

Collaborative Restoration Workshop

National Forest Foundation | April 2016

Planning | Large Landscape & Regional Planning

Key Topics: Cross-Boundary Partnership

Speakers

- **William C. Aney**, Eastside Restoration Coordinator, Region 6, U.S. Forest Service, Blue Mountain Restoration Strategy
- **Genevieve Johnson**, Coordinator, Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- **Jim Capurso**, Regional Fisheries Biologist, Region 5, U.S. Forest Service, Salmon Super Highway

Overview

This session focused on strategies, opportunities, constraints and complexities of planning at the landscape scale.

William C. (Bill) Aney – Eastside Restoration Strategy

Recognizing the current trends in forest growth, wildfire effects, and climate change in eastern Oregon and Washington, the Pacific Northwest Region of the USFS chartered the Eastside Restoration Strategy in 2013. The strategy includes the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) project, Cohesive Wildfire Strategy projects, coordination with states, shared learning, and the Blue Mountains Restoration Strategy (BMRS).

The Eastside Restoration Strategy is a response to the fact that the pace of needed restoration has not been keeping up with the need. Planning has been the greatest constraint due to the lack of “shelf stock” (projects ready for implementation due to the completion of environmental analysis). The Region established a dedicated interdisciplinary team to focus for three years on vegetation management. The team will build partnerships, complete planning at a large scale, and design projects that can gain broad support.

Challenges/Opportunities

- Changing the way the Forest Service operates
- Changing the approach to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis
- Learning best practices for large landscape-scale planning
- Learning best practices for working across forests, districts and collaborative groups
- Embracing the risks of experimentation
- Changing expectations internally and externally
- Effectively communicating about innovations, opportunities, and what is possible

Genevieve Johnson – Planning for Restoration at the Landscape Scale: Desert LCC Case Study

Resource managers concerned with conservation of natural and cultural resources are faced with increasing management challenges such as land-use conversion, sensitive species protection, invasive species, water scarcity, and a range of other complex issues — all of which are amplified by climate change. In response, the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) is working to define priority resources and associated conservation goals, objectives, and targets that are of interest to multiple partners and to collectively identify solutions that can help manage change on the landscape.



Explore more: nationalforests.org/crw

Lessons

- At the landscape scale, it is helpful to have programmatic NEPA that can be applied at the watershed or project level.
- Link project-level impact to the landscape level to show broader context of work.
- When working together, partners need to respect each other's priorities. Start with "what are your priorities," identify commonalities, and build trust from there.
- Need dedicated infrastructure and support for people to focus their time in LCCs.
- It is people, not institutions, that matter - find connectors and a shared focus.
- Repeatable, applicable practices lead to success.
- Very important to talk about decision space openly – be clear about when the group is providing *input* versus when the group is *collaborating*.
- *Time* is needed to move from talking to decisions and implementation.
- Not every project is a collaborative one.

Jim Capurso – Salmon SuperHighway: Fish, Habitat, and Community Connections at a Landscape Scale

The Salmon SuperHighway (SSH) partnership was formed to prioritize fish passage at multiple scales, concentrate restoration resources, and develop and use a passage barrier database to prioritize where fish passage restoration would have the greatest impact on the landscape and in benefitting salmon. Program managers from several federal and state agencies and stakeholder partners gathered to apply these concepts to a common priority subbasin in the Pacific Northwest, the Tillamook and Nestucca River Drainages of the Oregon Coast. They identified important criteria for selecting drainages: high quality habitat, fish species diversity, landownership mix, and an existing active restoration partnership community. Using the APASS model, the SSH partnership identified that out of 270 anthropogenic barriers, treatment of 63 barriers would return access to 95% of the blocked fish habitat. Considered a demonstration project, the SSH includes implementation, validation and effectiveness monitoring to facilitate learning and future application elsewhere. The SSH places a special emphasis on the human dimension of the watersheds with coordination at all levels of the partnership, facilitating ownership from key community members, and enhancing fundraising and marketing capabilities.

Lessons

- Need to work at all scales to benefit salmon: project, stream, watershed, basin – the SSH developed a passage "portfolio" that sets priorities at a landscape scale, which is tied to measurable biological outcomes at the population level.
- Need to be problem-solving and exchanging data at multiple scales.
- This is not only about science. The human dimension and connecting stakeholders is an important investment of time and effort.

Resources

- [Eastside Restoration Strategy](#)
- [Desert LCC Conservation Planning Atlas](#)
- [Salmon SuperHighway](#)

