

Keeping the Fires of Collaboration Burning

- This research seeks to examine how planners and managers navigate the tensions that arise when landscape scale ecological fire restoration projects transition from collaborative planning to collaborative implementation.
- Collaborative implementation has been minimally explored. When complete, this research will provide cross case comparisons for 10 cases in which collaboration is required in both planning and implementation phases.
- The research has consisted of document analysis and over 40 interviews with participants in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program of the USDA Forest Service so far.

Ongoing work has been funded by the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station following a successful grant proposal developed during the FYAP funded summer. The project is funded through March 2013 during which time I expect to interview another 20-30 people.

This research will offer theoretical contributions to how organizational structures and roles played by individuals in these collaboratives have enabled them to navigate tensions that arise when projects transition to implementation. It will also offer insights to practitioners and public officials in collaborative process design for the implementation phase.

William Butler, Asst Prof,
Department of Urban and Regional Planning,
wbutler@fsu.edu