



*Science*

**and the Northwest Forest Plan**

*Knowledge* Gained Over A Decade

# Welcome

April 19-20, 2005



# Science and the Northwest Forest Plan *Knowledge Gained Over A Decade*

## Sponsors



University of Washington  
Oregon State University

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## Conference Objectives

- Develop awareness & understanding of science information from the Northwest Forest Plan monitoring programs
- Describe advances in the state of knowledge over the last decade
- Explore policy and management implications.

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## Purpose

- Share key findings from monitoring & new science
- Not intended as a forum to collect differing opinions about the success of the NWFP

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Provide key findings & advances in the state of knowledge related to:

- northern spotted owl population & habitat
- marbled murrelet population & habitat
- late successional old growth habitat
- watershed conditions
- socioeconomic characteristics

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Provide a synthesis of science & monitoring information for:

- Aquatic conservation strategy
- Older forests
- Species issues
- Socioeconomic changes
- Adaptive management

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## **Key Messages**

- **Many ecological outcomes anticipated from the NWFP are trending in the desired direction**
- **For example, increases to older forests in the decade exceed**
  - **Old forest harvest**
  - **Old forest burned**



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- **The NWFP fell short of providing**
  - “predictable and sustainable level of timber”
  - “new economic opportunities for year-round, high-wage, high-skill jobs.”





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- In some respects the monitoring results challenge the NWFP
  - For example, dynamic nature of aquatic systems - objectives everywhere all the time
- The nature of the primary threats to listed species has changed.



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- Many of the residual threats to old forest conditions are not under the direct control of Federal land managers. For example, lingering effects of prior harvest activities, climate change, West Nile Virus, and barred owls.



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- Active management is needed in the dry and wet forests of the NWFP area to achieve old forest and habitat objectives. An accelerated rate of fuels treatment and restoration are likely needed in fire prone forests of the Plan area.



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- While there was an expectation to adapt the Plan and learn through experimentation - precaution trumped adaptation and learning.



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- Misunderstanding of relationships among scales in the aquatic conservation strategy have resulted in limited management flexibility at the site level.
- Over 90 percent of the Federal lands are in reserve status.



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- The future of NWFP monitoring
  - Are the benefits from monitoring commensurate with the costs?
  - What level of monitoring investment balances the benefits and the costs in light of all the priorities facing the agencies?



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# NWFP Interagency Monitoring Budget

1994 - 2005

(X1000)

<b>Agency</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Forest Service	\$23,296
Bureau of Land Management	\$11,218
Forest Service - Research	\$7,942
Fish & Wildlife Service	\$3,338
US Geological Survey	\$1,844
National Park Service	\$1,088
NOAA - Fisheries	\$745
Environmental Protection Agency	\$663
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,134</b>

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## Format of Conference

1. Plenary Session
2. Overviews - Monitoring Modules
3. Concurrent sessions - More details
4. Synthesis Overview
5. Key Synthesis Theme Presentations
6. Management Implications Overview/Panel
7. Summaries

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- Thank the organizations that provided funds to sponsor students and non-governmental organizations (NGO)
- 24 Students and Faculty
- 10 NGO attendees

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