Both approaches intend to enhance the health and well-being of ourselves, our communities, our ecosystems, and our economies, but they go about it in different ways - based on different priorities.

**Socio-Ecological First**

**Core Belief:** We are intimately connected to and a part of our ecosystem (i.e. socio-ecosystem).

**Emphasis on:**
- Balancing & Enhancing Human-Ecosystem Interactions and Ecosystem Dynamics
- Resilient Abundant Economies rest on this Resilient Socio-Ecological foundation

**Resilient Abundance here means:**
- Healthy human communities
- Diverse and abundant economic opportunities
- Diverse and frequent ways people interact with the ecosystem
- Diverse and plentiful reproducing animal and plant populations; plentiful high quality air and water; thriving mycorrhizal networks; etc.

**Socio-Economic First**

**Core Belief:** Humans are separate from the natural world. Natural resources are here for us to use.

**Emphasis on:**
- Economic/Financial Growth as the root of prosperity, happiness, & health.

**Resilient Abundance here means:**
- Healthy human communities
- Diverse and abundant economic opportunities
- Higher profit margins
- Increased GDP
- More jobs
Socio-Ecological First
What does this look like?

- **Socio-ecological-economic integration:** Many work in natural resources-related fields because of the complexity of ecosystem management.
  - e.g. ecosystem stewardship (thinning, burning, herd management)
- Frequent, regular monitoring of (and interaction with) ecosystem and species
- Alignment of ecological and economic benefits
- **Indigenous Stewardship ethic:** Resources (e.g. fruits, nuts, meat, fish, fuel, fibers) are not harvested for trade unless:
  1) Their habitat has been managed such that they are thriving & reproducing.
  2) The local animal and human populations have had their share.

Socio-Economic First
What does this look like?

- Many work in entirely socio-economic fields (i.e. finance, business, accounting, law, policy, IT, etc.), and live with minimal interaction with the outdoors.
- Disconnection between economic and ecological benefits sets up perverse incentives which lead to...
- Natural resources used in an exploitative manner (e.g. overharvesting).

Photo Credit: Stormy Staats (Klamath-Salmon Media Collaborative), Erdenebayer Bayasan, David Mark and Pierre Di Maurio (Pixabay)
Socio-Ecological First
What does this lead to?

- **Interconnection** between social, ecological, and economic factors results in:
  - Strong feedback loops between humans and the ecosystems upon which they depend and are a part
  - This results in:
    - Quicker identification of ecological problems (e.g. species in decline, pest/disease outbreaks, negative impacts of management actions)
    - More complete ecosystem understanding and thus, more appropriate systemic solutions
    - Increasing and increasing interconnection that leads to resilient abundance

Socio-Economic First
What does this lead to?

- **Separation** between socio-economic gain and ecological impacts leads to negative externalities such as:
  - pollution,
  - erosion,
  - species extinctions,
  - increased risk of pest/disease/high severity fire
  - boom and bust cycles (due to disconnection between ecosystem and human system: supply & demand)

- These are often addressed with technological fixes rather than systemic solutions, and thus, do not result in long-lasting resilience (“whack-a-mole effect”).

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**Karuk Cultural Teaching:**
"Before harvesting anything, manage habitat for it to survive, thrive, and reproduce."