Ultra-Ex questions addressed:

Research question 1:
How do differences in local and state levels of governance and policy affect the resilience of both social and ecological landscapes?

Research question 3:
How effectively do the processes and outcomes of monitoring ecosystem services provide a usable feedback loop in urban socio-ecological systems?
Methods

- 17 interviews:
  - 9 Vancouver & Clark County
  - 8 Portland & Metro
- ~1 hour/each, ~15 pages of transcript (single spaced)
- Coding transcripts for themes related to research questions

8 questions
1. Please summarize your job for us. What is the scope of your work? How long have you been in this position? What previous work or academic training prepared you for this work?
2. What are some of the most important city (or county) policies, programs, plans related to water management?
3. In what ways are these policies, programs or plans implemented? For example, what sort of regulations, incentive programs, or citizen participation mechanisms have been used?
4. How would you characterize the city or county’s overall programmatic or strategic approach to water management?
5. How did this approach evolve – are there some particular historical events that stand out? Why and how have key policies changed or been adapted over time?
6. How (if at all) have governance structures changed or been adapted? That is to say, how have personnel and organizations responsible for the policies changed over time?
7. What types of technical information come into policy or management decisions?
8. What kinds of input come from non-technical sources?
Preliminary Results

- On the Washington side, major influences on the use of scientific information in decision-making include limited decision-maker knowledge and shifting political priorities.
- WA jurisdictions appear more driven by external (state/federal) mandates.
- On the OR side, the complexity of issues and challenges of institutional coordination were emphasized.
- The tighter Oregon state land use law facilitated the establishment of a more stable political regime.
- Related to the use of biophysical information in policymaking, major episodic events (e.g. 1996 floods) cited more often than regular monitoring reports.