

*Human change initiatives must work at social,  
economic, and ecological levels if they are to be  
sustainable*



James Kent Associates, Inc \* Center for Social Ecology & Public Policy, Inc \* Natural Borders, LLC

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Jim Kent

## BP Deepwater Oil rig disaster

As a direct results of the BP Deepwater oil rig disaster in the Gulf of Mexico there will be a tightening of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) across the board on federal lands and for federal permits.

Jim Kent continues to write and speak about the importance of working effectively with informal networks in a community when proposed site and corridor projects impact them. In the recent July/Aug 2010 issue; of the International Right of Way Association journal Jim speaks directly to the NEPA regulation in *"Collaborating under the NEPA Umbrella,"*

[Read complete article](#)

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## Engineering Expo 2010: Learning Community:

How to Manage Issues Before They Manage You

Kevin Preister, Erik Tilkemeier, James Kent Associates, will present at the upcoming EngEx Expo at San Diego Convention Center

Presentation theme: Strategies for Building Project Understanding and Support in Local Communities.

Too often, project managers are surprised by citizen resistance and unable to prevent opposition groups, rumors and misinformation from negatively affecting project approval. Residents often feel frustrated, misled or uninformed about potential energy projects and their effects on community life. Through similar controversies in the oil and gas industry and public land management, methods have been developed to understand early and with intention diverse community interests, and to



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[jimkent.wordpress.com](http://jimkent.wordpress.com)

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incorporate community interests into project communication, design and mitigation. In a host of different settings, we have learned ways to identify and resolve citizen issues in their emerging stage of development, forestalling project disruption, minimizing the effects of NIMBYism, and optimizing the project's social and economic benefits. The science of community reveals the informal systems of caretaking and support by which a community functions. Once a company is tied into this system, ample opportunities emerge for aligning project and community interests. This presentation will review several case studies and present key concepts for understanding how citizen issues affect project development activities. Strategies for building support and dealing with opposition groups will be outlined.

[Read Related Wind Energy Article Engineering Expo 2010](#)

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## Public Policy as Empowerment

For those interested in the science of community, and the application of learning principles in facilitating change initiatives, the following article was published in the newsletter of the Society for Applied Anthropology (SFAA) in May, 2010. Dr. Kevin Preister makes the case that applied anthropology should be focused on the facilitation of beneficial change by working within and through existing cultural systems--everyday people in their survival and caretaking settings, in which social research is a needed component but not the end product."

[Read Complete Article](#)

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## JKA Team completes sweeping social assessment of Eastern Washington State for BLM

Kevin Preister and Trish Malone headed up a JKA team which conducted a social assessment for the Bureau of Land Management's Spokane District Office. Their team engaged in the Discovery Process from the Cascade Mountains east to the Idaho border and included the San Juan Islands. Part of the assignment was to develop a [human geographic maps](#) of the area that depicts how people actually relate to and use their landscapes. The [Human Resource Units](#) identified through this work have become the units for the BLM planning effort. The team identified a widespread trend of citizen-based stewardship in which residents throughout the region are involved in restoration activities on public and private lands. In addition, they discovered a pervasive focus on outdoor recreation development that is coupled with conservation and ecological education, showing in vivid terms that public land uses are an intricate part of the quality of life in these communities. The work revealed ample opportunities for BLM to engage in citizen-based collaboration during development and implementation of the plan.

[Read Complete BLM Report](#)

## [The Zones of Chaos: US Military moving to Guam; what lessons can be learned from past mistakes.](#)

In our last newsletter we told you that Kevin Preister and Jim Kent were headed back to Washington DC to meet with Marine Col. Paul Pond of the *Joint Guam Program Office*. Their objective was to discuss the U.S. Marine relocation from Okinawa to Guam. The topic of discussion was the social and cultural impacts on Guam and how this small island of Guam can absorb the planned influx of 8,000 marines and their families in a manner that enhances the sustainability of the social, cultural and physical environment.

There are two opposing action paths that are important to recognize in what is presently happening in Guam. Path one is intrusion and disruption; and path two is absorption and mutual benefit. The intrusion and disruption path pose a potential disaster for the Marines that will build anger and fuel resistance to their presence. The path of absorption and mutual benefit is the logical one to develop in order to create an environment where the people of Guam and the Marines build capacity to beneficially align their two cultures. The beliefs, traditions, stories and values of each entity are honored in this pathway. *To the degree that the Guam informal cultural systems can be helped to absorb and benefit from the change that the Marine Corps will be creating, is the degree that the Marines will experience unparalleled success.*

[Read Complete Article](#)

## The Heart and Soul of Communities in Eastern Washington

The "heart and soul" of a community are those enduring special places, relationships, practices and traditions by which people in communities sustain themselves and give their lives meaning, the absence of which would diminish the quality of community life. The Spokane District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) asked James Kent Associates to conduct social and cultural descriptions of communities in eastern Washington in preparation for its upcoming land use planning process in 2010.

[Read complete article](#)

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