender, race, affluence)

of Relationships Ecosystem Services \rightarrow

Human Wellbeing \rightarrow **Ecosystem Services**



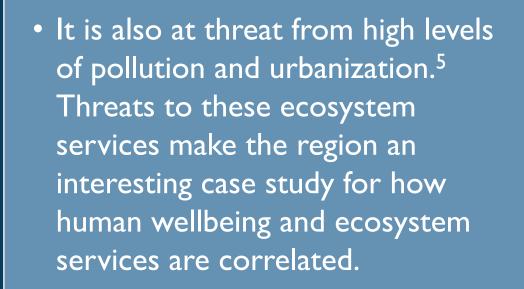
One Directional Studies



Adapted from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Framework³

Study Site

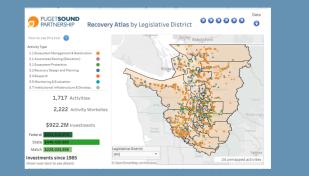
• The Puget Sound has high value ecosystem services with billions of dollars of estimated benefits to humans.⁴



• Additionally, the Puget Sound is leading the way in terms of introducing targets of human







Ecosystem Services are often represented as improving wellbeing, but are ecosystems doing better where people have greater wellbeing?

Indicators of Human Wellbeing and Ecosystem Services

The Puget Sound Vital Signs

The Puget Sound uses 25 'vital signs' to monitor ecosystem health over time. Each metric on the wheel is reported biannually. Eleven of the metrics are directly related to



wellbeing related to the environment in its restoration agenda.⁶

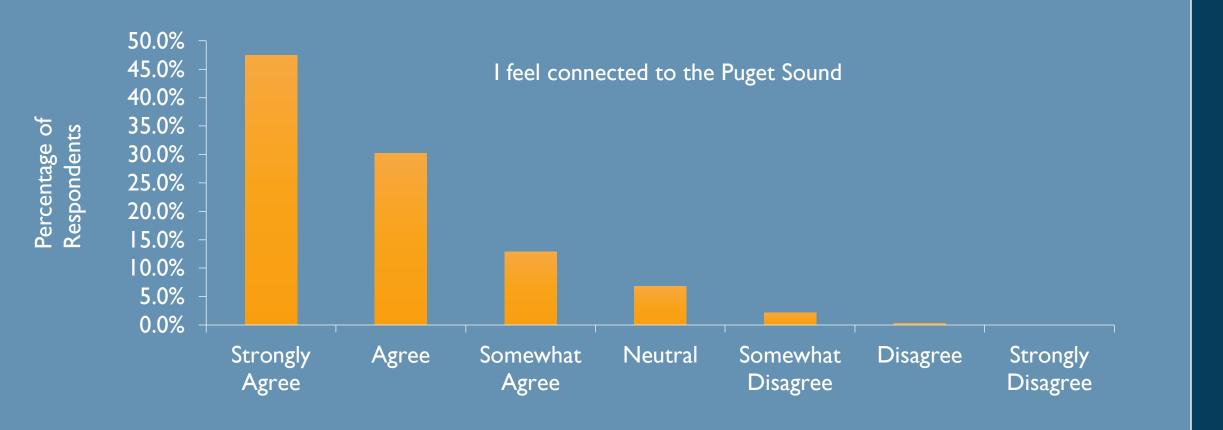
human wellbeing.

http://www.psp.wa.gov/vitalsigns/

Potential Methods

Reference

- A general population survey on aspects of subjective human wellbeing, such as 'sense of place' (right) was completed in the Puget Sound.
- I will analyze trends from the survey and use them to make an interview protocol to research wellbeing in relation to ecosystem services.



	¹ Biedenweg, K., Scott, R. P., & Scott, T.A. (2017). How does engaging with nature relate to life satisfaction? Demonstrating the link between environment-specific social experiences and life satisfaction. <i>Journal of Environmental Psychology</i> , 50, 112–124.
	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2017.02.002
es	² Blythe, J. (2018, May). Wellbeing-ecosystem service bundles (WEBs) for adaptive coastal governance: assessing the current evidence. Presented at the
	Communities, Conservation & Livelihoods Conference, Halifax. Retrieved from
	http://programme.exordo.com/communityconservation2018/delegates/presentation/137/
	³ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. (2005). Retrieved July 25, 2018, from https://millenniumassessment.org/en/Framework.html

⁴Batker, D., Swedeen, P., Costanza, R., de la Torre, I., Buomans, R., & Bagstad, K. (2008). A New View of the Puget Sound Economy: The Economic Value of Nature's Services in the Puget Sound Basin. Earth Economics

⁵Washington Biodiversity Council. (2007). Washington's Biodiversity: Status and Threats.

⁶Stinchfield, H, Lynne Koontz, Natalie R Sexton, and Geological Survey. 2009. "Ocial and Economic Considerations for Coastal and Watershed Restoration in the Puget Sound, Washington : A Literature Review." U.S. Geological Survey open-file report.