The Initiative for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management

Created in 1996

BLM, USFS in partnership with NRCS

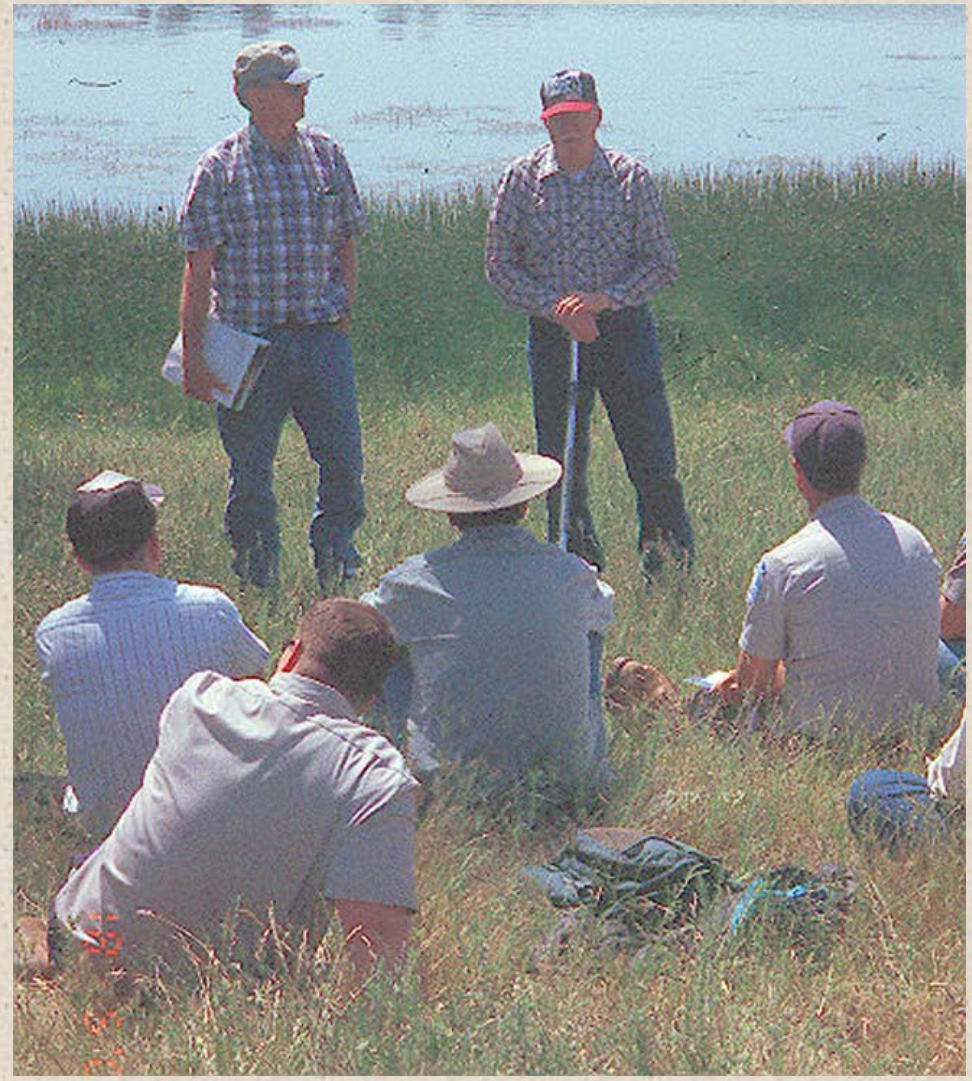
'Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together'

“Restoration will not happen by regulation, changes in the law, more money or any of the normal bureaucratic approaches. It will only occur through the integration of ecological, economic and social factors, and participation of affected interests.”

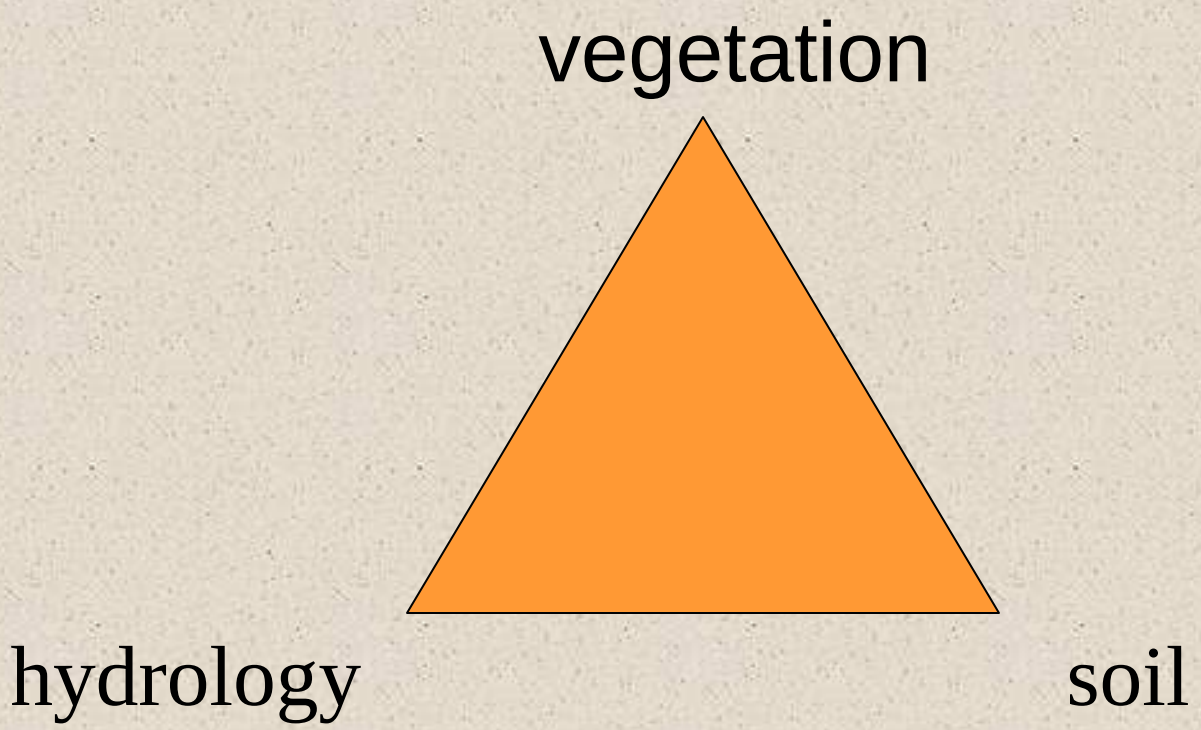
Increase awareness and shared understanding of riparian function and sustainability across a large number of diverse people.

Program Implementation

- Riparian Coordination Network
- Community-Based Training
- Service Trips



Proper Functioning Condition = Assessment Method



What may be limiting?
How can management be improved?
What further evaluations are appropriate?
What's working well?

Proper Functioning Condition = Communication Tool

Provides common terms, definitions and concepts important to building a shared understanding and vision among diverse stakeholders.

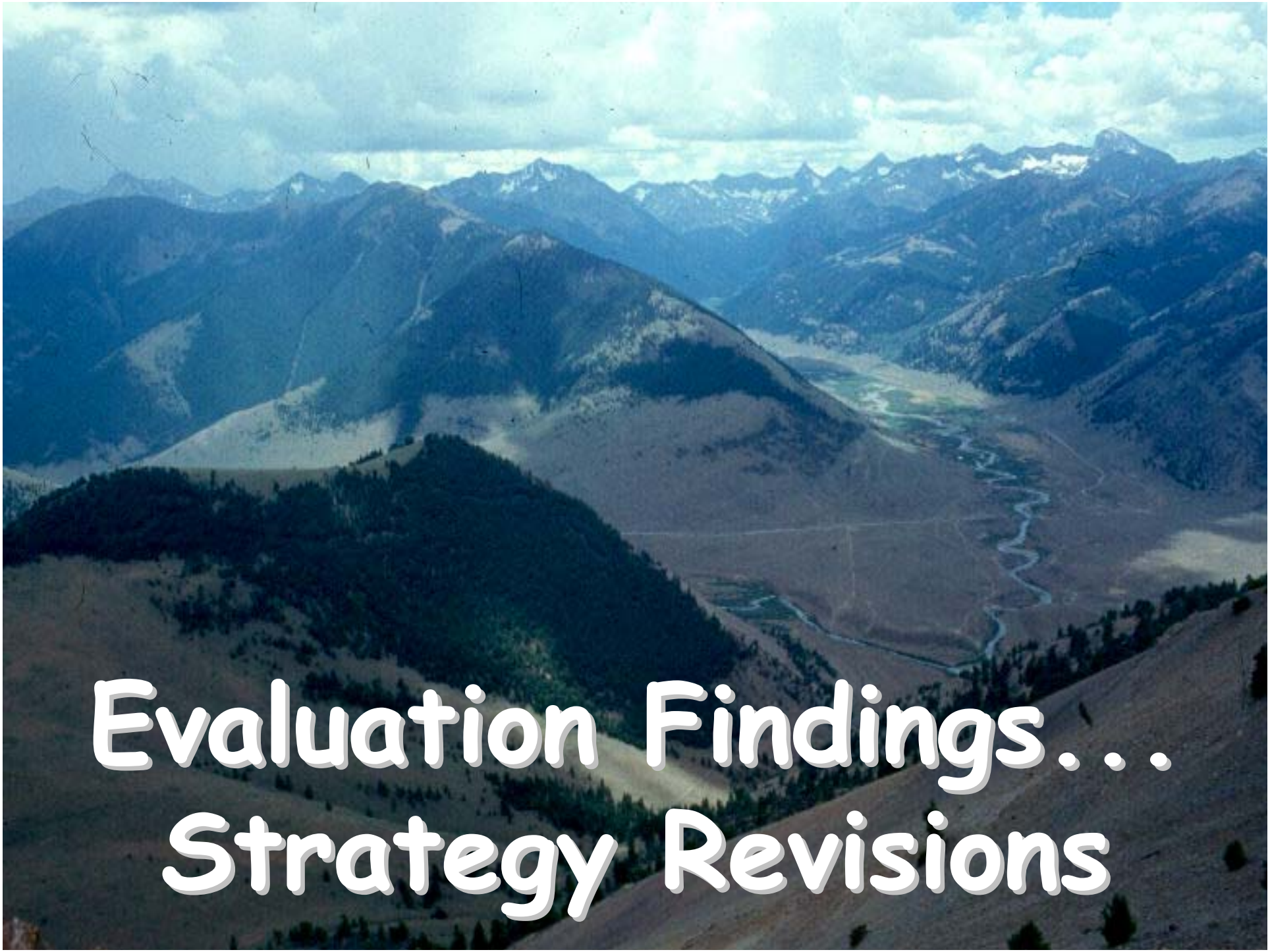
Help identify decision space...

- **Dissipate stream energy**
- **Reduce erosion**
- **Filter sediment**
- **Capture bedload**
- **Aid floodplain development**
- **Improve floodwater retention and groundwater recharge**
- **Develop root masses that stabilize stream banks**

To Provide

- Increased water quality and quantity
- Diverse ponding and channel characteristics
- Habitat for fish and wildlife
- Greater biodiversity
- Forage for livestock

TRANSITION…



Evaluation Findings… Strategy Revisions

Program Activities

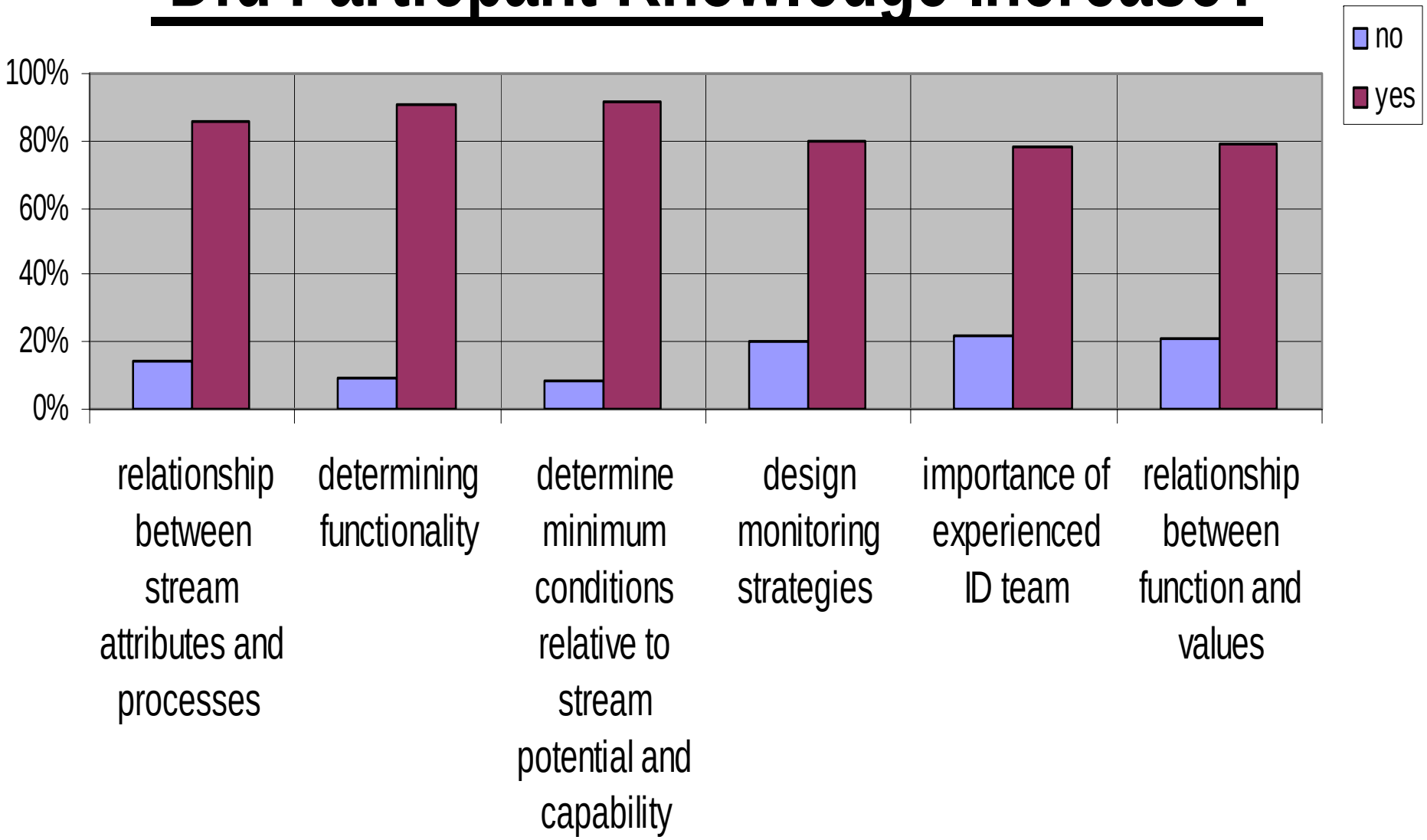
- **300 briefings and presentations**
  - 10,000 people
- **400 workshops**
  - 12,000 people
- **175 service trips**
  - 3,000 people

'Extremely Satisfied'

- **Instructor attributes**
  - knowledge
  - professionalism
  - responsiveness
  - willingness to engage in two way communication

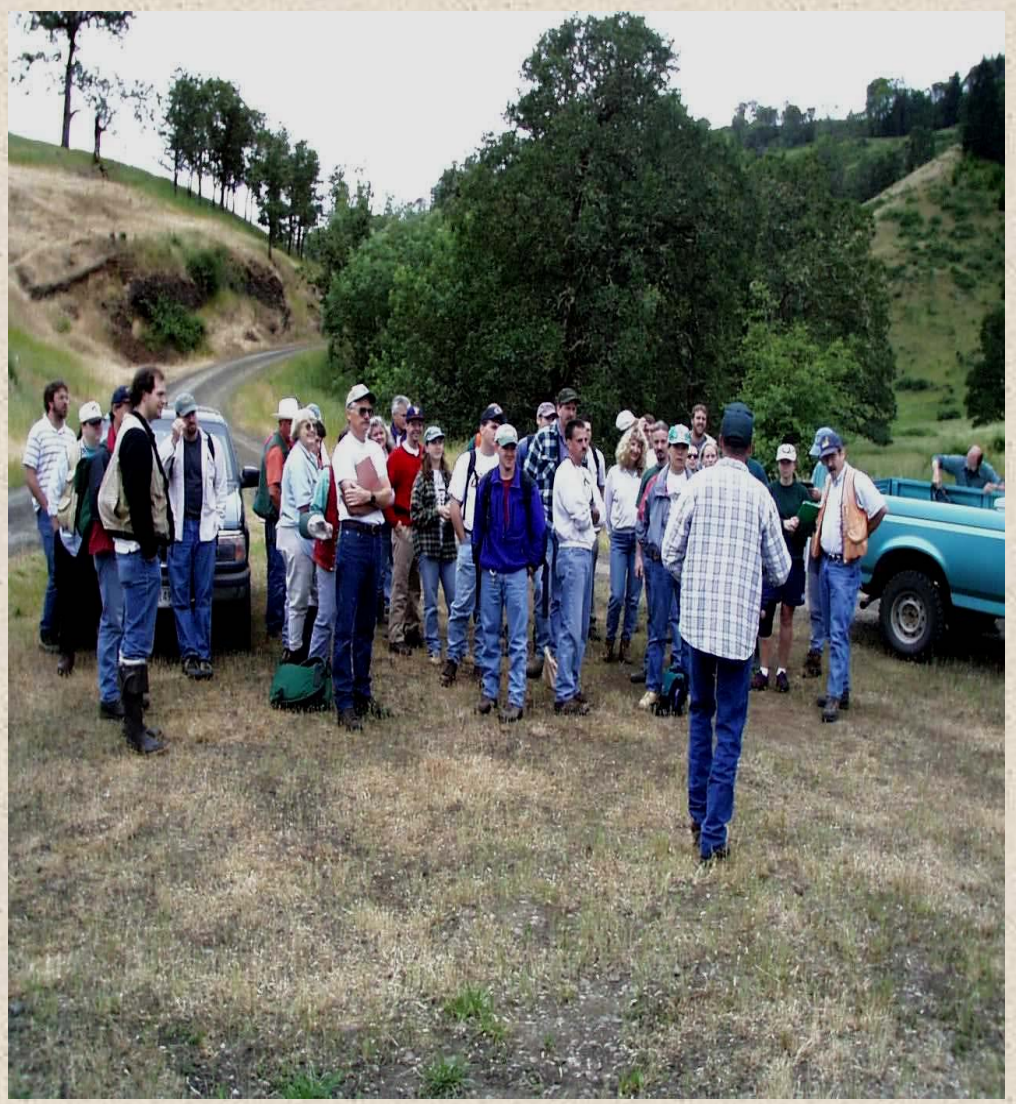
- **Products and services delivered**

Did Particpant Knowledge Increase?



PFC Training Sessions

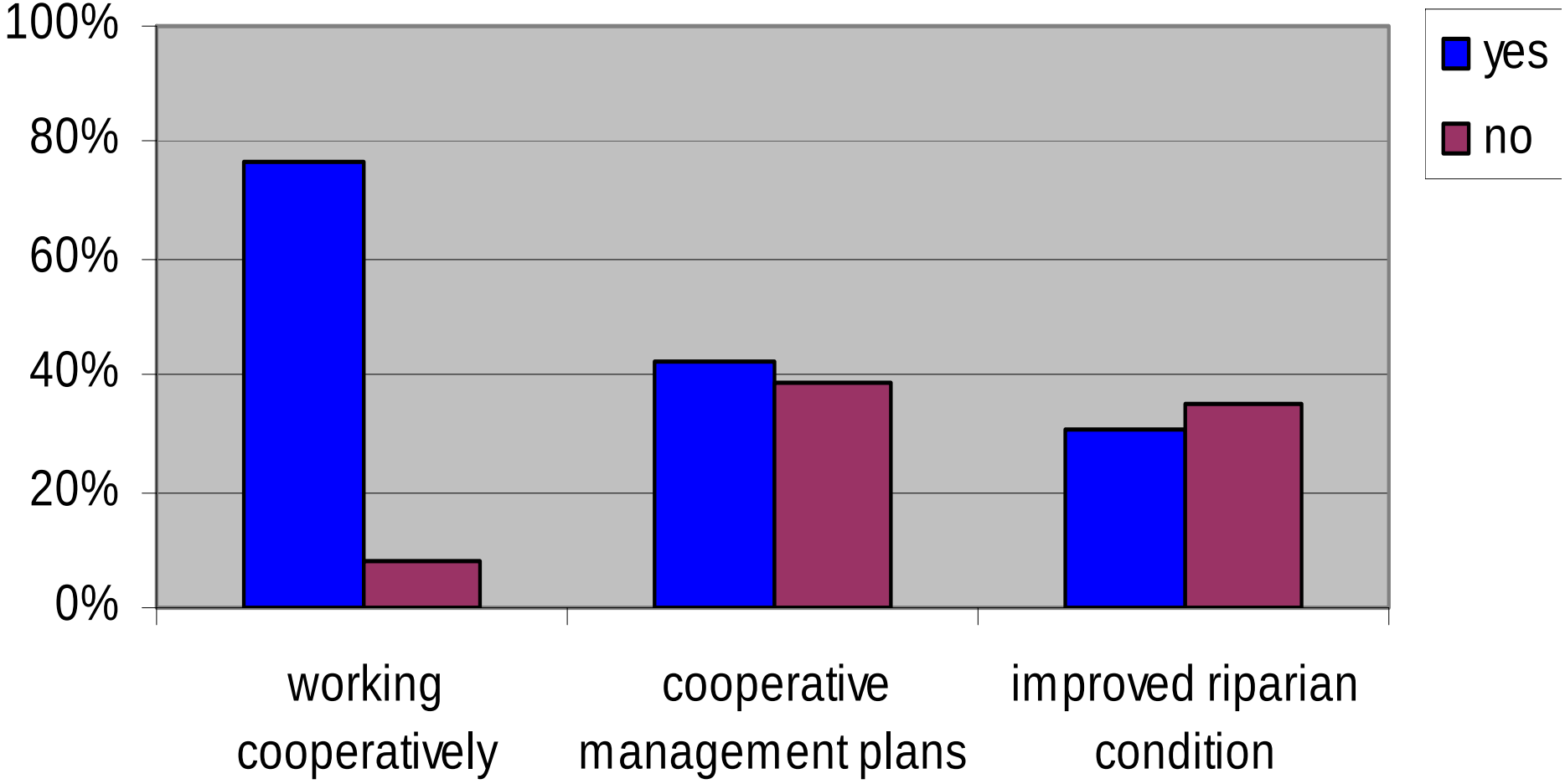
- Lack of diverse participation
- Limited long-term improvement in cooperation



Training sessions are important to building awareness and a shared understanding...

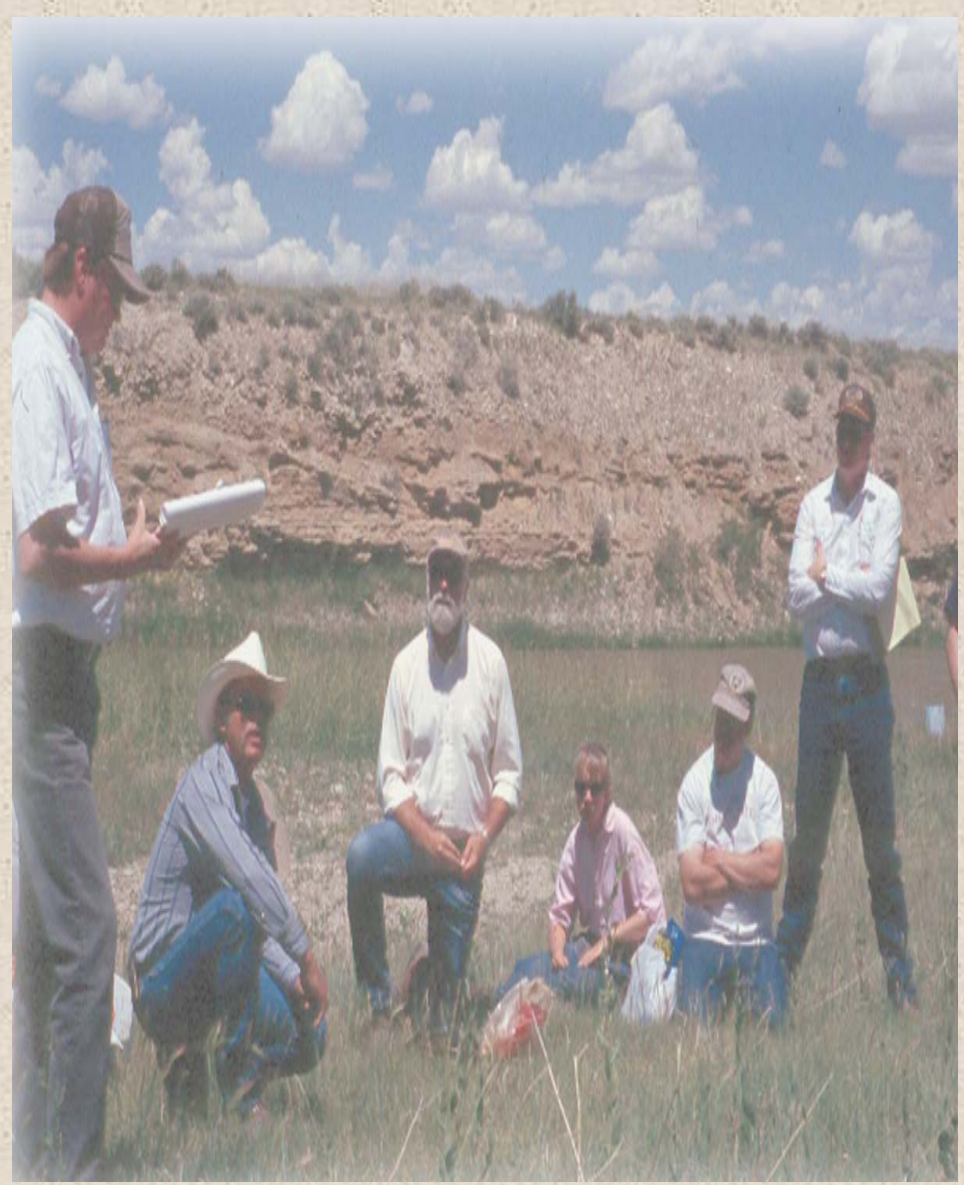
...the initiative's mission cannot be fulfilled through training sessions alone.

On-The-Ground Improvements Associated with Service Trips



Lower Rates of Success

- ✓ Lack of up-front participation by all stakeholders.
- ✓ Insufficient opportunities for dialogue and mutual learning.
- ✓ Limited follow-up.



Strategy Revisions

PFC training sessions...

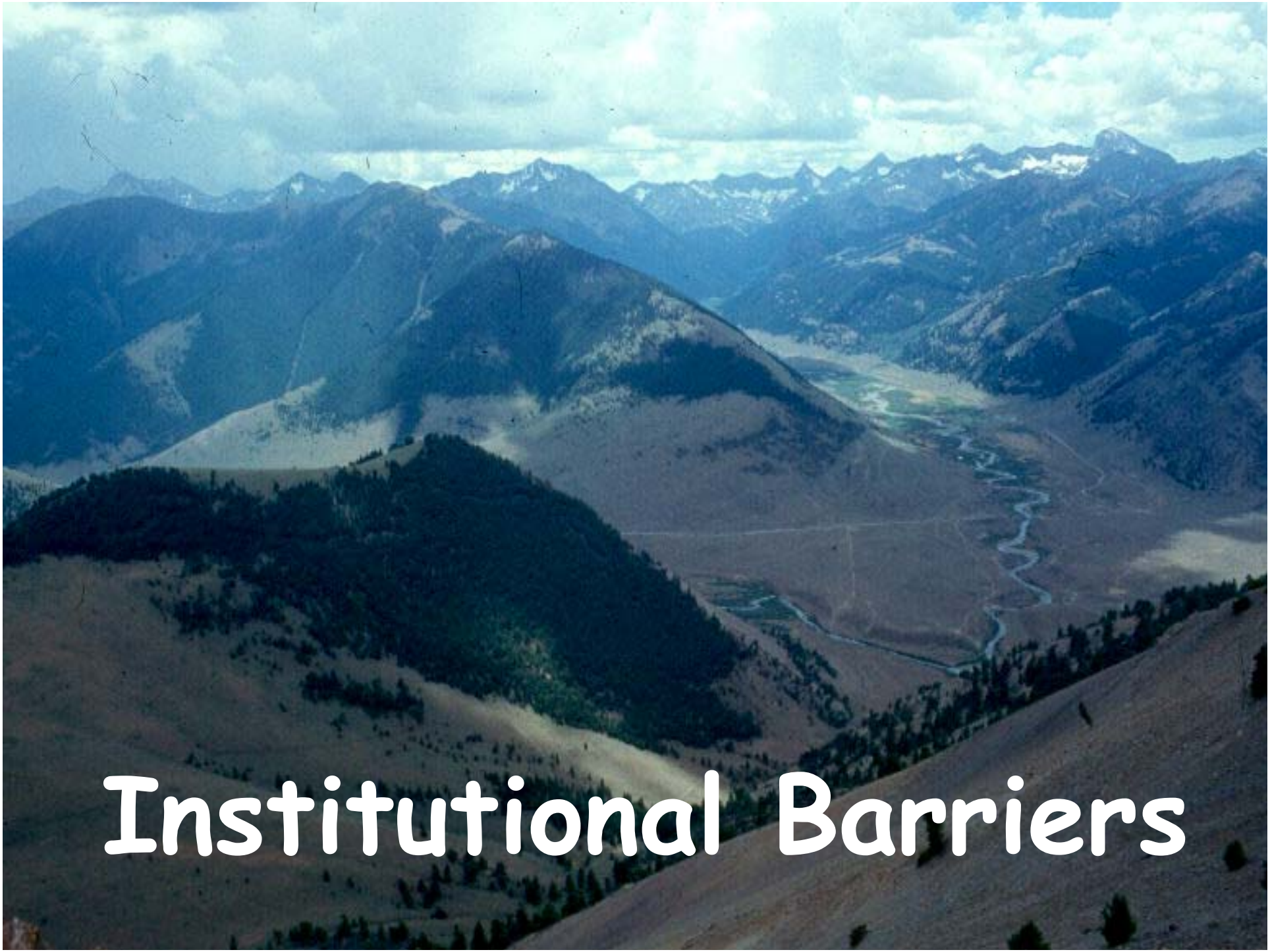
- Engage in deliberate and personal outreach
- Combine training and place-based problem solving

Service trips...

- Use pre-work to encourage up-front participation
- Facilitate opportunities for dialogue and mutual learning
- Engage in follow-up activities

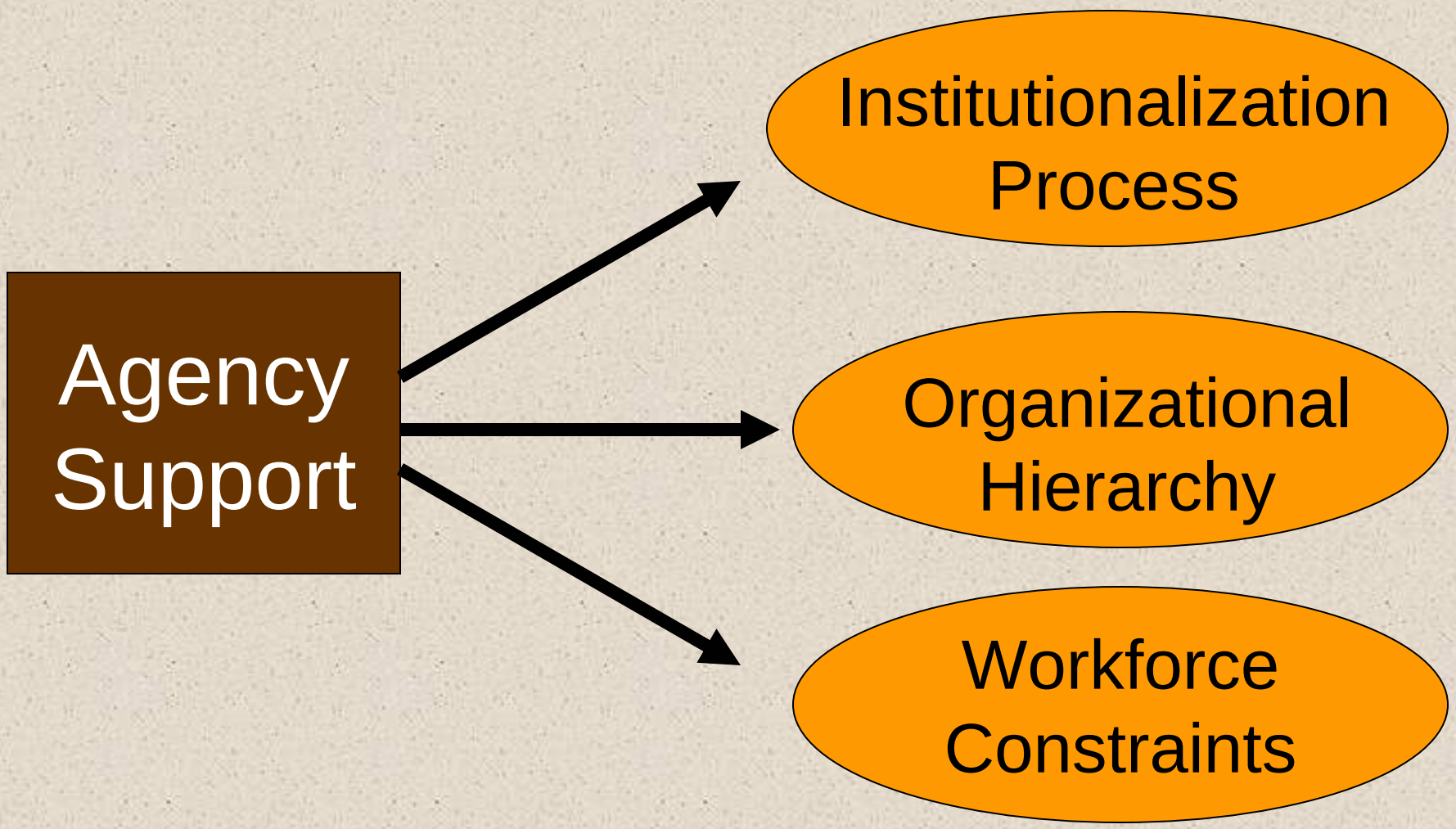
Network...

- Increase network ability to respond to a range of community needs



Institutional Barriers

Institutional barriers



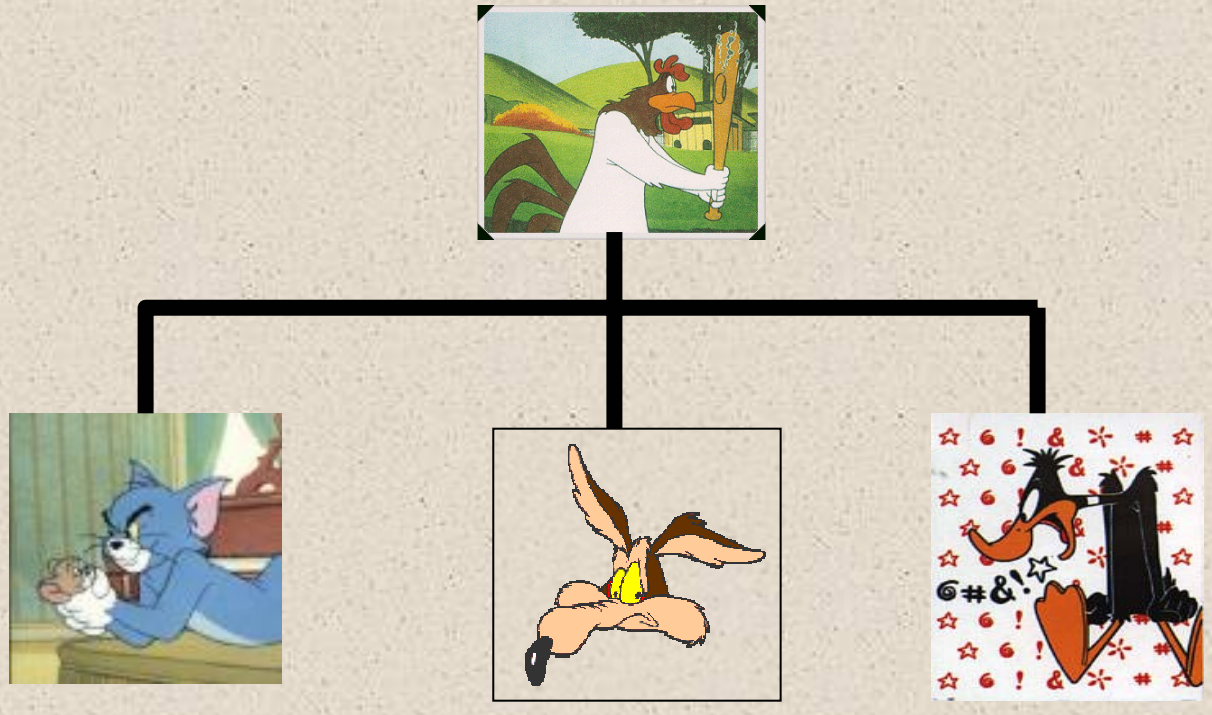
Agency Support

- Differing levels of support from partnering agencies and individuals
- Current organizational cultures do not create time and priority for the activities associated with this type of work
- Bureaucracies are naturally resistant to risk taking, innovation and integration

Institutionalization Process

- Few incentives for acting outside of traditional problem solving approaches
- Few mechanisms for reporting benefits gained by employee participation in this initiative

Organizational Hierarchy



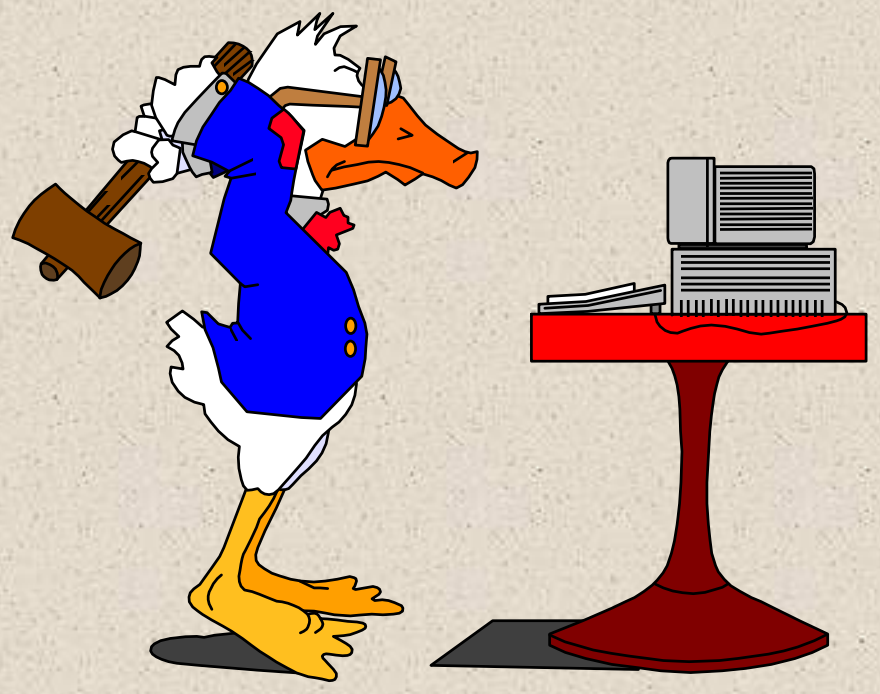
Lack of clear and consistent message across all 'appropriate lines of authority' supporting innovative approaches to problem solving has been a barrier to agency support for this initiative

Workforce Constraints

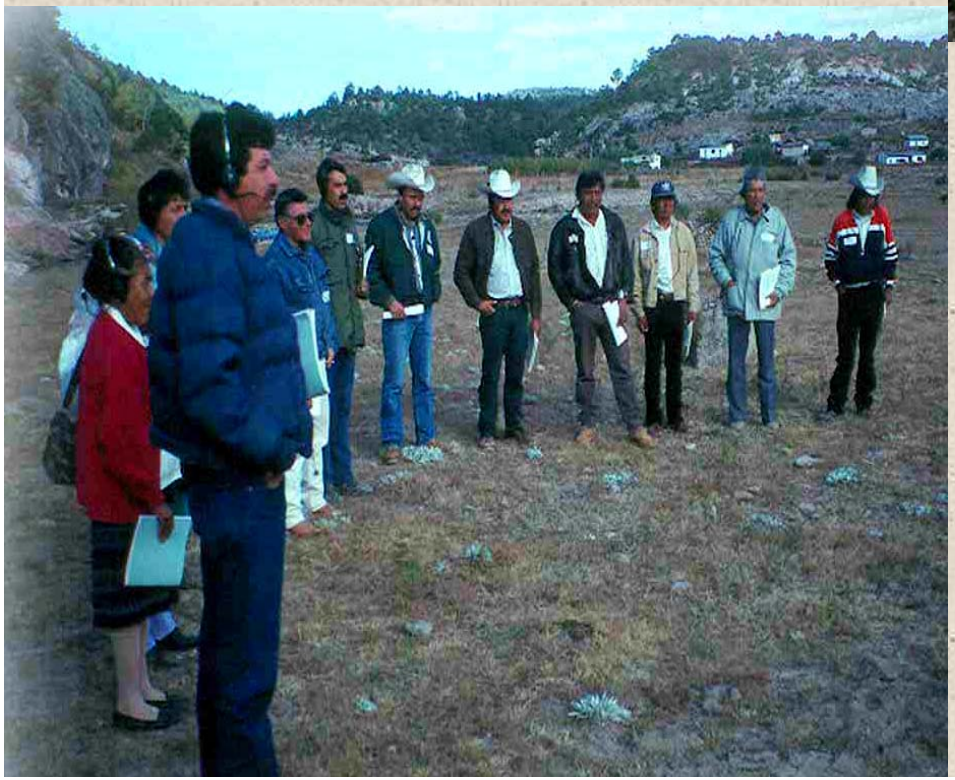
Organizational downsizing

+ increasing responsibility =

additional work !

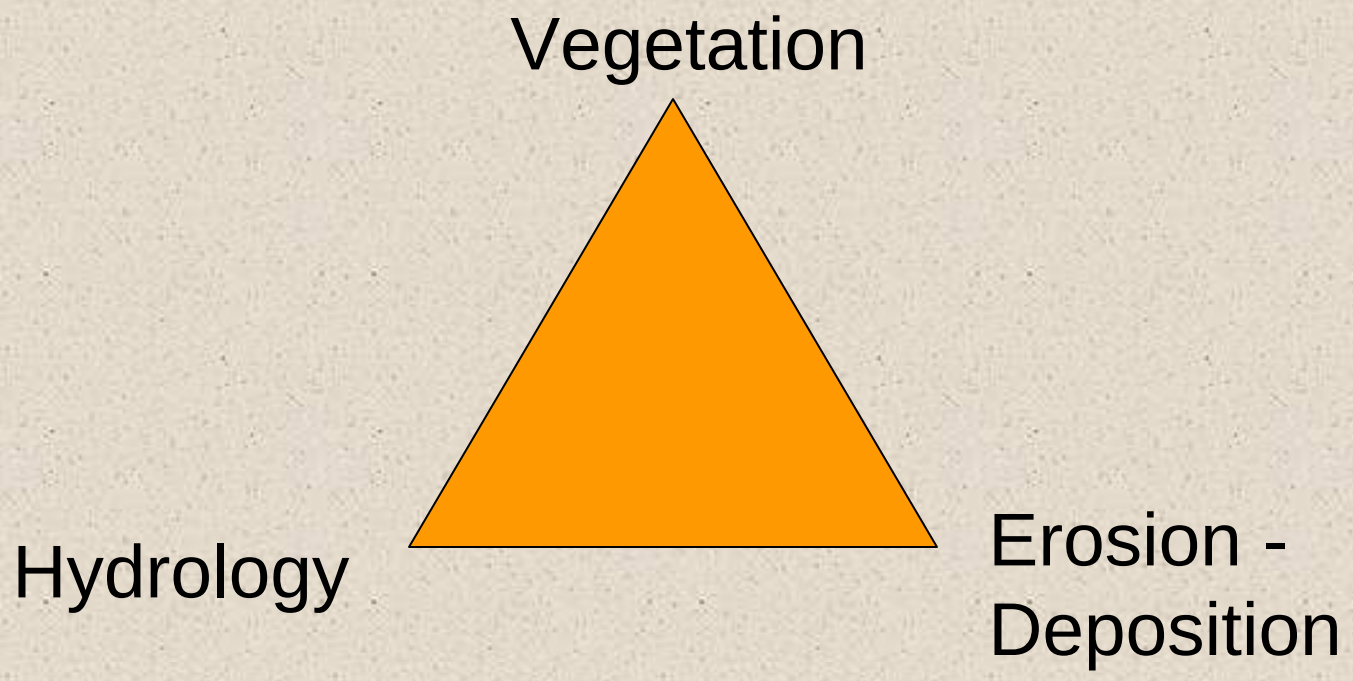


Many agency employees trained in the bio-physical aspects of natural resource management…



…some are disinterested or lack the skills to address the social dimensions of natural resource management.

There are not enough specialists available to participate in the type of interdisciplinary dialogue needed to properly assess specific riparian conditions…



It is often difficult to share resources across disciplinary, programmatic and jurisdictional boundaries...

Thank you…
Questions?