Introduction

- Land management practices can vary by stakeholder (DeVries & Vob, 2018).
- Previous study by Mehl et al., (2018) determined land use and land cover (LULC) of tribal lands retained more native vegetation than adjacent non-tribally-owned lands.
- The objective of this study is to better understand cultural drivers of land management choices for Indigenous communities.
- We hypothesized that respondents would value native land cover (forests and grasslands) and ecosystem services supported by native land cover (healthy streams, fish) over individual economic benefits.

Study Area

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Jackson County, Kansas, United States.

- The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPN) is an Indigenous band of a historically larger tribe that was relocated from ancestral homelands of Great Lakes region following the Indian Removal Act of 1830.
- PBPN maintained communal land occupation, despite pressure by government to individual land ownership.
- Reservation territory was reduced and land was fractionated during Allotment Era (1887-1934), resulting today in “checkerboard” style reservation intermixed with non-tribally owned lands.

Methods

Questionnaire

- Questionnaire was developed and distributed to community members on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation via local community events, workshops, and individual contact.
- Designed to determine what features are valued by participants on local landscapes, how they use local streams, and what environmental issues they perceive to be affecting them.
- Responses (n=76) were coded and analyzed with Google Fusion Tables.
- Derived the frequency of patterns of participant responses.

Newsletter Analysis

- Qualitative analysis of community newsletters (Rez Recycler) was conducted via coding.
- Quarterly issues published between 2008-2014 (N=28) were initially open coded and assessed for themes.
- Themes were analyzed in Google Fusion Tables for frequency.
- Newsletters themes were compared against results from questionnaires.

Results

- Results from both the questionnaires and the newsletter analysis supported the hypothesis.
- A synthesis of recurring codes between questionnaire responses and the newsletters resulted in the following overarching themes:
  - stream condition
  - fish and fishing
  - culture and community
  - riparian knowledge
  - restoration and education

Discussion

- The primary themes to emerge from this analysis (stream condition, fish and fishing, culture and community, riparian knowledge, and restoration and education) reinforced the cultural importance of healthy streams and aquatic populations.
- Awareness of community values can assist federal and state land managers with collaborative planning efforts.
- Support tribal self-determination and sovereignty.

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