

# The Federal Resource Management and Ecosystem Services **Guidebook**

## **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

ACES Workshop 2014



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Pacific Southwest Region  
US Forest Service

# Motivation

The USDA Forest Service recently adopted a new planning rule for the development of land management plans (plans) for National Forest System (NFS) lands that includes the provision of ecosystem services as a major objective:

“Plans will guide management of NFS lands so that they... have the capacity to provide people and communities with ecosystem services...”

Also key, the Planning Rule requires each National Forest to provide, “meaningful opportunities for public participation throughout the plan revision process” (36 CFR § 219.4).

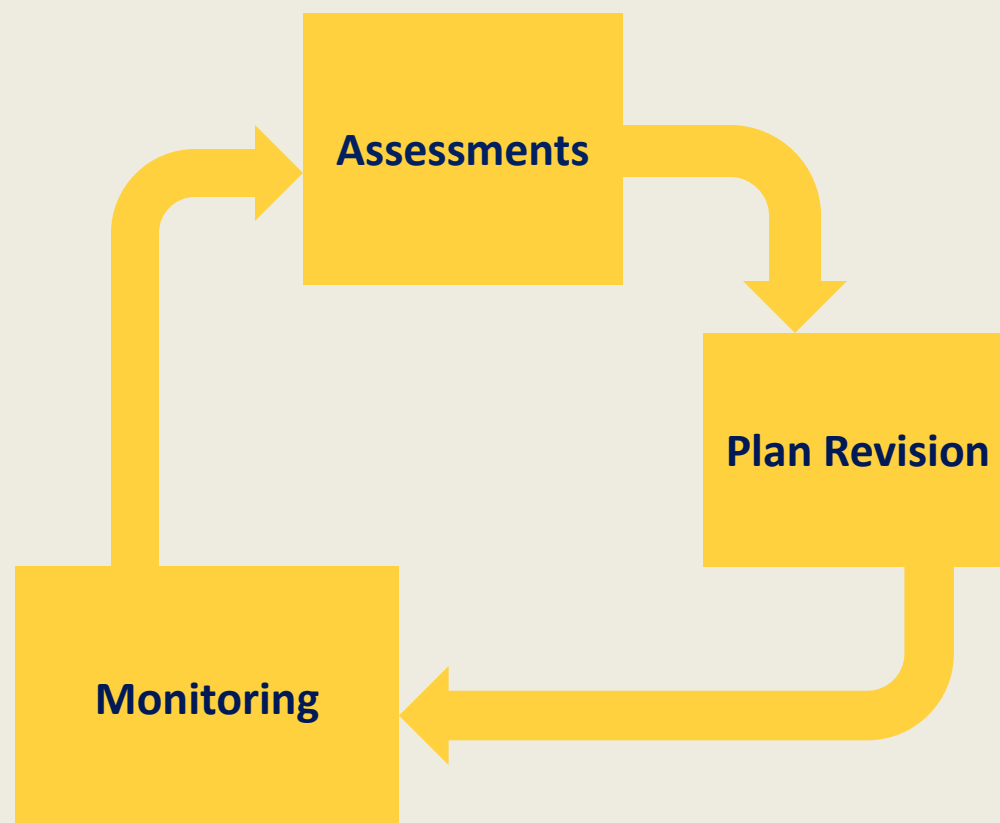


# Location

This case study describes current forest plan revision efforts for three national forests in the Pacific Southwest Region. These forests are the Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests.



# 2012 Planning Rule Process



**Three Phase Planning Process that is Continuous....**

# Sierra Cascades Dialog

USDA Forest Service  
Region 5

2013

## Sierra Cascades Dialog

The Sierra Cascades Dialog brings people with diverse viewpoints together to discuss and think about issues of importance in managing national forests and grasslands across the Sierra Nevada and Cascades mountain ranges. Dialogs provide an opportunity for learning, shared meaning, aligned actions, mutual respect and understanding different perspectives. The Dialog is a rare opportunity to discuss issues as a region. The outcomes of the dialog influence the management strategies of the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service.

### Dialog Goals

The goals are to:

- Bring together public and private land managers to grapple with an "all lands" approach to planning and conservation, beginning with fire protection issues
- Lay the foundation for Forest Plan revisions
- Develop stakeholder collaborative capacity to address challenging complex issues on a broad scale
- Create shared responsibility and understanding
- Give people voice to express concerns and provide an avenue for input
- Build relationships and trust among all stakeholders

### Participants

All meetings are open to the public. Everyone is welcome to participate. The Dialog strives for age, cultural, geographic and socio-economic diversity among participants.

#### Who Attends

- County Governments
- Environmental Organizations
- Fire Safe Councils
- Industry
- Land Managers, including Forest Service staff and leadership
- Private Landowners
- Recreation Groups
- Rural and Urban Communities
- Scientists
- State Government
- Tribes
- Water Agency
- Youth



### History & Impact



**More Information:** DEB WHITALL, Forest Service  
707.562.8823 | email: dwhitall@fs.fed.us  
[www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r5/SierraCascadesDialog](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r5/SierraCascadesDialog)

### Steering Committee

The Steering Committee guides the dialog process, helping to frame discussion topics and the meeting format.

Deb Whittall, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) Social Scientist—LEAD ORGANIZER

Jim Branham, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Steve Brink, California Forestry Association

George Gentry, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Robert Goodwin, Region 5 Tribal Programs

Amy Granat, California Off Road Vehicle Association

Stacy Heaton, Regional Council of Rural Counties

Trinidad H. Juarez, Region 5

Susie Kocher, UC Cooperative Extension

Caelan McGee, U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution

Ron Pugh, Region 5 Planning

Frank Stewart, California Fire Safe Council

Danna Stroud, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Edmund Sullivan, Placer County Planning Department

Craig Thomas, Sierra Forest Legacy

Stan Van Velsor, Wilderness Society

Bill Wickman, Sustainable Forest Action Coalition

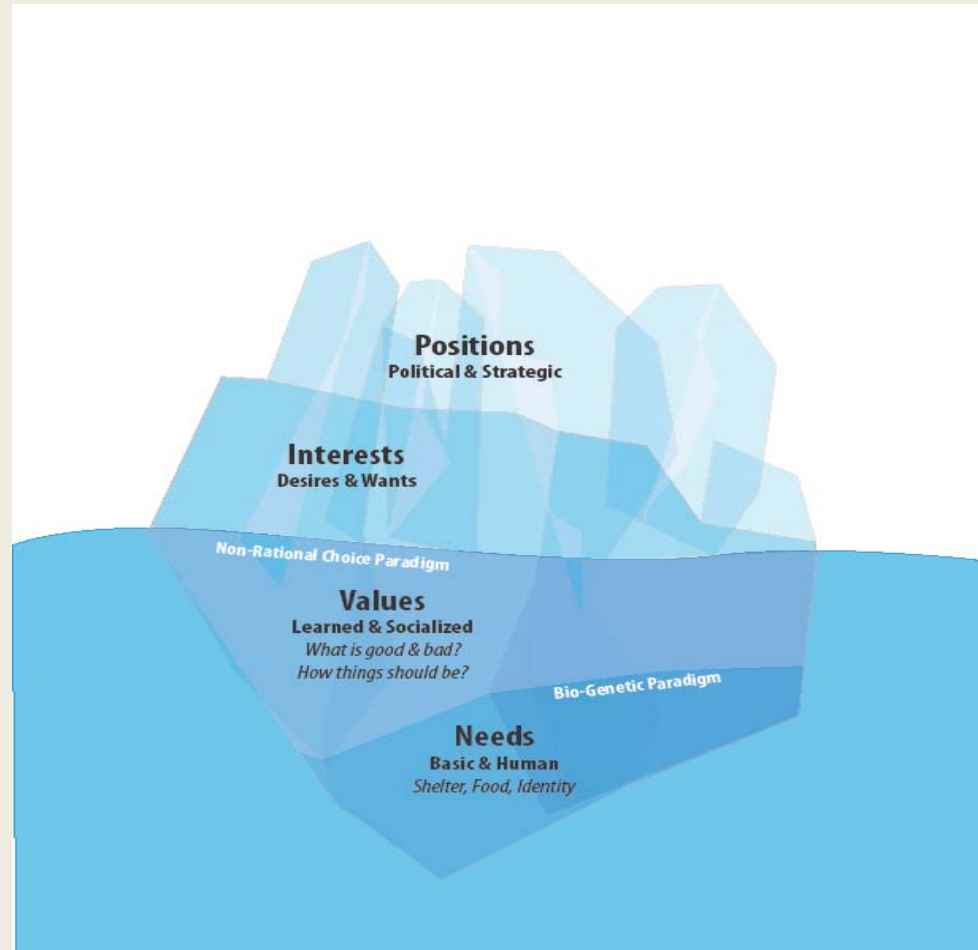
Steve Wilensky, Calaveras County Supervisor

Donald Yasuda, Region 5

Gina Bartlett, Facilitator, Center for Collaborative Policy

# Sierra Cascades Dialog

Dialog on Reaching Common Ground through understanding Positions, Interests, and Values using Interest-Based Problem-Solving (IBPS) techniques.



# Years 1 & 2 – Science Synthesis, Assessments and Public Involvement Plans

Science Synthesis

Report

Bio-Regional and  
Forest Scale  
Assessments

Internal and External  
Capacity to Collaborate

Plan

# Public Involvement Plans

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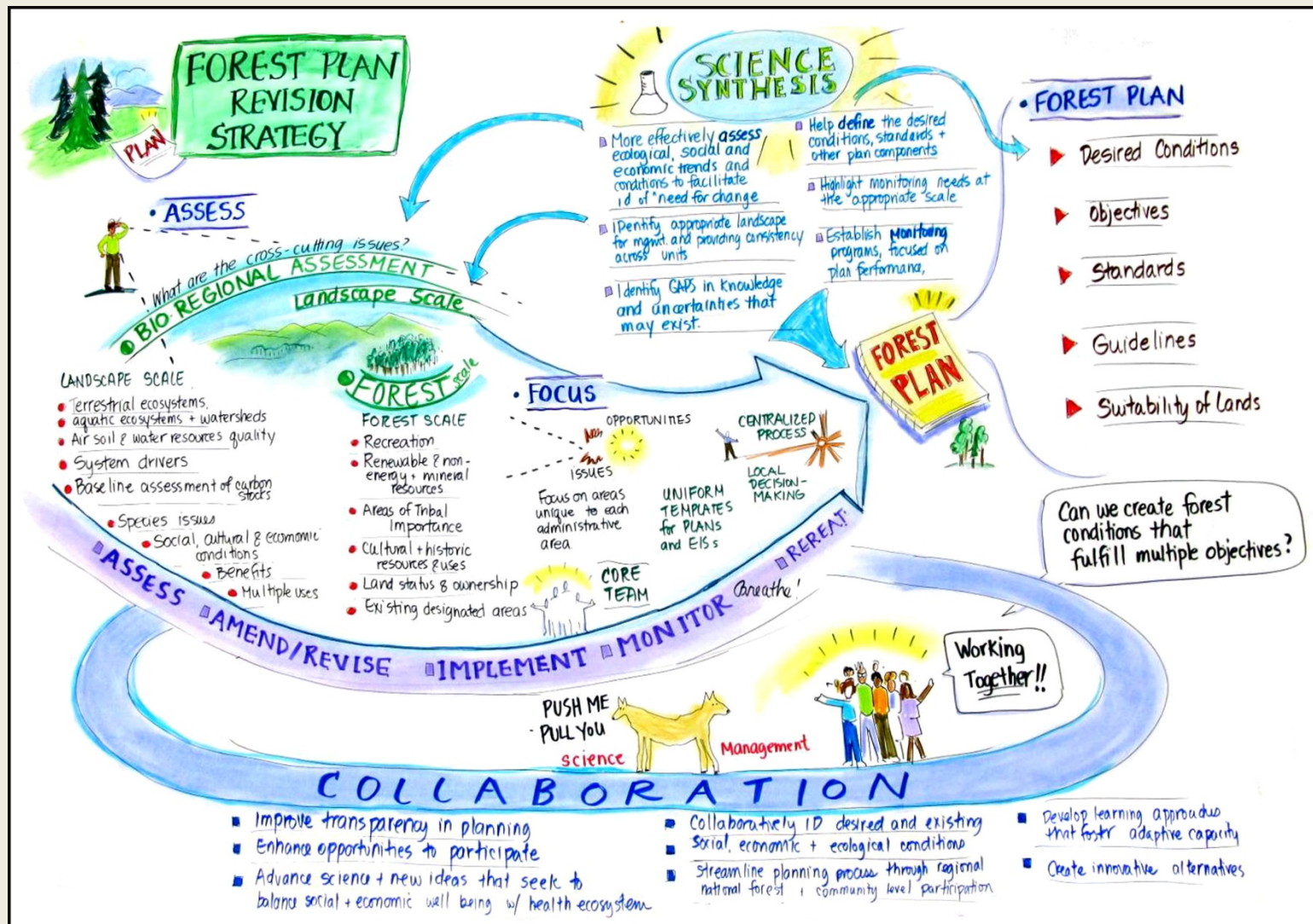


# Public Involvement Plans

National Forests will use input to develop  
Public Involvement Plans

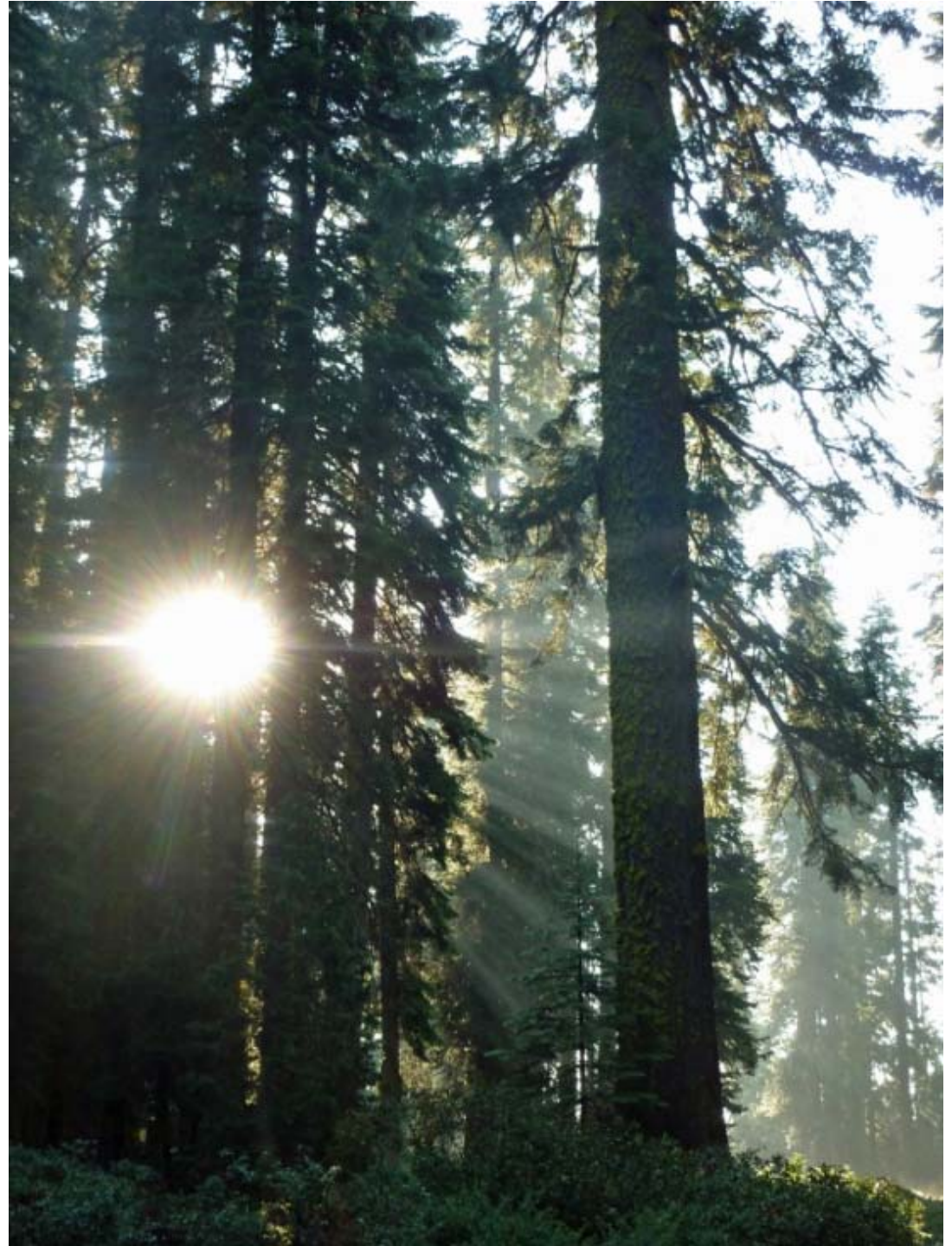


# Creating a Public Involvement Model





Why is this  
important?

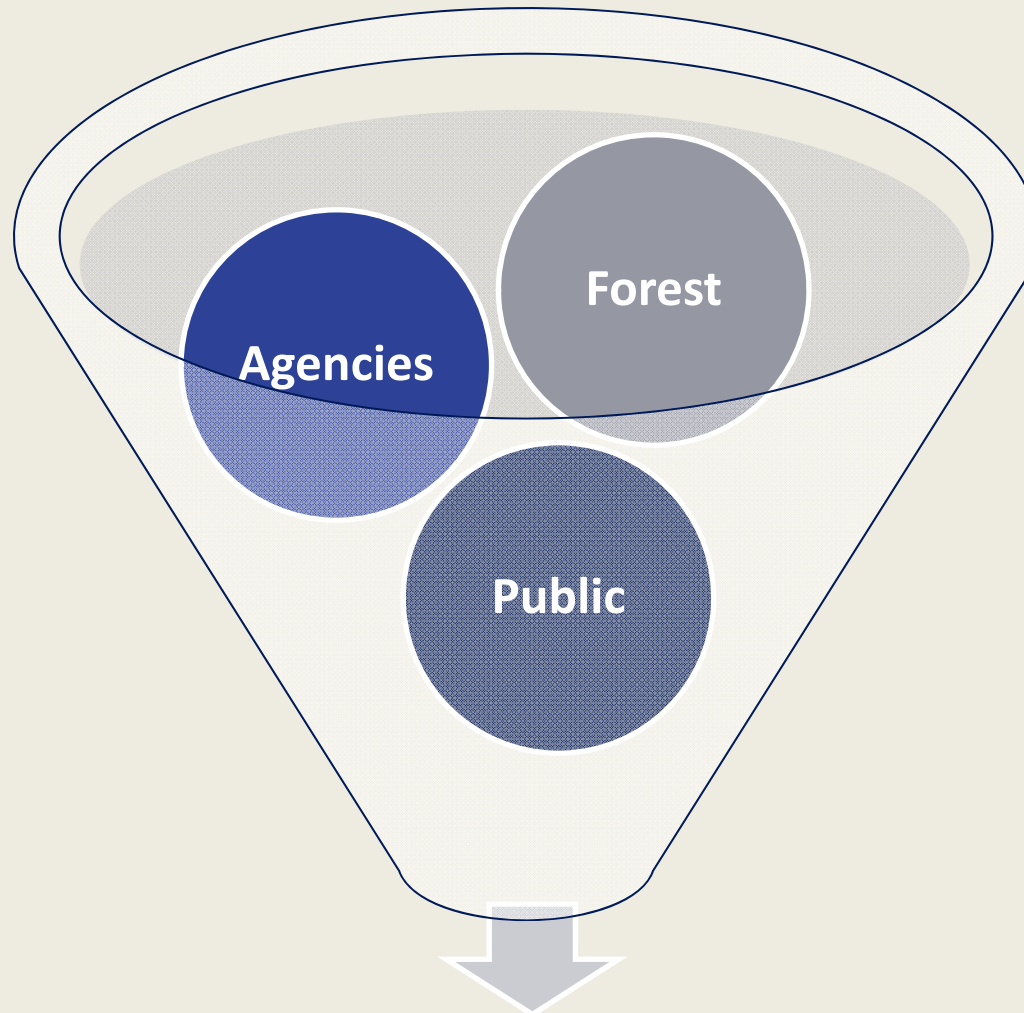


# Successful Public Engagement

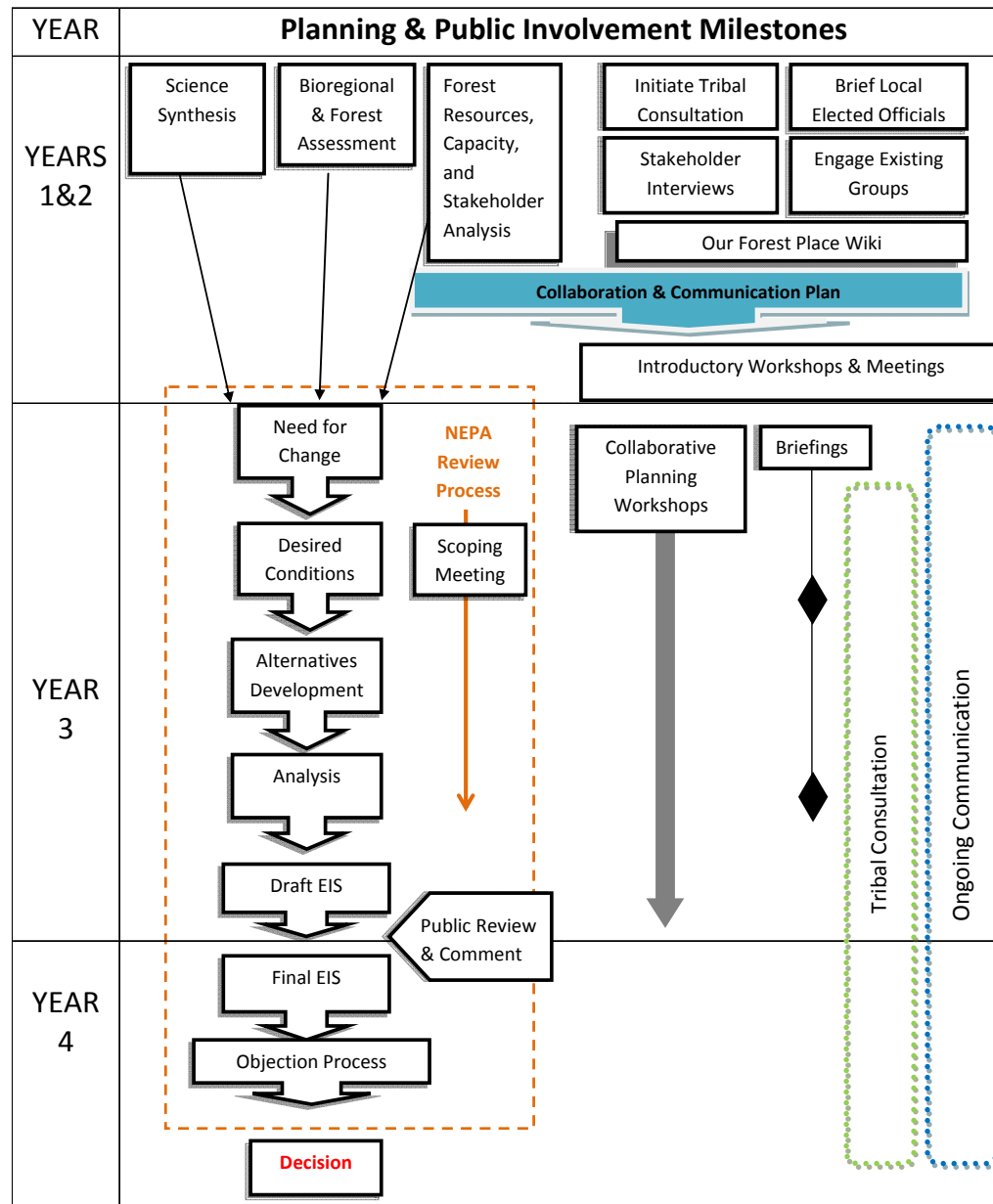




# Successful Public Engagement



**Forest Plans: Responsive and Widespread Support**



# Public Involvement Model

# Science Synthesis

Science Synthesis

Report

Bio-Regional and  
Forest Scale  
Assessments

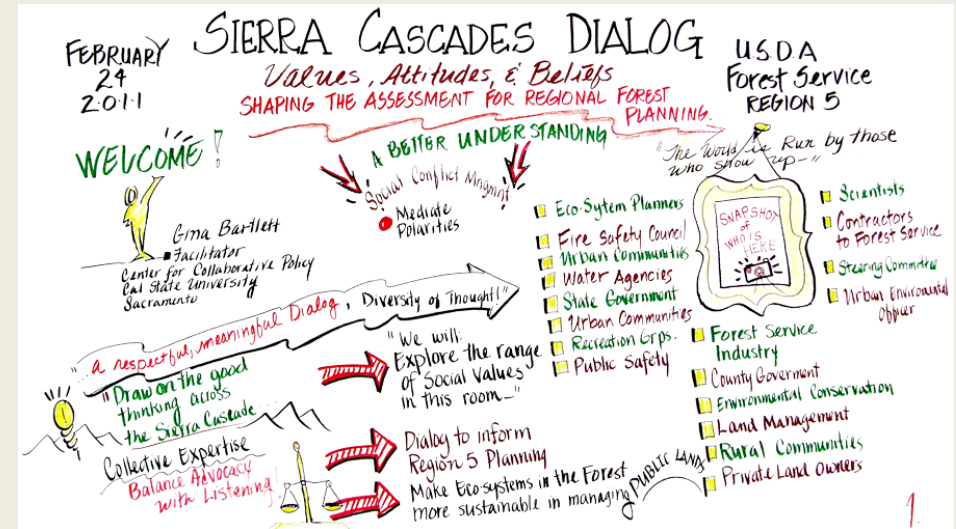
Internal and External  
Capacity to Collaborate

Plan

# Science Synthesis

## Important concepts and approaches

- Community well-being
- Sense of place
- All lands approach
- Collaboration
- Traditional and local ecological knowledge
- Social learning

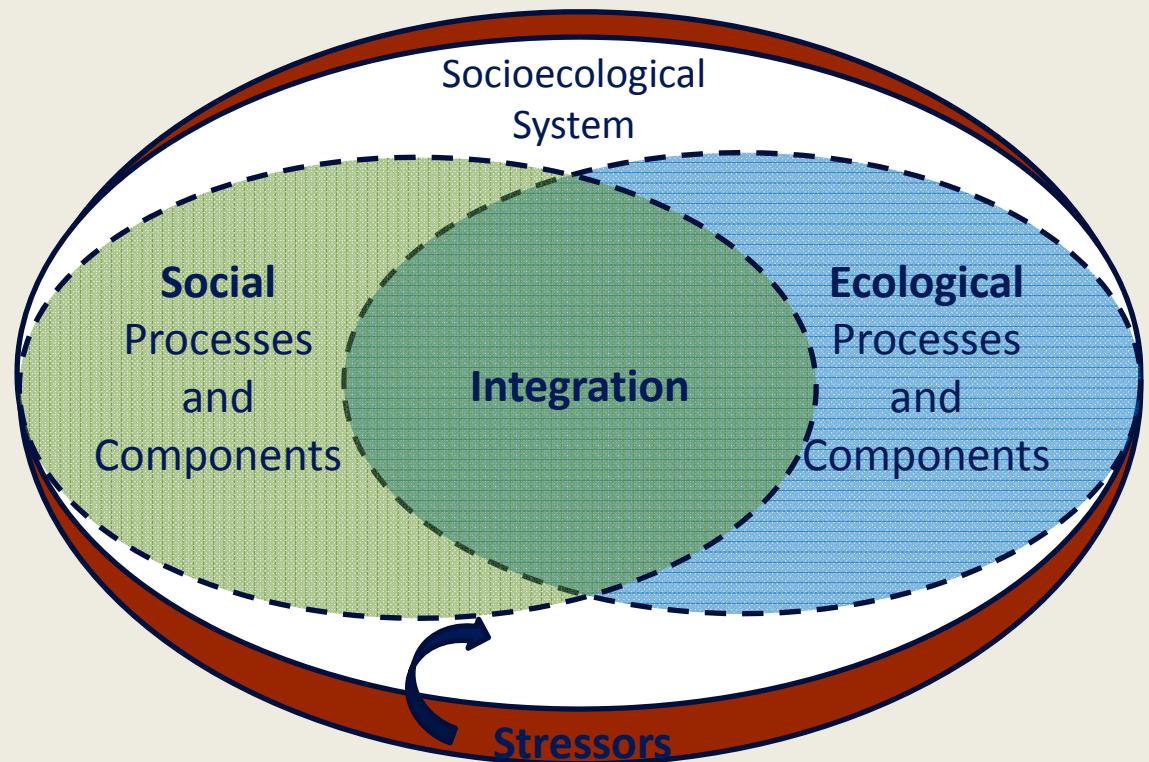




# Science Synthesis

**Broadly considers systems in an integrated fashion**

- Connects to “ecological integrity” and “social and economic sustainability” in the Forest Planning Rule



# Science Synthesis – Overarching ?

*“Based on recent scientific advances, what management strategies are likely to promote resilience of socioecological systems and sustain values-at-risk in the synthesis area over the short and long term given expected stressors?”*



# Assessments

Science Synthesis

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# Assessments

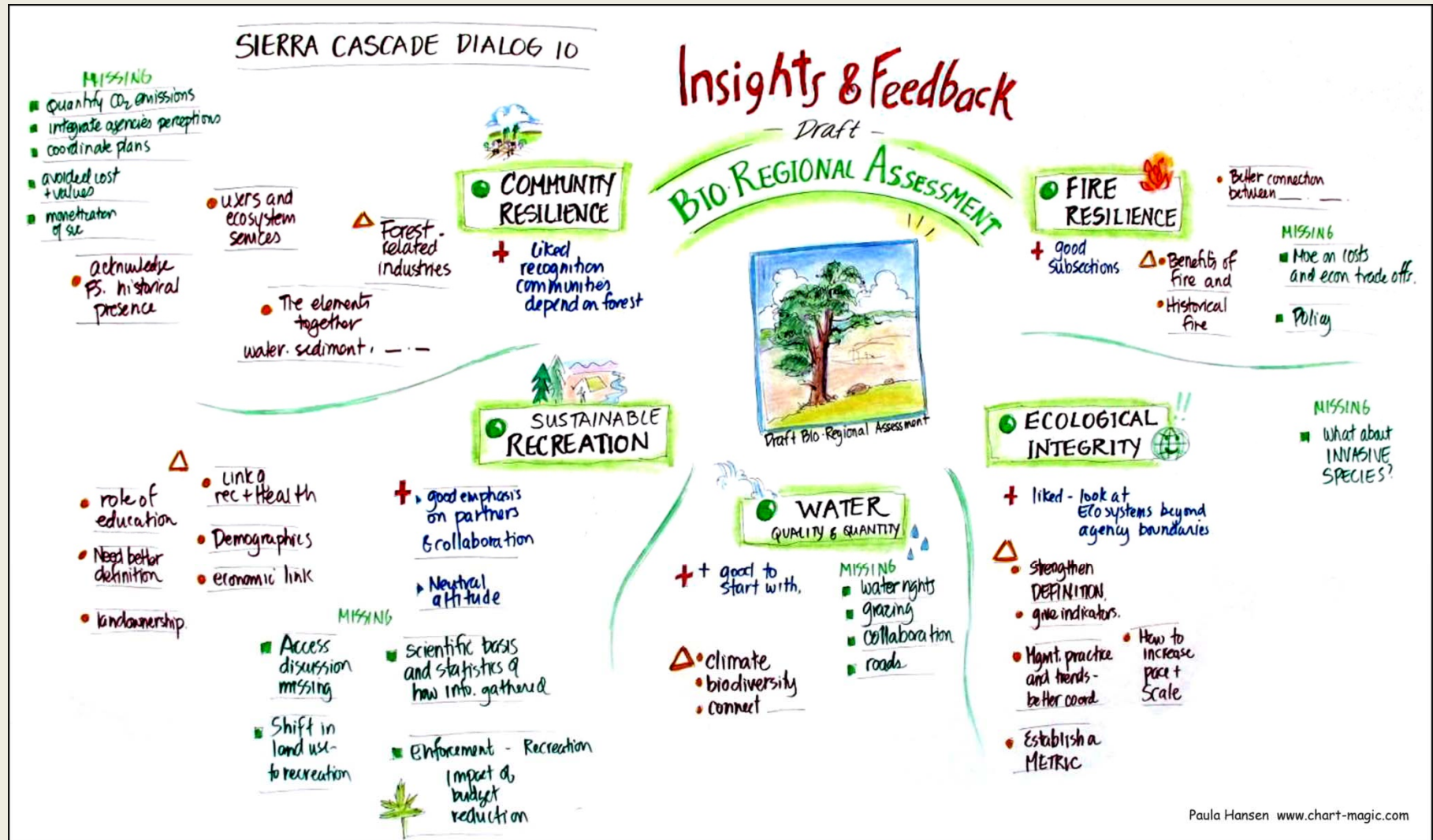
Assessment of the Sierra Cascades Bio-Region consists of three critical components:

- 1) 15 topic papers located on the “Living Assessment,”
- 2) Bio-Regional Assessment, and
- 3) Forest-level assessments





# Bioregional Assessment



# “Our Forest Place”

<http://ourforestplace.ning.com/>

“Our Forest Place” is a website designed to improve public participation in the planning process.

- Improve Transparency
- Enhance opportunities to participate in the planning process
  - Members interact with moderators...
  - Energizes innovation and creativity by connecting members in open discussion....

# A “Living Assessment”

<http://livingassessment.wikispaces.com/>

- A Wiki-style website that informs assessments.
- Consolidates relevant existing information across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Focuses on peer-reviewed and other relevant information, scientific understanding and monitoring results.
- Identifies scales both in time and space for addressing ecological, social, and economic resiliency

# Sierra Nevada Values Mapping Project

- The **purpose of the study** was to discover, describe, and document the nature and extent of the values that the public finds within the Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests.
- The research team created a website where **participants identified the places they value** and shared their views about what they considered important about the Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests in California. The website asked participants to drag and drop markers onto a Google® Map of the national forest study area.
- The **study was confidential**. The information provided was combined with other respondents and was not individually identifiable.
- The **study was submitted as public input** to the Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests' ongoing forest plan revision efforts.



# Engaging Tribes

- Over 100 tribes, both federally-recognized and non-federally recognized, exist in California.
- In addition to formal Consultation, tribal forums are coordinated by a Forest Service Tribal Liaison quarterly.

# Engaging Tribes

Key to the success of these forums is:

- attendance by a line officer,
- opening and closing with a traditional blessing,
- providing written materials,
- organizing the space so that all participants can face one another,
- encouraging active listening and storytelling, and
- following through on commitments.

# Engaging Underserved Communities

- In 2013, the Region entered into a contract with Voces Inc. to develop a Latino Engagement Guide for forest plan revisions.
- This model is based on data collected from Latinos in a small focus group representing the national profile of Latinos and during in-depth, in-person interviews with nearly 50 Latinos in the San Joaquin Valley, California.
- An overwhelming fact emerged: Very few Latinos know what the National Forests are or where the nearest one is located.

# Engaging Underserved Communities

- Critically, population data in the counties associated with the Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo national forests indicates the dominant population is Latino/Hispanic.
- To engage the Latino community and create awareness of National Forests, individuals who are trusted members of their part of the Latino community are being identified and recruited by the Forest Service to serve as a bridge between the Forest Service and the part of the Latino community the individual represents.
- We call these persons Trusted Community Contacts or TCCs.



# Engaging Youth

- Youth have proven to be excellent TCCs within the Latino, African American, and Hmong communities in the southern Sierras.
- Initially, youth participated in Forest Service sponsored workshops designed to identify their core values and the connection of those values with a forested landscape.
- Exercise – “Gross National Happiness”

# Thank You

