

Needs Assessment Data Interpretation

November 14, 2003

Environmental Needs/Issues Analysis from Gap and Online Survey

- Several “economic” needs are actually environmental in nature
 - Smart growth
 - Involving people/students in exploring wildlife management careers
- Water and land are both cited under “protection” and “educational” needs
- Increasing “public awareness” and “education” are far away the most noted needs regarding water, forests and open space. This incidentally is one of the most difficult types of programs to evaluate (i.e. How do we measure how much “public awareness” has increased?)
- There seems to be recognition that jobs, open space and the environment need to be balanced in some fashion. There is probably a difference of opinion depending upon who responded and where they live of what “balance” is. This may be a good topic for a statewide/regional/national conference hosted by Extension
- Most of the needs identified are not strongly research-based. UNH has major capability in marine/aquatic research that could be used in more definitive issues (i.e. waste water treatment, nutrient loading, well contamination, oil spills, etc.)
- Volunteers could continue playing a significant role in delivering the public awareness and education programs noted as priorities.

Forestry/Natural/Ag Resources Issues Data Compared with Gap and Online Survey Data

- Gap and Online Data
 - Need for farm and forest business management skills
 - Taxation
 - Marketing/Promote local ag and forestry products
 - Competition
 - Increased public awareness
 - preservation of prime ag soil/land
 - open space for rural character and recreation
 - ag and forestry practices such as spraying
 - Maintain or improve land and water quality
 - Environmental stewardship
 - Environmentally safe ag and forestry production practices
 - Safe use of pesticides, fertilizers and manure
- On line survey
 - Preservation of open land
 - Environmental stewardship
 - Land use planning
- Needs Assessment of Vegetable/Fruit Growers
 - Need for technical info for crop production
 - Production practices
 - Pesticide management
 - Fertilizer varieties
 - Need for business management skills

- Taxation
 - Marketing/competition
 - Develop and promote markets for locally grown produce
- Needs Assessment for the Forest Industry
 - Change in land owner attitudes
 - Economic issues related to forest industries
 - Insurance
 - Energy costs
 - Developing markets
 - Labor
 - Regulation
- State/regional Commonalities in County by County Summary Gap Data
- All ten counties - personal household economics needs/issues
- 7 of ten counties (Carroll, Cheshire, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Strafford, Sullivan) – land use and sustainability needs/issues
- 5 of ten counties (Belknap, Cheshire, Coos, Rockingham, Sullivan) – youth needs/issues
- 4 of ten counties (Belknap, Cheshire, Coos, Hillsborough) – citizen participation and leadership
- 2 of ten counties (Rockingham, Sullivan) – taxes

Regional commonalities could foster regional programming

Kids Count Report Data Relationship to Gap Data

- The issue of poverty and characteristics of people who fit in that subset and how it relates to housing should be examined more closely (the Bartlett Center may have data)
- Increase in income relates to increase in hours worked which hampers non work time activities
- The per student investment does not correlate with student perform on tests so there is a need to look at teach quality and other factors
- There is a wider disparity in adult education in rich versus poor communities and

Interdisciplinary Program Opportunities from Gap and Online Survey Data

- Leadership development (developing leaders to deal with citizen's problems)
- Employment opportunities (youth and adults aware of job opportunities through our work)
- Quality health care/lifestyle education/healthy lifestyle choices
- Communication (citizen boards, passing down family farm/forest, between people)

Strengthening families didn't hold a high ranking in the data

Review of Data Related to Population Growth

- Growth indicators (variety of sources)
 - NH lost ranking as healthiest state in nation to #3
 - Increased traffic crashes
 - Population growing faster than elsewhere in the nation
 - Large increase in home sale prices
 - NH total construction index highest in the nation
- Community profiles
 - planning and preservation of natural resource issues not noted in the North Country but in the south to protect from over development
 - planning is a top issue in the central area but not preservation of natural resources
- Northeast Regional Land Use Planning Conference (Northeast Regional Rural Development Center)
 - local decision maker education
 - multi municipality planning
 - community capacity building
 - understanding land use tools
 - looking at land use impacts
 - protecting and enhancing community quality of life
 - ag economic development and preservation