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Eidem

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Evaluating the Effectiveness of Participatory Groundwater Management

**Nathan Eidem
Graduate Student
Department of Geography
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
(618)457-5808
neidem@siu.edu**

Around the world, groundwater resources are becoming increasingly utilized as human populations multiply. Groundwater managers are faced with problems of over-drafting and pollution. The participatory approach to water resources management is becoming popular in many places. The objective of this research is to develop a framework for evaluating the effectiveness of participatory groundwater management. The framework will be based on ideas from available literature and information provided by stakeholders through interviews and questionnaires. Nebraska has a unique participatory approach to groundwater management, and will be the focal point in developing this framework. The outcomes of this research will be an evaluation tool for Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts and a methodology for developing evaluation frameworks for other participatory groundwater management programs.