

Planning for Growth and Open Space Conservation

This webinar series is sponsored by:
USDA Forest Service
State and Private Forestry - Cooperative Forestry

Organized by
Rick Pringle, Susan Stein, Sara Comas, Susan Guynn (Clemson University)
and the
Forest Service National Open Space Conservation Group

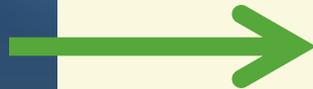


This webinar is being recorded

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Streamed Through
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Learn About the Series

Listen to past webinars!



Listen to our past webinars:

- ▶ [Session #9:](#) Private land conservation programs from the Farm Bill: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and US Forest Service.
- ▶ [Session #8:](#) Landscape Conservation Initiatives: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ▶ [Session #7:](#) Science to inform Open Space Conservation: Land use changes, forest fragmentation, and the Wildland-Urban Interface
- ▶ [Session #6:](#) Facilitating Large Landscape Conservation Efforts: Working effectively across boundaries in the Northeast and Crown of the Continent
- ▶ [Session #5:](#) Local and Regional Land Trusts: Essential partners and the tools they provide
- ▶ [Session #4:](#) The Forest Service Toolbox: Conservation easement and land acquisition programs
- ▶ [Session #3:](#) Green Infrastructure Planning: Connecting partners and greenspaces
- ▶ [Session #2:](#) YES YOU CAN! Participating in Growth Planning Beyond the Green Line
- ▶ [Session #1:](#) National Forest Management in the Face of Housing Growth

Learn about future topics!

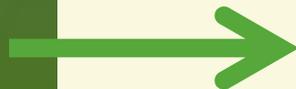


Future Topics:

Please [register](#) in advance if you would like to attend these presentations.

- ▶ [Session #11:](#) An All Lands Approach to Ecosystem Services for Water

Submit feedback about the series!



Please submit your feedback [here](#)

Learn About the Series

[Listen to our past webinars:](#)

▾ [Session #13: City and County Open Space Programs](#)

This program presents growth and open space conservation planning for cities and counties. Speakers will present the Trust for Public Land's Conservation Almanac and LandVote resources that are available online for researching conservation activities, and public funding for land conservation. We will also learn about open space conservation planning processes, ordinances, funding mechanisms, and partnerships employed in Missoula, Montana, and Baltimore County, Maryland.

- **Mary Bruce Alford Trust for Public Land**
- **Jackie Corday City of Missoula, Montana**
- **Don Outen Baltimore County, Maryland**

[Link to video presentation](#)

[Link to PDF Presentation](#)

[Link to resources from this webinar](#)

▸ [Session #12: Greening Grey Infrastructure: Federal Highway Administration's Eco-Logical Approach and Case Studies from National Forests in Ohio and Washington](#)

▸ [Session #11: An All Lands Approach to Ecosystem Services for Water](#)

▸ [Session #10: Tools for Conservation Planning](#)

Click on the session titles for more info on recordings, slide presentations, and featured resources



Webinar Resources and Tools



USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Open Space Conservation

Forest Service Home | About the Forest Service

Browse by Subject You are here: [Home](#) | Resources

- ▶ National Strategy
- ▶ Loss of Open Space
- ▶ Success Stories
- ▶ What the Forest Service can do!
- ▶ **Resources & Tools**
- ▶ Cooperating Across Boundaries
- ▶ Forests On The Edge
- ▶ Publications

Resources and Tools

The resources and tools shared below correspond with topics from our [Planning for Growth and Open Space Conservation webinar series](#).

Want to add tools to this list? Contact [Rick Pringle](#) with a link

Legal Authorities for Forest Service Engagement in Open Space

- ▶ [Forest Service Handbook 1509 Grants and Agreements](#)
- ▶ [Partnership Guide](#)
- ▶ [Partnership Resource Center](#)
- ▶ [Principles of Ethical Conduct for Government Officers and Employees](#)

**Find relevant resources for each webinar session here!
If you have relevant resources to share please send them to us!**

Session #16
Strategic Conservation Planning
and Partnerships

Wednesday, July 24th at 2:00 pm Eastern

Ole Amundsen

Conservation Fund

Kristin Sherwood

The Nature Conservancy

Melinda Pruett-Jones

Chicago Wilderness



Future Webinar Topics

- **August** - More Conservation Planning Tools
- **September** – Climate Change Adaptation
- **October** – Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration
- **November** – Community Wildfire Protection Planning
- **December** – Planning for Urban Forests

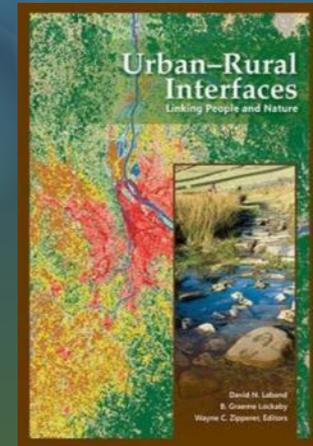
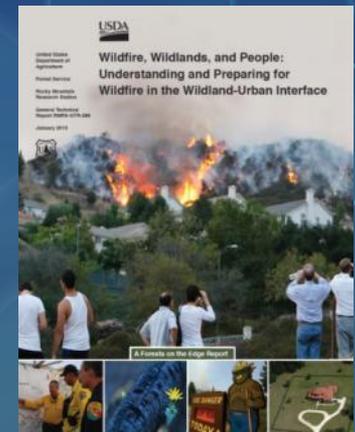
Forest Service Open Space News

Wildfire, Wildlands, and People (Jan 2013) *Forests on the Edge* (FOTE) Report Released

FOTE feature in Chapter 4:
Urban–Rural Interfaces: Linking People and Nature (Laband, Lockaby, and Zipperer 2012)

Open Space Conservation Strategy Implementation
Surveys available at www.fs.fed.us/openspace

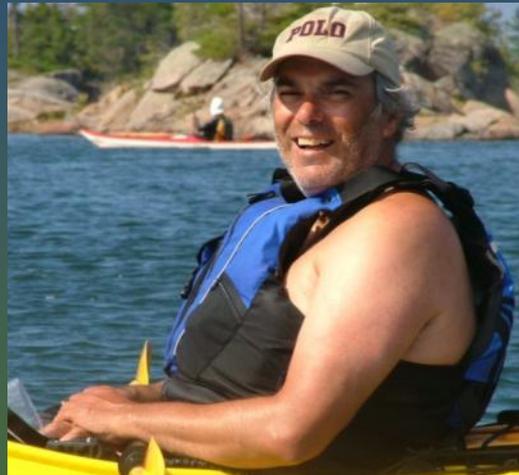
- Research and Development
- Washington Office
- Regional Offices



Session #15: National Forest Plan Revisions and the New Planning Rule: Considering open space and ‘all lands’



Ken Landgraf
USFS George Washington
National Forest
Virginia



Bill Connelly
USFS Planning Staff
Washington D.C.



Jo Ann Fites-Kaufman
USFS Southern Sierra
Nevada National Forests
California

Logistics – Q&A

- **Continuing Education Credits**
 - Attend entire presentation
- **Questions for speakers – chat pod**
- **Technical difficulties – chat pod or email Susan Guynn: SGUYNN@clemson.edu**

Getting to Know You!



Ken Landgraf

**George Washington National Forest
Plan Revision - Virginia**

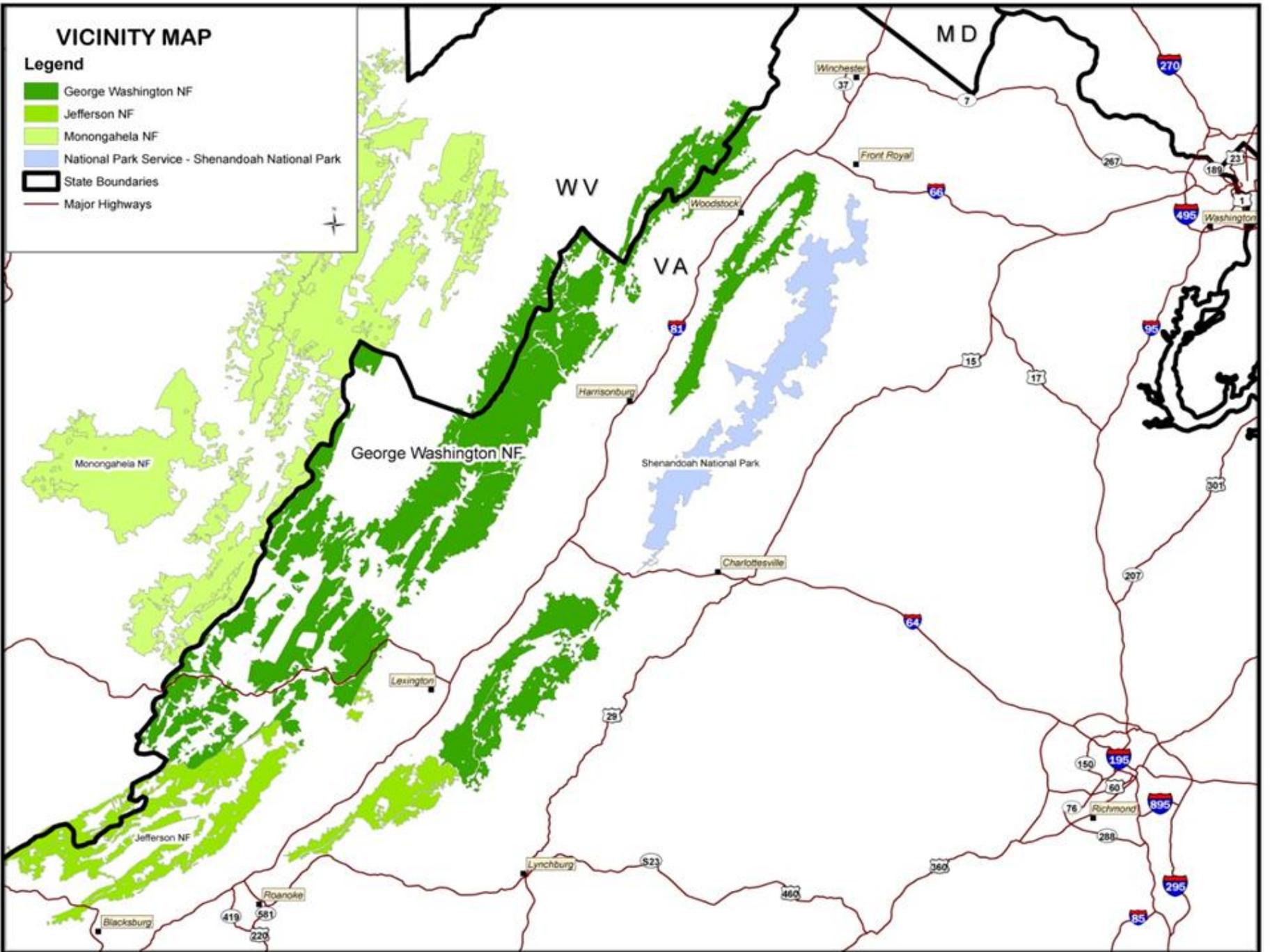
FOREST PLAN REVISION GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST



VICINITY MAP

Legend

- George Washington NF
- Jefferson NF
- Monongahela NF
- National Park Service - Shenandoah National Park
- State Boundaries
- Major Highways



COLLABORATION

- From the beginning of our revision process we placed a high level of emphasis on taking a collaborative approach.
- Numerous meetings at varying locations around the Forest Service
- Meetings designed to promote discussions among the participants

COLLABORATION

- Maintained our traditional partnerships (State Game Agencies, State Forester, National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy)
- Developed and enhanced other partnerships (The Nature Conservancy)
- Met early and individually with County officials in each of our 17 Counties in Virginia and West Virginia

COLLABORATION

Reviewed the county plans and most had only general references to the National Forest

- Tourism
- Timber production
- Other jobs
- Connection opportunities for trails

COLLABORATION STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

Formation of a stakeholder group

- New group of old participants
- They saw a need and benefit for working together
- We participated and provided information, but did not lead and were not “voting” members

COLLABORATION STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

Stakeholders formula for success

- Excellent diversity of participants
- Chose their issues
- Developed rules and procedures

COLLABORATION STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

Excellent diversity of participants

- Ruffed Grouse Society
- Virginia Wilderness Committee
- Virginia Forestry Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- Sierra Club
- Wild Virginia
- Southern Environmental Law Center
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Trout Unlimited
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Virginia Bear Hunters
- International Mountain Bicycling Association

COLLABORATION STAKEHOLDERS GROUP



Chose their issues

- **Timber harvest level**
- **Prescribed burning level**
- **Allocation of Potential Wilderness Areas**



COLLABORATION STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

- 
- A group of approximately 15-20 people are gathered in a forest during autumn. The ground is covered in fallen brown leaves. Several individuals are wearing hard hats and safety vests, suggesting a field study or a safety training session. One person in the foreground is wearing a blue cap and a green jacket, looking towards a tree trunk that has a blue mark on it. Another person in an orange safety vest and red hard hat is pointing towards the right. The background shows a dense forest of tall, thin trees with some green foliage still visible.
- Developed rules and procedures
 - Adapted as they went

COLLABORATION STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

- Able to generally come to an agreement on the issues they addressed
- Have a strong desire to continue to work together through implementation of the revised plan

ISSUES THAT EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES

- ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
- CLEAN WATER
- RESTORATION
- NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES
- HABITAT CONNECTIVITY
- CLIMATE CHANGE
- INCREASING DEVELOPMENT

ISSUES THAT EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

- **Role of Federal lands in meeting energy demands**
 - Particularly greener energy
- **Marcellus gas issue developed from private land action**
- **Visual impacts and other impacts extend well beyond Forest boundary**

ISSUES THAT EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT



- **Strong interest from several County Boards of Supervisors**

A photograph of a stream with a large rock and fallen logs, overlaid with a semi-transparent text box. The stream flows over a large, mossy rock in the center, with several large, weathered logs scattered across the water and banks. The water is clear and appears to be flowing over the rocks and logs. The background shows a forested area with trees and more logs.

ISSUES THAT EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES CLEAN WATER

- **Key issue from the beginning of planning process**
- **Much interest from local counties and towns**
- **Good recognition of the relationship between the National Forest and water supplies**

ISSUES THAT EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES

RESTORATION

- Forest Plan is heavily based on ecological values
- Used the Region 8 Ecological Sustainability Evaluation tool to identify and evaluate ecological systems and individual species stresses, threats, and needs
- This tool is based on TNC's Conservation Action Planning process

ISSUES THAT EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES

RESTORATION

- Plan identified desired conditions and objectives for each ecological system on the Forest
- Additional objectives and standards established to meet species' specific needs
- Land allocations to emphasize remote cores with active management in areas with good access

ISSUES THAT EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES

RESTORATION



- Increased the acreage of special biological areas and geologic areas to protect rare communities

ISSUES THAT EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES

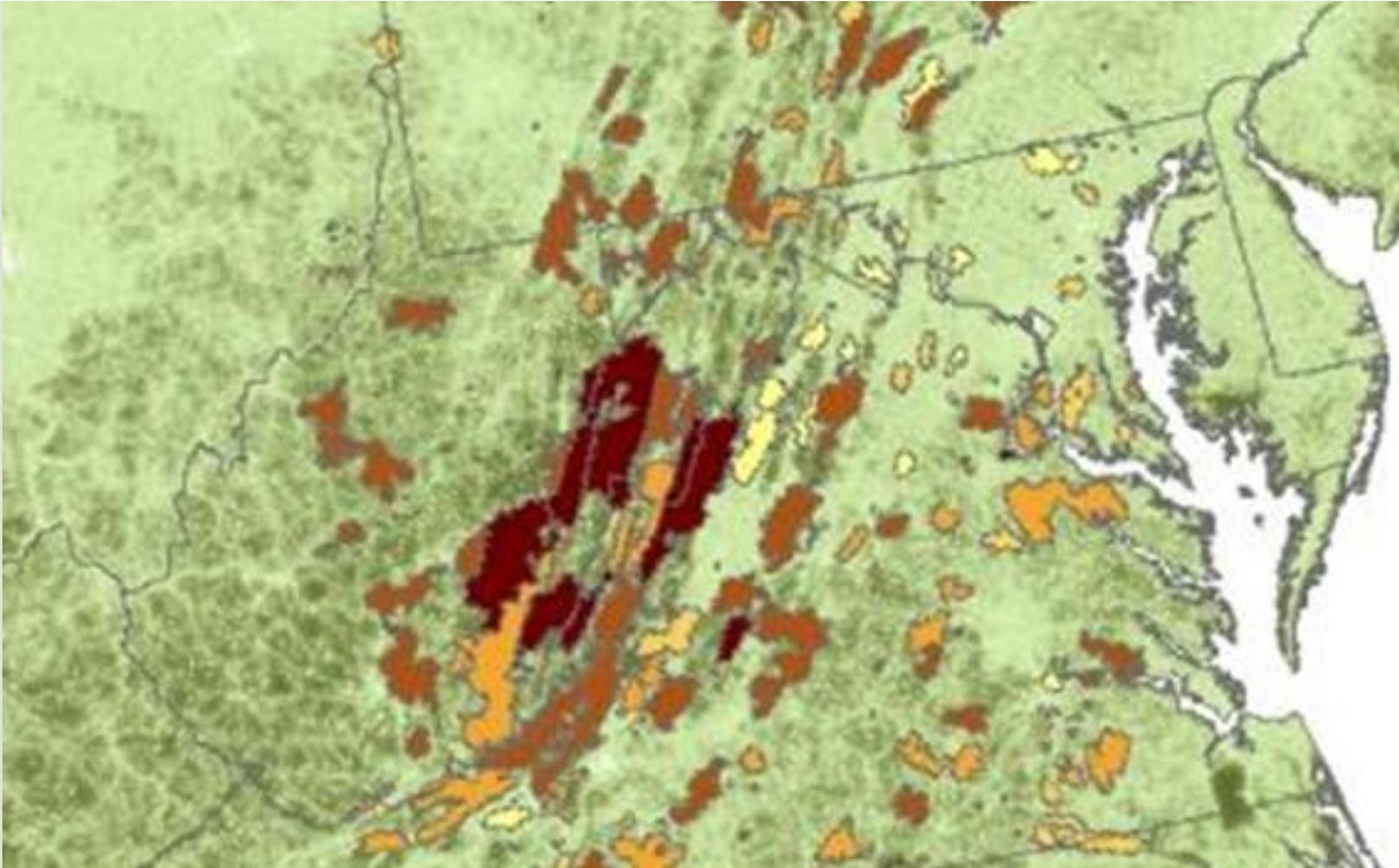


Management Approach in Forest Plan:

- Education of forest users
- Early detection and response strategy
- Aggressive treatment of established invasive species
 - Requires working beyond Forest boundaries, and continued work with partners.

ISSUES THAT EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES

CONNECTIVITY



ISSUES THAT EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change strategies focus on:

- 1) reducing vulnerability by maintaining and restoring resilient native ecosystems;
- 2) providing watershed health;
- 3) providing carbon sinks for sequestration;
- 4) reducing existing stresses;
- 5) responding to demands for cleaner energy including renewable or alternative energy; and
- 6) providing sustainable operations and engaging in partnerships across landscapes and ownerships.

ISSUES THAT EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES

CLIMATE CHANGE

- 
- Reduce Vulnerability /Restore Resilient Native Ecosystems**
- Increase the use of wildland fire
 - Maintain or restore ecological conditions that are rare
 - Manage to maintain connections of forested landscapes
 - Manage to maintain remote settings for core reserves.
 - Identify land adjustments for connectivity corridors.

ISSUES THAT EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Watershed Health.

- Re-establish habitat connectivity in streams.
- Protect and restore beaver habitat, riparian forests
- Revegetate bare soil as soon as possible.
- Identify soils highly sensitive to acid deposition and nutrient loss.
- Relocate, close or decommission roads causing significant resource damage.

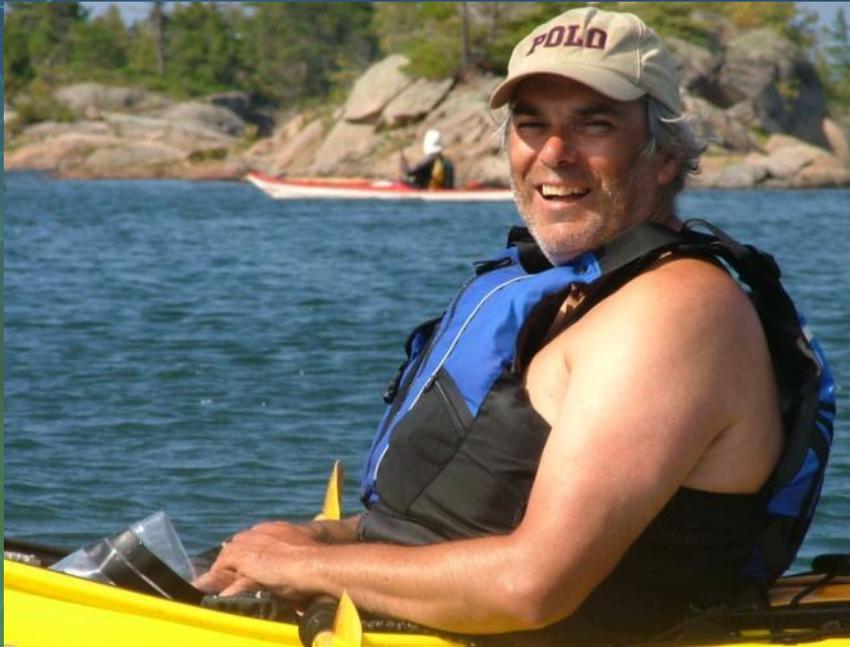


ISSUES THAT EXTEND ACROSS BOUNDARIES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Sustainable Operations and Partnerships.

- Reduce environmental footprint and decrease the greenhouse gases emitted through day-to-day operations.
- Continue working with partners: The Nature Conservancy, Potomac Watershed Partnership, Appalachian Joint Venture, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, and USFWS Landscape Conservation Cooperatives Initiative.



Bill Connelly
USFS Planning Staff
Washington D.C.



USDA FOREST SERVICE PLANNING RULE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION AND COORDINATION IN LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND REQUIREMENTS FOR OPEN SPACE

Photographer: Bill Lea

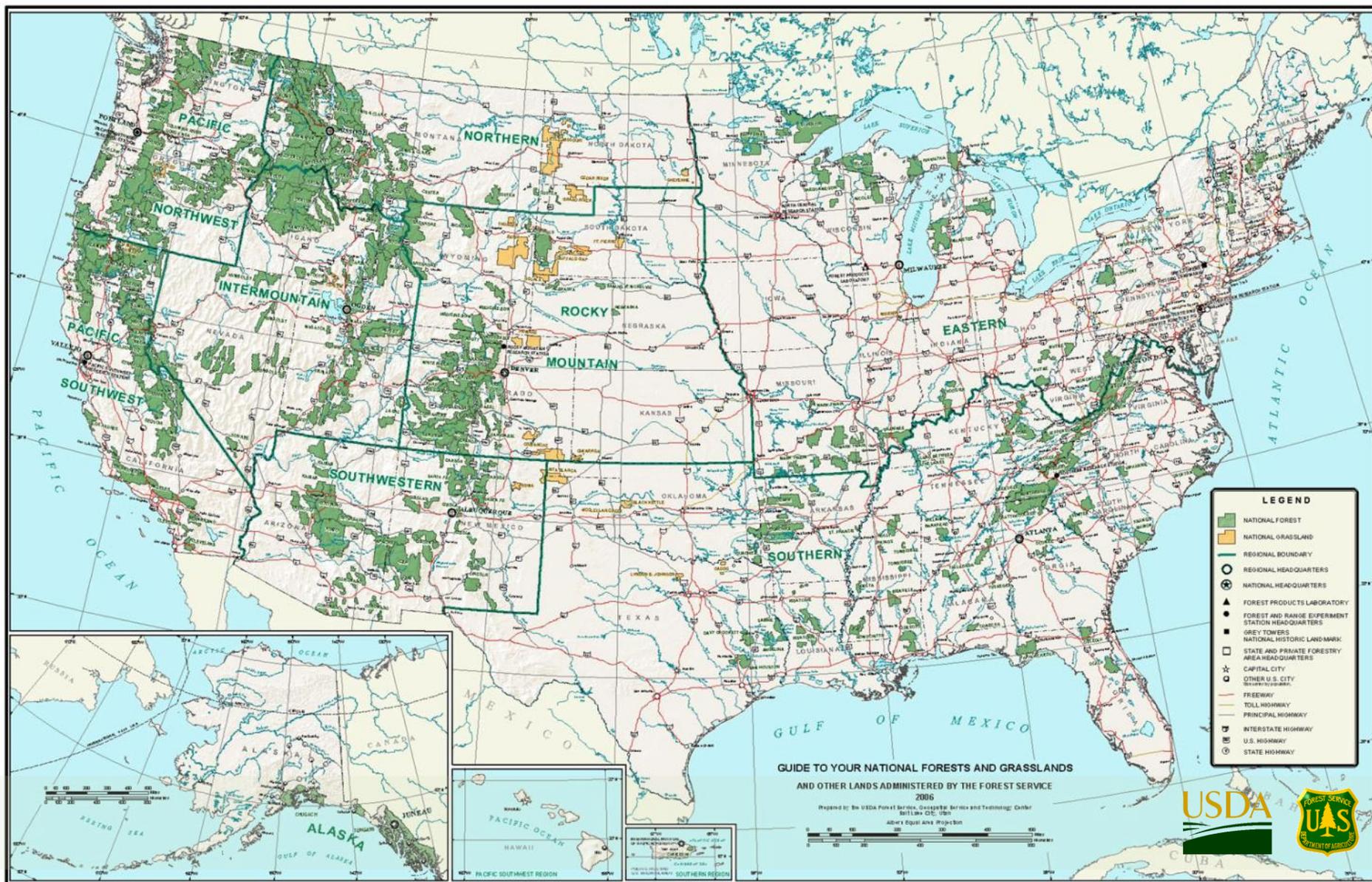
Bill Connelly USDA Forest Service, Washington, DC

What is the Planning Rule?



- ❑ All NFS units are required to have land management plans.
- ❑ A rule is required to provide procedures to amend, revise, and develop land management plans.
- ❑ Required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976.
- ❑ All plans must be revised every 10-15 years according to NFMA.

National Forest System



Focus of Our Discussion



National Forest Management Act



USFS Planning Rule



**Land Management Plans
(Forests/Grasslands)**



Project or Activity Decision

USFS has revised
the Planning Rule

What is in the Planning Rule?



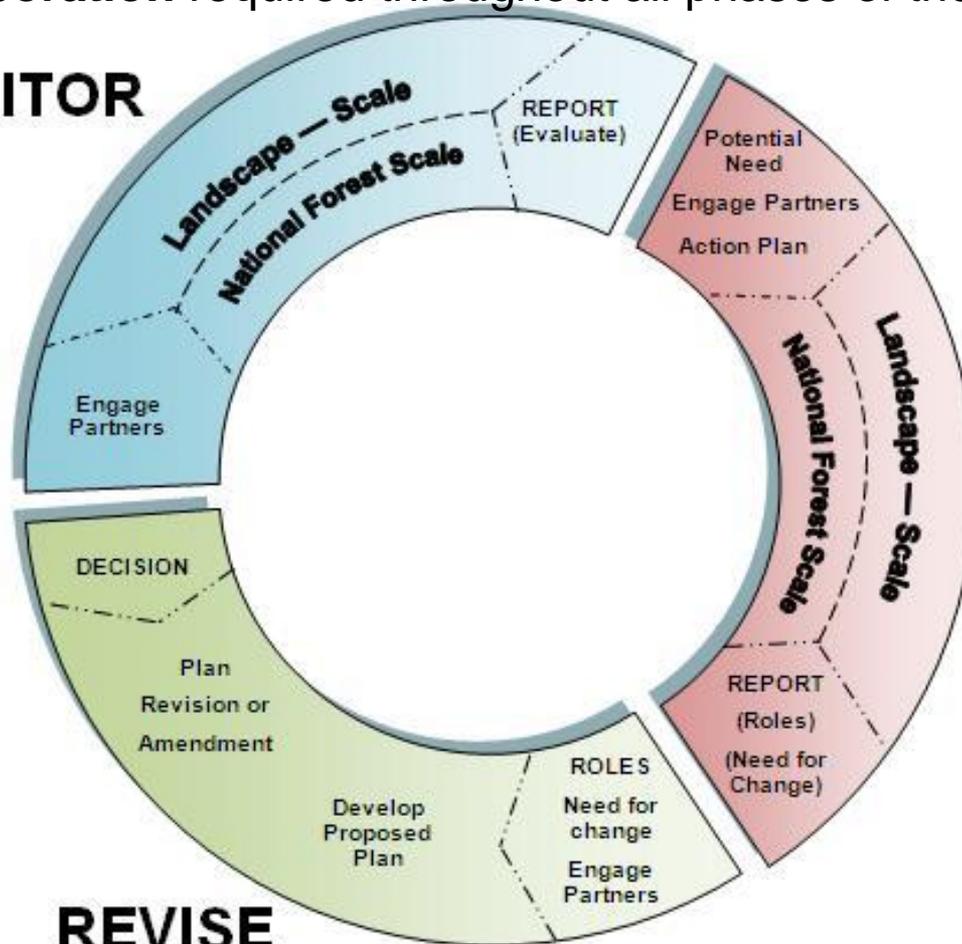
- ❑ Minimum content of Plans
- ❑ When and how plans are revised
- ❑ When and how plans are amended
- ❑ Who makes the Plan decisions
- ❑ How the public is involved
- ❑ Analysis, assessment, or evaluation requirements
- ❑ How the decisions are subject to appeals or objections
- ❑ Relationship of Plans to Projects

Framework



Collaboration required throughout all phases of the framework

MONITOR



REVISE (or Amend)

Participation in Planning



- Planning rule requires:
 - Engaging the public early and throughout the planning process, including required outreach to state, counties and local governments
 - Encourage states, counties, and other local governments to seek cooperating agency status in the NEPA process
 - Forest Service may participate in planning efforts of states, counties and local governments.

Coordination in Planning



- Planning rule requires Forest Service to:
 - Coordinate planning with related planning efforts of state and local governments.
 - In plan revision, review the planning and land use policies of state and local governments. Display results of the review in the EIS. Review includes:
 - Objectives of state and local governments
 - Compatibility of plans and policies
 - Opportunities to address impacts or contribute to joint objectives.
 - Opportunities to resolve or reduce conflicts
 - Respective governments retain decision authority

Assessments



Planning rule requires Forest Service to:

- Identify and evaluate conditions and trends based on existing information for 15 items, including:
 - Social, cultural, and economic conditions
 - Ecosystem services, multiple uses and their contributions to local, and national economies
 - Land status and ownership, use, and access patterns
- Provide opportunities for governments to provide information.
- Identify and consider information from state or local government assessments and plans

Plan Content Requirements



- Plan components that govern consistency of projects:
 - Desired Conditions
 - Objectives
 - Standards
 - Guidelines
 - Suitability of areas
 - Where plan components apply - Management areas or geographic areas.

Other Plan content



- Identify distinctive role and contribution of the plan area in the broader landscape
- May describe management approaches, strategies, partnerships or coordination opportunities.
- Planning rule requires in the process of planning:
 - Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Inventory and evaluation of areas for wilderness
 - Inventory and evaluation of Wild and Scenic Rivers and other designated areas

Plan components must



Within Forest Service Authority and the inherent capability of the land,

Provide for:

- ❑ Ecological Sustainability
- ❑ Provide for Species Diversity
- ❑ Social and Economic Sustainability
- ❑ Ecosystem Services and Multiple Uses (outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife, and fish)



Planning Process

Must consider the following:

- Plan area contribution to ecological conditions in the broader landscape
- Influences of the broader landscape on the ecosystems of the plan area
- Opportunities for landscape scale restoration
- Ecological connectivity



Planning Process

Must also consider:

- ❑ Social, cultural, and economic conditions relevant to area influenced by the plan
- ❑ Multiple Uses (recreation, timber, grazing, watershed, fish and wildlife and wilderness) that contribute to economies and ecosystem services
- ❑ Opportunities to coordinate with neighboring landowners to link open spaces and take into account joint management objectives
- ❑ Land status and ownership, use, and access patterns

Monitoring Program



- Monitoring at a broad (regional scale) and at the level of individual national forest or grassland.
- Monitoring program consists of questions and indicators
- Monitoring program should take into account monitoring of other governmental entities and may be designed as multi-party monitoring with state and local governments.
- Biennial monitoring evaluation report

Planning work under way



- 17 national forests in revision under previous rule (George Washington)
- 10 national forests in revision under new rule (Southern Sierra national forests)
- Proposed Directives released with greater detail on planning process and products. Final directives expected in March 2014.
- National level Federal Advisory Committee

Thanks for your
Interest and
Attention in National
Forest Planning!





Jo Ann Fites-Kaufman
Southern Sierra Nevada National
Forests Plan Revision - California

Open Space

New Planning Rule

Forest Plan Revision Approach

Pacific Southwest Region

(California)

Jo Ann Fites-Kaufman, Ph.D.

Regional Planning Ecologist

6-4-2013

Region 5 Approach

- **Overall**
 - Integrating Social, Economic and Ecological Sustainability
 - Bioregional Context
 - Individual Forest Plan Revisions
- **Open Space**
 - All lands
 - Connectivity
 - Wildland Urban Interface

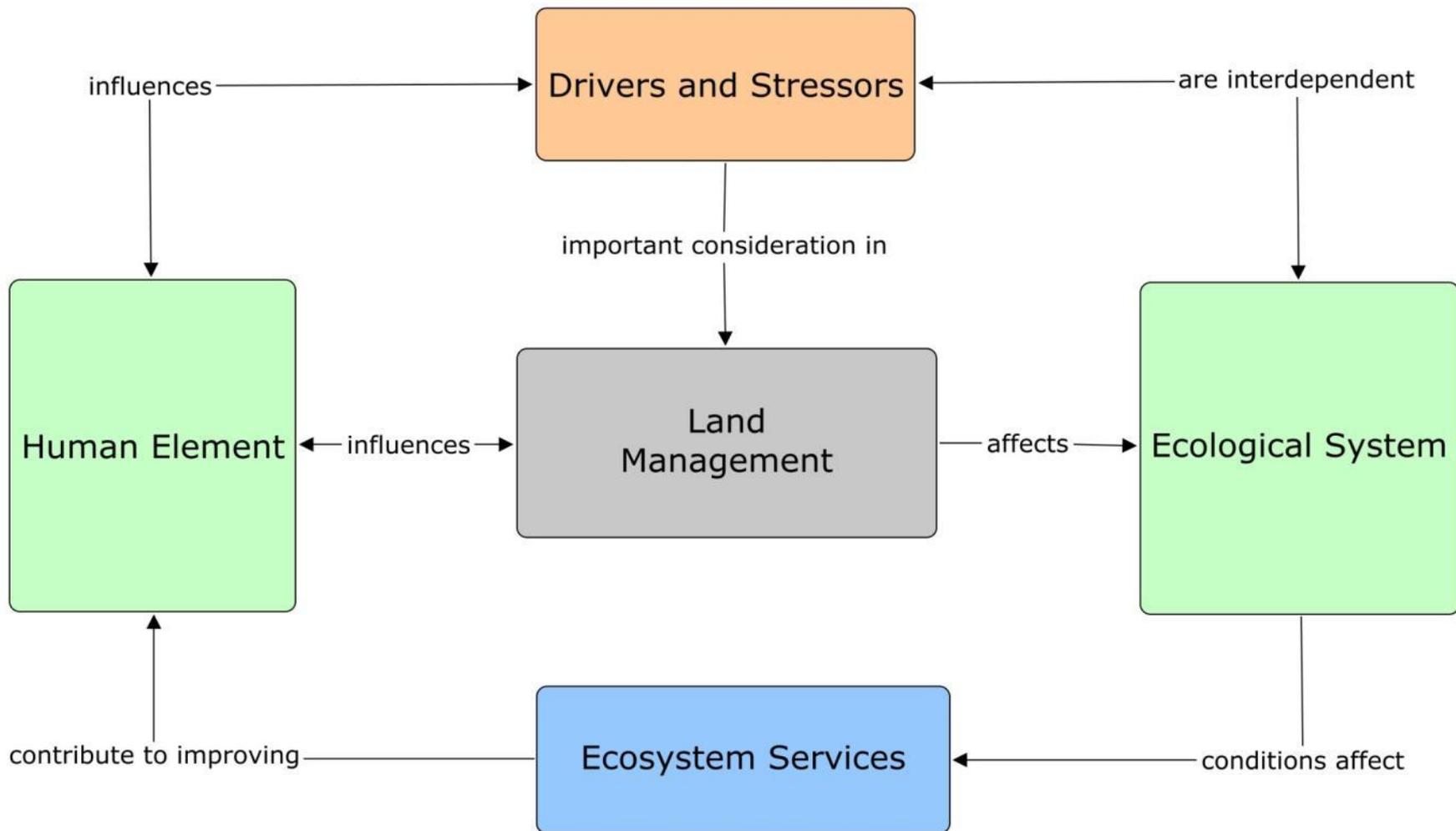
How we are integrating?

Externally

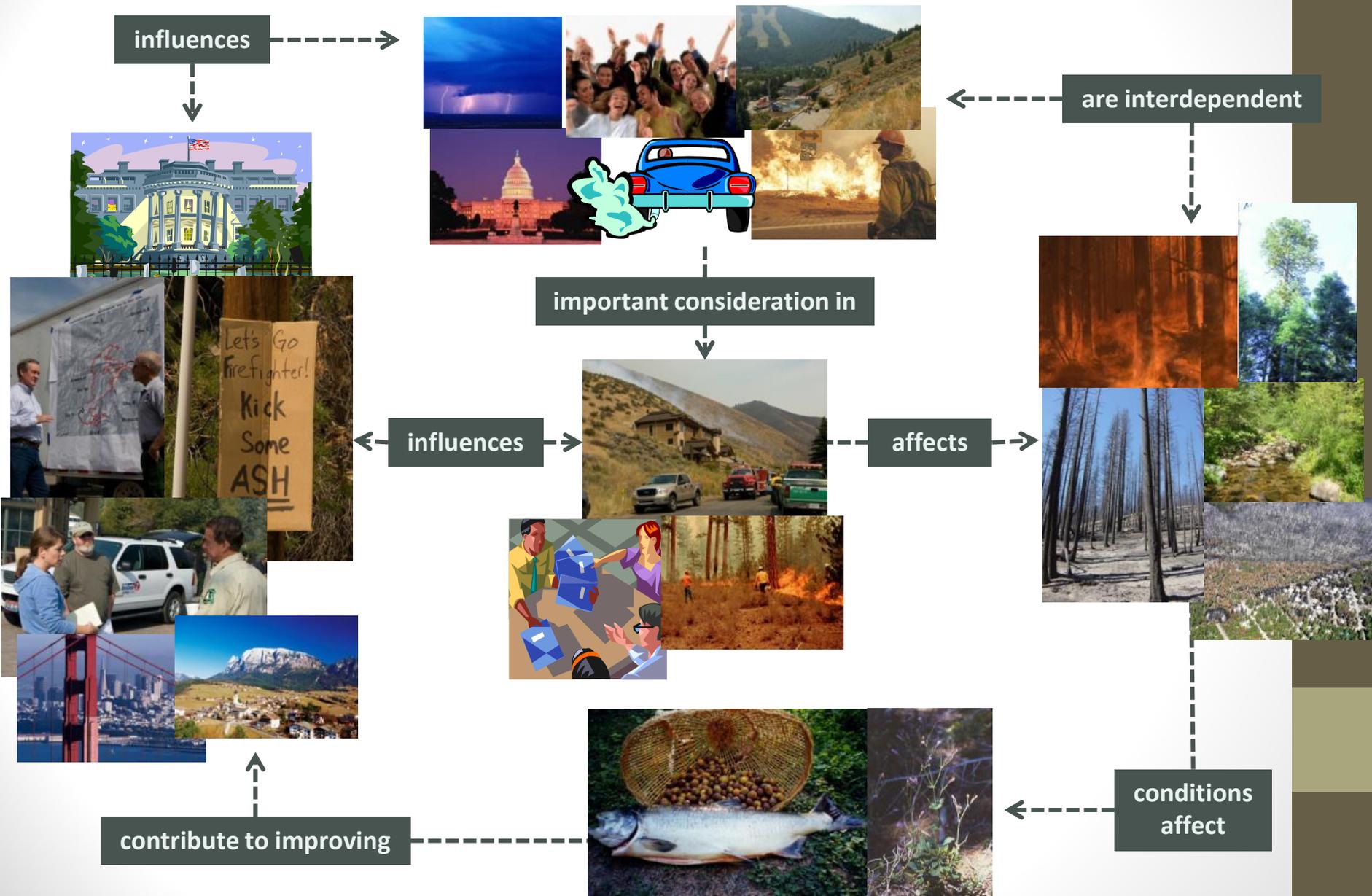
- Collaboration and Communication Plans
- Sierra Cascade Dialog
- Our Forest Place and Living Assessment (WIKI – topic papers)
- California Biodiversity Council
- Youth & Underrepresented Communities
- Tribal Consultation



Sierra Cascade Dialog Session 4



Integration Tool Example



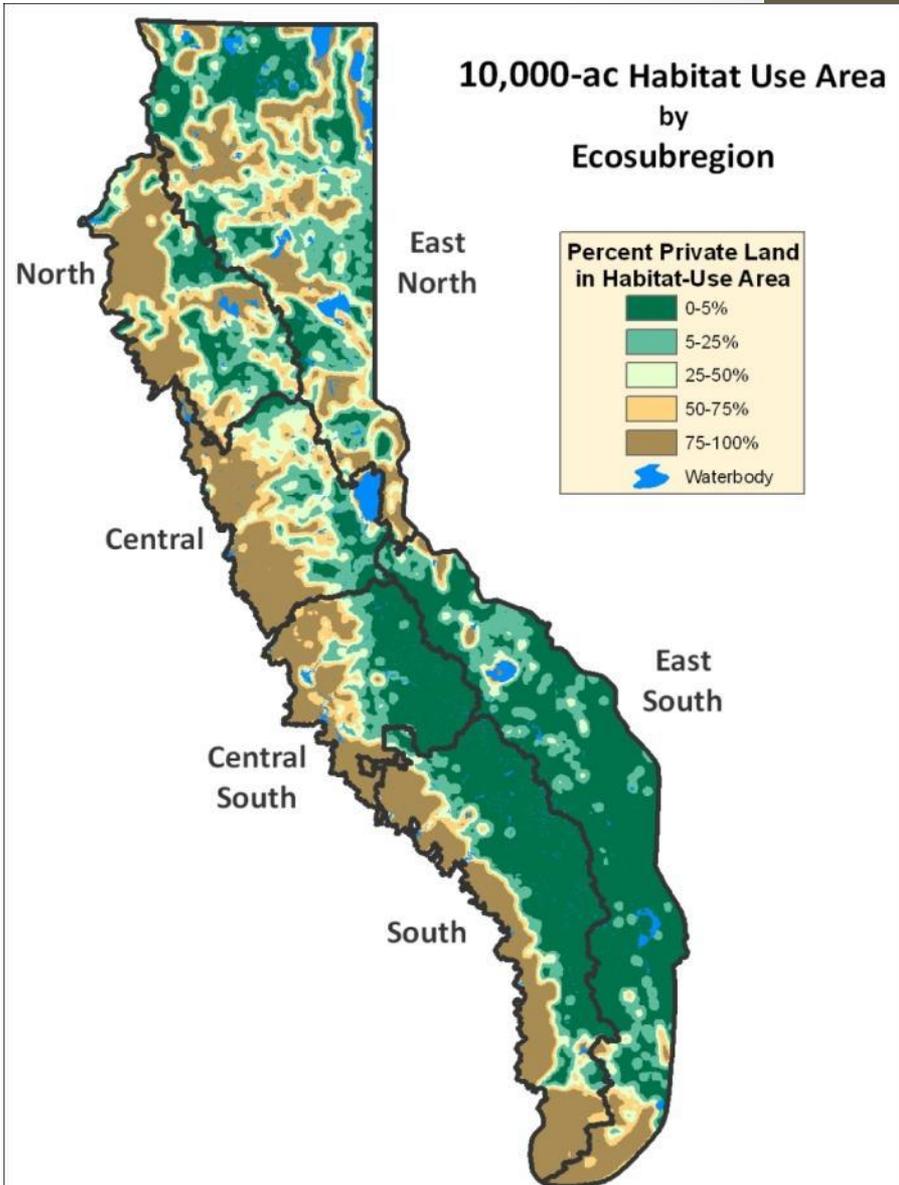
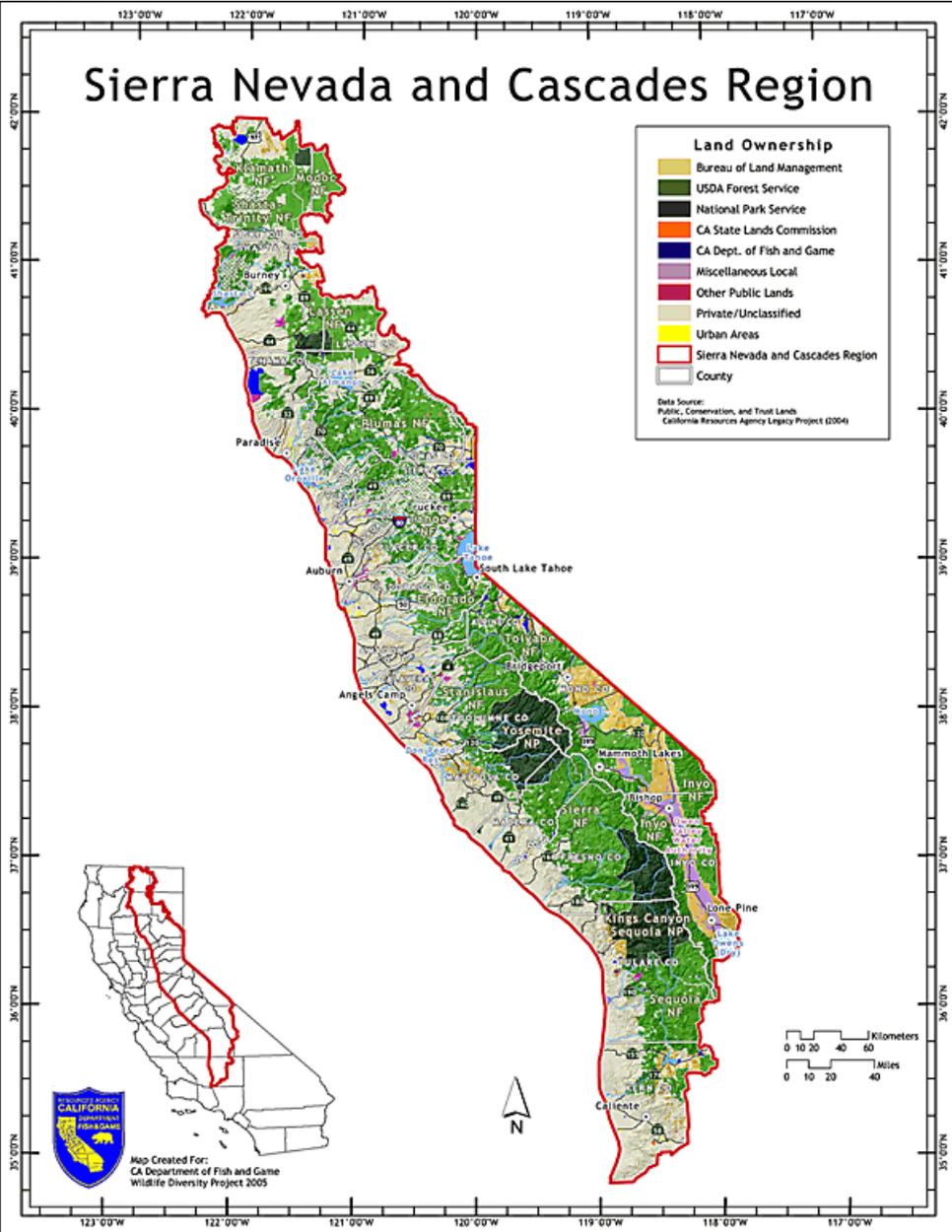
Open Space

- Crosses all issues and lands
 - Wildland Urban Interface, fire, aesthetics, ecological integrity (connectivity, biodiversity), range
- Climate Vulnerability
- Energy and Emissions Policies

ASSESSING OPEN SPACE

Connectivity and Wildland Urban Interface

Ownership Patterns

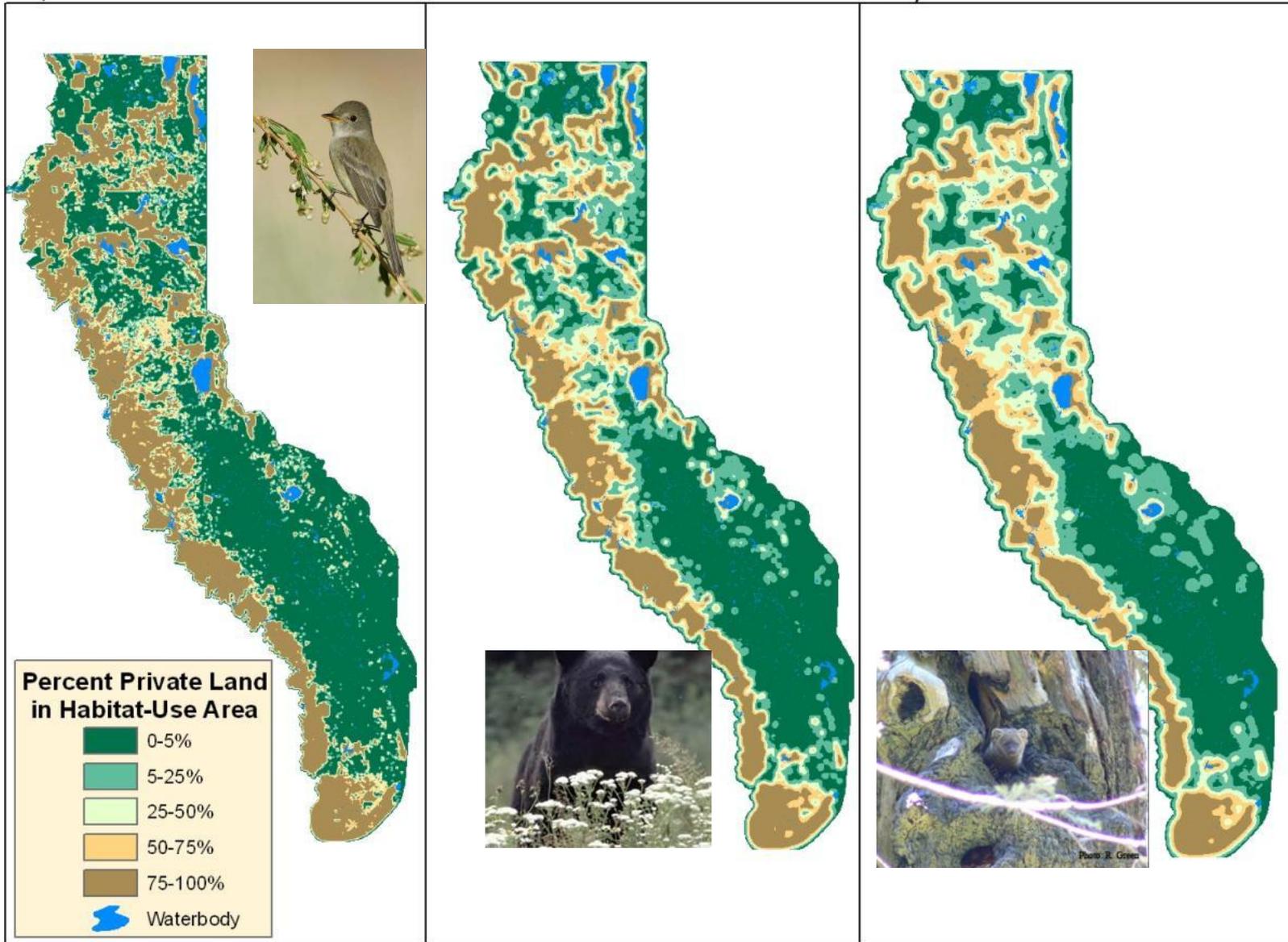


Connectivity: Scale of Pattern Related to Home-range Size

1,000-ac Habitat Use Area

10,000-ac Habitat Use Area

25,000-ac Habitat Use Area



CALIFORNIA
ESSENTIAL HABITAT
CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

FIGURE 3.1.
ESSENTIAL HABITAT
CONNECTIVITY NETWORK

Essential Connectivity Areas*

Less Cost

More Cost

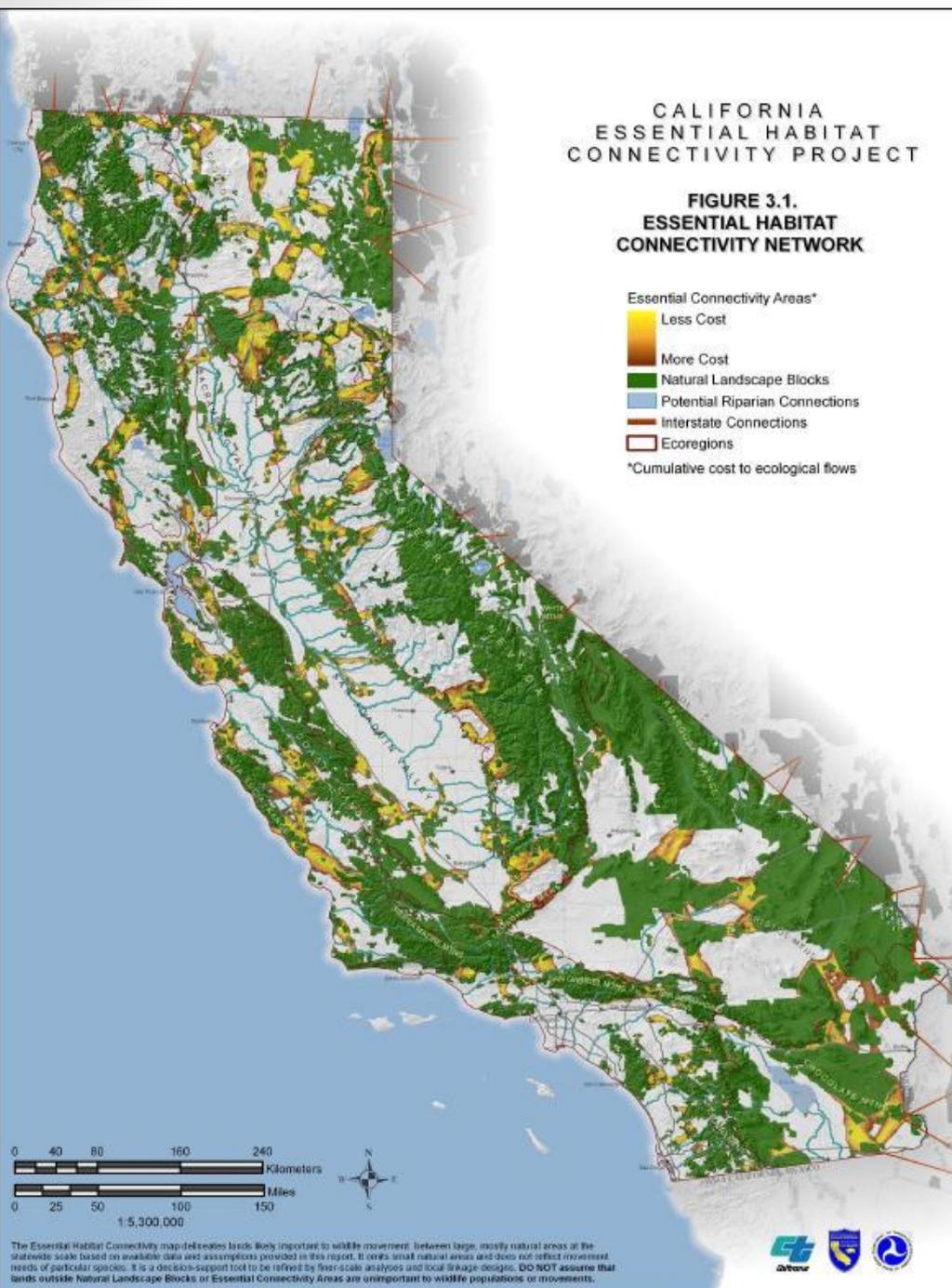
Natural Landscape Blocks

Potential Riparian Connections

Interstate Connections

Ecoregions

*Cumulative cost to ecological flows

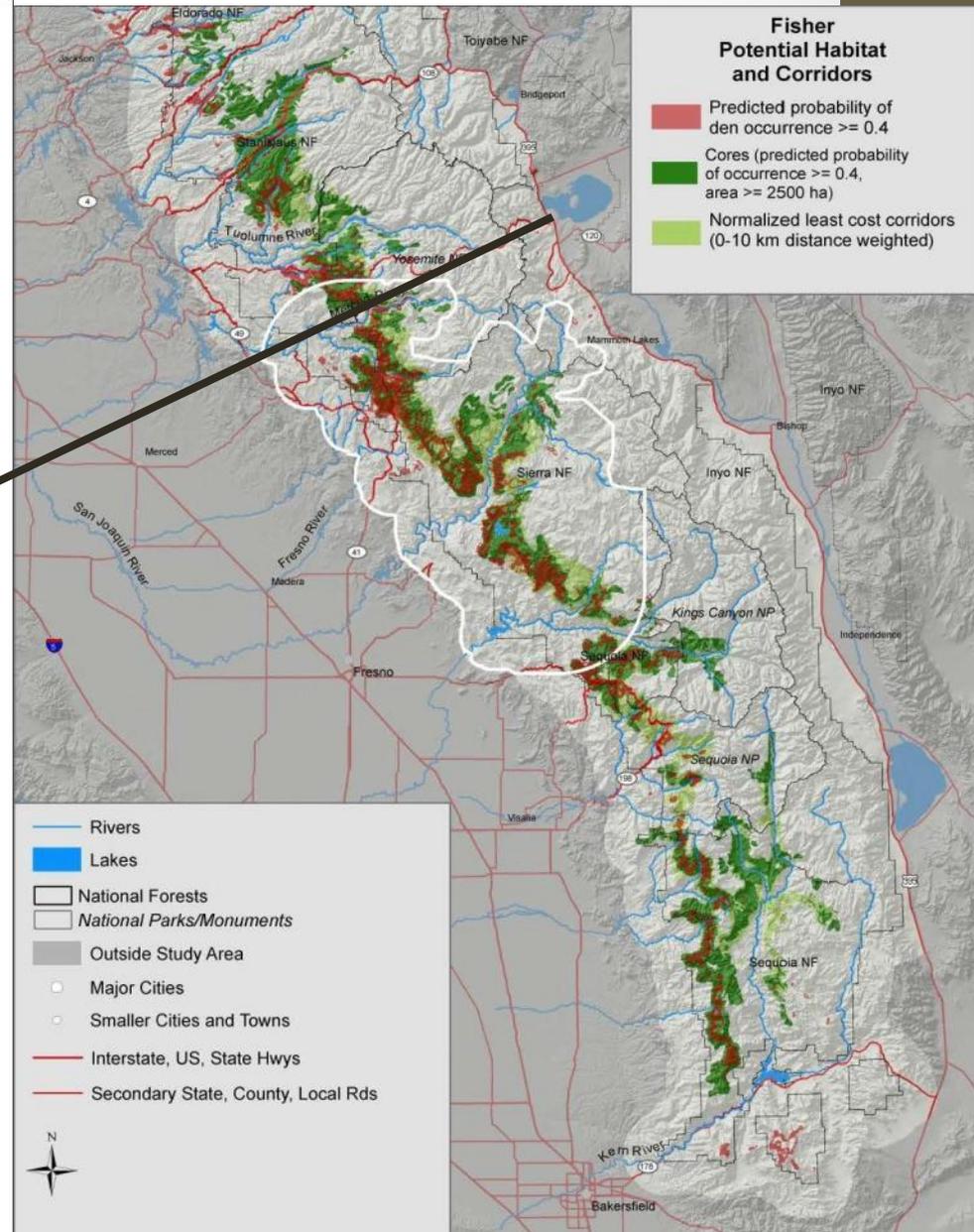
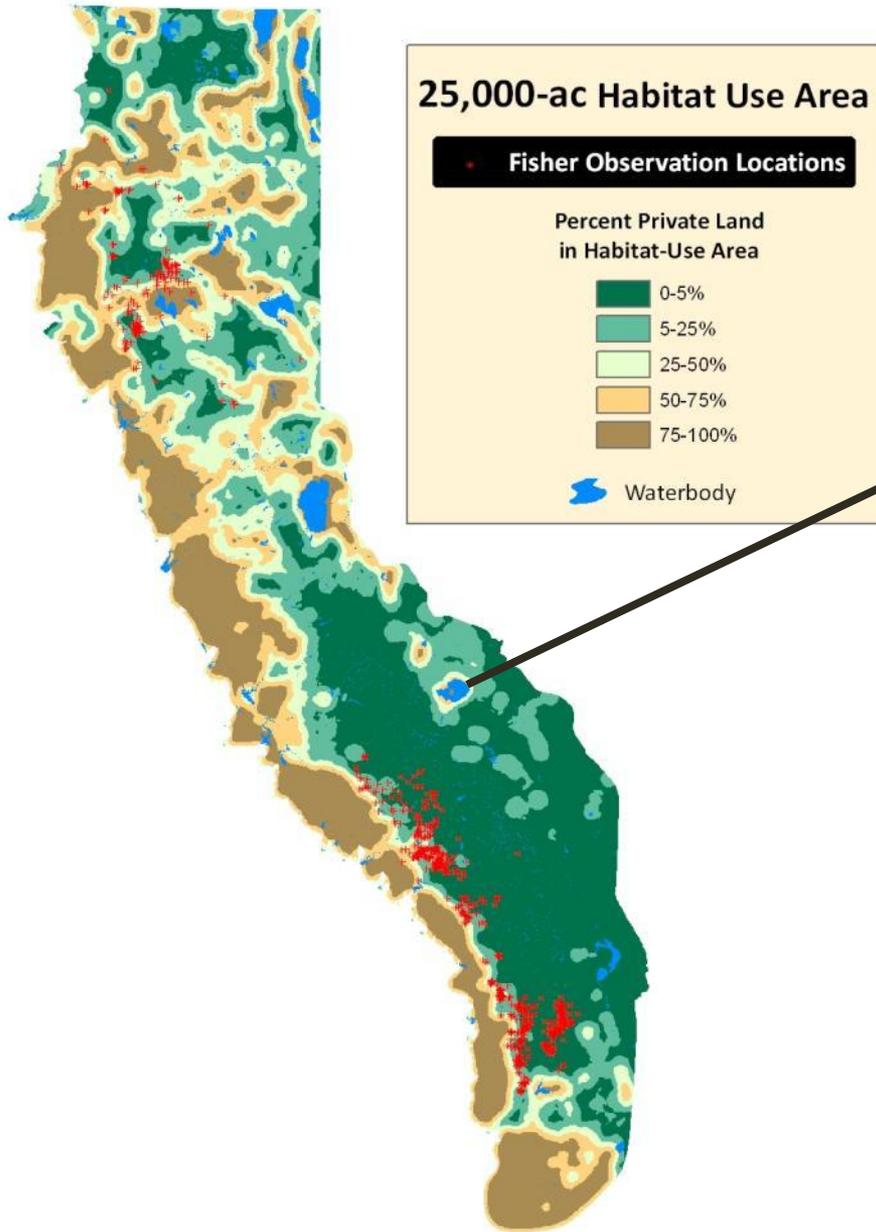


All Species Connectivity Network Proposal by California State Agencies

The Essential Habitat Connectivity map delineates lands likely important to wildlife movement, between large, mostly natural areas at the statewide scale based on available data and assumptions provided in this report. It omits small natural areas and does not reflect movement needs of particular species. It is a decision-support tool to be refined by finer-scale analyses and local linkage designs. DO NOT assume that lands outside Natural Landscape Blocks or Essential Connectivity Areas are unimportant to wildlife populations or movements.



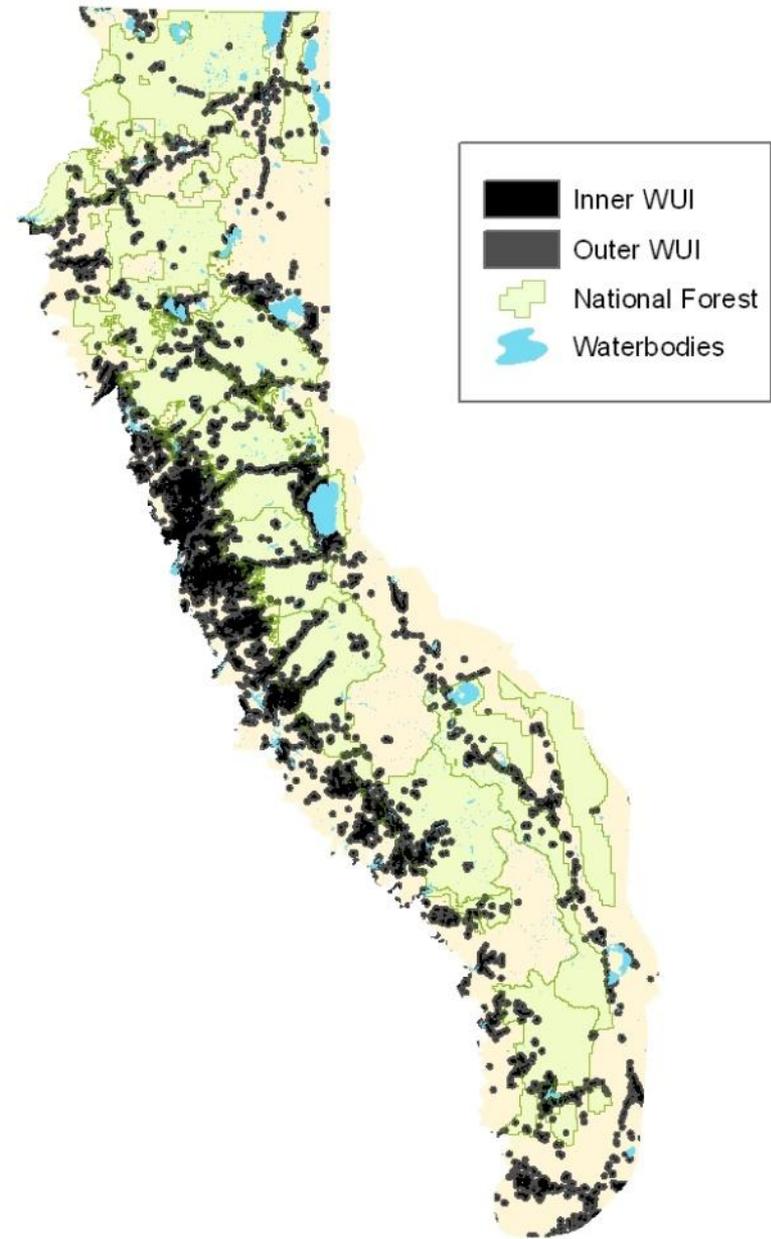
Species at Risk: Movement and Re-establishment Across All Lands



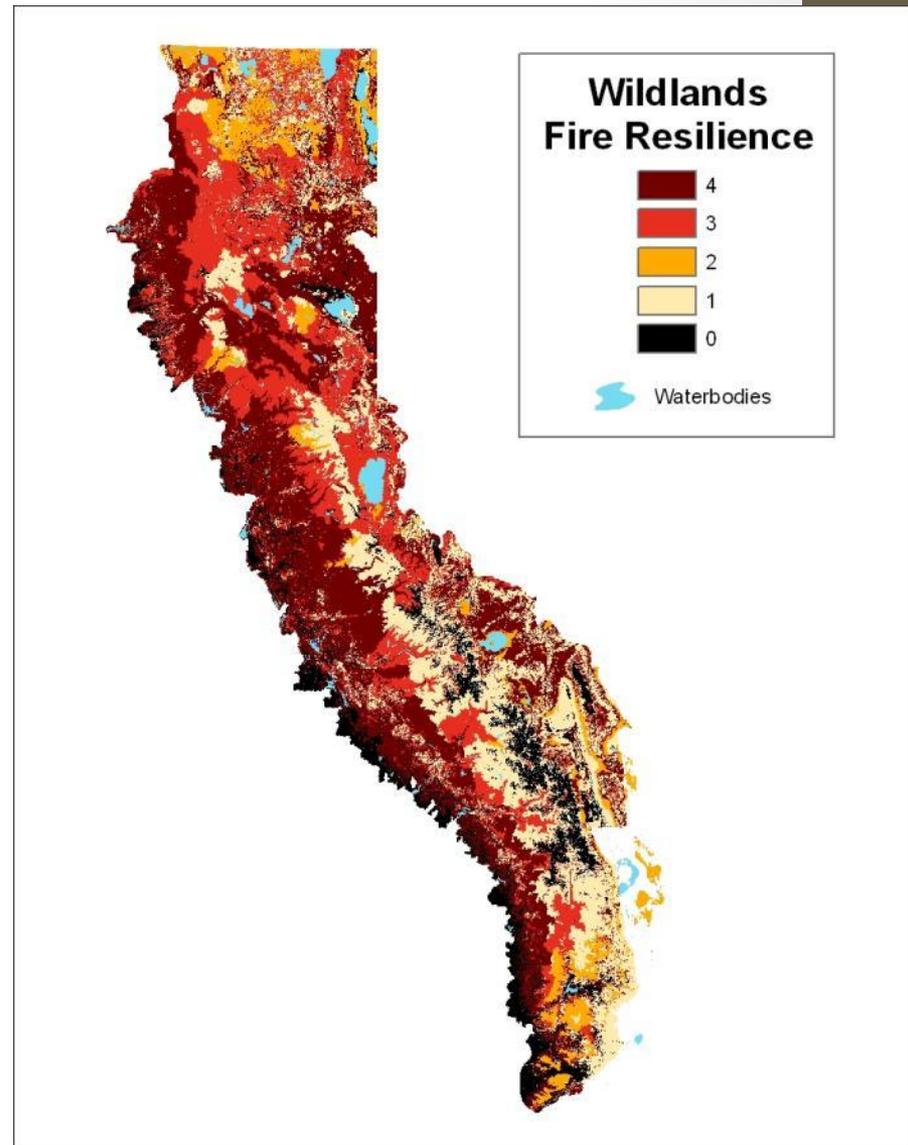
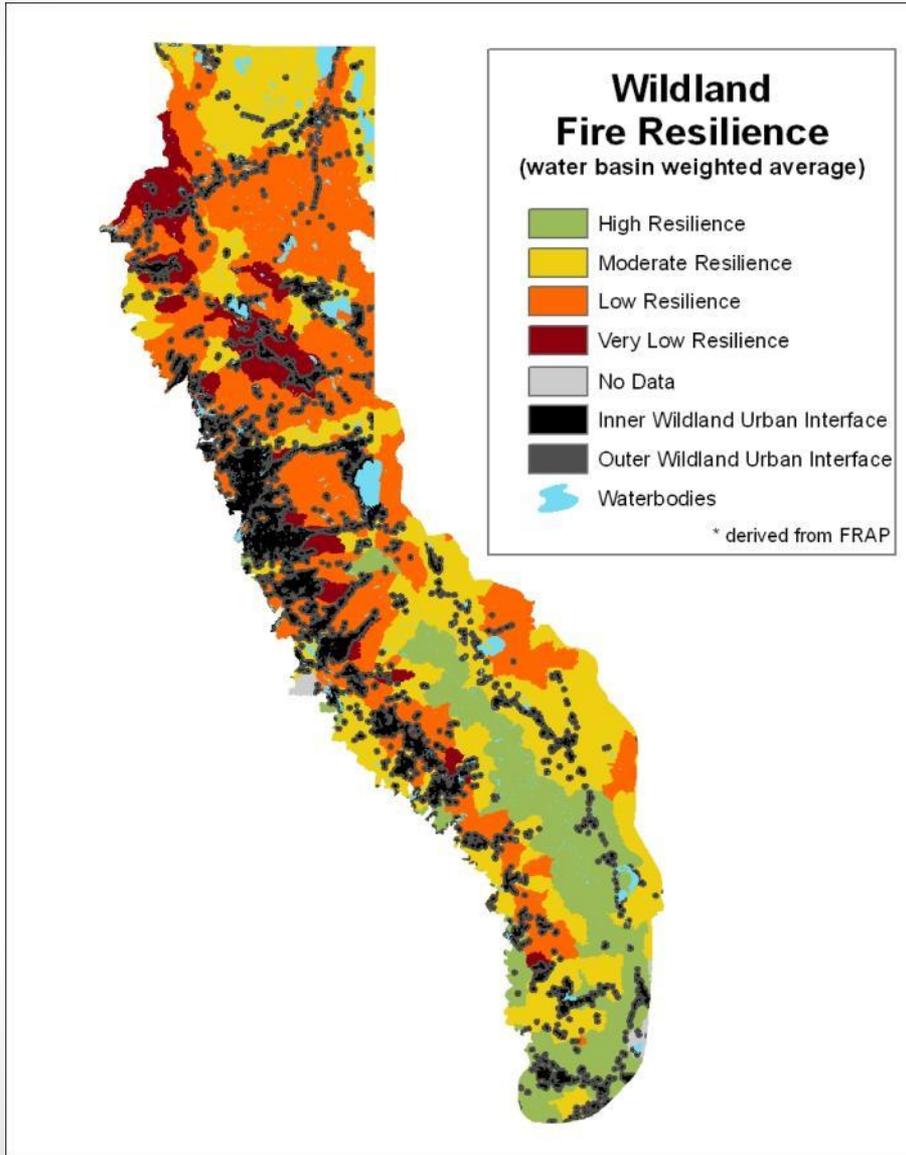
Example WUI

- Collaborative – multi-agency analysis
 - Fire Behavior and human safety
 - Ecological fire resilience
- County & Fire Safe Council Plans
- Mapping
 - Agree on generalities, specifics tougher
 - What is it? Where is it?
 - What are the conditions? (Fuel hazard)

Treated Inner WUI And Untreated Outer WUI South Lake Tahoe, Angora Fire



Wildland Context – Forested easier than Grassland and Sagebrush



Smoke – Sequoia National Forest and Park

Setting: very tough emission standards

Tradeoffs:
During Wildfires
Pre-treatment



Difficulties

- All lands data on fuels in WUI is not available
- Different agencies collect differently
- Cannot assess together at this time



Dealing with Difficulties?

KEEP TALKING and Working toward shared data

Questions and Answers

Ask questions through the chat pod

Give us your feedback!

www.fs.fed.us/openspace/webinars

Or Contact

Susan Stein – sstein@fs.fed.us

Sara Comas - scomas@fs.fed.us

Rick Pringle – rpringle@fs.fed.us

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