



Blue Mountains Socioecological Research Stakeholder Workshop Results

La Grande, OR January 27, 2015

Portland, OR March 4, 2015

La Grande: General Observations



- Research topics inter-related
- Supportive of science but frustrated when not taken seriously
- Desire for more social science
- Scale issues – how to get people to think and work at large scales?
- Strong interest in ecological, economic, and management interface between public & private lands

Rural community sustainability and working lands

- How to support community sustainability through forest and range management on public lands?
 - Maintain & enhance traditional economic activities
 - Develop new economic opportunities (PES, bioenergy)
- Links to:
 - Commercial timber production
 - Sustainable livestock production



Wildland Disturbances, Biodiversity, Restoration

- Effects of disturbances on natural resources, biodiversity
- People and disturbance ecology
- Managing disturbances and undertaking restoration at landscape scales and across ownerships – tools, methods, social agreement



Travel management/ public engagement & collaboration

- Effects of roads & access on resources
- Understanding the politics of the issue
- How to come to social agreement



@J. Ward

Cross-cutting themes

- Water (quality, quantity, watershed health, water rights, management & tradeoffs)
- Climate change



Portland: General Observations

- Discussion emphasized research process more than research questions
 - Importance of participatory research emphasized w/stakeholder engagement throughout the process
 - Human capital is a resource
 - Building relationships with local leaders helps facilitate research access
 - Remember: SES research is about systems; map the coupled SES, ID hotspots, focus research there
 - Research results should be usable by stakeholders, private landowners, and public land managers in the NEPA process

Grazing

- Options to reduce impacts of grazing on aquatic & riparian resources; are they viable?
- Perceptions and impacts of predators on livestock herds – myth vs reality
- What about goats?



Social agreement



- Identify barriers to social agreement & innovation, and how to reduce them (internal & external)
- Need strong agency leadership in decision-making for success
- Desire to establish rancher collaboratives; why hasn't this worked?

Other



- A regional monitoring network of both ecological and social metrics would benefit Blue Mountains work
 - Discover what data exist to feed network
 - Work to fill knowledge gaps
 - Need data steward/leader
- Develop models to conduct futuring scenarios to inform management decision-making
- Wildlife, soils

Thank you!

