

# NWCOS Questions

## *April 11, 2005*

1. What is BLM's history with non-market analyses?

Ans.

BLM used the non-market approach for the Snake River RMP. We were also going to use the same approach in the Lander Field Office. The issue was over grazing in high desert riparian areas. And we were going to estimate the non-market values of open space, rangeland improvement, improved wildlife habitat, preservation of historic trails etc and balance that against the loss of income associated with possible grazing reductions on BLM land. We got to the point in that study where we were holding focus groups in Lander to finalize the survey instrument and political pressure from the livestock sector caused us to shut the study down.

2. Has BLM ever funded one before?

Ans.

As mentioned above, we funded both the Snake River and Lander efforts but the Lander effort was shut down.

3. If not, why not?

Ans.

See answers to #1 and #2 above

4. If so, how was it received?

Ans.

In my opinion, the decision for the Snake River RMP was influenced by the non-market study. And in the case of the Snake River RMP, the decision was to keep the scattered tracts along the Snake River in public ownership rather than transferring them to private ownership.

5. How will a non-market analysis help the BLM in its planning process?

Ans.

See answer to #4. Also, there are times when the non-market values are crucial to the land management decision. In fact, there are situations where the non-market values are more important than the market values. And in those cases, quantifying the non-market values is critical to the decision process. For these situations, if the non-market values are unaccounted for, the decision may either not reflect or grossly underestimate the importance of the non-market considerations, which should play a vital role in the decision process. As a result, the preferred management alternative may not do an adequate job of accounting for the non-market considerations and the ultimate decision may not adequately reflect society's concerns and priorities in managing the public land.

6. Where can we get a Copy of the Snake River report?

Ans.

I have a copy but don't have any extras. The last time I checked with John Loomis, he had extra copies. So I would recommend contacting him to see if he still has extra copies of that report. If not, I can always make copy of my report and send that to you.