



Environmental Justice Grant Questionnaire

About Mountain Studies Institute (MSI)

Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) is a center for research, education, and outreach in the San Juan Mountain Region. MSI works with regional stakeholders (i.e. residents, managers, citizens, and local government) to identify information needs, direct and facilitate academic study and interdisciplinary research, and apply planning, training, and outreach activities to fill identified gaps in knowledge and information.

The Project

In 2008 MSI applied for a grant with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 to address information needs in the Four Corners area related to air quality and the health effects of poor air quality. The project is titled "Collaborative Learning and Planning: Public Health Protection for Ozone and Mercury in Rural Colorado-New Mexico". Overall, the project involves ensuring that the public gets accurate, timely information about air quality in the region with which it can make day to day decisions.

What is Environmental Justice?

The project includes an environmental justice component. The EPA has defined environmental justice as ". . . the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." Often this is interpreted as the protection of "where we live, work, and play" no matter who "we" are. Protection of the environment includes preventing the relocation of pollution sources from high profile, affluent areas, and concentrating them in areas that may not have resources to resist development, even if it primarily benefits communities outside of the operating area.

The purpose of the Questionnaire

In order to effectively use the grant money and assess the success of the program, MSI has committed to conducting surveys before and after the initiation of its grant funded activities. Surveys conducted before implementation will help direct the activities of the grant. Surveys conducted after the implementation will help determine the success of the activities.

Section I asks for your contact information. We understand that not everyone wants to include their name and contact information. Inclusion of that information allows us to compare pre and post surveys and more accurately assess the project's success. It is up to you whether or not you include your contact information. Your personal information will not be shared.

Section II asks about gender, age, ethnicity, and education. Not everyone will feel comfortable filling out this section, however, answering the questions will allow us to ensure that we are surveying an accurate cross-section of the community

Section III asks for your impressions of air quality in the Four Corners Region, your understanding of the effects of air pollution, and your knowledge of who regulates air quality.

Your input is valuable and MSI appreciates you taking the time to fill out this questionnaire. If you have any questions you can contact Aaron Kimple, Project Manager, kimple_a@fortlewis.edu.