

Co-Production of Knowledge in Complex Mountain Landscapes

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INTRODUCTION

There are significant challenges to conducting SES research in the Western US, where rural communities can be reluctant to work with government institutions and resistant to the science of climate change.

To address these challenges, CRC research programs utilize interdisciplinary research methods and two community-engagement approaches: co-production of knowledge and community oversight of research.



METHODS

Stakeholder Advisory Groups (SAGs): Community oversight is achieved through the establishment of Stakeholder Advisory Groups (SAGs), which are partners throughout the life of research projects from conception to co-production of tools and results.

Community Based Observing Networks (CBONs): Local and place-based knowledge informs CBONS, which are long term, collaborative observatories focused on linked environmental and social change. Data collected by communities are owned by those communities.

The Center for Resilient Communities (CRC) at the University of Idaho uses social-ecological systems (SES) methods to understand adaptation to climate change and support community resilience in mountain landscapes.



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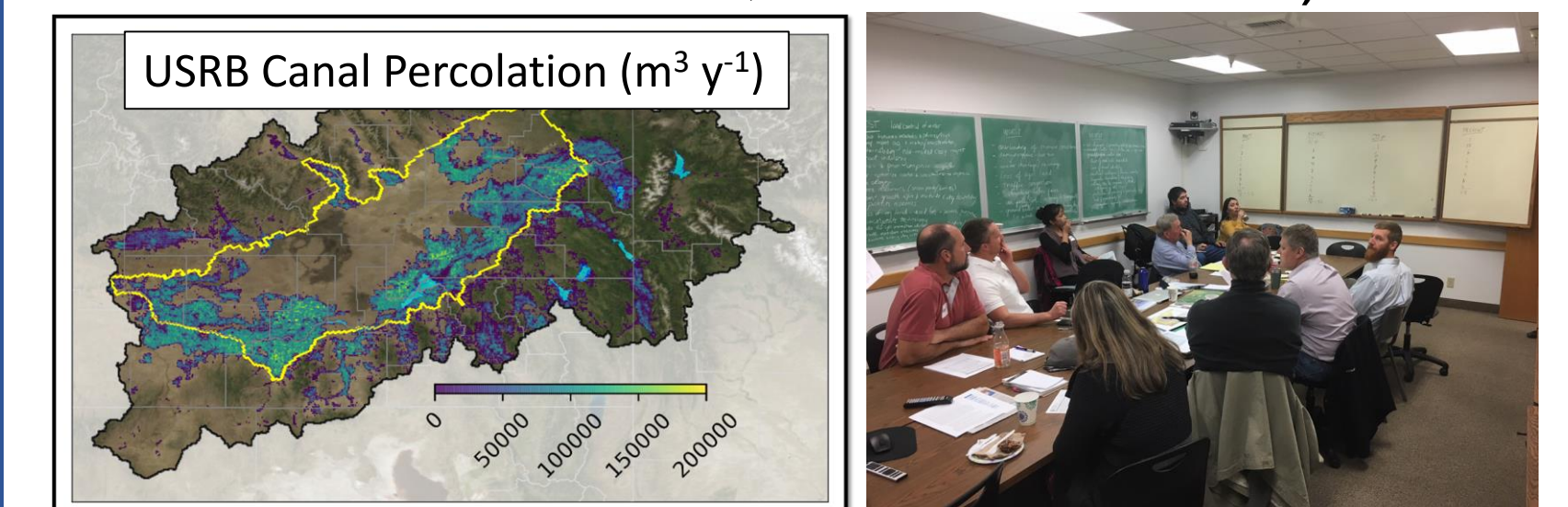


CURRENT COLLABORATIONS

We are working in Wallowa Co., OR with ranchers, NGOs, and the Joseph Band of the Nez Perce on climate-smart ranching, invasive species, and first foods (RCN: EyesNorth; NSF# 1642847).



We are working in southern Idaho with communities to understand Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS/T3; NSF# 1639524 and GEM3; NSF# 1757324).



A new effort (EngageINFEWS; NSF# 1856059) focuses on best practices for community engagement in FEW science.

The MtnSEON LEGACY

The Mountain Social Ecological Observatory Network (MtnSEON; NSF# 1231233) concluded its work and funding in 2018, but the efforts of working groups live on in the projects described above as well as the Social-Ecological Systems Training and Education Program (SESTEP) and the SES Current Practices Archive (www.sescpa.net).