

Sierra Cascades Dialog #14 Monitoring

January 22, 2015 | Graphic Wall Charts Transcribed

Wall Chart 01 “Welcome” – Sierra Cascades (January 22th, 2015) on Monitoring – What? Why? How?

VISUAL DESCRIPTION

Mountains with inviting clouds, beautiful blue sky, green hills and a lone Sequoia by a river provide a welcoming graphic highlighting the title of the workshop. Key elements of the welcome and introduction were described as well.

TRANSCRIPT

1. Sierra Cascades Dialogue (January 22th, 2015) on Monitoring – What? Why? How?
 - a) Welcome
 - i. Generate Ideas!!
 - ii. Building Understanding!!
1. Assessment, Revision, Monitoring
 - a) Draft, 90 days input, to final
2. Deb Whitall–
 - a) “Citizen Scientist”
 - b) Different Kinds of Monitoring
 - c) 2012 Rule: Engage the public, plans to reflect key interests!
3. Al Olson–
 - a) Background in aquatics...
 - b) Best kind of monitoring, changes the way we do business!
 - c) Apply Lessons
 - i. What worked? What to do better?
 - ii. Love the forests!
 - iii. Thoughtful input!
4. New Elements
 - a) Plan of intent
 - b) Wilderness
 - c) Species Conservation
 - d) Watershed
5. Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - a) Rollout Spring, Summer
6. New Forest Plan
7. Monument Plan

Wall Chart 02 “Monitoring National Forests of the Sierra Nevada Panel Presentations”

VISUAL DESCRIPTION

The graphics presents the three topics and information the Panel speakers shared in their presentations.

TRANSCRIPT

1. Marc Meyer

- a) Definition – Systematic process to collect information and includes–
 - i. Effectiveness
 - ii. Multi-party monitoring
 - iii. Status and trend
 - iv. Citizen Science
 - v. Validation
- b) Plus
 - i. Shared learning
 - ii. Decision-making
 - iii. Build Trust
- c) Examples
 - i. Do Fuel Treatments Work?
 - Indicators -Yes they work if remove BOTH surface and ladder fuels.
 - Treated!!
 - ii. Citizen Science
 - Engage and educate the public
 - Audubon bird count
 - Status & trend
 - iii. Dinkey Ecological Monitoring Plan
 - Biodiversity
 - Fires and fuels
 - Watershed
 - Diversity Scientific Expertise
 - Consensus!!

2. 2 Parts - Questions and Indicators

3. Patricia Flebbe

- a) 2012 Planning Rule
 - i. Measure progress of Plan and management effectiveness (Monitor, Assess, Revise)
 - Change Plan??
 - ii. Desired Conditions -- Indicators
 - iii. Ecosystems, Recreation, Social, Economic
 - iv. Within Capability
 - Partners
 - Existing
 - v. Nimble
- b) Two Tiers:
 - i. Forest Level
 - ii. Larger Scale
- c) Monitoring Report Every 2 years
- d) Purpose
 - i. Test assumption
 - ii. Track effectiveness
- e) Transition prior monitoring programs to meeting 2012 by 2016

4. 8 Required Items...and 'Other'

5. Be honest about capabilities

6. Don Yasuda

- a) What Is Adaptive?

- b) Nimble Change Process
- c) Monitoring Report
- d) Management
 - i. Learn!
- e) Planning
 - i. Respond to new info and need
 - ii. More integrative
 - iii. Project-level plan amendment
- f) Examples
 - i. Project: Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project
 - ii. Forest: Best Management Practices (BMPs) and National Visitor Use Monitoring Program (NVUM)
 - iii. Bio Region: Sustainable Wetlands Adaptation and Mitigation Program (SWAMP)
 - iv. Regional Fisher Monitoring

Wall Chart 03 “Questions for the Panel”

VISUAL DESCRIPTION

The graphic presents a table of three panelists with comment bubbles above them. Throughout the graphic are questions and responses.

TRANSCRIPT

Questions for the panel speakers were:

1. How to make it specific and matter?
 - a) Nimble – count on expertise.
 - b) Plan monitoring vs. project monitoring.
2. Adaptive?? How do you KNOW using it correction?
 - a) Speed and capacity – factor in the cost.
 - b) At project level:
 - i. Don't rubber stamp.
 - ii. LEARN at project level.
 - iii. Can we fine tune towards better practice?
 - iv. Make COURSE CORRECTIONS!
 - With admin change, not NEPA.
 - EXAMPLES?
 - Forest Plan amendment
 - Unique exceptions
 - New to the rule
3. What about Automated Monitoring?
 - a) Biggest cost is people.
 - b) Yes, opportunity to expand.
4. Collaborate with Tribes?
 - c) Citizen Science
 - d) Traditional Knowledge
 - i. We don't do a good job at this so far!
 - ii. We can improve here.

5. If we don't have the DATA?
 - a) Accountability Report.
 - b) We have to make decisions in face of UNCERTAINTY and DISCLOSE.
 - c) Make sure we pick important and relevant management questions.
6. How define broad scale vs. project level?
 - a) Ask: Is monitoring question applicable at larger area?
7. Review Bi Annual Monitor Report?
 - a) We haven't done one yet.
8. Budget?
 - a) In face of limits, we try to:
 - i. Partner
 - ii. Go after FUNDING SOURCES
 - iii. Monitoring takes time and resources for the BIG QUESTIONS!
 - iv. We have to work together
 - v. We spend time CONSIDERING
 - vi. Right Mix
9. NGO's
 - a) Count Bald Eagles
10. CITIZEN SCIENCE
 - a) Engagement and Education vs. High Quality Data
 - b) People as untapped resource
 - c) Useful for tracking trends
11. Potential...Climate Change

Wall Chart 04 "Monitoring Indicators of Desired Conditions - 6 Themes"

VISUAL DESCRIPTION

Visually conveys two of the six indicator themes and includes an image of dial gauge with a high value.

TRANSCRIPT

1. The six themes of Monitoring Indicators of Desired Conditions Include:
 - a) Terrestrial Ecosystems
 - b) Aquatic Ecosystems
 - c) Focal Species – Monitor system with species
 - d) Climate Change
 - e) Recreational Objectives
 - f) Social Cultural Economic
2. Terrestrial (What's Good?)
 - a) Bird Diversity
 - i. Whole community
 - ii. Features
 - iii. Extend
 - iv. Avian biologist
 - v. Vegetation
 - vi. Citizen science – yes, but need a lot of expertise
 - b) Habitat and Vegetation
 - i. Definition

- ii. Veg Eco
 - iii. GIS
 - iv. Remote
 - v. Fire Prevention
 - vi. Models
 - vii. Heterogeneity
 - Unknowns
 - Need to resolve
3. Social, Cultural, Economic (Need clear goals, strategies, and outcomes. What is the baseline? Efficiency.)
- a) Financial Impact – Forest Associated Jobs
 - i. Chambers, hotels, lodging, others
 - a) Demographic
 - i. Surveys
 - ii. Population increase
 - iii. Social justice
 - iv. Others
 - b) School Dropout Rate
 - i. Forest Service school district
 - ii. Others
 - c) Economic Indicators
 - i. Use patterns on landscape change
 - ii. New business
 - iii. Expand business
 - iv. Purchase agreements
 - d) Social Impact
 - i. Number of objections
 - ii. Letters to editor
 - iii. Values survey
 - e) Cultural
 - i. Snow pack
 - ii. Community impact of fire
 - iii. Number of tribal agreements
 - f) Collected by others...
 - i. Tourism
 - ii. Include in plan
4. Ecological Integrity
5. Forest Reserve Revenue...50% to counties adequate revenue

Wall Chart 05 “Monitoring Indicators of Desired Conditions - 6 Themes (Continued)”

VISUAL DESCRIPTION

Visually conveys the other four indicator themes and includes small images of a stream with the words “water as priceless”, a satisfied person, a woodpecker, bees and butterflies, a meadow, city buildings, and snowflakes.

TRANSCRIPT

The other four themes of Monitoring Indicators of Desired Conditions Include:

1. Aquatic

- a) Water Quality and Quantity
 - i. Physical Habitat and Hydrologic Connectivity
- b) Recreation Aesthetics
- c) Vegetation
 - i. Water table
 - ii. Riparian shading
 - iii. Stream stability
- d) Yes to PARTNERING agencies
 - i. Macro invertebrates
 - Need Expertise
 - Pollution
 - Disturbances

2. Recreation

- a) Number of days facilities at or exceed capacity
 - i. Habitat
 - ii. Satisfaction
- b) Visitor Satisfaction with Primitive Experience
 - i. Assess use wilderness
- c) Youth Access from URBAN areas
 - i. Public Transit?
 - ii. Self-reliance
 - iii. Diversity of users
 - iv. Social justice
 - v. Health
- d) Economic Data from Gateway Communities (What's changing)
- e) Campsite Conditions (Managing well?)
 - i. Yes for Partners, NGOs
- f) Permit Use
 - i. Changes?
 - ii. Surveys
- g) Use Pattern
 - i. Allowed and not allowed
- h) Connectivity to Nature
 - i. Volunteerism

3. Focus Species (Ecological Integrity!)

- a) Black Back Woodpecker
 - i. Fire
 - ii. \$100,000/year
- b) Guilds (Birds, Meadow Health)
 - i. Outside partners ok
- c) Bees and Butterflies (Invertebrates)
 - i. Avail of habitat
 - ii. Populations

4. Climate Change (Ecological Health Beyond Forest...Sediments?)
 - a) Vegetation and Animal Species
 - i. Easier decisions
 - ii. Habitat requirement
 - iii. Communities
 - Need volunteer coordinator
 - b) Snow Pack and Water Levels
 - c) Disturbance (look bioregionally)
 - i. Movement
 - ii. Fire
 - iii. Migration
 - iv. Insect quantity
 - v. Carbon sequestration
 - Remote sensing
5. Meadows
 - a) Citizen science
 - b) Volunteer info gathering
 - c) Need better desired conditions
 - d) Tease out effect of grazing
6. Comments:
 - a) What are we going to DO with the data?
 - b) Funding to make it get done!
 - c) Comprehensive CITIZEN SCIENTIST policy
 - i. Volunteers need to be trained and managed
 - ii. Coordinate with local communities
 - iii. Partner groups
 - d) Need air and water temperature monitoring. MORE WILDERNESS DATA
 - e) Wilderness Issue!!
 - i. Access...
 - ii. How do we bridge gap?
 - f) What are the critical measures that are STRATEGIC?
 - g) Question of whether Natural Forest vs. Management Forest.
 - i. What is our reference condition?
7. Summary Points
 - a) Good Management Questions Precede Indicator
 - b) Be Strategic!
 - c) Lots of Opportunities for Multi-Party and Citizen Science
 - d) Scale Matters
 - e) Ecological Indicators Can Do Double Duty!
 - f) Indicators and Information be Accessible! (Need Platform to Share)

Wall Chart 06 “Closing Remarks”

VISUAL DESCRIPTION

The illustration depicts the closing remarks and includes a an image of a skunk asking participants to consider what they are noticing, a person looking around, a science synthesis report, and a person’s arm around the phrase “it takes all of us...to wrap our arms around it”.

TRANSCRIPT

The closing remarks include:

1. Bernie Gyant
 - a) Asked “what are you noticing?”
 - b) Monitor: Do we need it...
 - c) What is our need for change?
 - d) Water is key!
 - e) Look around (in the field)!!
 - f) It takes all of to wrap our arms around it!
2. Deb Whittall
 - a) Science Synthesis Report Out Soon
 - b) Thanks to:
 - i. Steering Committee
 - ii. Volunteer Facilitators
 - iii. Tech Crew
 - iv. CCP