LEARNING TOGETHER: SCIENTIST COLLABORATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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SageSTEP
Sagebrush Steppe Treatment Evaluation Project
Data and Observations

Participant observation

Employee interviews

Employee focus groups

SageSTEP workshop evaluations
SageSTEP Research Objectives

• Evaluate effects of land management practices (prescribed fire, mechanical thinning, herbicide, no treatment)

• Document how fuel loads change with management practices/environmental conditions

• Identify impacts on environment & society of using management practices or taking no action to restore ecosystems
SageSTEP Relevance

BLM commonly uses the treatments

Logic of treatments, to restore desired vegetation condition and prevent transition to undesired states, is examined in the experiments

Multi-disciplinary research reflects the reality of the management situation.
How to Collaborate

• START EARLY!
  Budget—JFSP means BLM funds
  Nat’l Environ. Policy Act 1969 (NEPA)
  Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

• Work from a shared vision

• Communicate at the right levels
Making a Difference

What is the likelihood that SageSTEP results will inform agency employees’ decisions about which treatments to apply where?
Berlo’s Communication Model (1960)
Students learn by actively constructing knowledge for themselves, rather than by assimilating what they are taught (D'Avanzo 2003).

*How results are transmitted, the way in which recipients interact with the information, influences likelihood of adoption (Mills 1992).*

Active learning requires real collaboration, in which students and teachers are jointly engaged in learning and *all* are teachers *and* students (Freire 1970).

Participatory assessment, monitoring, and evaluation (PAME) methods make all the knowledge in the group fully accessible (Davis-Case 1990).
- Participatory action research (PAR)
- Distributed graduate seminars
- Peer-to-peer instruction
- Hands-on field and computer-based exercises
- Agency/scientist teams to translate research into management guidance
- Insiders/outsiders collaboratively review management results
Roles of Experts

• helping the insiders formulate their own questions
• supplementing insiders' knowledge
• assisting insiders in the creation of their own information.