



Episode 1 Takeaways _ Elizabeth Schuster

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Okay, so we might have geeked out a little bit on this episode. But for those of you that do know me, personally, I am a social scientist, I went to Colorado State University, and I got my master's degree in a field called human dimensions of natural resources, a very fancy way of saying, applying social sciences to some of our environmental challenges that we're facing today. And I love being in the space, and there's so much that I can bring to the world through this space. But at the same time, there's a lot that I don't understand, and I don't know. And a lot of that is on the side of being an economist, I am not an economist, I am not an environmental economist, there are things that I simply can't do, because I wasn't trained to do that. My good friend, Elizabeth Schuster, who you heard in during this particular episode, she talks a lot about the differences between environmental social scientists like myself, and environmental economists. And the discussion and the debate really isn't between us, it really is between our employers, and for those who are seeking out the type of expertise that we bring to the table. And you know, if I'm going to be quite honest, I'm just going to be, you know, neutral about this. Well, you need to find that expertise, just bring in both, it's so much easier to have a social scientist and an economist on your staff. They bring so much to any particular project. And it's hard to really differentiate which one is going to do what for you, because you're not an expert in either one of those things. So how could you possibly know what these folks have to offer? But I can tell you now that if you're really looking at trying to engage communities understand them better, and to lead to a path where you know, you're trying to get to adoption, or changing hearts and minds, having an economist and a social scientist on staff is definitely not a bad idea. At the very least, there's plenty of folks out there who are more than willing to contract with you, if you aren't ready yet to invest fully in hiring staff that can give you that expertise in house. So I just want to give a shout out to my friend, Elizabeth Schuster. I know she's doing amazing work in Ohio and beyond. And I want her to have continued success. This is a emerging field. It has been emerging for quite some time. But I

think people are starting to understand the importance of what social science can bring to conservation projects, as well as what they can bring to communities where we think about growth and development. It isn't just about nature needs to take over and development can't happen. I mean, that is exactly what got us to where we are today when folks aren't talking to each other and aren't engaging. So I hope you do have a chance to find out more about environmental economics and social science. It is an amazing field. Anyways, hope you're having a great day. Talk to you soon. Bye.