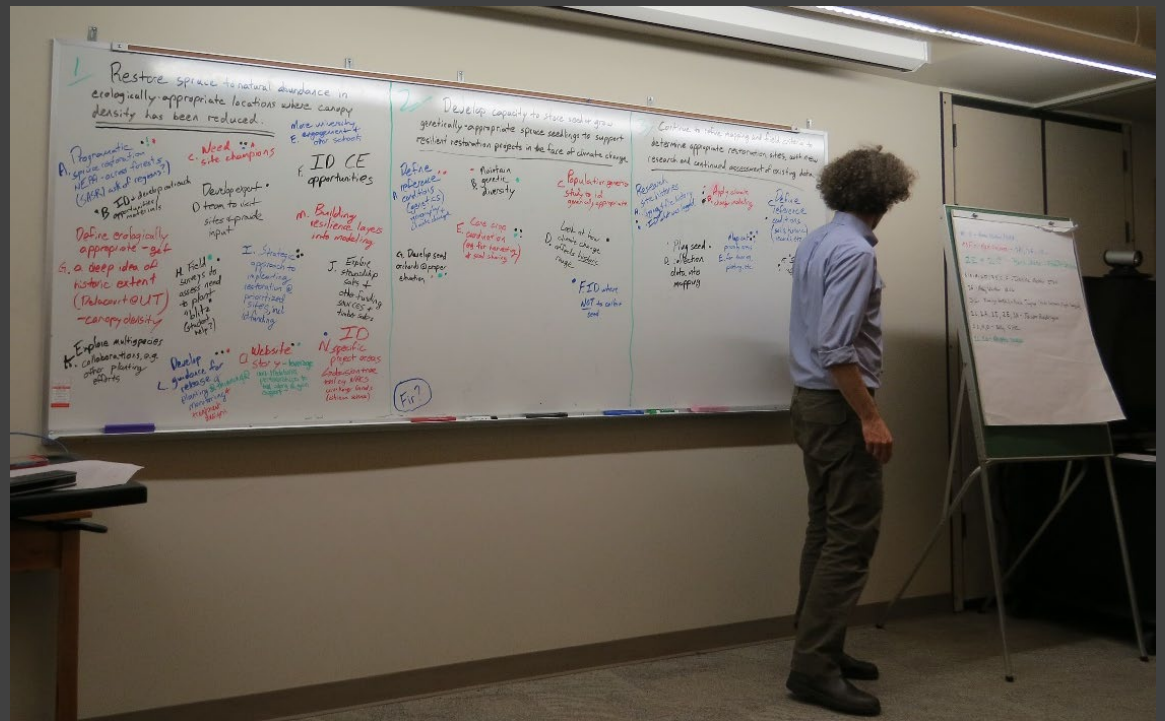

2019 SASRI Meeting

# 2018 Meeting Brainstorming Session

What is needed to advance spruce restoration goals and how can you help achieve those goals?

Also asked you to prioritize listed actions.




# Spruce Restoration Goals

- Restore spruce to natural abundance in ecologically appropriate locations where canopy density has been reduced.
- Develop capacity to store seed and to grow genetically appropriate spruce seedlings to support resilient restoration projects in the face of climate change.
- Continue to refine mapping and field criteria to determine appropriate restoration sites, with new research and continued assessment of existing data.

| Goal | Action Item | # Votes |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| **Restore spruce** | Develop guidance for release, planting, thinning, and treatment designs | 5 |
| | Need site champions | 4 |
| | Develop a strategic approach to implementing restoration at prioritized sites, including identifying funding | 3 |
| | Programmatic spruce restoration NEPA across forests (make it a SASRI ask of the Forest Service regions) | 2+ |
| | Website story/leverage non-traditional partnerships to tell story and gain support | 2 |
| | Field surveys to assess the need to plant - "blitz" | 2 |
| | Identify specific project areas, maybe developing a decision tree tool (look to NRCS working lands example) | 1 |
| | Identify and develop outreach opportunities and materials | 1 |
| | Develop team to visit sites and provide input | 1 |
| | More university and other school engagement | |
| | Build resilience layers into modeling | |
| | Define ecologically appropriate - get a deep idea of historic extent (Delacourt @ UT) and canopy density | |
| | Identify categorical exclusion opportunities | |
| | Explore stewardship sales and other funding sources (including timber sales) | |
| | Explore multispecies collaborations, e.g. piggyback onto other planting efforts | |
| | | |
| **Seed collection/seedling production** | | |
| | Cone crop coordination (e.g., for harvesting and seed sharing) | 5 |
| | Assisted migration | 3 |
| | Develop seed orchards at proper elevation | 3 |
| | Maintain genetic diversity | 2 |
| | Define reference conditions (genetics) geography and climate change | 2 |
| | Look at how climate change affects historic range | 1 |
| | ID where NOT to collect seed | |
| | Population genetics study to identify genetically-appropriate areas | |
| | | |
| **Mapping/data assessment** | | |
| | Map out priority areas for thinning, planting, etc. | 5 |
| | Share collection information via website | 4 |
| | Define reference conditions (soils, historic records, etc.) | 3 |
| | Research site histories, including logging, fire, and species targeted in logging | 3 |
| | Apply climate change modeling | 2 |
| | Plug seed collection data into mapping | 1 |
| | | |

# 2018 Meeting Brainstorming Session

Formation of Sky Island Teams – Grayson Highlands, Grandfather, Roan, Unaka, Blacks, Great Balsams, Plott Balsams

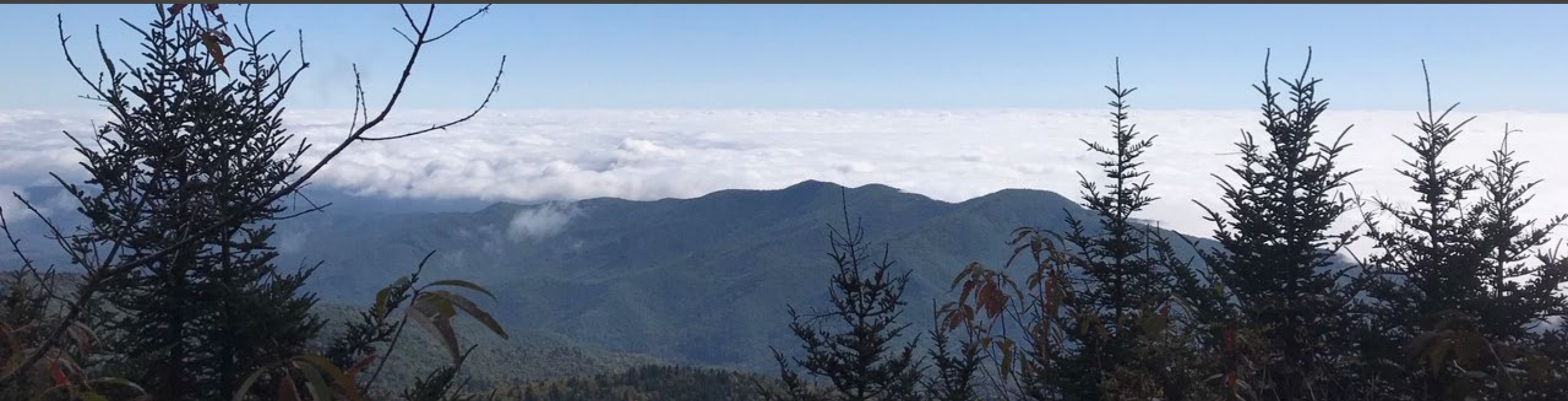
# March Steering Team Call

Decided to focus on one action from each goal for collective group to focus on with individuals still moving forward with other actions as opportunities arise

- Goal 1 (restoring spruce) – develop guidelines for different prescriptions
- Goal 2 (seed collection, etc.) – develop system to determine when a good cone crop year, where to collect and how to collect (e.g., checklist of how to be prepared for bumper crop years, written guidance on how to collect cones)
- Goal 3 (mapping, data) – map priority areas

# Stand ‘Em Up!

- Primary charge is for teams to get a restoration project going in other sky islands (pick low hanging fruit, can also id other priority areas for future work)
- Steering Team members stepped up to temporarily lead those groups until new leaders can be selected
- Identify information and training needs



# Goal 3: Where (& who & why)?

1

- Who might lead the team?
- Who else should be on the team?

2

- Look at plotter map and circle some low-hanging fruit sites for restoration.
- Have any of you been to this site?
- Do you have info on this site, such as current condition of the forest, past history, land owner, etc?
- Why do you want to restore this site? Salamander habitat? Protecting headwater streams? Flying squirrel habitat connectivity? Improve forest health? Conifers for red crossbills? etc…

3

- What do teams need to get started?
- Were people able to come up with site(s)?
- What are next steps for the teams?
- Plan future meeting or site visit?
- Get additional guidance or training?

# Sky Island Teams

| Grayson/Highlands | Grandfather | Roan | Unaka | Blacks | Great Balsams | Plott Balsams |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tom Blevins | Sue McBean | Joe McGuiness | Joe McGuiness | Kevin Bischof | Shawn Swartz | Kelly Holdbrooks |
| Brittany Phillips | John Caveny | Matt Drury | Matt Drury | Sharon Bischof | Liesl Erb | Eric Kimbrel |
| Conner McBane | Amy Renfranz | Danika Mosher | Mark Endries | Sue Cameron | Kelly Holdbrooks | Sue Cameron |
| Carol Croy | Danika Mosher | JJ Apodaca | Katherine Medlock | JJ Apodaca | Eric Kimbrel | Chris Kelly |
| | Sharon Bischof | Andy Whittier | | Liesl Erb | Chris Kelly | Mark Endries |
| | | Marquette Crockett | | Marilyn Westphal | Shannon Rabby | Jonathan McCall |
| | | | | Mark Simpson | Rachael Dickson | |
| | | | | Gary Peeples | Marilyn Westphal | |
| | | | | | Mark Simpson | |

**Mike Schafale and Wes Knapp offered their assistance at any of the Sky Islands as needed or upon request