

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

David E. Ervin, Ph.D.

Professor of Environmental Studies and Coordinator of Academic Sustainability Programs

Portland State University

PO Box 751

Portland, OR 97207

503-725-3935

Summary of Research

Professor Ervin's research program examines environmental management issues in the pursuit of sustainable development. Three projects are underway. The first, an award by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will survey Oregon businesses to identify the factors that increase firms' adoption of progressive environmental management systems. It is a collaborative effort of PSU with Oregon State University and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. The second is a national study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture project to understand how university-industry relationships influence academic scientists' agricultural, forestry and aquacultural biotechnology discoveries that may provide improved environmental quality. This multidisciplinary effort is a collaboration of PSU with scientists at Oregon State University, U.C. Davis, Clarkson University, and Washington State University. The third is an ongoing project with the Mt. Hood National Forest to develop sustainability indicators to assist forest management.

Potential for Commercialization and Job Creation

These research projects are not intended to commercialize innovations or start new companies. However, the findings of the USDA project will shed new insights on the potential for university-industry research relationships to influence the nature of scientists' innovations and start-up companies in agricultural biotechnology, and therefore the nature of public benefits from those activities.

Total Research Funding

Dr. Ervin has received funding for the following research projects: "Public Goods and University-Industry Relationships in Agricultural Biotechnology" U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 2001-2005, \$2,100,000 (Project Director and Co-Principal Investigator); "Oregon Business Decisions for Environmental Performance." U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2003-2006, \$251,000 (Project Director and Co-Principal Investigator); and "Sustainability Indicators for the Mt. Hood National Forest," U.S. Forest Service, 2001-2004, \$20,000 per year (Co-Principal Investigator).

Student Involvement

The USDA project employs a full time research assistant and full time research associate. The US EPA project has a graduate research assistant, Cody Jones, who is completing her MS degree in environmental science.

Website

USDA project: <http://www.agri-biotech.pdx.edu/>

EPA project: <http://obep.research.pdx.edu/>