

# Developing a Research Agenda for Sustainable Recreation & Tourism on Public Lands

Anna Miller

Lee Cervený

Monika Derrien

USFS R&D PNW Research Station

USFS R&D PNW Research Station

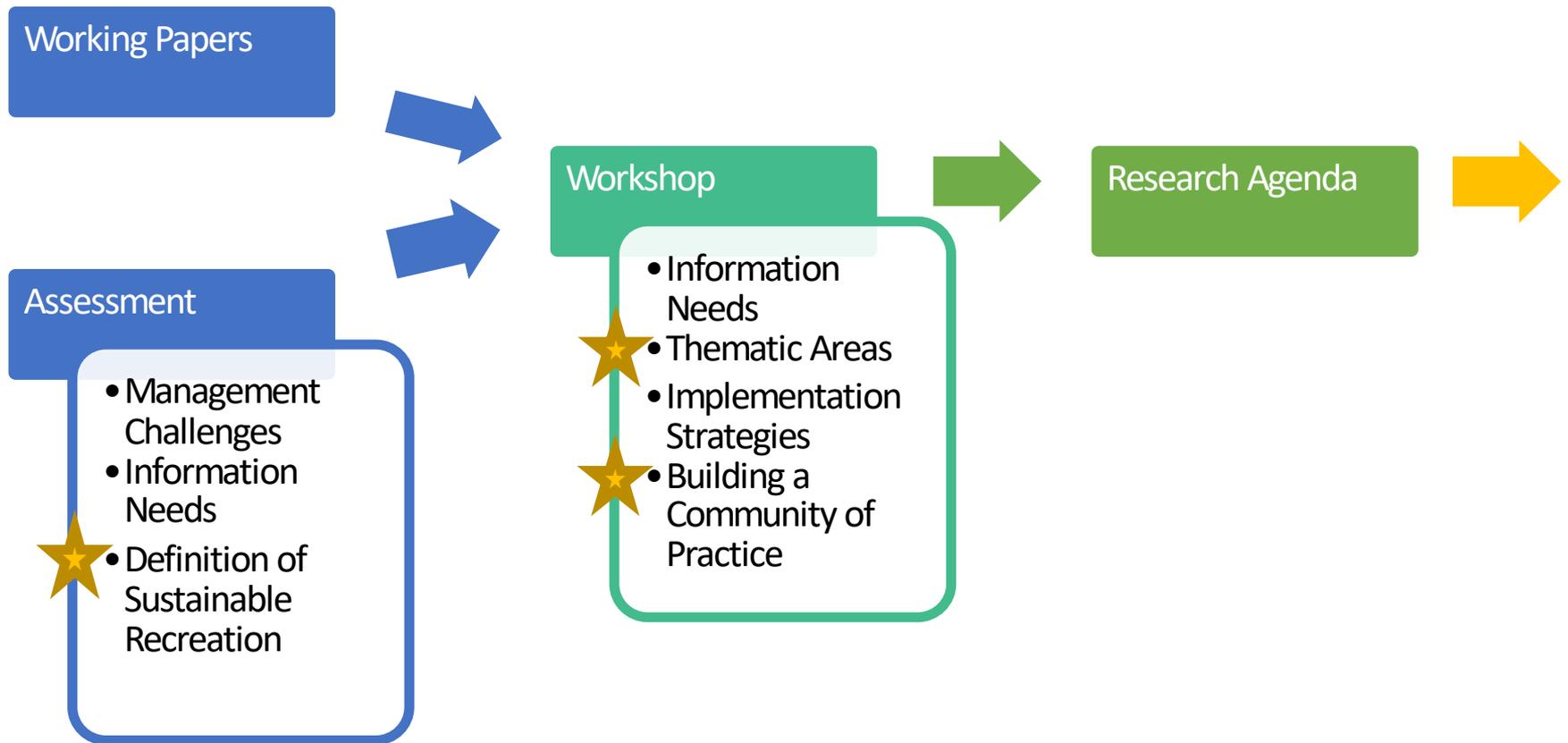
USFS NFS Washington Office

# Developing a Sustainable Recreation Research Agenda

*Vision: A research strategy focusing on **provision of sustainable recreation opportunities** that **enhance the quality of visitor experiences** while moving communities and public land management toward more sustainable and relevant management.*



# Developing a Research Agenda for Sustainable Recreation & Tourism



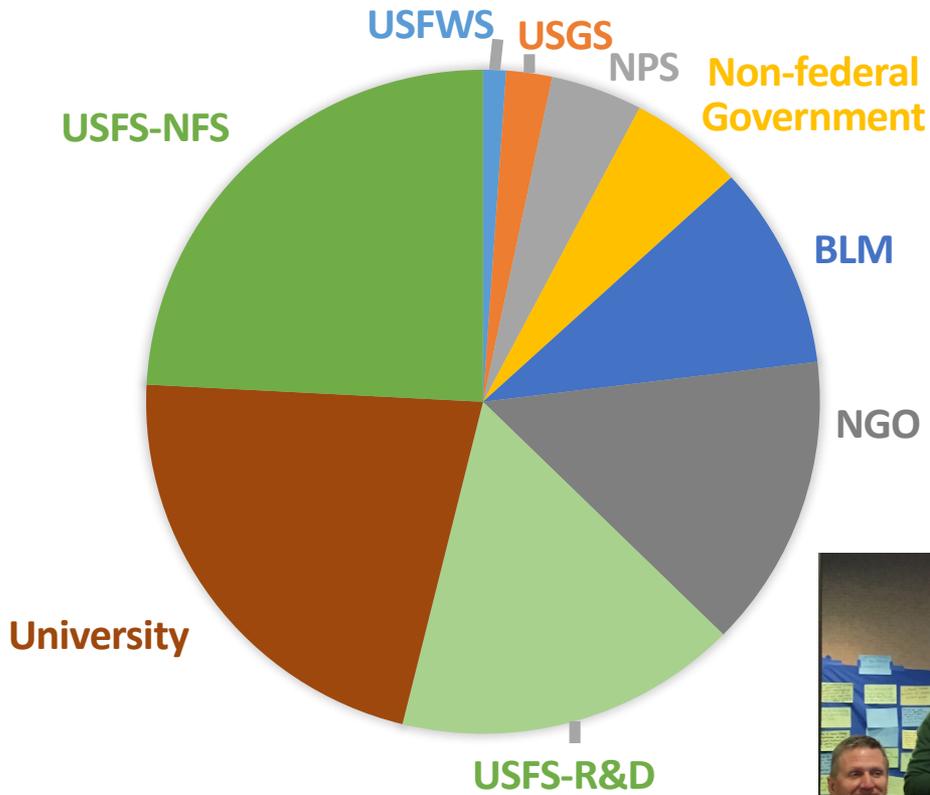


# Sustainable Recreation Assessment

*What is your working definition of “Sustainable Recreation?”*

Theme	Description
Triple Bottom Line (40%)	Providing recreation and tourism opportunities that conserve the natural <b><u>environment</u></b> and provide <b><u>social</u></b> and <b><u>economic</u></b> benefits to communities Minimizing unacceptable social, biophysical or economic effects. (UN/WTO)
Dual Mandate (34%)	Providing recreation opportunities to diverse users and providing quality <b><u>visitor experiences</u></b> while protecting the <b><u>natural and social environment</u></b> of public lands. (Bounded within management area.)
Responsible Recreation (15%)	Recreation/ tourism that promotes conscientious visitors, <b><u>stewardship</u></b> and learning opportunities. Results in visitors that are <b><u>environmentally responsible and culturally aware</u></b> of surroundings.
Managerial Capacity (11%)	Provide recreation opportunities and access that is <b><u>fiscally feasible</u></b> for the long-term with minimal resource impacts.
Community Capacity (10%)	Engaging local communities in the development of recreation and tourism facilities, services, and programs; <b><u>build community capacity and support for recreation and tourism enterprises</u></b> .

# Sustainable Recreation Research Workshop



Golden, CO  
April 2018  
88 Participants



# Sustainable Recreation Research Workshop

## *Thematic Emphasis Areas*

- Integrated Recreation Management & Planning
- Understanding Users
- Ecological Integrity
- Technology & Data Collection
- Catalyzing Partnerships
- Fiscal Resources, Capacity, & Expertise



# Integrated Recreation Management & Planning

## Topics

- Integrate recreation management and planning with that of other resources.
- Update management tools and frameworks.
- Encourage Collaboration:
  - Management & Research
  - Interdisciplinary
  - Interagency
  - Partnerships

## Quotes

- *“How are we going to successfully meet the needs of growing use/demand? Get rid of carrying capacity thinking. Growing use is an opportunity.”*
- *“What are useful metrics for ‘sustainable recreation’?”*
- *“Current and future value of managing recreation, human activities, and connections to public lands”*

# Understanding Users

## Topics

- How do people use public lands?
- Who are our non-users, and why?
- Update our Concept of People in Public Lands
  - Outdoor Experiences
  - Human connections to public lands
  - New and emerging uses

## Quotes

- *“Supply & demand of recreation experiences using all sources of data.”*
- *“Models of how climate change could influence patterns and levels of recreation use.”*
- *“How new forms of mobility and social media shape outdoor recreation & tourism and can be used to empower collaborative stewardship.”*

# Ecological Integrity

## Topics

- Understand the relationship between ecological integrity and quality of recreation experience, and how to sustain the integrity of that setting.
- E.g. Recreationists as wildlife conservation supporters
  - E.g. USFWS Urban wildlife conservation program

## Quotes

- *“We need a clearer understanding of the impacts of recreation on ecosystem components (ex. wildlife, soil chemistry, etc.)”*
- *“How can we define ‘restoration’ in context of ‘recreation’?”*
- *“Land health standards for recreation”*

# Technology & Data Collection

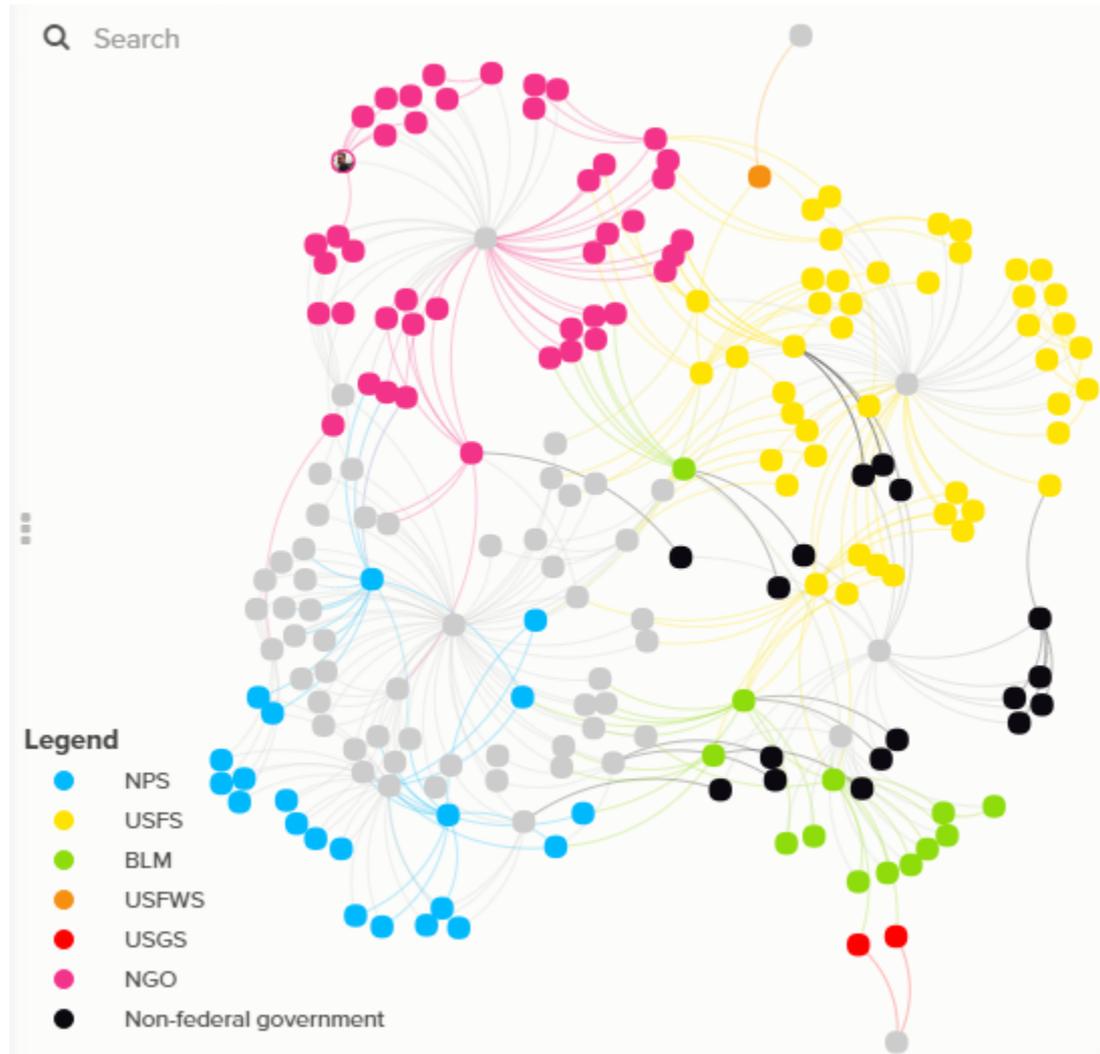
## Topics

1. Data collection for monitoring & management
  - Visitor use
  - Human-wildlife interactions
2. Better understand how visitors engage with public lands.
  - Understand users
  - Connect with the public

## Quotes

- *“How can we use crowd-sourced apps to better understand where, how much, and who? Big data – e.g. crowd-sourced vs. national system trails data”*
- *“Integrating mobile devices into citizen science/monitoring programs that contribute to management information needs.”*

# Community of Practice



# Next Steps

- **Publication of Working Papers** (PNW Station GTR) and Special Journal Issue devoted to “Sustainable Recreation and Outdoor Experiences”
- **Research Agenda/Roadmap:** Recreation, tourism, and outdoor experiences on public lands
  - Research directions and future information needs
  - Implementation plan for science development & exchange
  - Expanding capacity through strategic partnerships
- **Expanding the Community of Practice** around science integration for recreation, tourism, and outdoor experiences
- **Future conference** (FY2020?)

# Connect with us!

- Contribute your own management challenges, information needs, and definition of sustainable recreation.
- Join our Community of Practice!

*Contact us to get involved!*

*[annamiller@fs.fed.us](mailto:annamiller@fs.fed.us)*



# Appendix

# Working Paper Titles

- Rethinking 'Outdoor Recreation' to Account for the Diversity of Human Experiences and Connections to Public Lands
- Integrating Social, Ecological, and Economic Factors in Sustainable Recreation Planning and Decision Making
- Systems Thinking for Addressing Recreation on Public Lands in an Era of Complexity, Uncertainty, and Change
- Organizational Change and Operationalizing Sustainable Recreation
- How Can Collaboration Contribute to Sustainable Recreation Management?
- Agency Capacity for Effective Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management
- Community-forest Connections: Public Lands as a Driver for Sustainable Recreation and Tourism
- Recreation Opportunities and Human Connections: Who is Participating? Who is not?
- Technology and Outdoor Recreation in the Dawning of the Age of Constant and Instant Digital Connectivity
- Global Dimensions: Learning from Others

***What information is needed for public land managers to plan for and encourage recreation and other non-commercial uses so that individual and community well-being is maintained or enhanced while the natural and cultural heritage on our public lands is protected?***

