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

Purpose, Agenda, Expectations

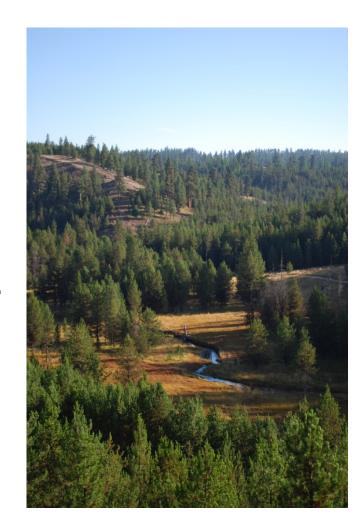


Mary Rowland, USDA Forest Service, PNW Research Station Blue Mts. Science Forum, 5 March 2015, Portland, OR





- 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.



- 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 selforganizing 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.

• 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 largescale 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.

 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.



