

Workshop Wrap-up

The wrap-up was conducted in the field. Stephen Fitzgerald, workshop moderator, summarized by saying that what we are dealing with is “Succession Gone Wild.” With fire exclusion over the last century, trees have increased or invaded other habitats across the west, in this case, shading and out-competing huckleberries. Since we no longer have traditional managers (Native People) out there on the landscape doing what they did historically, we all us must take up that responsibility and be the “Huckleberry Keepers” to manage and maintain huckleberries on the landscape for their cultural and ecological value. However, to do that will require an integration of traditional knowledge with modern forest management.

Workshop participants were then asked to comment on two questions:

1. What did you learn or take away from the last 2 days?
2. From what you learned and/or became aware of, what actions might you take either personally or in your profession as a natural resource manager?

Several participants responded. Here is a synopsis of their comments (with some editing by Stephen Fitzgerald):

- “This is the day I’ve been waiting for all my life.” I wasn’t sure what I was agreeing to in attending the workshop, but when I entered the room and heard discussion and information, both related to timber and huckleberries, I saw agencies and other parties talking together and interacting.
- It increased my awareness to look everywhere on all projects that may have an effect on huckleberries (like with Pacific Yew) and to pay more attention to what is in the understory.
- Heartfelt concern for elder responsibility, tribal rights on reservation (exclusive reservation), and respect for elders by saving the easier ground (i.e., flat ground close to roads) for them to harvest huckleberries. Trespass by others (non-reservation people) is a concern.
- On the reservation we plan on reintroducing fire by conducted prescribed fire on small areas on the reservation. These are small steps, but we want to be able to show the tribal public what effects fire will have.

- Learned a lot; I'm always learning. Hoping that Mt Hood NF will fix their areas. There are ethnic group problems as they pick all the berries including both ripe and red (non-ripe) ones.
- Tribes need to learn to work together. Cultural & Heritage Committees meeting are or should be planned for the future. We should include other tribes, agencies, NGOs, etc. in these meetings. We need to watch over our huckleberries and other resources.
- Good to my heart to get the tribal perspective and view.
- Hope you learned the cultural value. Hope we can continue to work together. Many don't understand what reservations are. We were put here; not really much of a choice.
- Those in academia want to help. I gained a better understanding of the seamlessness between the native people and the land; they are one.
- Interesting two days; learned and saw a lot.
- Feel honored to see the younger generation concern, interest, and involvement.
- We need help with other issues: tribal treaty rights, lamprey. We are fish people.
- I am a student. I like listening to the dialog and concerns. The connection to the land is missing. Thank you to the elders. Think broadly. Community landscape.
- I plan to think more about monitoring and ways to measure huckleberry response. We need to think outside the box with respect to treatments. Think about creating treatment extremes. If we get not response at the extremes, then there is no need to talk about the middle. We should have this huckleberry meeting again in 5 years to see how far we have progressed, share information from our efforts & results and continue to evolve.