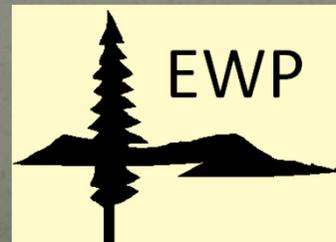


Identifying Fire Science Needs in the U.S. Pacific Northwest

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Jesse Abrams, Whitman College
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Presented at ISSRM on June 20, 2012 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

The “situation”

Lots and lots and lots of good fire science and research out there...BUT

“We get a fire hose of information, and it’s often delivered with the fog nozzle on.”



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Change the nozzle setting...



Need:

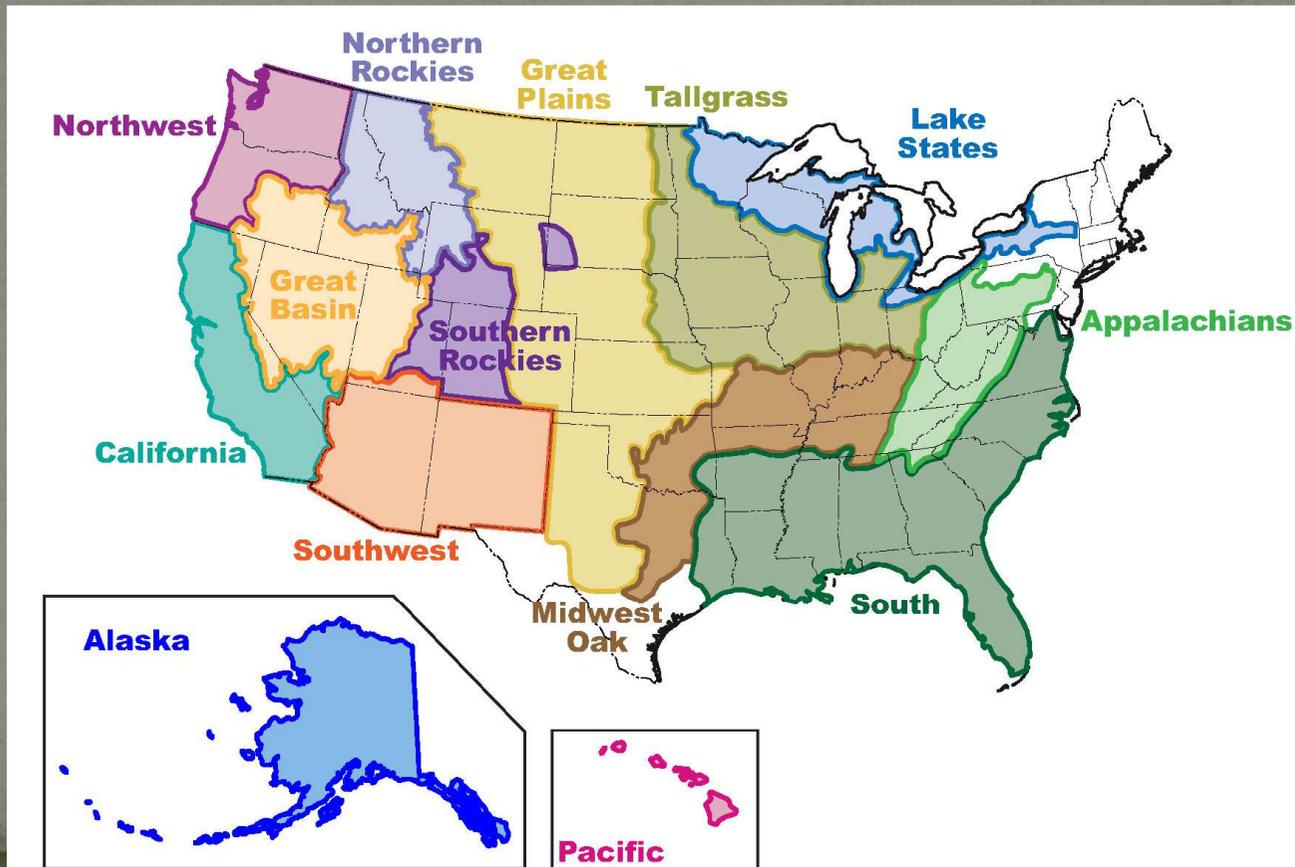
- New way to connect, engage, and exchange information between researchers and diverse user groups.
- Enhance the exchange of existing fire science and technologies.
- Approach that encourages fire and land managers to evaluate and adopt relevant fire science.

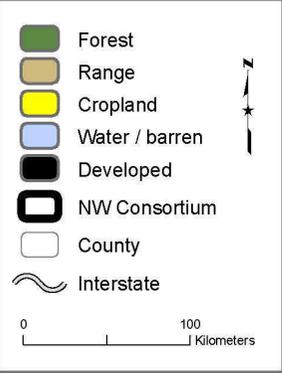
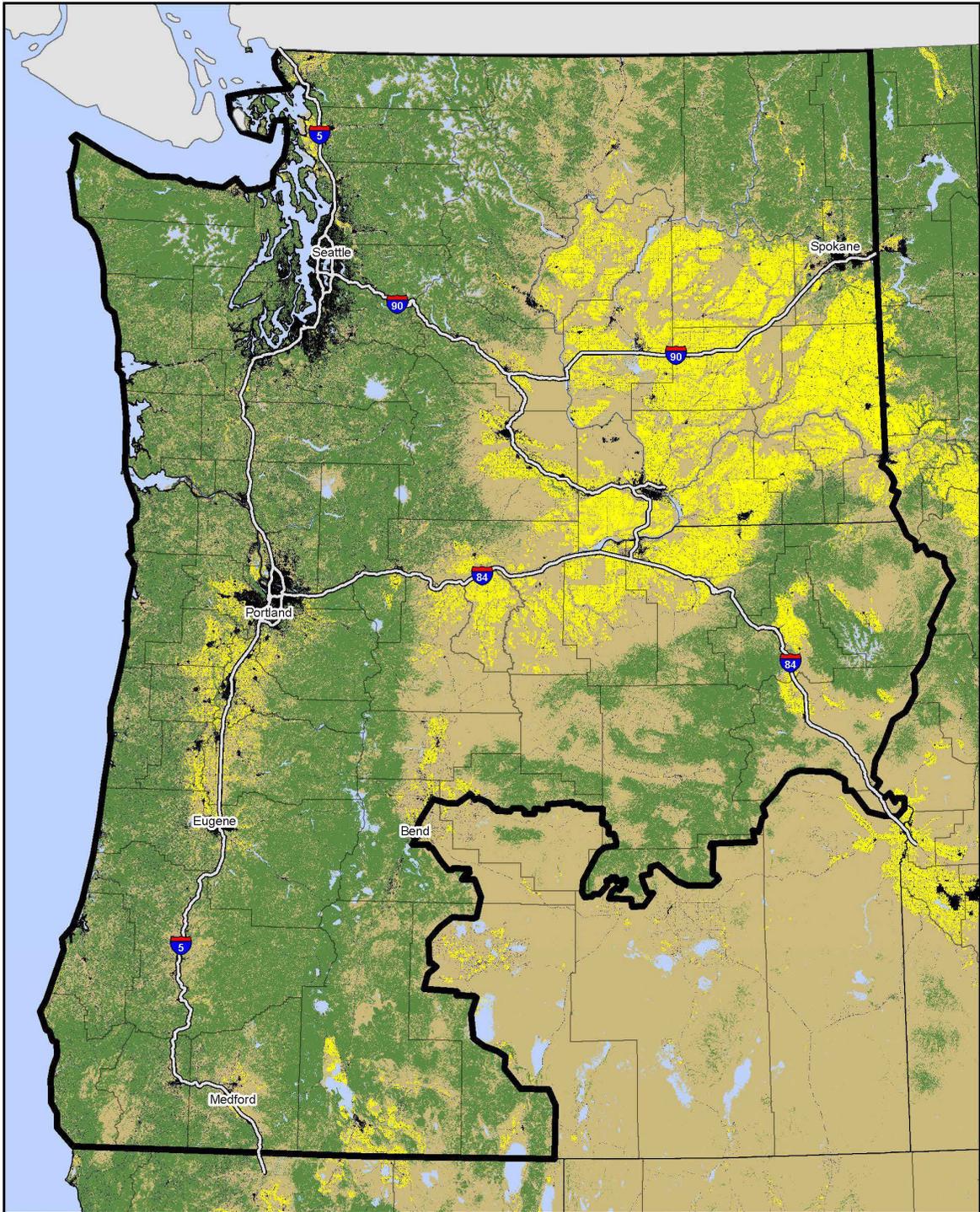
Northwest Fire Science Consortium

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www.nwfirescience.org





What we knew and didn't know...

- Fire is prominent force in NW landscapes
- Variety of science users
- Limited understanding of:
 - Who users are
 - What users need
 - Access and use of existing delivery mechanisms

Needs Assessment

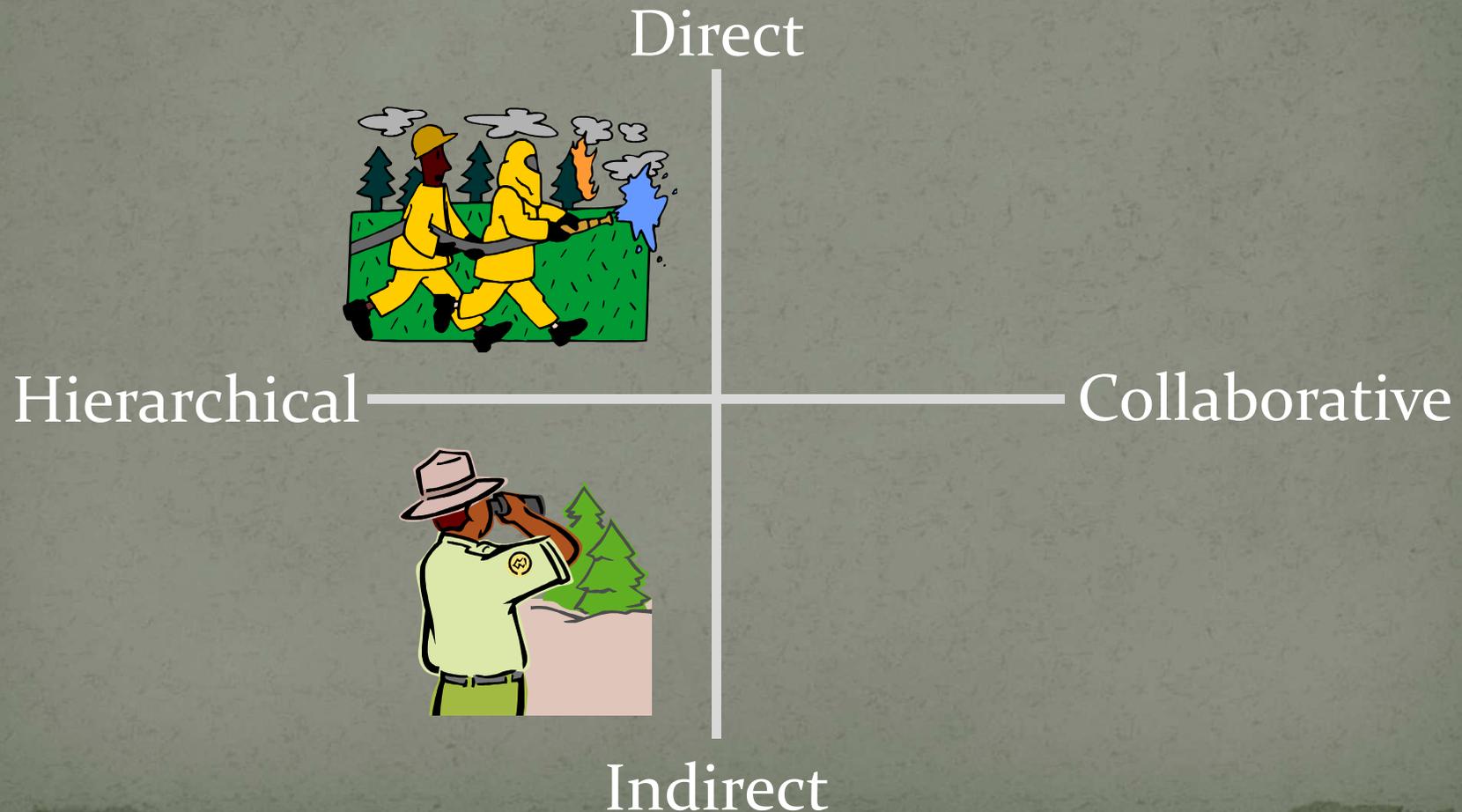
- Semi-structured interviews of end users
 - Fire science use
 - Content
 - Access
 - Collaborative and participatory research
- 16 team members conducted interviews – standardized protocol
- Purposive sample
- May – July 2011

Needs Assessment

Agency or interest	Number of interviews
Federal land managers	27
Conservation and community-based NGO's & collaboratives	13
State agencies	12
Counties and municipalities	9
Private landowners/consultants	8
Tribal entities	2
TOTAL	74

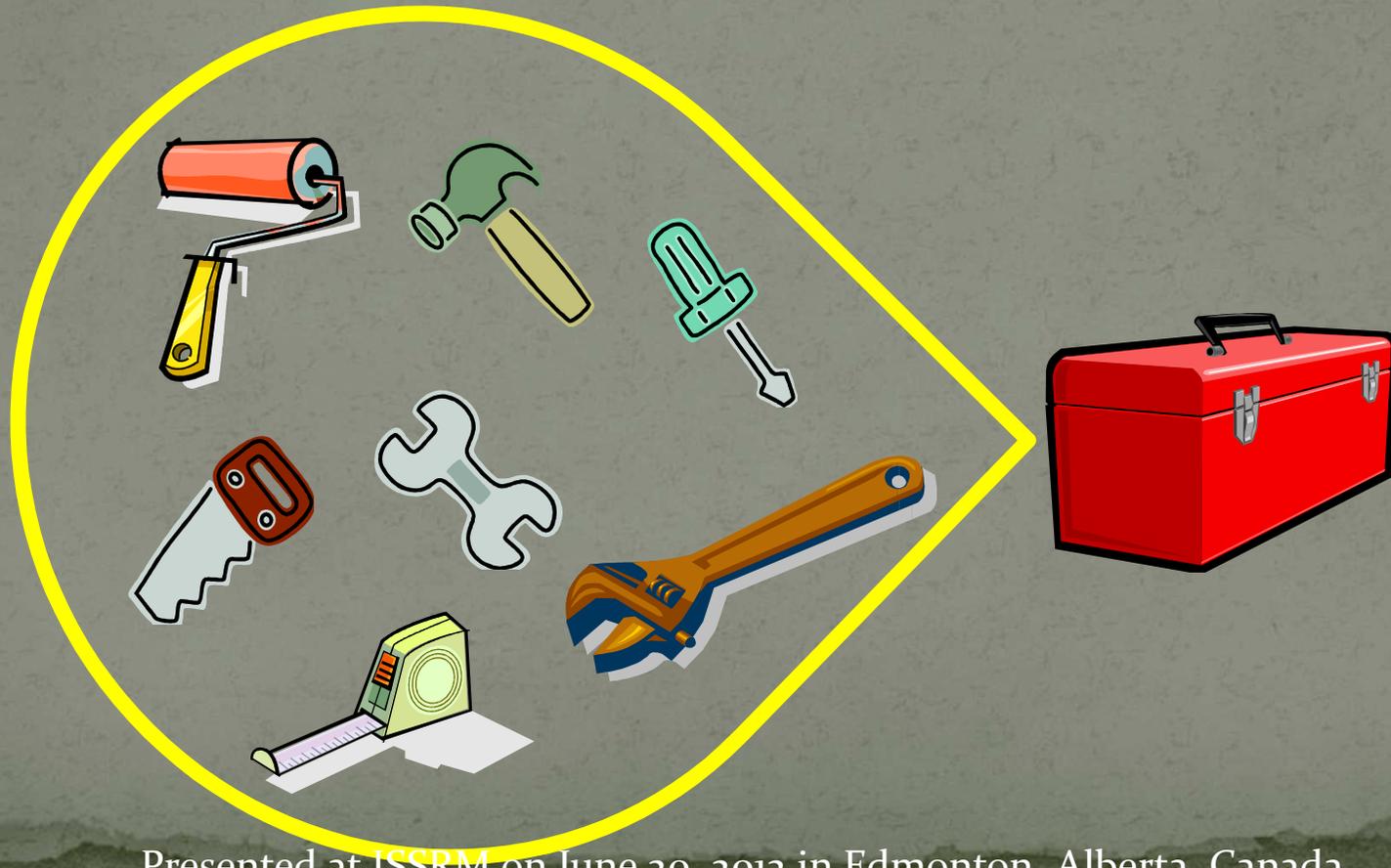
Themes

1. Multiple dynamic roles shape science needs



Themes

1. Multiple dynamic roles shape science needs
2. Complexity and simplicity



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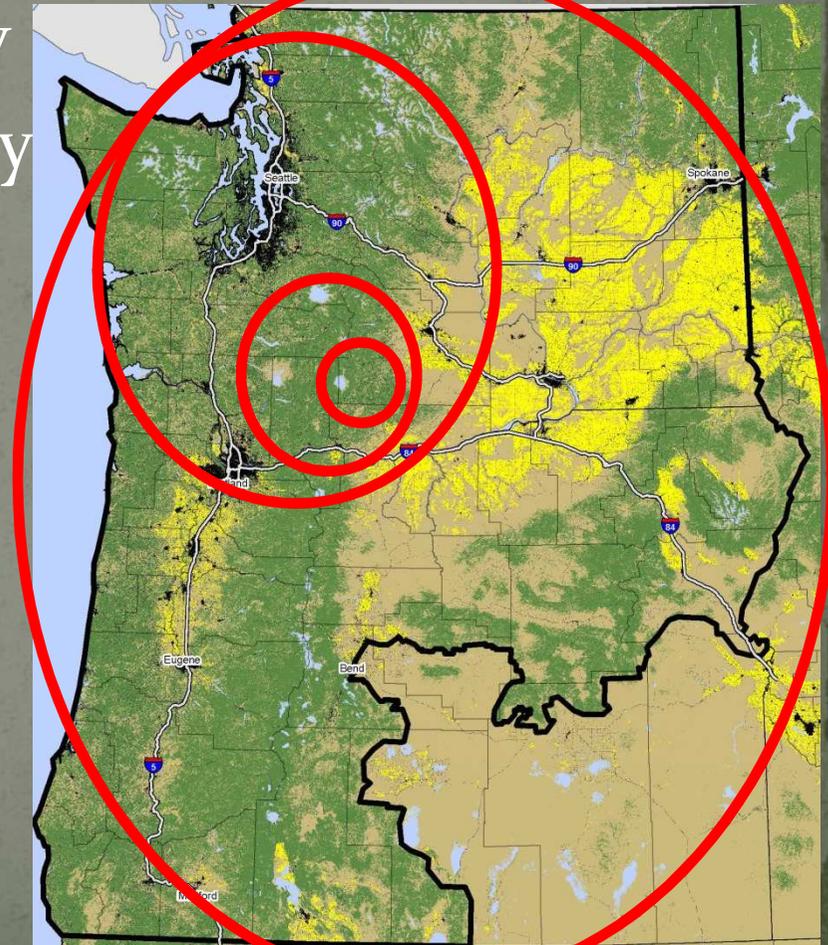
Themes

1. Multiple dynamic roles shape science needs
2. Complexity and simplicity
3. Uncertainty and specificity



Tools

1. Landscape-scale management
2. Economic development
3. Carbon accounting



Themes

1. Multiple dynamic roles shape science needs
2. Complexity and simplicity
3. Uncertainty and specificity
4. Unstable authority of science

Peer review
White papers

Agenda?

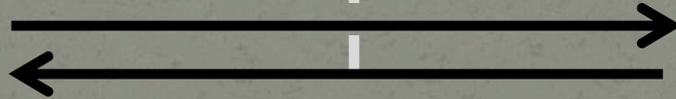
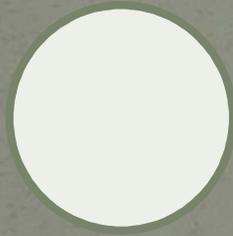


Peer review disconnect
Interest group suspicion
No suspicion of info
from experts,
clearinghouses

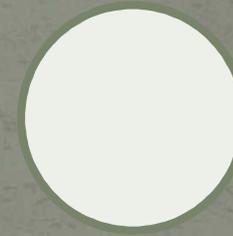
Themes

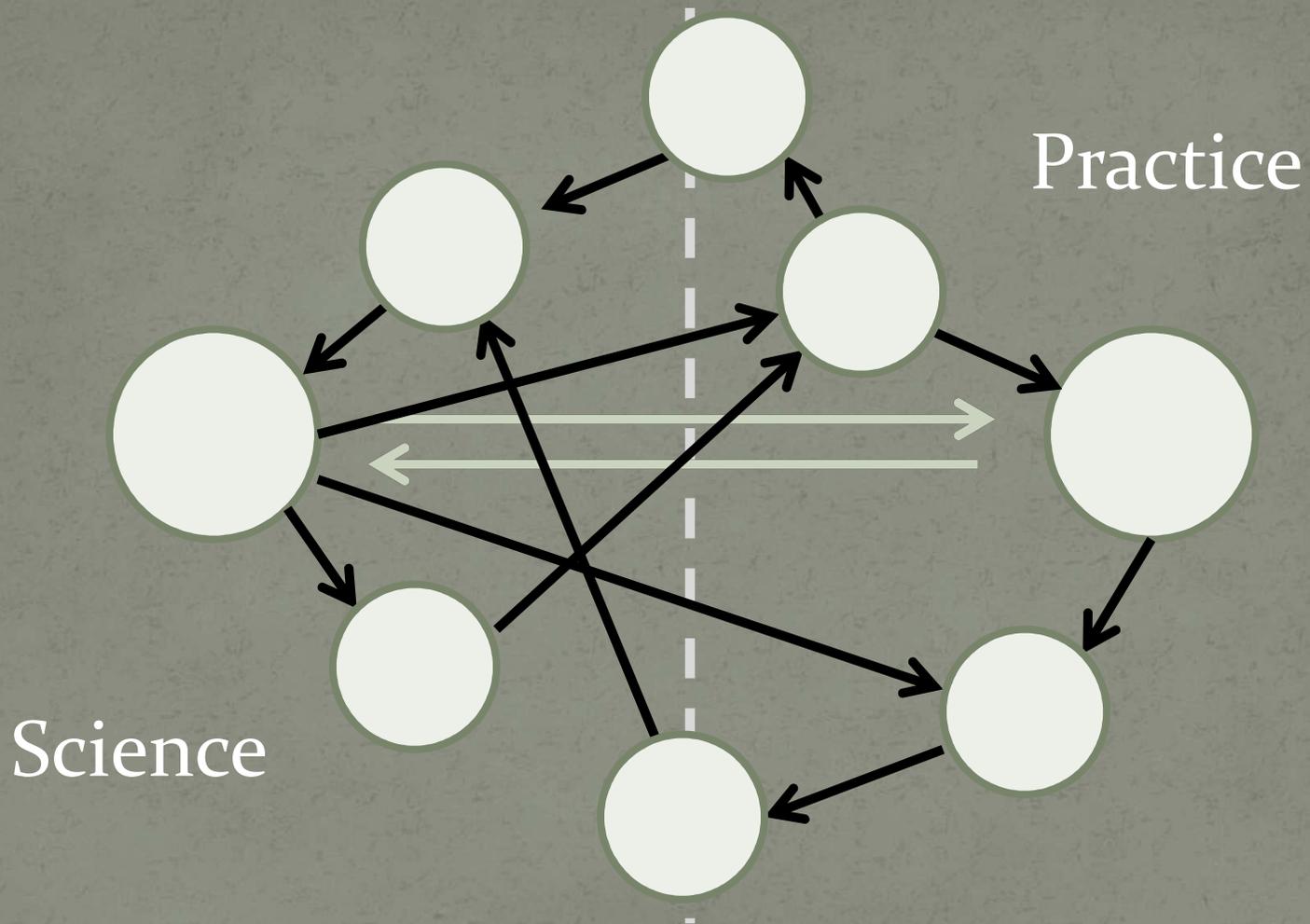
1. Multiple dynamic roles shape science needs
2. Complexity and simplicity
3. Uncertainty and specificity
4. Unstable authority of science
5. Interaction

Science



Practice





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Other Tidbits

- Field tours
 - Syntheses
 - Digital resources
 - Clearinghouse
- 
- Social media
 - Local fire histories
 - Implications of climate change

Summary

- Fire science use
 - How science is attained
 - What is asked of science
- Fire science users
 - Users as learners
 - Individual and group learning
- Broader perceptions of science



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Fire Science Needs in the Pacific Northwest
Ecosystems Workforce Program Working Paper #33
ewp.uoregon.edu/publications/working

The Diversity and Dynamism of Fire Science User Needs
In Review at *Journal of Forestry*

Alaina Pomeroy
Sarah Hamman
Josh Bruce
Andrew Perleberg
Tom DeMeo
Louisa Evers
Stephen Fitzgerald



Center for Natural Lands Management
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