

ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS IN A MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

**The Rogue Basin Action Plan
for Resilient Watersheds and Forests
in a Changing Climate**



Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative

- Planning Process
- Local Climate Change
Impacts...happening NOW and
their impact on Ecosystem
Services
- Tools and partnerships to move
forward to manage for nature's
benefits with a changing climate



Climate Solutions University: Four Step Adaptation Process

1. Community Leader Forms Team / Leads Team Engagement
2. Assessment of Forest, Water, Climate, and Economic Risks and Opportunities
3. Develop Local Action Plan
4. Implementation of Plan



Goal 1: Manage risk and reduce impacts of fire to forest ecosystems and restore forest structure and function

Goal 2: Manage Risk and Reduce Impacts of fire to communities

Goal 3: Manage and implement practices that ensure the highest water quantity and quality

Goal 4: Provide quantifiable ecological restoration and economic support for practices by incorporating an Ecosystem Services model to identify and focus on priority areas

What is an ecosystem service that you value where you live?

How will/is climate change affecting that?

General Local Projections

2035-45 Winters 3.4°F

Summers 6.0°F

Winter may be wetter; summer months

2075-85 Winters 4.5°F

Summers 11.8°F/15.0°F

potentially no wetter to much dryer.

Less Snow Accumulation



Transition from Snow to Rain



Earlier Snow Melt



Flashier Floods in Spring & Winter



Dry Streams in Summer

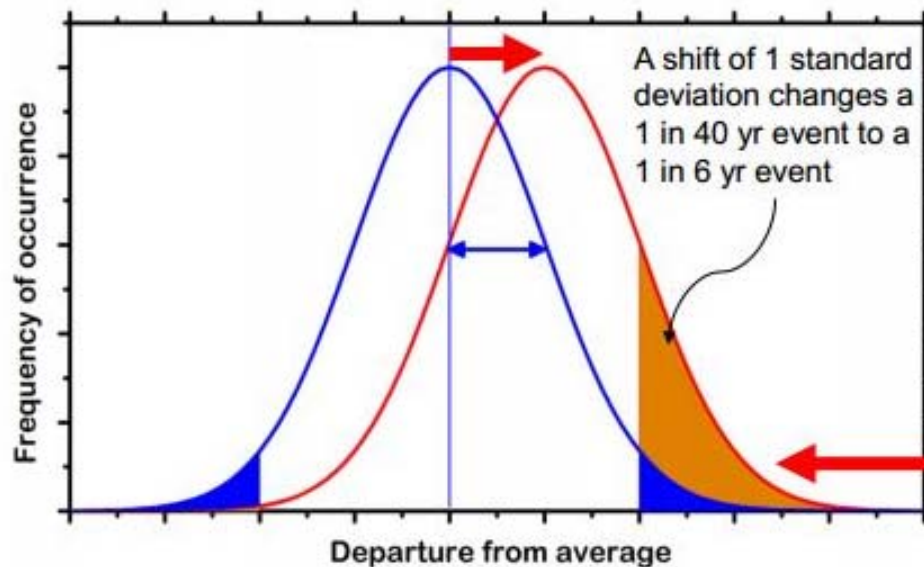


Increased Risk of Wildfires



Extremes matter

Frequency, extent, and severity of disturbances may be affected by climate change, altering the mean and *variability* of disturbance properties.



A shift in *distribution* of disturbance properties has a larger relative effect at the *extremes* than near the mean.

It's all about the tail!

Wildfires

- **1°F is the difference between a high fire year and a low fire year.**

300-400 % growth in fire severity and frequency projected for the Rogue Basin.



- **1°F increase = 23% reduction in snowpack**

Fire Risk

- Health
- Water
- \$\$\$
- Habitat
- WUI
- Emergency Services
- Public Safety



- Water Quality
- Water Quantity
- \$\$\$

Decrease snow pack Earlier snow melt



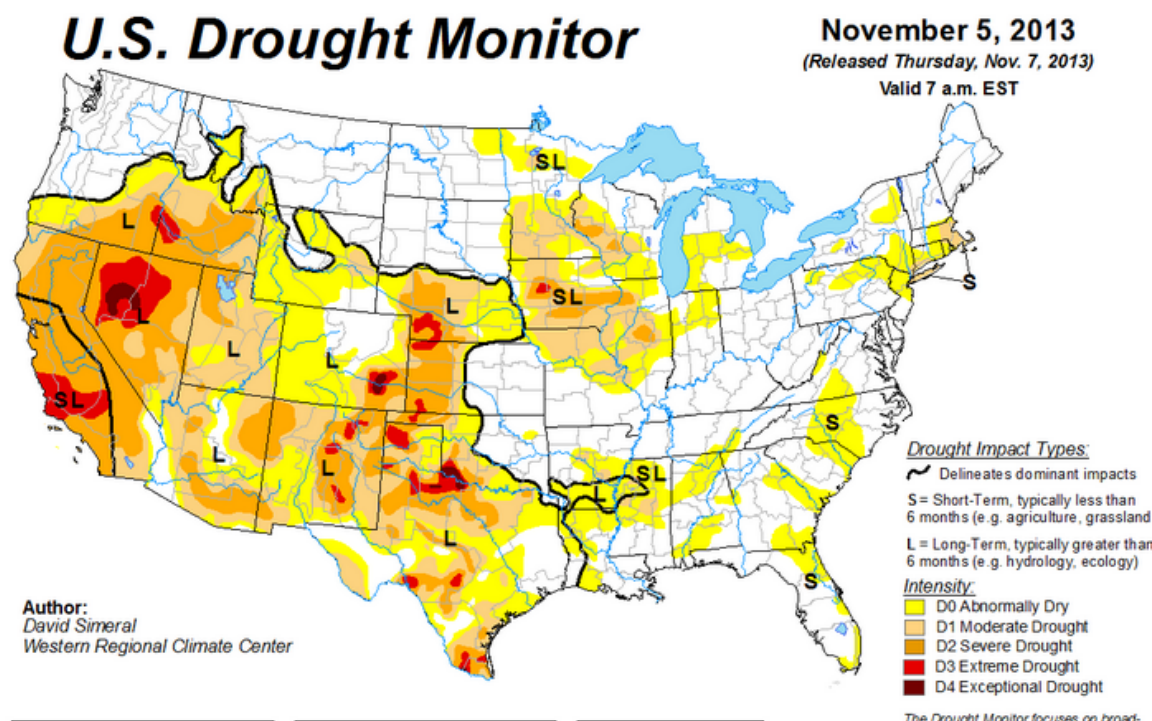
<http://www.summitpost.org/mt-mcloughlin-oregon-cascades/215314>

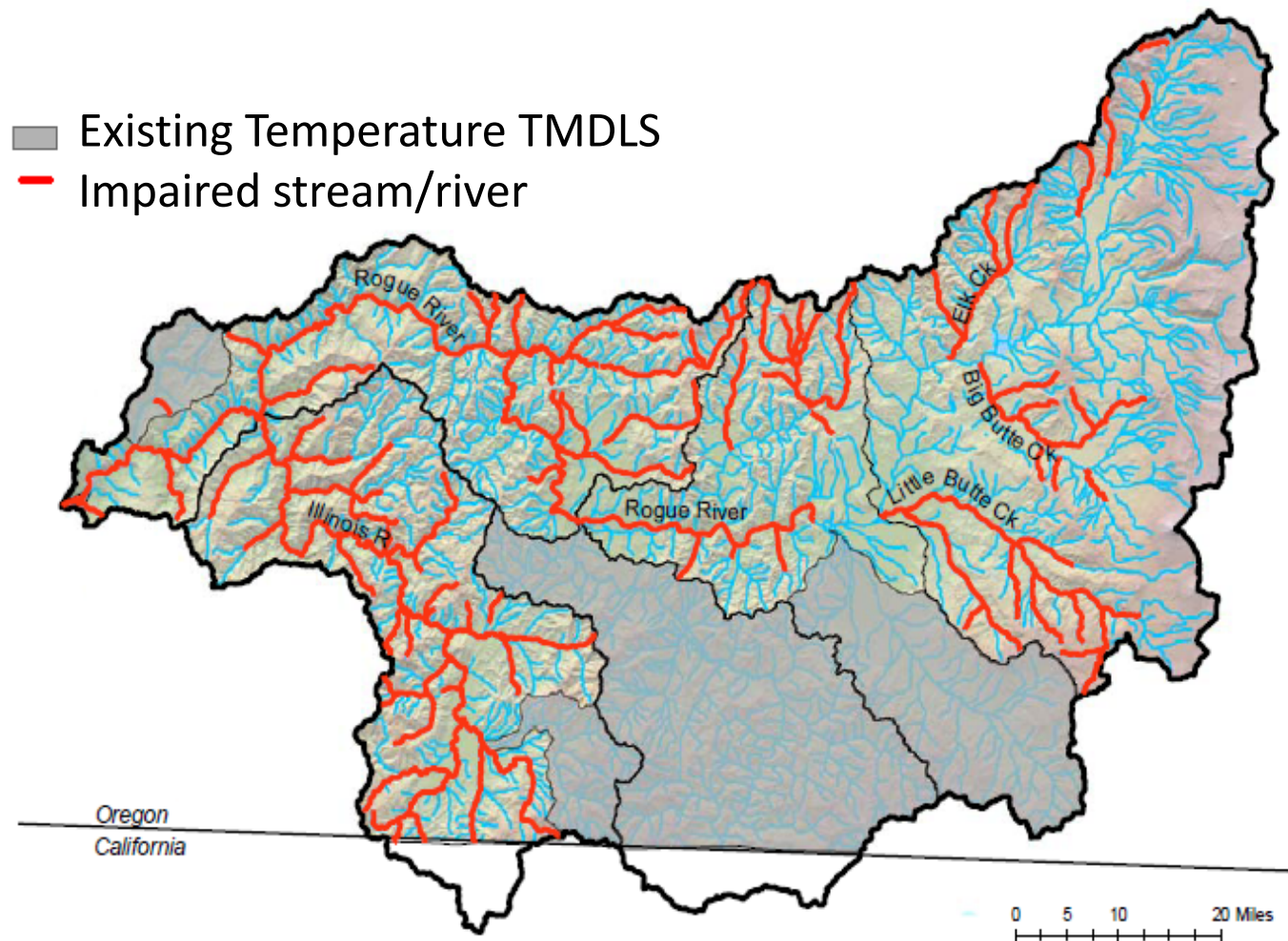


Source: Katu.com. December 2005 Flooding in Grants Pass

Extreme Weather Events

- \$\$\$
- Water Quality
- Water Quantity
- Emergency Services
- Public safety and health



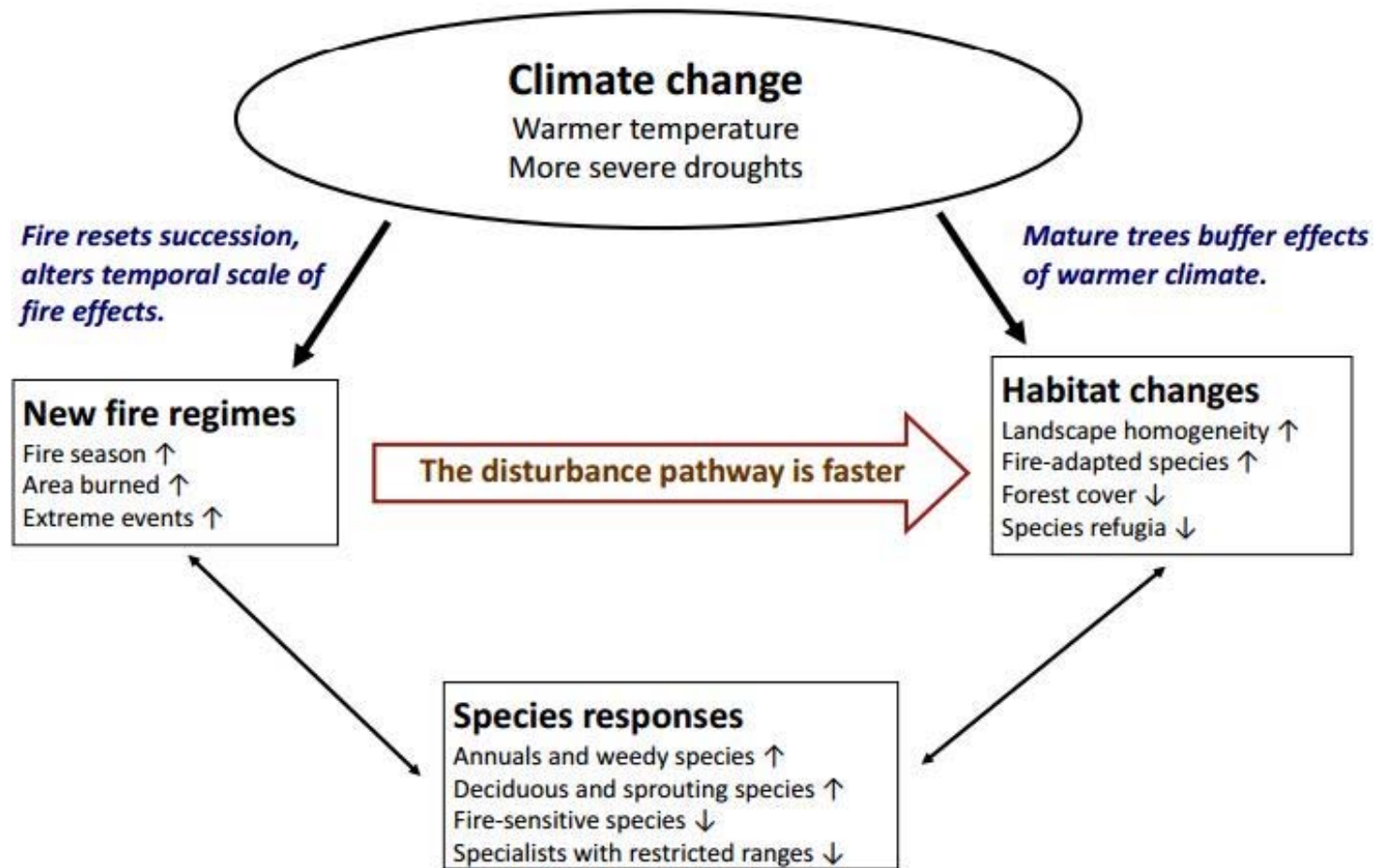


Increasing stream temperatures

Species at Risk

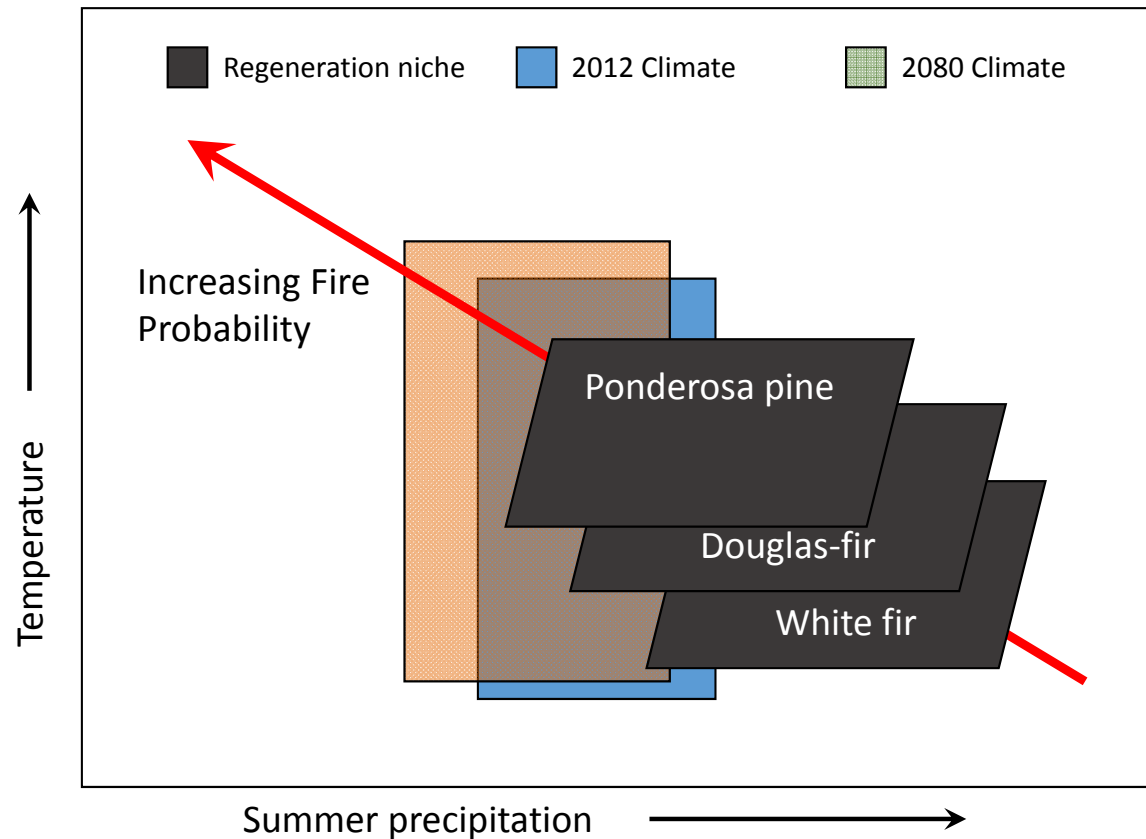


Disturbance drives ecosystem change



Dave Peterson, USFS

Forest Regeneration, Fire Frequency, and Climate



- Mean summer temperature up 1-6° F (2035-45) ; 5.6-11.8° F (2075-85)
- Summer precipitation down by -.65" to -.34" (2035-45) ; -.75" to -.12" (2075-2085) K.A. Conjour Consulting, 2011
- Climate change will increase drought and fire frequency Whitlock et al. 2003, Westerling et al. 2006

Tools and partnerships to move forward



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality



Watershed Councils



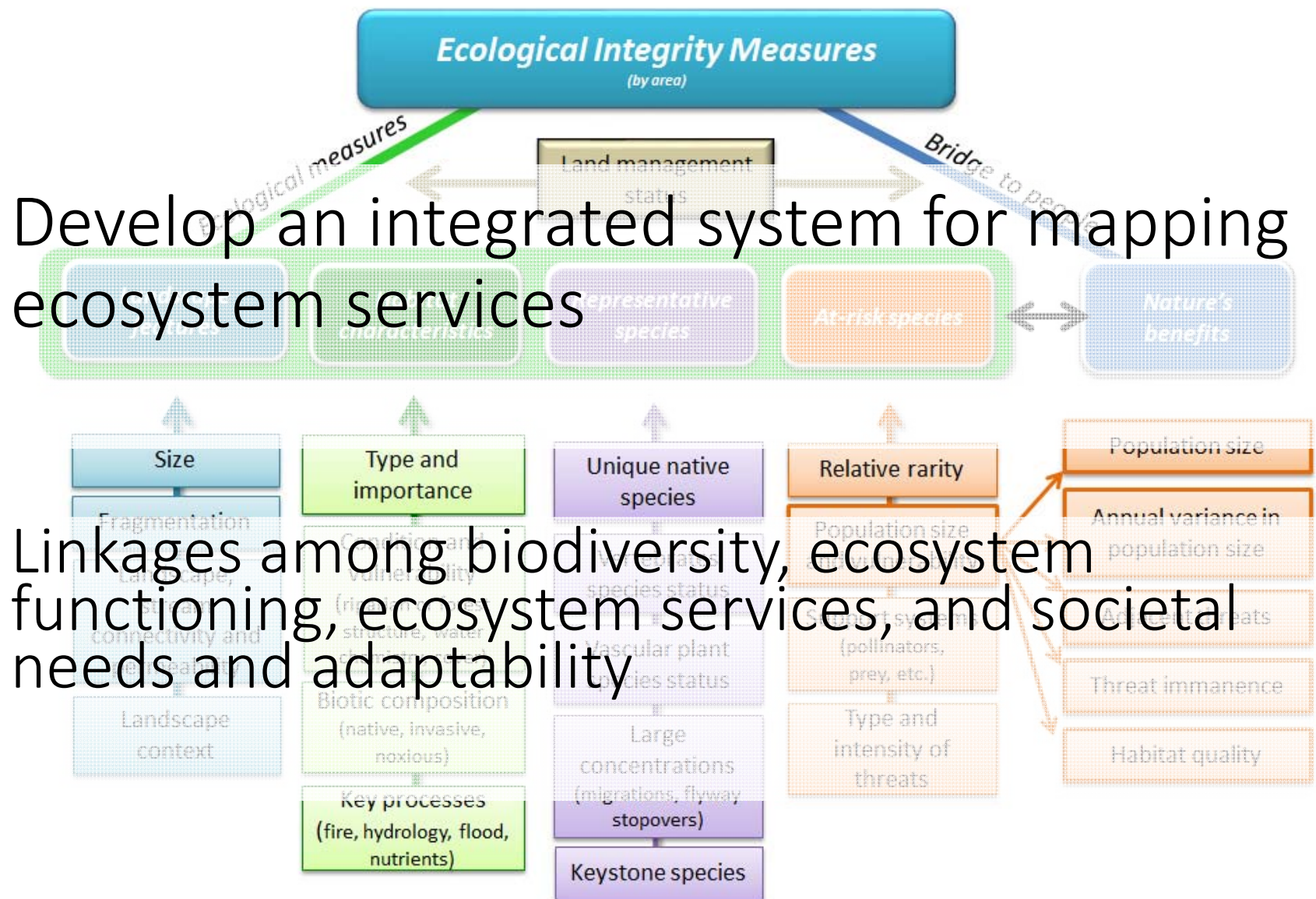
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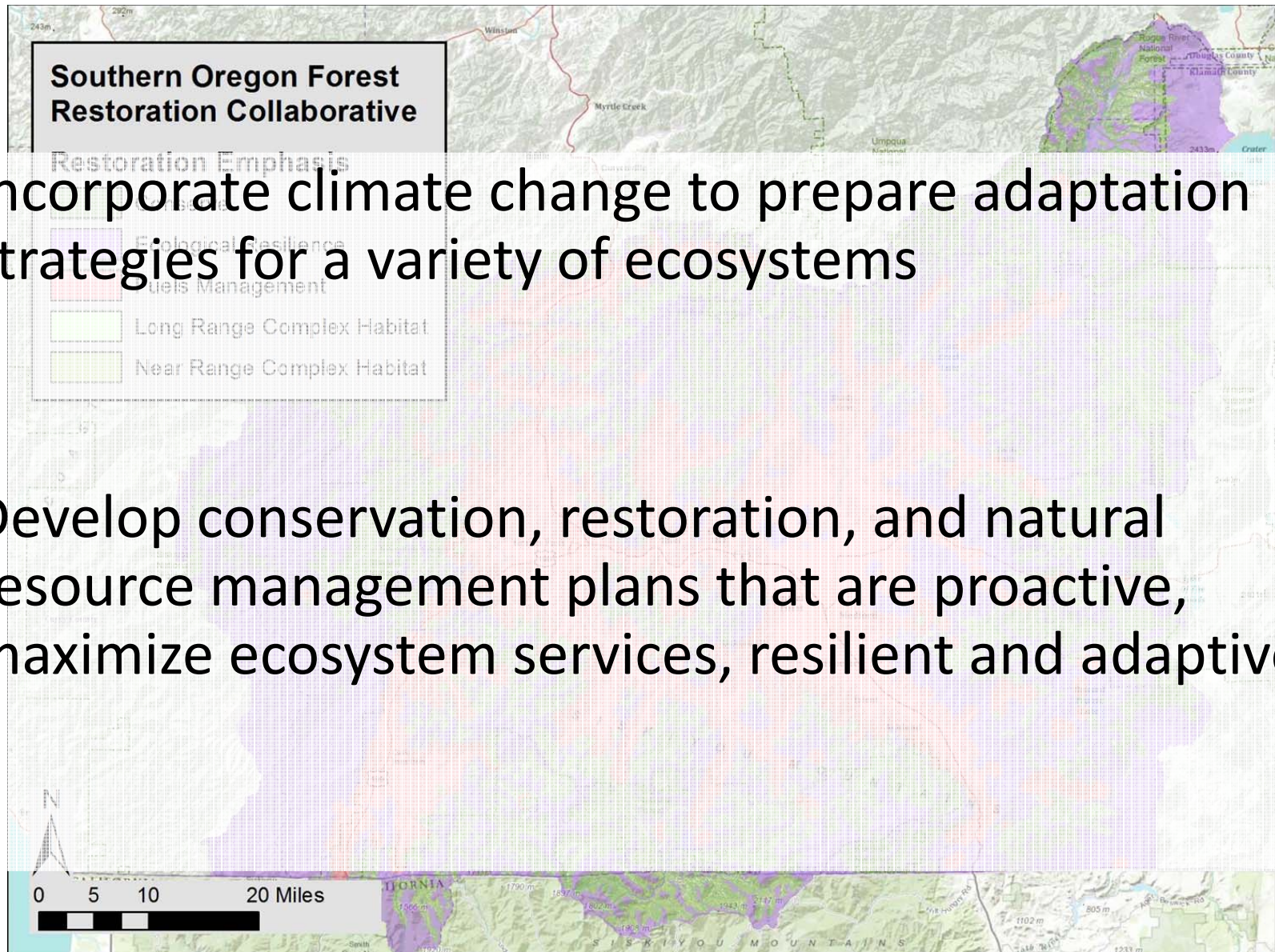


A Call to Action

“We need to make progress on...the link between biodiversity and ecosystem services in order to reduce uncertainty in our predictions of the consequences of climate change. This will enable us to implement actions that will build resilience into the delivery of nature’s Services...”







Mooney et al. 2009. Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Ecosystem Services



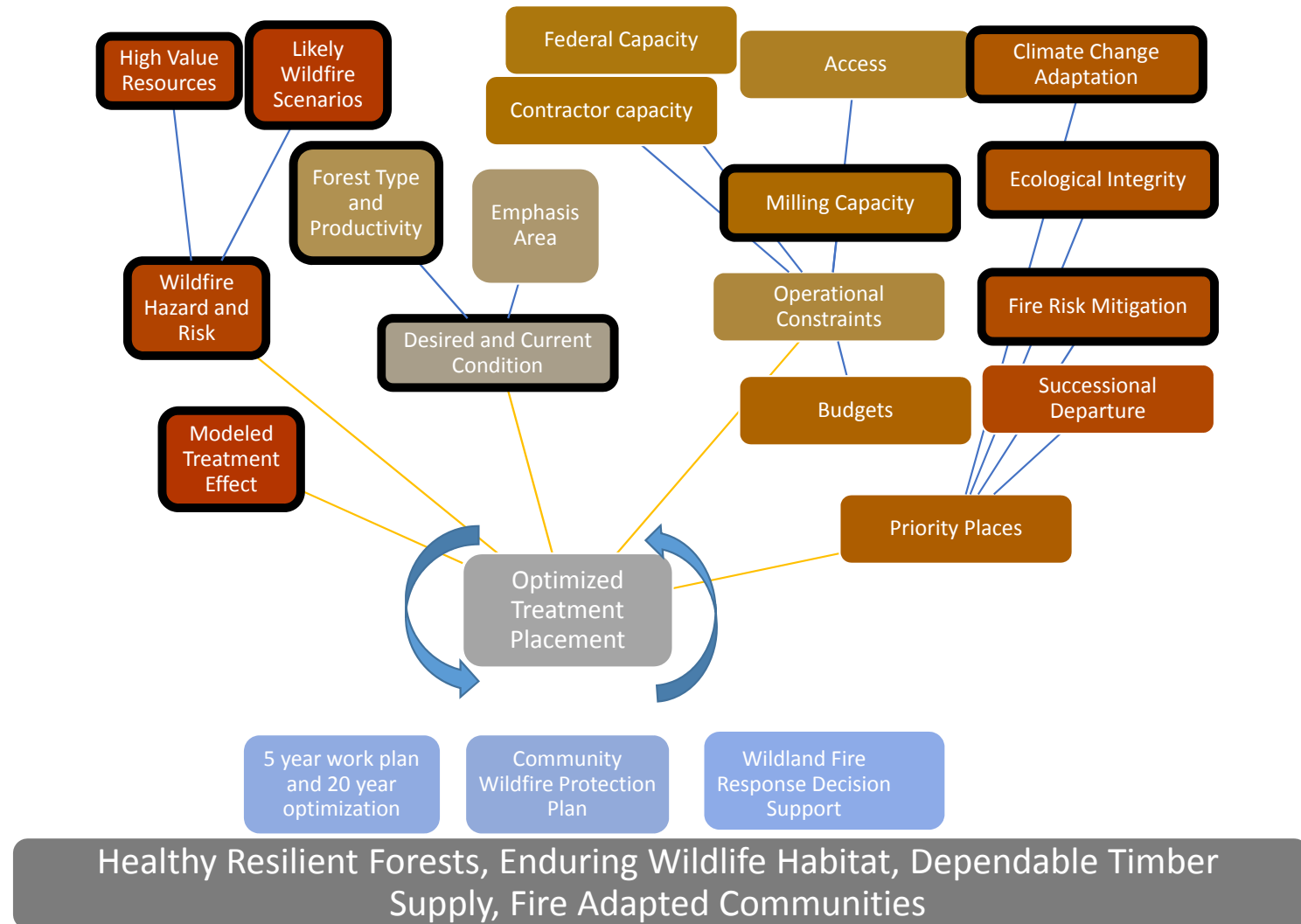


- Incorporate climate change to prepare adaptation strategies for a variety of ecosystems
- Develop conservation, restoration, and natural resource management plans that are proactive, maximize ecosystem services, resilient and adaptive

Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative's Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy

	Key Layers	Rationale
	Regional and National Priorities	Existing regional and national priorities should help inform local decisions.
	Wildland Fire Potential	Modeled fire potential across the landscape
	Values and Effects of Potential Wildland Fire	Quantified and mapped values and their exposure to wildland fire potential (risk), allows explicit evaluation of treatment need and prioritization
	Successional Classes	Landscape resilience is evaluated by the proportion of seral structural classes by vegetation type
	Collaboratively Defined Management Zones	Collaboratively defined and mapped management direction to sustain key values at risk, emphasis areas define desired future condition (e.g. complex forest, ecosystem resilience, or community safety)
	Tree Density and Composition	The difference between existing and desired future condition identifies work needed and potential excess volume
	Access	Existing and planned transportation network
	Climate Change	Identify key areas for climate adaptation as a high priority based on species climate envelopes, geophysical limitations, and changing fire probability
	Existing Land Use Allocation	Determines types of activities that may be possible

Integrated Project Planning unit scale (10-1,000 acre) – IN DEPTH



Working to integrate forest restoration strategy with watershed councils and in stream restoration prioritization



How are you incorporating climate change projections into ecosystem services?

- Projects?
- Management plans?
- Prioritization?

Questions?

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Interested in the Climate Solutions University's **Climate Plan Development Program**?

Contact Recruitment Coordinator Josh Dye josh@mfpp.org

For information: <http://www.mfpp.org/csu/>

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- The people speaking here today
- Many others...