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**The Social Indicator Planning and Evaluation System (SIPES) for NPS Management: Applications in the Great Lakes Region**

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**Abstract:**

State Nonpoint Source (NPS) programs in the Great Lakes Region (USEPA Region 5) have been working collectively for several years to incorporate social indicators into NPS project planning and evaluation. Social indicators provide information about the social context, capacity, awareness, attitudes, and behaviors of individuals, households, organizations, and communities. Applied to NPS issues, they can help project staff identify appropriate combinations of technical, financial, and educational assistance for those making land management decisions that influence water quality. They can also provide consistent measures of change across projects, states, and regions.

A Great Lakes Regional project team consisting of university researchers and staff from state environmental agencies and USEPA (and convened through the CSREES Great Lakes Regional Water Quality Program), has developed the Social Indicator Planning and Evaluation System (SIPES) to support social indicator use. SIPES includes a set of core indicators and related processes for collecting, analyzing, and using indicator data. SIPES helps focus project planning and enables projects to measure social change due to NPS management efforts. The system is being applied to projects across the Great Lakes region during a multi-year pilot-testing phase to assess the indicators, the effectiveness of alternative methods for their collection, and the overall usability and utility of SIPES for NPS projects and state programs.

**Impact Statement:**

This poster will describe the system, the social indicators, collection methods, and how NPS projects are using initial results.

Category: Human Dimensions

Type of Presentation: Poster Presentation