

Regulatory and Litigation Support

Our president began her legal sector career in 1982. For nearly a decade her litigation support work spanned from personal injury, to products liability for a multi-national fluid systems handling firm in Minneapolis, to OSHA compliance, to hazardous materials cases. By the late 1980s, Dr. Gustanski had worked with The Office of the Minnesota Attorney General and later with the law firm of O'Connor & Hannan where her caseload covered a range of environmental, land use, personal injury, property damage, and institutional liability cases.

Today, with practical experience in law, economics, land use planning and resource management, Resource Dimensions offers our clients a unique mix of support capabilities including issue identification, data analysis, and preparation of legal support documentation. For over two decades we have provided regulatory and litigation support on a variety of complex cases addressing a range of economic and socioeconomic impacts of various land use, resource management policies, zoning, and environmental and natural resource damages.

Resource Dimensions' work with governments, tribes, private businesses and non-profit organizations on policy and legal issues have helped to shape direction on some of the greatest questions facing our world today, including:

- ▶ Renewable energy explorations
- ▶ Pollution control and emissions standards
- ▶ Water allocation and rights
- ▶ Resource management and habitat conservation
- ▶ Sustainability planning and community economic development
- ▶ Conservation easement programs and enabling legislation
- ▶ Agricultural land preservation program development and funding
- ▶ Parks and recreation resources, and other public services
- ▶ Education, public health, social and environmental justice

We have supported clients in securing favorable judgments and awards ranging from \$40,000 to \$600,000,000.



Resource Dimensions, LLC

Natural Resources · Economic Analyses · Sustainability Planning · Land Use · Policy Analysis · Regulatory & Litigation Support

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Selected Projects



Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Management Plan. *Los Alamos National Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy.* The relative isolation and undisturbed natural setting of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) makes it ideal for defense-related missions. These factors, combined with limited public access, have resulted in the preservation of habitat that can sustain a number of federal and state protected species. Working for the University of California, Resource Dimensions led the team that created a science-based plan to protect these species and better comply with the Endangered Species Act while minimizing adverse impacts to the Department of Energy's mission and operations. This resulted in significant cost savings due to a significant reduction of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service consultations, and expedited responsible future development and construction project approval. As part of the Habitat Management Plan, activities in designated areas of LANL are subject to annual or seasonal restrictions.

Proposed Critical Habitat Designation for Cook Inlet Beluga whale: Economic Impact Analysis. *Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.* Resource Dimensions used two alternative scenarios to estimate the impacts of critical habitat designation (CHD) for the Cook Inlet Beluga whale on economic activity in Cook Inlet, Alaska. The analysis considered impacts on five key industries (oil and gas, mining, shipping, commercial fishing, and sportfishing). The change in economic output between the scenarios yielded an estimation of the economic impacts associated with CHD. Background economic data was solicited from the State of Alaska, private industry, municipalities, non-profit organizations and a cross-section of RDC members about likely costs to operations and services attributable to CHD. To capture the potential range of impacts, team members estimated the potential economic loss using a 1%, 5% or 10% loss in production. These monetized impacts did not include any economic impacts that may occur if projects are abandoned because of CHD restrictions.

Policy Review and Expert Witness Testimony. *Columbia River Treaty Tribes.* Appeals to the Washington State Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) on behalf of the Columbia River Treaty Tribes. Resource Dimensions reviewed and provided consultation services and expert testimony on the Appeal challenging the issuance of certain water rights for additional withdrawals of water from the Columbia River. The team also estimated the economic impacts and projected the economic value of indirect benefits related to water rights into the future. The PCHB ruled in favor of the client on the matter.

Economic Impacts and Mitigation Fund Analysis. *Columbia River Treaty Tribes.* Resource Dimensions conducted an economic analysis to estimate an appropriate mitigation value relative to issuance of new and/or conversion of water rights resulting in additional withdrawals from the Columbia River. The team also evaluated the amount of mitigation that could be purchased at the State-proposed mitigation rate of \$10 PAF over 'x' time periods. Study results were used to support PCHB-mandated negotiations between the State and tribal governments.



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