

While the main focus of influencing management decisions has been on interpreting raw scientific data, there are many other factors that influence decision making. Specifically there needs to be a balance between the ecology, economics, and equity in modern environmental decision making. My interests are in examining how modern decision support tools are addressing these issues.

Specific interests for this workshop include:

**1) Integration and utilization of Open Source tools in management and policy -**  
Incorporating this technology has social, economic, and technical benefits in direct relation to supporting decision making.

**2) Removing the GIS/Modeling analyst when workflows become repetitive -**  
Analysis supporting decision making tends to be a repetitive and iterative process. Focusing on integrated tool sets that allow for decision makers to run analysis in a simplified environment can provide greater sense of ownership and participation by managers, while reducing cost and burden to analytical organizations.

**3) Use of the web for tool deployment -**  
The web has rapidly become the medium of choice, but many historical and best practice tools have not found their way toward utilization on the web. How to migrate tools and what tools are suited for this environment? Can web based tool kits begin to break down the barrier of equitable distribution of knowledge and decision making capability?

Aaron Racicot – Ecotrust  
aaronr@ecotrust.org