

Science and Monitoring

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Background

- New science & information since the Northwest Forest Plan was created in 1994



- Scientific information now available about threats such as:
 - climate change
 - barred owl impacts on spotted owl recovery
 - and managing landscapes for resilience to disturbance
- Regional interagency effectiveness monitoring framework was developed in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the Northwest Forest Plan in achieving its stated objectives

NWFP Effectiveness Monitoring

Using the monitoring framework, monitoring has been focused on important regional scale questions:

- habitat provided by older forests,
- populations & habitat of northern spotted owls & marbled murrelets,
- watershed health & provision of habitat for threatened fish species,
- federal agency relationships with Indian tribes,
- socioeconomic conditions in communities

Monitoring Results

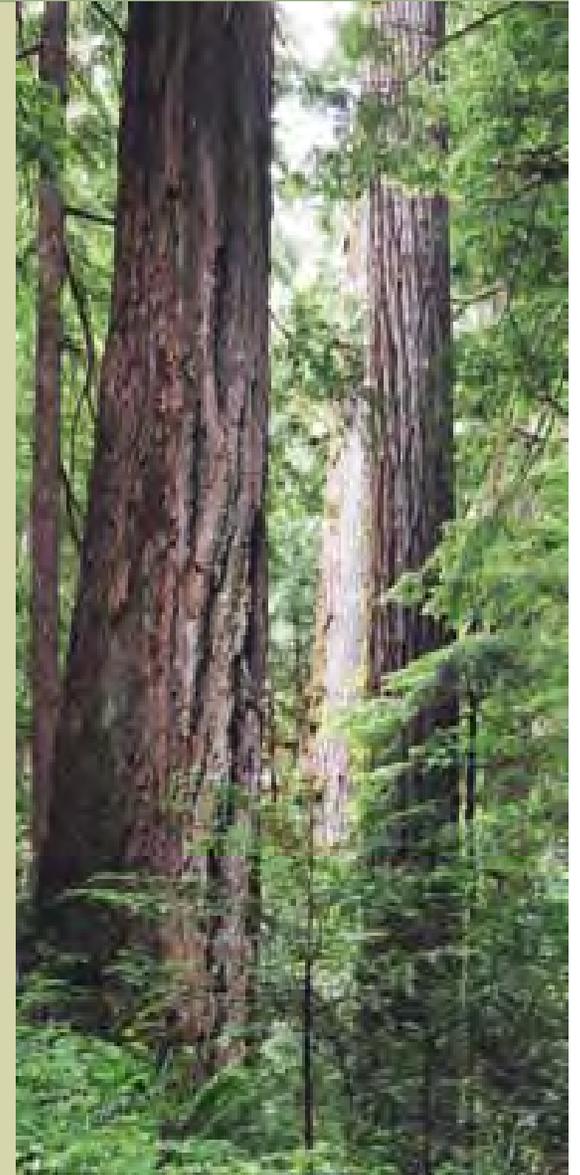


Monitoring results evaluated & reported in 5-year intervals:

- 10 years of NWFP monitoring data was published in a series of monitoring reports in 2005 and 2006
- 15 years of monitoring data (1994-2008), published in 2011
- The 20 year monitoring reports are currently in development
- Public Forum is planned for June 9 in Vancouver, WA to share 20 year monitoring report key findings

Need for NWFP Science Synthesis

R5/R6 Regional Foresters requested that PNW & PSW Stations develop a science synthesis to inform forest plan assessments & revisions across 19 NFS units within the NWFP area



Need for NWFP Science Synthesis

Science synthesis will:

- Inform the assessment phase of plan revision
- Synthesize relevant information focused on key topics & management questions
- Support land managers ability to make decisions grounded in the best available science
- Cover the extent of the NWFP area
- Use and build upon the 20-year Monitoring reports and monitoring questions



NWFP Science Synthesis

The synthesis will address additional topical areas identified by Regions, specific to plan revision needs, such as questions related to:

- vegetation management
- terrestrial species/ habitat management
- aquatic and riparian management
- social and economic impacts
- climate change and ecological disturbance



NWFP Science Synthesis

- The science synthesis will be based on currently available peer reviewed science that is published in a reputable source; new analysis will be limited
- Goal is to have a draft science synthesis ready for peer review in late CY2016/early CY2017
- Synthesis still in the planning stage
- Stations beginning to organize their resources and approaches

Engagement in NWFP Science Synthesis

- FS working closely with other federal agencies as we define our approach to the synthesis
- Interested in providing opportunities for engagement for NGOs, interested parties & the public during the development of the science synthesis
- Details for our engagement strategy yet to be determined
- Will develop strategy using feedback from this Listening Session



Science Foundation for Plan Revision

FS is committed to working across Regions, with other federal agencies, & with the public to provide a **sound science foundation**

for consideration by land managers for the plan revision process

