



Policy Focus, 2010
Summer Field School in Social Ecology and Public Policy

Presented by
Center for Social Ecology and Public Policy and
Southern Oregon University
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**“The Social, Economic and Ecological Dimensions of Sustainability of
Small Diameter Harvest Programs in Southern Oregon”**

The Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative (SOSDC) was begun four years ago by a diverse set of citizens who felt that the political resistance to small diameter harvest could be addressed through simultaneous attention to the social, economic and ecological elements of sustainability. Unique to the nation, the group worked on creating standards for Productive Harmony, a central concept of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), but one which has never been operationalized. With the criteria established for measuring progress toward sustainability, the group is now ready to engage local communities to create citizen ownership of local small diameter harvest projects, promote citizen-based stewardship, and work with residents to optimize the social and economic benefits of such projects.

By systematic application of fieldwork methods, students are in a unique position for “learning communities”—how does the community “work”? What are the informal networks and communication pathways by which residents take care of each other? What are the cultural mechanisms by which things get done? Knowledge derived from the “inside out” in this manner allows students to make a significant contribution to public policy development in natural resource management.