

Introduction

>> My name is Kristen Pelz; I'm a research ecologist with the Rocky Mountain Research Station in the Grassland, Shrublands, and Desert Ecosystems Program in Reno, Nevada. And I've also done a lot of work in Colorado as well.

Collaboration is key

I think collaboration is key to Forest Service research because the Forest Service is here to help manage the land and manage it for the people of the United States.

And in order to do that, we need to know the questions that land managers don't have answers

to and also what the people are interested in and concerned

Why collaboration is important

about in their national forests and other ecosystems.

So, without the collaboration it's hard for scientists to do their job

because we don't know what questions are important.

I've worked a lot with the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration projects in Colorado,

and those include federal land managers from the Forest Service, mostly, but also other agencies;

local land management such as Colorado State land managers, environmental groups, and members of the public that are concerned about their natural lands that they use.

Importance of communication

And that's really informed my science because it's made me realize the importance of communicating and really explaining to people what our results mean and what those results mean in terms of land management.

Because sometimes everyone thinks they're on the same page.

They all think they want to see the same thing, but the devil is in the details.

And when you really get down to brass tacks, people aren't talking about the same things.

And making sure that we're communicating clearly is key to making sure that we can all be happy with the outcome.