



SFR SUSTAINABLE FORESTS ROUNDTABLE

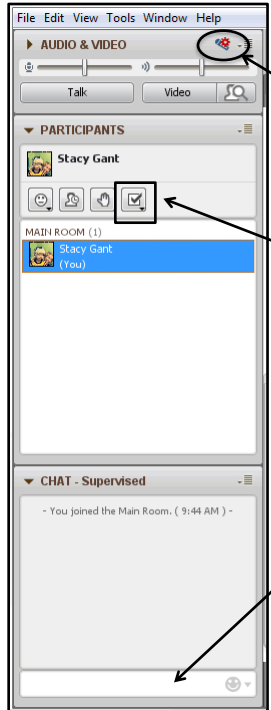
Webinar Portal for Sustainable Forests

Tracking Progress through Collaborative Monitoring

2:00 PM (Eastern Time)

Audio will start at 2:00 PM (Eastern Time)

Made possible through
Webinar Portal for Forestry and Natural Resource

Orientation

1. Audio Setup Wizard – Allows you to ensure your audio is set up properly.
2. Polling - Allows you to answer yes/no questions and respond in a multiple choice format
3. Chat - If the chat says “Supervised,” be aware that the presenter/moderator can see all messages, even those marked private.

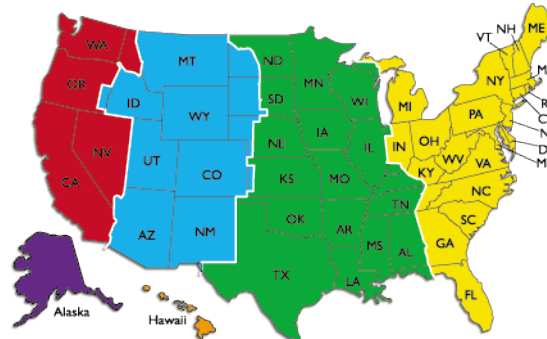


Which category best represents you?

- a. Extension or Education Agency
- b. Government Agency
- c. Private Natural Resource Business
- d. Landowner
- e. Other

Where are you webbing from?

- A. **Pacific**
- B. **Mountain**
- C. **Central**
- D. **Eastern**
- E. **Other**





Why Monitor?

- Monitoring is the basis for decision making.
- It lets us know whether we are doing the right thing, or if we need to stop or change course
- Provides documentation of our actions.
- Data can be necessary to convince others.



Today's talk:

- Part 1: Principles of Monitoring and Adaptive Management
- Part 2: The Monitoring Process Used in Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRPs) in the Pacific Northwest
- Part 3: Lessons Learned and Suggestions for Your Situation



Part 1: Principles of Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Monitoring

- Tracking changes over time

Types of monitoring:

- Implementation
- Effectiveness
- Validation

Types of monitoring:

- Implementation

Did we do what we said we would?

Example: We planned on thinning 40 ha, and we actually thinned 30 ha, so we completed 75% of the work.

Types of monitoring:

- Effectiveness

Was our activity useful in meeting our objectives?

Example: Our objective in prescribed burning was to reduce fuel hazard, and our monitoring showed that was the case.



Types of monitoring:

- Validation

Validation monitoring is essentially research: Better understanding the mechanisms of the ecosystem.

Example: We want to know the prey base of spotted owls and how this changes throughout their range

Adaptive management

We evaluate our management policy and actions based on monitoring, and adjust them based on what we find.

Therefore management is seen as a learning process we work on together.

Adaptive management

Example:

We use thinning to reduce fuel hazard.

But our monitoring shows that the thinning in this case did not reduce the hazard, because branches and other debris from the thinning accumulated.

Adaptive management

So we changed (adapted) our management to remove the material after thinning.

Moreover, we found this technique was expensive, so we had to be more strategic on where we placed our thinning.

.....another adaptation of our management.

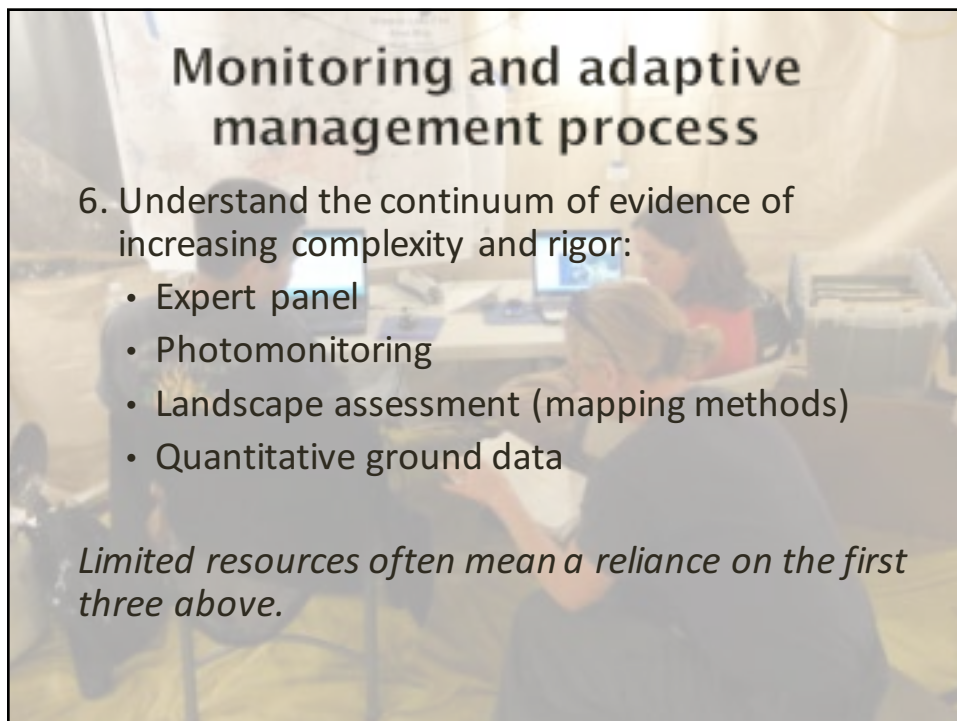




A group of people in a meeting room looking at a large map on a wall. The map shows a landscape with various features. One person is pointing at the map while others look on.

Monitoring and adaptive management process

5. Match your monitoring questions to the resources available. Do not make long lists of questions you will never answer.

A group of people sitting at a table with laptops, working together. They appear to be in a meeting or workshop setting, discussing and working on projects.

Monitoring and adaptive management process

6. Understand the continuum of evidence of increasing complexity and rigor:

- Expert panel
- Photomonitoring
- Landscape assessment (mapping methods)
- Quantitative ground data

Limited resources often mean a reliance on the first three above.



Monitoring and adaptive management process

7. Often a triage concept works well, using less intensive methods in general, and reserving data intensive methods for areas of high interest or controversy.

Example: This works well for riparian range monitoring, with rapid assessment everywhere and intensive sampling in areas of high controversy.

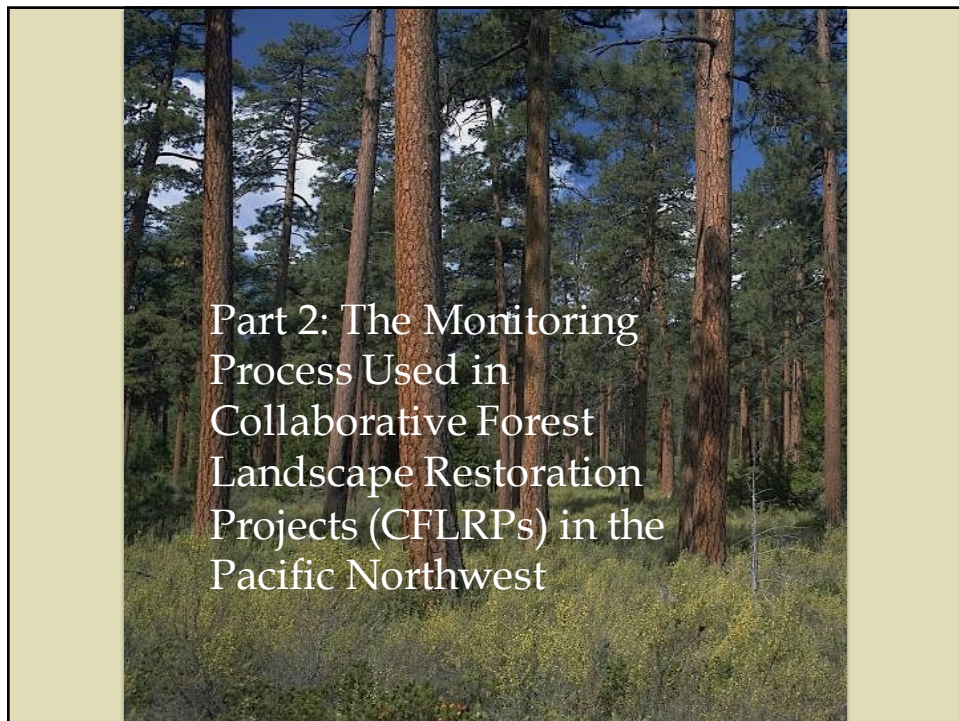


Monitoring and adaptive management process

8. Understand the right scale for your question.

For example, questions on fire regimes normally are assessed at landscape scale.





Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRPs)

Past Monitoring Mistakes

- Monitoring team isolated from leadership and public
- Long lists of monitoring questions to please everyone
- Inappropriate scales



Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRPs)

Past Monitoring Mistakes

- Uncoordinated efforts lead to patchy results and missed key questions
- Monitoring as an afterthought
- Lack of understanding and support

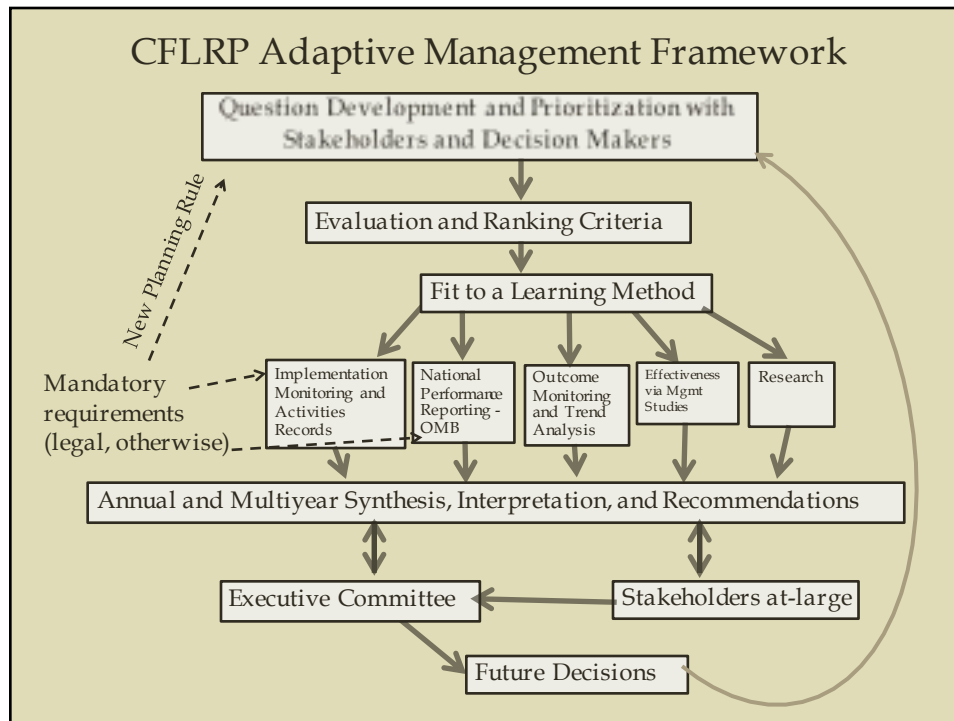
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRPs)

It's OK to make mistakes.....

.....but make new ones.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRPs)

- Innovative Landscape Learning and Monitoring Process
- Employs adaptive management and monitoring “owned” by the collaboratives
- All five CFLRP collaboratives using this process
- Emphasizing getting the process right.

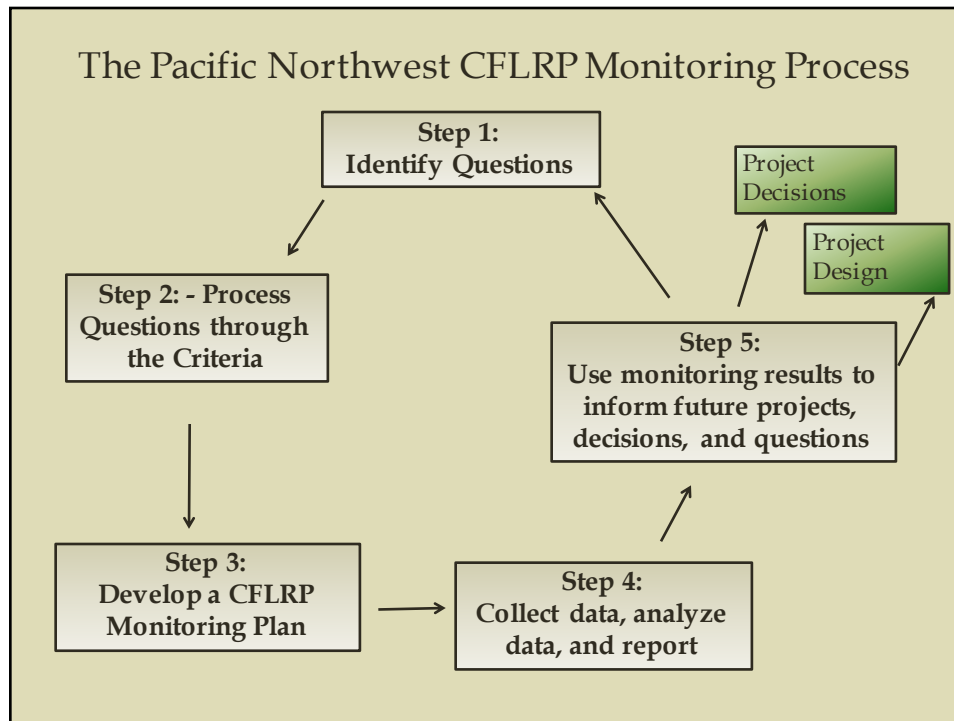


Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRPs)

National Direction on CFLRP Monitoring:

Ecological outcome measures

- Fire regime restoration
- Fish and wildlife habitat condition
- Watershed condition
- Invasive species severity



Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRPs)

- Emphasis on collaborative owning the question and criteria formation
- Criteria then used to refine the questions
- A time-consuming process, but at the end, questions are fully vetted, practical, and the collaborative is committed to doing them.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRPs)

Some commonly used criteria:

- Cost and time needed (relative magnitude)
- Will question facilitate line officer decisions?
- Quality of evidence needed



Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRPs)

Some commonly used refined questions:

- What is the effect of the treatments on moving the Forest landscape toward a more sustainable condition?
- What are the effects on focal species (wildlife, fish, plants and invertebrates) habitat over time?

Whiteheaded woodpecker is an example of a focal species.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRPs)

Some commonly used refined questions:

- How successful are we at implementing skips, gaps, and retaining old trees? [Late seral forest]
- What is the impact on the species and distribution of noxious weeds in burned areas?



Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRPs)

- All collaboratives recognize the importance of socioeconomic monitoring, but vary in their capacity to monitor this

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRPs)

Where are things at?

- All collaboratives have monitoring plans, and are continuing to refine them
- Recently completed a report at the national level.



Today's talk:

Part 3: Lessons Learned and Suggestions for Your Situation

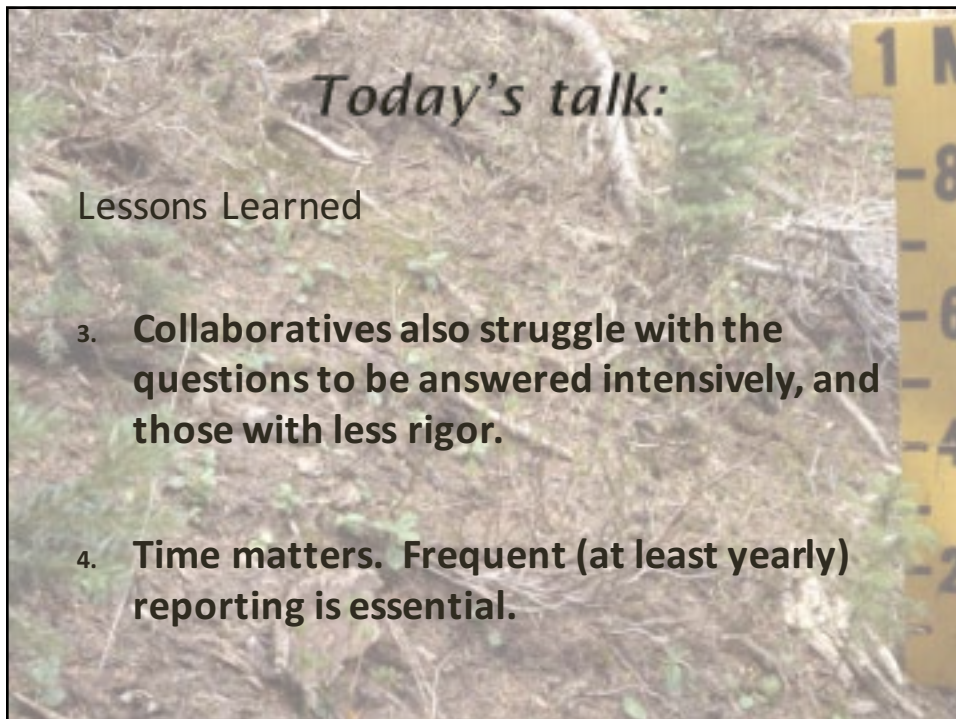


A group of people, some wearing hats, are gathered in a grassy field. In the background, there are mountains and a line of trees under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

Today's talk:

Lessons Learned

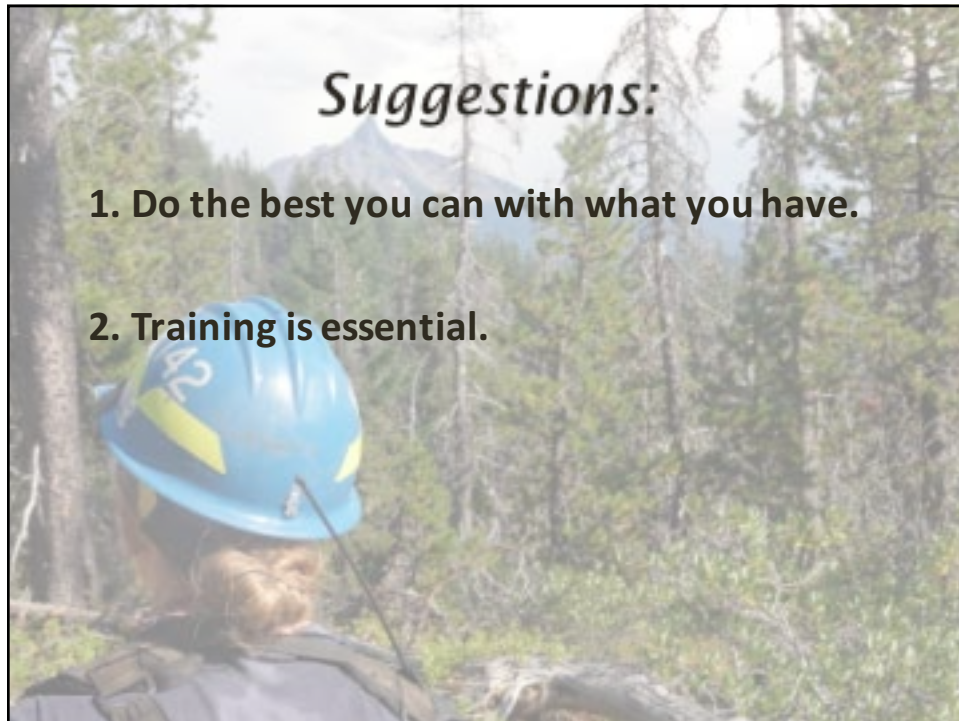
1. Getting to a small list of precise questions is very difficult... but worth it.
2. Monitoring in a collaborative setting is a tool for reducing tensions and learning together.

A close-up view of a field with dry grass and some green plants. A yellow measuring tape is visible on the right side of the frame. The text is overlaid on the image.

Today's talk:

Lessons Learned

3. Collaboratives also struggle with the questions to be answered intensively, and those with less rigor.
4. Time matters. Frequent (at least yearly) reporting is essential.



Suggestions:


5. Monitoring can be integrated with inventory (determining what, where, and how much of it you have on the landscape)

For example, a set of transects on the landscape can be used to inventory vegetation types. Those same locations can be used as monitoring points.

Suggestions:

6. Design your monitoring work so that it will really be used.





SUSTAINABLE FORESTS
ROUNDTABLE

Webinar Portal for Sustainable Forests

Questions?

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- Certify that you have participated in the webinar in its entirety