

SOUTHERN SIERRA REFORESTATION SYMPOSIUM

COMMON CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS, AND IDEAS

During the 2022 Southern Sierra Reforestation Symposium, attendees worked in small groups to articulate challenges, solutions, and options for moving beyond business as usual for an assigned goal. Here we highlight common challenges and solutions and examples of moving beyond business as usual approaches for post-fire response.



COMMON CHALLENGES

- Pace and scale of disturbances exceeds that of mgmt.
- Limited capacity within the reforestation pipeline
- Lack of consensus on priorities (which values, what scale)
- Balancing trade-offs of mgmt. (e.g., impacts to wildlife)
- Lack of effective messaging from agencies to communities
- Lack of social license for mgmt. actions
- Limited workforce for specific skillsets (e.g., cone collectors, grant writers)

COMMON SOLUTIONS

- Improve & align messaging to the public about positive and negative fire outcomes
- Embrace uncertainty by applying diverse approaches
- Leverage unconventional means for increasing seed and cone collection, like coordinating with tree removal projects on private lands or with citizen science projects.
- Co-produce a plan for responding to disturbances with stakeholders before an event occurs
- Leverage technologies like drones and remote sensing to increase scale and capacity of reforestation efforts

MOVING BEYOND BUSINESS AS USUAL

Host matchmaking events to connect funders with managers

Undertake broad scale NEPA for post-fire response

Develop programmatic pre-fire plans for quick evaluation post-fire

Dedicate long-term funding for reforestation activities

Launch information campaigns that: focus on multiple agencies, emphasize the consequences of choosing no action, publicize avoided costs, and share success stories

Add a line item in the national USFS budget for public education and interpretation

