SUSTAINABILITY AND THE RURAL COMMUNITY

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OVERVIEW

- Current conditions in rural America
- Obstacles to development
- Policy and strategies

Triple Bottom Line

- Social Justice, & Economic Opportunity
- Environmental Protection
- Economic Growth & Efficiency

Development Conflict
Resource Conflict
Property Conflict
OBSTACLES
  • Low population density
  • Thin labor markets
  • Distance to markets
  • Economic dependency & volatility

STRATEGIES
  • Regionalism
  • Amenity-Based Development
  • Industrial Clusters

REGIONALSIM
REGIONALISM: THE PROBLEM

Political jurisdictions do not match the geography of most social, economic, and environmental problems.

CONTINUUM OF PARTNERSHIPS

- **Networks**—work together with loose linkages, primarily for information exchange
- **Cooperation**—on one or more activities with marginal costs
- **Coordination**—requires a commitment of resources and shared goals
- **Collaboration**—strong linkages among members and formal process

BENEFITS OF COLLABORATION

- Economies of scale
- Access to resources
- Capturing spillover
- Expertise and empowerment
BASIC ELEMENTS OF METROPOLITAN REGIONALISM

- Growth boundaries and land preservation trusts
- Tax sharing
- Dispersed affordable housing
- Strong pollution controls and mass transit
- Combine city, suburban, and rural resources to better compete in global economy.

AMENITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT

AMENITY

Nonmarketed qualities of a locality that make it an attractive place to visit, live and work.
MODELS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EXPORT THEORY AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY
- Extraction from Natural Environment
- Exports to External Markets
- Addition Income Injected
- Income Multiplies to Create Jobs
- Community Made Possible

AMENITY-LED DEVELOPMENT AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY
- Environmental Quality
- Attracts Workers, Business, and Retirees
- Generates Economic Activity
- Leads To Diversification
- Builds Community

Source: Power (1996)

CHARACTERISTICS OF NATURAL AMENITIES
- Nonproductibility
- Irriversibility
- High Income Elasticity
- Nonsubstitutable

OBSTACLES
- Social conflicts—tourists and local residents
- Part-time employment and low wages
Cluster development

Clusters refer to geographical collection of businesses and institutions that are linked by commonalities and complementarities.

Rather than viewing each business or industry in competition with one another, clusters cultivate cooperative arrangements among economic actors in a region.
THE FUTURE OF RURAL PLACES