

Aquatic Connectivity Session

Report out on Discussion

Compiled by Kevin Duffy, session facilitator

Themes tended to focus more broadly on identifying responsive management priorities.

1. Consider how different spatial and temporal scales influence management priorities
 - Disparities between current management practices/policy (i.e., maintaining “normal” ecosystem functions) and identified needs (i.e., adapting to a preparing for new ecosystem functions)
 - Focus is primarily on using historical and contemporary data to understand present/seasonal conditions, but resilient management and planning requires greater prioritization of how that impacts understanding of future scenarios

2. Acknowledge differences between physical, biological, and social needs/capacities related to species movement and aquatic connectivity
 - Target specific areas, including forests/riparian corridors, and indicator species that can provide community-wide, generalizable benefits for connectivity
 - Building awareness about and funding for species/environments beyond those already identified as economically/culturally important
 - Tension associated with managing for threatened species vs. new species (native species shifts and invasive non-natives) that will do better in future climatic conditions
 - Consideration for mediating variables, including changes in human use/infrastructure

3. Build data integration that is responsive to needs of species and people
 - Identify centralized location to communicate data that is available/accessible as well as what is needed (e.g., water temp/flow, species presence, habitat quality, etc.)
 - Consider the differing awareness, interest, availability, and access of stakeholders (e.g., residents, recreators, timber harvesters, managers, conservationists) to build capacity for data collection in more remote areas
 - Establish protocols, (public, citizen science) trainings, and distribution channels for how data is collected, shared, and used to help build community investment

As others indicated, I wish the session was longer to allow for more discussion! Given my own research, I’m pleased to hear prioritizing science communication may be an output, and I would be happy to lend my assistance in that arena anytime.