Monitoring Collaborative Forest Restoration in the Southwestern Crown of the Continent

Cory Davis
University of Montana
College of Forestry and Conservation
Monitoring Coordinator
Southwestern Crown of the Continent CFLRP
Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative
www.swcrown.org

1.5 million acres

3 Forest Service Districts:
- Swan Lake District, Flathead NF
- Seeley Lake District, Lolo NF
- Lincoln District, Helena NF

10% CFLRP funds for monitoring
Multiparty Monitoring Committee

Forest Service specialists
  • District, Forest, Region
  • Rocky Mtn Research Station

UM faculty
  • College of Forestry and Conservation
  • Bureau of Business and Economic Research

Non-profit specialists
  • The Wilderness Society
  • Northwest Connections
  • Clearwater Resource Council
  • Blackfoot Challenge
  • Swan Ecosystem Center
  • Ecosystem Management Research Institute
Socioeconomics Monitoring Projects

- Contract capture
- Jobs modeling (TREAT)
- Fire manager surveys
- Fire costs modeling (R-CAT)
- Social attitudes survey
  - OMB process
  - Other collaboratives can use
  - Topics:
    - Treatment effectiveness
    - Participation
    - Trust
    - Preferences
Vegetation/Fuels Monitoring Projects

- Herbicide treatment monitoring
- Road decommissioning vegetation/soils
- Whitebark pine monitoring
- Fuels and old growth monitoring
- Fire modeling
Aquatics Monitoring Projects

- GRAIP (road sediment)
- PIBO (in-stream processes)
- Nutrients
- Trout genetics
Wildlife Monitoring Projects

- Wildlife habitat suitability models
- Carnivore monitoring
Citizen Science

- Kresge grant from Crown Roundtable
- Climate Change focus
- Local schools and non-profits
  - Permanent sites
  - Curriculum
- Stream monitoring
- Vegetation monitoring
  - Rapid Forest Assessment*

Challenges of Multi-Party Monitoring

- Differing levels of expertise/knowledge
- Differing approaches
- Data management issues
- Subgroup structure → Integration
- Slow pace of treatment implementation
- Getting info to right people
Annual Adaptive Management Workshop

- Share progress of monitoring projects
  - Successes and challenges encountered
- What do results mean for managers?
  - Should we change our treatments?
  - How will resource specialists incorporate info?
- Should monitoring be altered to make it more useful?
  - Are we monitoring at the right scale?
  - Are we being multi-party?

Next: March 24-25, 2015
Lubrecht Experimental Forest
Lessons Learned

• Identify adequate, consistent funding
• Think before you leap
• Partnership agreements
  • “stash” money for future years
• Be open-minded, innovative
• Don’t try and do too much!
Questions?