

ERI Strategic Plan

2020–2024

VISION: Western forest ecosystems and communities are healthy, resilient and sustainable.

MISSION: ERI serves diverse audiences with objective science and implementation strategies that support ecological restoration and climate adaptation on Western forest landscapes.

FOCUS AREAS

Over the next five years, ERI will strategically focus its efforts on areas that build from our core strengths of ecological and social science, land management agency experience, and science translation and transfer capacity to:



Develop and Transfer Restoration and Climate Adaptation Knowledge.

ERI will work with affected entities to identify knowledge needs and provide timely and actionable science-based information related to ecological restoration and climate adaptation in forests and woodlands.



Overcome Barriers and Identify Opportunities to Restoration Implementation at Appropriate Pace and Scale.

ERI will use its expertise to address barriers and challenges to restoration implementation at scales appropriate for enhancing resilience of forested landscapes and human communities.



Foster and Support Partnerships.

ERI will convene and facilitate dialogs and exchanges that advance cross-boundary restoration knowledge development and application.



Integrate Tribal Programs and Practices into Restoration.

ERI will engage tribal practitioners and communities who manage western forests and rangelands in multijurisdictional restoration and climate-related issues.



Develop and Transfer Restoration and Climate Adaptation Knowledge

- *Monitor climate-related forest changes and interpret importance to managers.*
- *Promote technology/innovation.*
- *Develop new restoration knowledge on understudied ecosystems.*
- *Examine the social and biophysical implications of restoration and resource objective wildfire management directives across different jurisdictions, compare with biophysical outcomes of treatments, and interpret importance to managers and policymakers.*
- *Identify new information transfer methods for the next generation of land managers.*



Overcome Barriers and Identify Opportunities to Restoration Implementation at Appropriate Pace and Scale

- *Identify policy, regulatory, and economic barriers that inhibit landscape-scale restoration and recommend changes.*
- *Establish a Southwest Regional Wood Utilization Team that identifies and supports commercial uses of woody biomass and small-diameter wood.*
- *Develop a program and curriculum for a new Forest Operations Training and Wood Utilization Center within ERI.*
- *Develop a demonstration for precision forestry methodologies.*
- *Identify a partner to develop an implementation prioritization plan, on a landscape project with a signed decision.*



Foster and Support Partnerships

- *Identify and implement collaborative partnership work across all SWERIs, conduct an across-SWERI group project each year to promote and advance land management knowledge exchange.*
- *Support and promote peer-learning among stakeholders. Facilitate the scheduling and implementation of up to three peer-learning and/ or workshops to promote the exchange of restoration knowledge and opportunities across-boundary and/ among land managers and partners.*
- *Assist and coordinate the co-development of adaptive management (AM) and monitoring protocols for public and tribal lands. Develop AM and broadscale monitoring recommendations.*



Integrate Tribal Programs and Practices into Restoration

- *Assist in the establishment of an intertribal coalition that identifies restoration priorities on tribal lands in the state of Arizona.*
- *Promote the exchange of restoration knowledge and opportunities between tribes and federal land management agencies.*
- *Facilitate the development of on-the-ground projects with tribal partners. Work with tribal partners on managed fire effects and management questions. Work with tribal partners to implement a biomass demonstration site.*
- *Partner with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals to incorporate forestry and woodland management to their climate mitigation program.*