

# SCIENCE FORUM ON SOCIO- ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH NEEDS IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

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Purpose, Agenda, Expectations



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Blue Mts. Science Forum, 5 March 2015, Portland, OR



# Objectives

- Introduce attendees to MtnSEON and its objectives.
- Review outcomes of 2 stakeholder forums - La Grande and Portland – that identified high priority topics for socio-ecological research in the Blues.
- Foster interactions of scientists to understand interest and expertise in natural resource issues in the Blue Mountains.



# Objectives

- Learn about existing long-term data sets from the Starkey Project and larger Blue Mts. Ecoregion that can be used in developing new research proposals.
- Identify up to 3 or 4 research themes; create self-organizing groups to move forward with proposal ideas, set timelines, and designate a leader.
- Create network of researchers and managers to remain engaged and share information about SES work in the Blue Mountains.

# Objectives

- **Explicitly integrate social science with ecological studies in a systems approach for new, management-driven research in the Blue Mountains.**



# Day 1 agenda

- ❖ Provide overview of MtnSEON, incl. Blue Mtns. Working Group and National SES Observatory Network
- ❖ Describe long-term data sets available from Starkey Project and Blue Mountains ecoregion
- ❖ Review past and ongoing SES research in the Blues
- ❖ Report results from 2 stakeholder meetings

## Day 1 agenda, cont.

- ❖ Scientist roundtable to describe current research interests/expertise
- ❖ Learn about potential grant/funding opportunities for the Blue Mtns. working group
- ❖ Begin discussing potential research themes for new SES research in the Blue Mtns.
- ❖ Work in breakout groups for more targeted discussion; report out from groups at end of day

## Day 2 agenda

- ❖ Reconvene, general discussion
- ❖ Small group discussions continue for refining proposal ideas – develop proposal “road map”
- ❖ Switch groups if desired, continue discussions
- ❖ Final report out from groups
- ❖ Discuss next steps for Blue Mtns. Working Group



# Process for Input

- Round-robin sharing of expertise, interest in Blue Mtns.
- Breakout groups for a 2-3 topics for more intensive discussion
- Reconvening to share outcomes of groups
- Further discussion in small groups to continue to refine proposal *ideas* and group direction





# Expectations

- Stakeholder interests and priorities will guide development of research themes
- Group discussions will be formalized in meeting notes, with key points summarized and distributed to all attendees
- Input will be considered in future Blue Mtns. MtnSEON collaborations

# Expectations

- Not all ideas will result in new research. Funding and staffing shortages will limit what new research can occur, especially in the short-term.
- Some new research, including any proposals for large-scale manipulative studies, will require follow-on meetings with stakeholders to ensure proper design, consensus, and funding.



# Expectations

- Leave Friday with a few well-defined topics
  - Subgroups of scientists associated with each topic
  - Groups have a lead to coordinate proposal development
- Outline sketched for process paper on how the Blue Mtns. group will move forward





# Thank You



# Process for Input

Afternoon (1 pm-330 pm):

- In smaller break-out groups, generate a list of specific research questions, research designs, or research issues that are high priority within high-priority research topics.
- Each break-out group summarizes their list.
- Reconvene all groups and summarize the overall lists and discuss rationale for what made it on the lists.

# A Few Considerations...

- “Round-the-table” input after break is 2-3 minutes/person.
- Tell us what is important on a topic and phrase as a research question of possible.
- Opportunity for additional discussion after one-on-one.
- We will keep you up-to-date on future developments of our working group.



# Objectives

- Use the information as part of an on-going process to help identify long-term staffing and funding needs of state, federal, private, and tribal partners who have interest in collaborative research in the Blue Mountains.





