

A Color-Blind Pirate Asks, “Do RRR’s Make Gray and Green Turn Blue?”

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Researchers and managers often do “R” projects when attempting to change conditions in natural and socioeconomic systems. Outputs from restoration, remediation, redevelopment, rehabilitation, reinvestment, and reuse, etc (hence, “R”) projects vary by application but have only a single outcome of improving human well-being (think “blue”). Classifying some R activities as “green” (i.e., habitat restoration) and others as “gray” (i.e., brownfield redevelopment) constrain our ability to account for all actual and potential environmental, social, and economic benefits. Mutually accepted metrics and indicators linking outputs of green and gray R outputs to human well-being can only come from collaborations between the diverse practitioners of natural and social sciences. We will use port operations, brownfield redevelopment, and delisting of the beneficial use impairments in the St. Louis River estuary to illustrate the challenges and potential benefits of incorporating a multi-R approach.

Impact statement: This work contributes to the science needed to quantify changes in environmental conditions of EPA-designated Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes in response to restoration and remediation investments.

This work contributes to the products and outputs of SHCRP Task 2.1.4.4 for FY13.

This will be an oral presentation at the 2013 St. Louis River Estuary Summit, Feb 26-27, 2013

For more information go to: <http://lsnerr.uwex.edu/slrss/main.html>