

Kevin A. Decker

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Experience

Coastal Economist

June 2014 – Present

University of Washington, Washington Sea Grant: Seattle/Aberdeen, WA

- Creator of the WACoastEconomist.com blog and economic dashboard.
- Member of the State Ocean Caucus, a forum for state agencies to coordinate efforts on ocean issues.
- Provide technical expertise and represent local economic interests as a county-commissioner-appointed member of both the Pacific County and Grays Harbor County Marine Resource Committees.
- Member of the Coastal Hazards Resilience Network, which provides guidance to local communities on planning for resilience and responding to natural hazards.
- Conducted a cost analysis for North Cove (Washaway Beach) to quantify economic costs of erosion and the projected future costs based on erosion predictions.
- Analyzed supply and demand of consumer retail spending to identify gaps in Grays Harbor County to identify opportunities for retail expansion.
- Provided quantitative analysis for the *Social Indicators for the Washington Coast Integrated Ecosystem Assessment*, an applied evaluation of social wellbeing for the four coastal counties of Washington.
- Conducted literature review and generated a list of economic indicators to assess economic wellbeing of communities. Each indicator provides a definition, unit of measure, source, and interpretation.
- Produced a longitudinal study of production quantity and value of the shellfish aquaculture industry for Washington.
- Created an economic base analysis to identify local and nonlocal consumption for Pacific County and presented findings to local stakeholder groups.
- Provided outreach and education for Washington's Marine Spatial Plan, resulting in the distribution of more than 800 informational brochures at coastal events and more than 30 presentations to local stakeholder groups.
- Re-established networking group, Harbor Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (HYPE), to foster relationship building and increase social capital on the coast. The network currently has more than 600 members and provides a monthly opportunity to network, highlight businesses in the community, and learn about local issues.
- Negotiate lane agreements annually for Washington, Oregon, and California between the tug and tow industry and the commercial crab industry to minimize usage overlap. Reduced interactions result in decreases to both boat repairs and lost crab gear, valued at an estimated \$1.7M each year.

PhD Research Fellow: Environmental Science/Economics

July 2011 – August 2016

University of Idaho: Moscow, ID

- Recipient of the prestigious IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship) Fellowship from the National Science Foundation focused on disciplinary knowledge, interdisciplinary training, and collaborative research.
- Conducted research evaluating the resilience of ecological and social systems in the changing landscape of the Palouse Prairie.
- Dissertation titled, *An interdisciplinary exploration of the intersection between economic value and ecological quality to inform Palouse Prairie conservation.*
- Peer-reviewed publication in the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management titled, *Estimating willingness to pay for a threatened species within a threatened ecosystem.*
- Manuscript submitted to the Journal of Human Ecology titled, *Social values of culturally significant plants on the Palouse Prairie, an endangered grassland in the United States.*

Teaching Assistant: Politics of the Environment / Natural Resource and Ecosystem Service Economics

Research Assistant: College of Natural Resources

January 2013 – March 2014

University of Idaho: Moscow, ID

- Conducted literature reviews on energy policy and conflicts surrounding multiple uses on public lands in the western United States and farmer perceptions of participating in a water trading market
- Developed a choice experiment survey to evaluate tradeoffs of attributes of water trading programs.
- Evaluated the use of economic valuation methods to calculate the contribution of water-related ecosystem services.
- Collected data from National Visitor Use Monitoring Program for Travel Cost model calculating value of Idaho Forests.
- Provided lectures on natural resource and environmental economics.

- Assisted with classroom management and tutored students on assignments, projects, and exam review.
- Developed exam questions, proctored exams, and graded assignments and exams.

Business Economics Tutor

September 2013 – March 2014

Tutor.com: Online

- Tutored students from all over the country with questions regarding business economics in an online environment.
- Topics Include: Basic Price Theory, Theory of the Firm, Public Economics, Analysis of Market Structure, Resource Allocation and Welfare Analysis, National Income Analysis, Monetary System and the Federal Reserve, Business Cycle and Growth, and International Trade.

Board of Directors/ Treasurer

May 2010 – April 2013

Idaho Wildlife Federation (IWF): Boise, ID

- Member of the Advisory Council for the Treasure Valley Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (TVCAMP) with goals of providing a reliable source of water for the next 50 years, developing strategies to avoid conflicts over water resources, prioritizing future state investments in water, and bridging the gap between current and future water needs.
- Member of the Environmental Caucus to discuss and strategize the best course of action for TVCAMP.
- Served as the representative for IWF at National Wildlife Federation's annual meeting, where I served as a member of the Conservation Economics Committee, where we passed a resolution to promote looking beyond GDP when determining economic wellbeing to include the gain and loss of ecosystem services.
- Assisted with developing a marketing strategy, prioritizing organizational goals, and budget planning.
- Implemented the IWF Affinity Program, where conservation minded people can apply for a credit card and for every purchase they make, 1% gets donated to IWF, and IWF receives \$50 for every card activated.

Financial Representative

June 2006 – March 2008

Northwestern Mutual Financial Network: Boise, ID

- Provided expert guidance and innovative solutions for individuals and businesses in the areas of retirement planning, insurance and investment services, estate planning, business planning, education funding, and employee benefits
- Ruby Award: Annual award (75 insurance policies or \$75,000 in premium) accomplished within 9 months (2007)
- Top one percent of peer group in (2007), top quartile of peer group in production (2008)

Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Environmental Science (Environmental Economics)

August 2016

University of Idaho: Moscow, ID

Xi Sigma Pi: National Forestry, Fisheries, Environmental and Wildlife Sciences Honor Society

Master of Science, Applied Economics

May 2014

University of Idaho: Moscow, ID

Master of Science, Environmental Management

May 2011

University of Maryland, University College: Adelphi, MD

Professional Science Masters (PSM) degree

Bachelor of Business Administration, Business Economics

May 2007

Boise State University: Boise, ID

Omicron Delta Epsilon: National Economics Honor Society

Computer Skills

- Proficient with Stata, Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Tableau
- Experience with Gauss, SPSS, and NLOGIT

Community Service

- Big Brothers, Big Sisters of SW Washington, Olympia, WA September 2015 – March 2017
- Port of Olympia Citizen's Advisory Committee (POCAC), Olympia, WA January 2019 – Present