

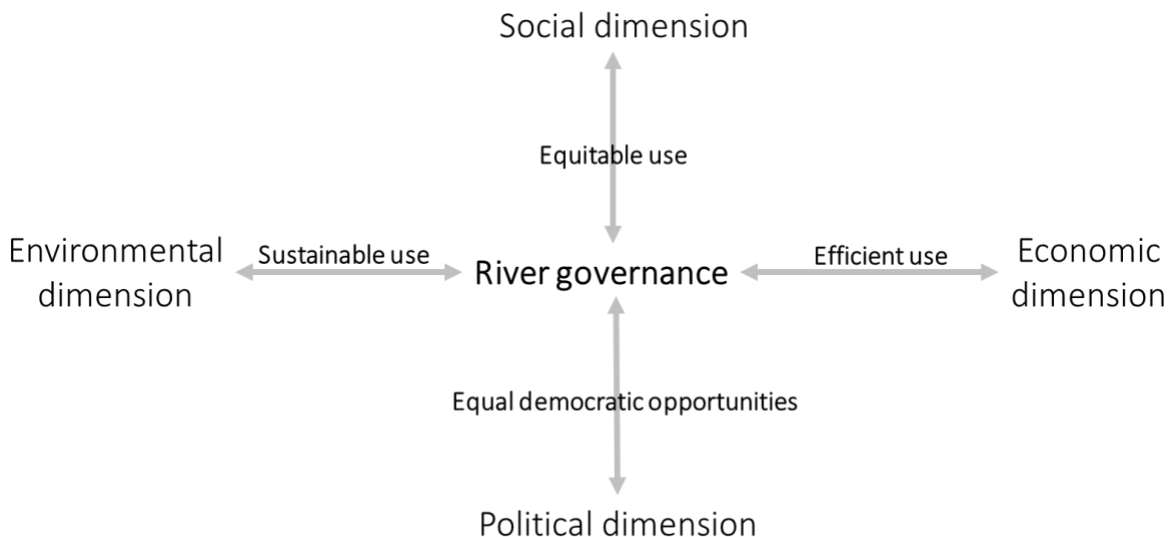
Resident

You are worried about flood impacts from the river that borders your property. While you have considered building a levee and placing stones along the bank to protect you land and house from erosion, you do not have the equipment or expertise to do so. Additionally, you have seen water velocity in the river increase because the farmer upstream has channeled the river. You blame the farmer for putting your land and house at greater flood risk. You think that upstream land should be allowed to flood to slow water velocity and absorb floodwaters; this would protect you and your neighbors from future floods.



"There needs to be that level playing field so that people upstream and downstream can have input into what a given farmer does. If we're talking about river systems, that's a public trust resource! The farmer doesn't own the stream; it's the state that holds them in trust for everyone. Farmers shouldn't be able to do things for their own direct benefit that is going to compromise other citizens."

River Governance Framework



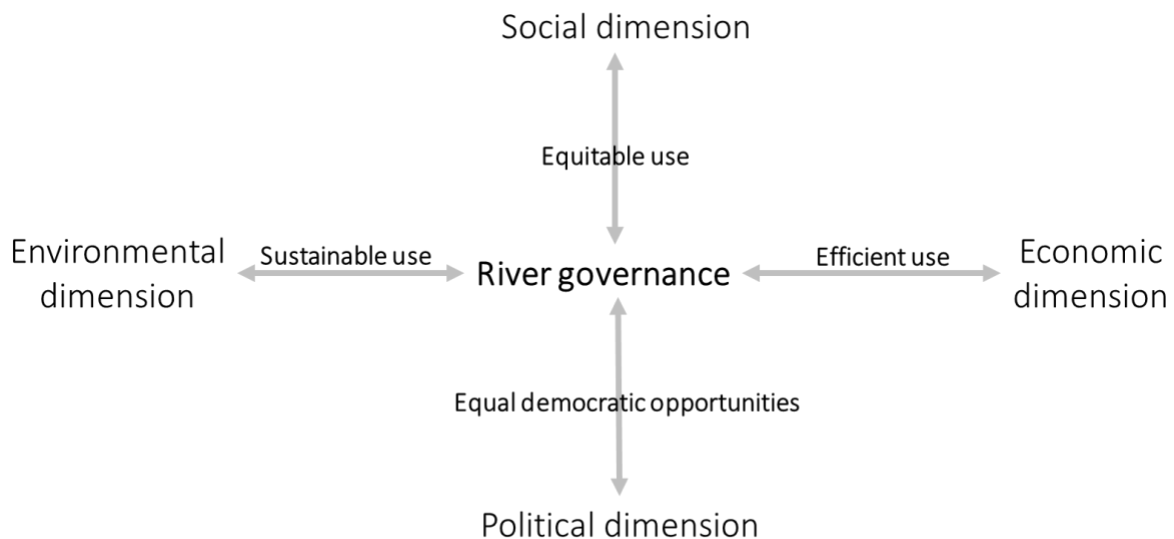
Environmentalist

You have dedicated your life to protecting wild places across New England. You have recently joined with fishers in advocating for the protection of rivers in Western Massachusetts and Vermont. You advocate for a buy-out program in which the states allocate money to purchase all land along certain rivers to remove people and human activities. You see any manipulation of the river as uncalled for.



"What I would like to see is environmental regulation that deals with a couple of things. One, the preservation of undeveloped land near rivers, and the second is to prevent farmers from using land that is very susceptible to flooding. This is for the best interest of the environment and hopefully for the best interest of the farmers."

River Governance Framework

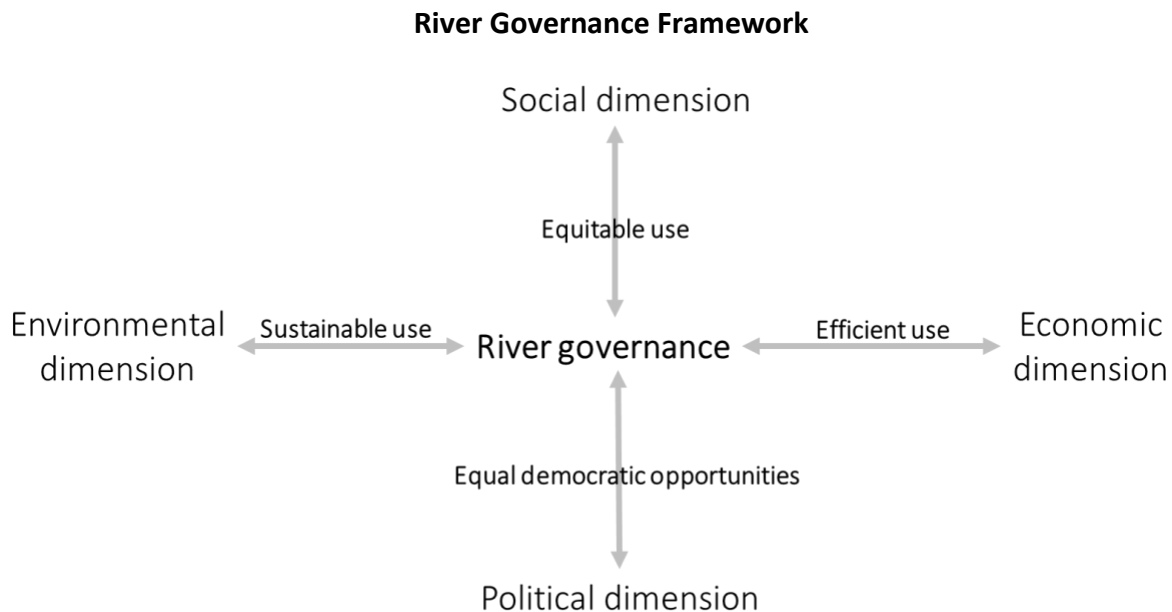


State river manager

You are a Massachusetts river manager, and your goal is to promote mixed-use management of rivers. You are to ensure that any new management scheme is both environmentally and socially conscious. Your responsibility is to facilitate and to ensure that all members of the group are able to share their ideas and contribute to the development of a new plan. Ultimately, you must ensure that any proposed plan includes all elements of the sustainable governance framework provided in the case study.



"Flooding is a part of the natural world and the best thing we can do is to not make a problem for ourselves in the future, and not develop or build in flood prone areas. So, don't put your barn right along the river because the land was really cheap, or because it was really pretty, or whatever. Don't put permanent structural things in harm's way, cause you're gonna lose them. But maybe you can farm in a floodplain, as long as you accept the risk that your field may be flooded. What we need to do is strike a balance between flooding and farming."



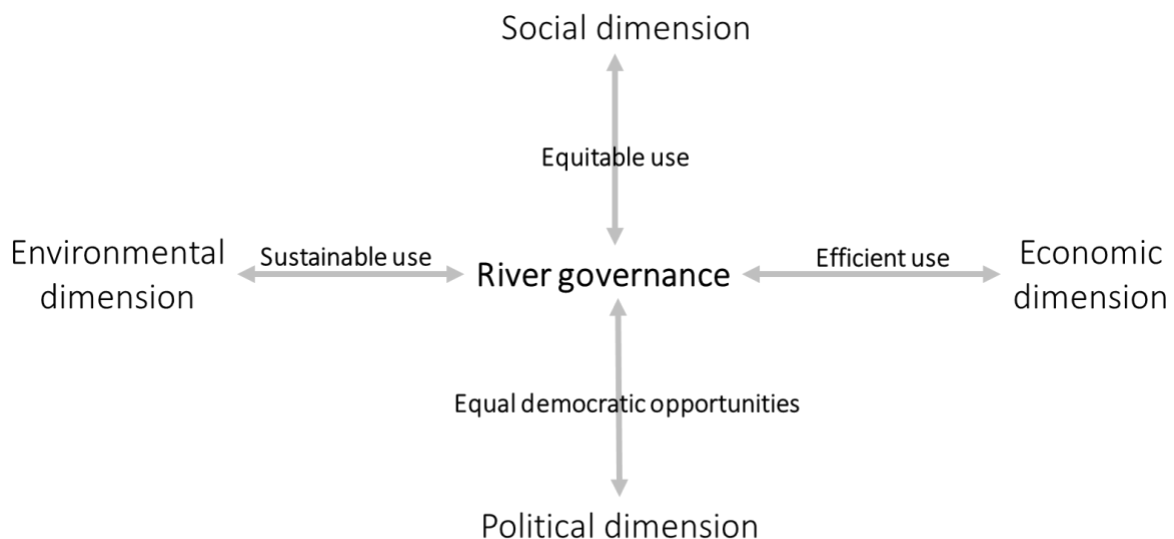
Recreationalist/fisher

You have fly-fished trout in Western Massachusetts and Southern Vermont for most of your adult life. You consider it more than a hobby as you describe it as a lifestyle. Recently, you have noticed that the number fish in local rivers are decreasing because trout habitat—which is essentially wild, unaltered stretches of river—is being reduced. This reduction is being caused as people who live and work along the river try to protect themselves from floods by building levees, shoring up riverbanks with rocks, or dredging the rivers to make more space for water. You side with the Environmentalist in that the solution would be to move all people and human activities away from rivers. But, you must work with those people in your group to develop a plan to meet all your river management needs.



"Farmers destroy rivers. They dredge rivers, and that destroys all the fish habitat. The state should restrict farmers from using land near rivers."

River Governance Framework



Farmer



You farm 40 acres of vegetable fields in northwest Massachusetts. Your family has farmed this land for six generations. Very recently, you have experienced major losses of farmland and topsoil due to flooding of the river that runs through your property. In the past you have used your tractor to dredge the river and have placed large stones along its banks to reduce erosion. While this protects your field, it also increases the velocity of the water. This is a problem because you are directly upstream of a small town. You must work with residents, fishers, and other stakeholders to develop a management plan that may meet your needs and the needs of the other stakeholders.

SRiver Governance Framework

