Building science into stake-holder driven decision-support processes.

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Advances in Information technologies, including GIS and the Internet, offer exciting new possibilities to compile, analyze and disseminate scientific data from disparate sources. In particular, spatially explicit, on-line tools represent a medium for making such data available for stake-holder driven decision processes. By integrating ecological and economic information into sophisticated analyses and compelling, map-based outputs, decision support tools represent a unique medium for coupling previously inaccessible scientific information with a variety of backend modeling frameworks to support decision processes. In this discussion, I will briefly present two examples of how decision support tools have been developed to support stake-holder driven processes. Held in an open-source and highly intuitive platform, these tools offer a simple, flexible, and powerful means of gathering expertise from resource managers, scientists, community stakeholders and the public in a transparent and collaborative decision-making process.