

Facilitating people-deer interaction: Ideas for the Monroe County and Bloomington Deer Task Force

Presentation to the City of Bloomington and
Monroe County Joint Deer Task Force

February 17, 2011

Presentation outline

- Cultural and social dimension of deer
 - The multivalence of deer
 - Adaptive management of natural resources
 - Institutional analysis
 - Bridging organization
- Building adaptive co-management
- Including community: is the survey the ideal tool?
 - Risk of administering a survey
 - What it is still needed
- A coordinated public engagement
- Meetings with the public
- Open discussion

Cultural and social dimension of deer

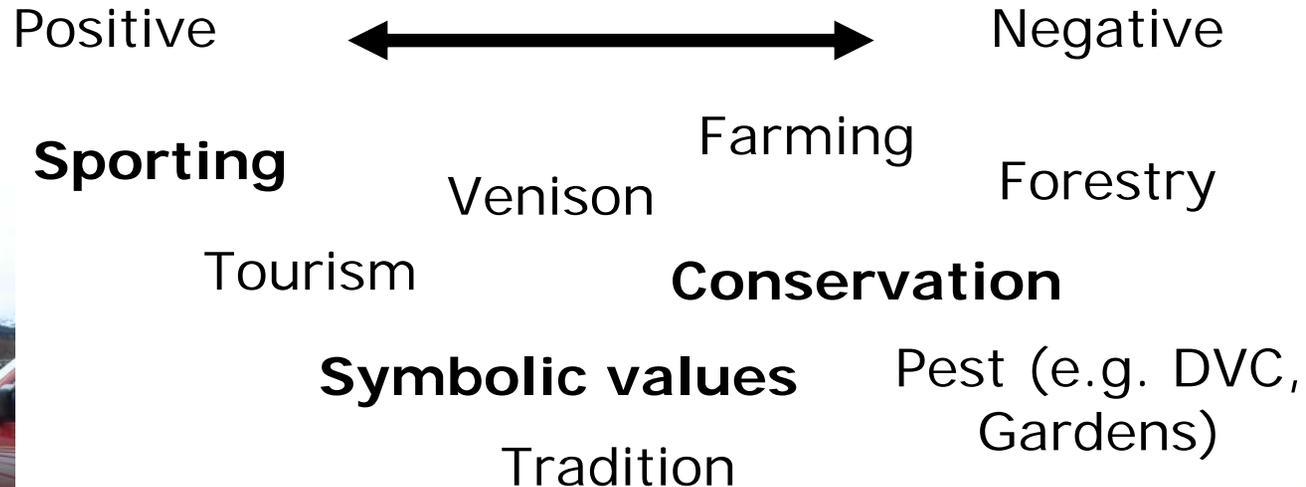


Photo: Joe Weiss



Cultural and social dimension of deer

Multivalence: The property of having many meanings, values or interpretations (Oxford English Dictionary).



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Deer become “anomalous animals” because they cross space that is culturally divided into different spheres “each of which carries a distinctive moral evaluation” (Knight 2002).



Cultural and social dimension of deer



Cultural and social dimension of deer: Adaptive management of natural resources

Elements of effective commons governance (Dietz et al 2003):

i) Monitoring of resources and uses

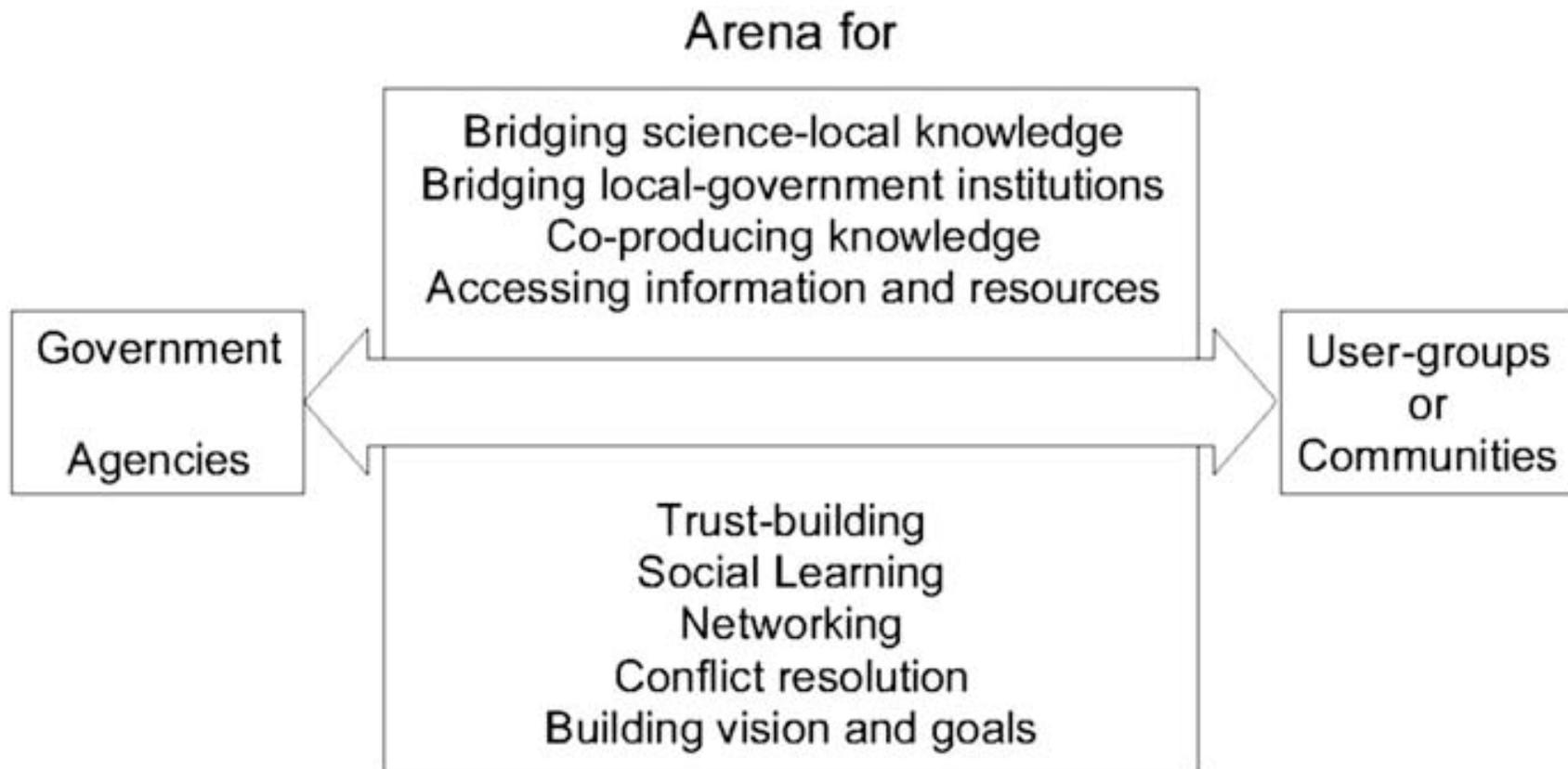
ii) Moderate change in the resource, its use and surrounding economic and social conditions

iii) Face-to-face communication and networks

iv) Exclusion of outsiders

v) Users' support for the rules in use

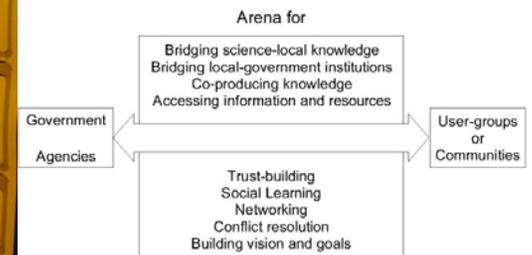
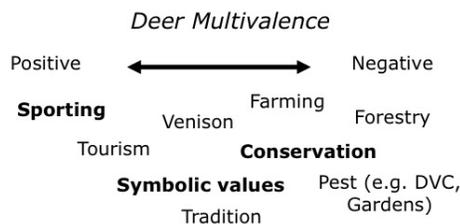
Adaptive co-management and the possible roles of bridging organizations (Berkes 2009):



Building adaptive co-management

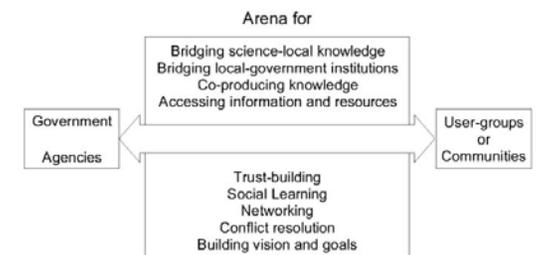
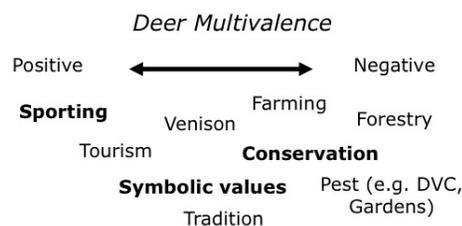
The Deer Task Force can be considered a bridging organization and contribute to urban deer co-management by facilitating:

- Knowledge co-production
- Trust building
- Sense making
- Learning
- **Vertical and horizontal collaboration**
- Conflict resolution



Including Community: Is the survey the ideal tool?

- Effective in knowledge production – Still missing the “co-”
- Potential negative impact on trust building, sense making, and facilitating **vertical and horizontal collaboration** – due to bias of “deer as impacts”



Other issues:

- Incomplete in providing needed information (e.g. preferences for deer control)
- Stakeholder/public fatigue
- Costs – time and money
- Target population is undefined

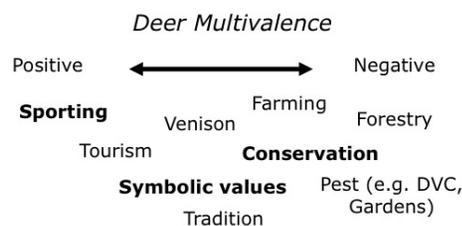
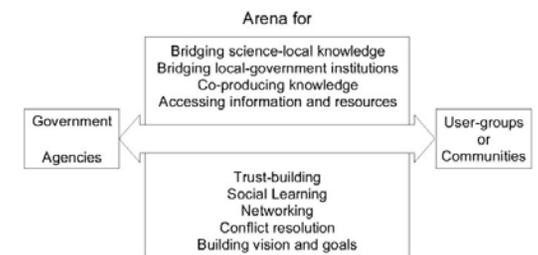
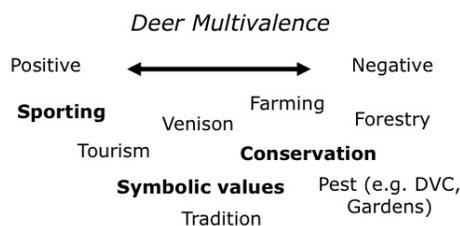


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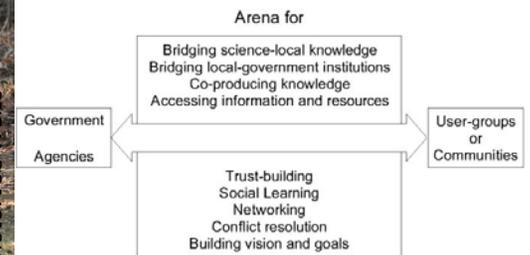
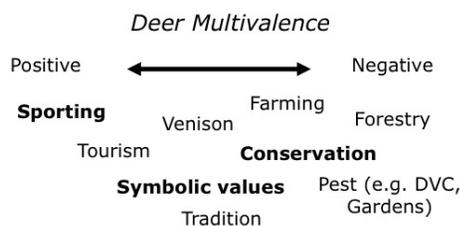
A Coordinated Public Engagement

- ❑ Web Page
- ❑ Media
- ❑ Structured meetings in various Council Districts and county's communities
- ❑ Surveys (social and ecological)
- ❑ Public forum



Meetings with the public: A proposal outline

- A. An introductory information session – 20 minutes
- B. Questions and answers on part A. – 15 minutes
- C. Structured discussion – 40 minutes
- D. Open discussion – 15 minutes

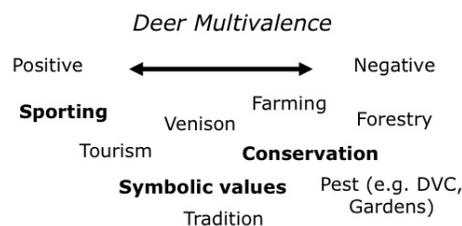


Structured discussion example of questions/themes:

A. What is your relationship with deer in the city and county?

B. How do you manage deer in your backyard and in the places you live and visit?

C. What should the most important elements for guiding the City and County in making management decisions regarding deer be?



Open discussion

