Workshop Overview and Focus

Workshop Sponsored By:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management

Workshop Ignition Source

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MANAGING NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL HABITAT
IN DRY FOREST ECOSYSTEMS WORKSHOP
SYNTHESIS REPORT

Report prepared by:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Bend Field Office
December 2005

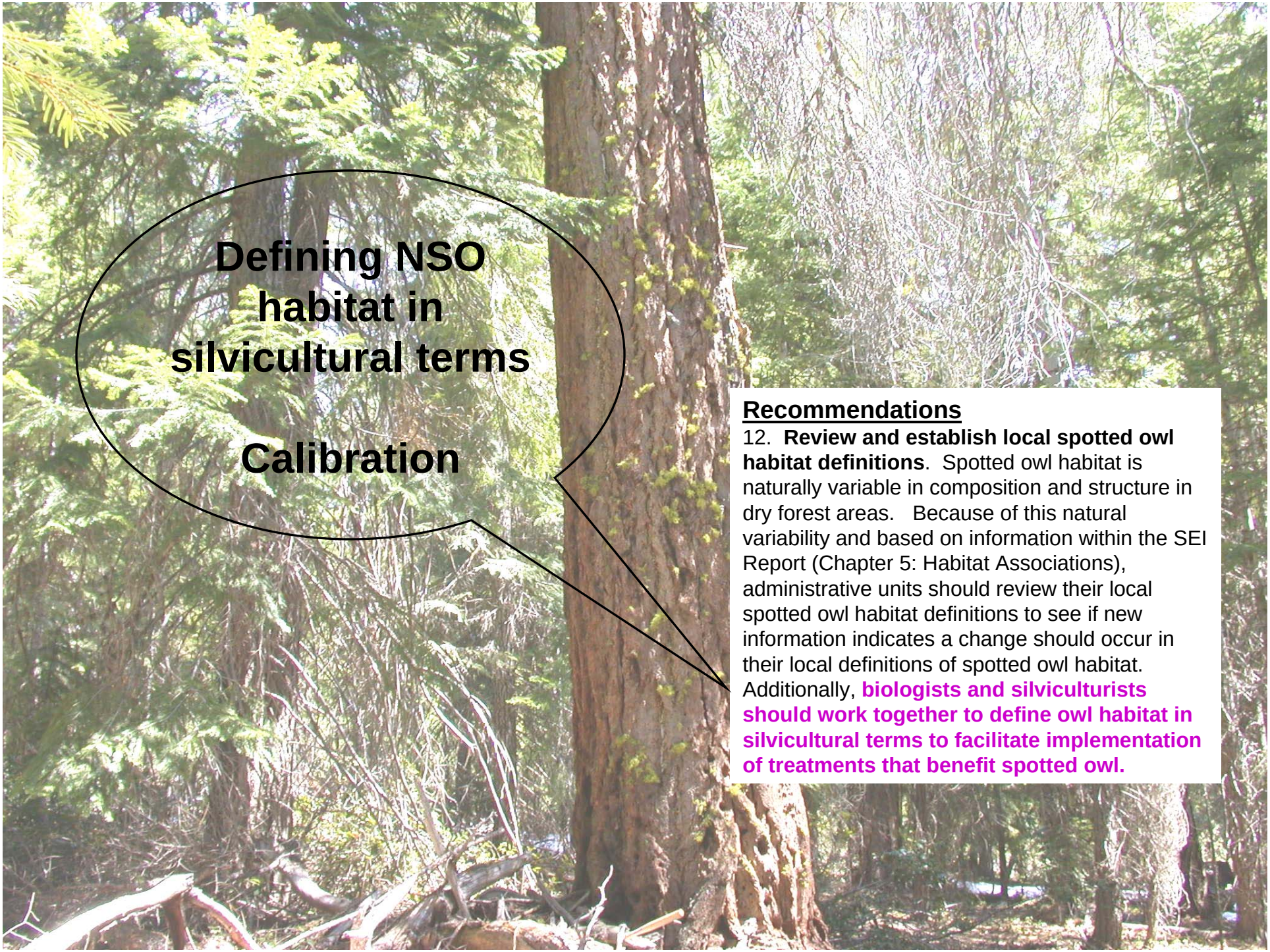
Workshop sponsored by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
In cooperation with: U.S. Forest Service
and U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Recommendations

1. **No action is not an option; we must continue to move forward.** Spotted owl habitat is at risk and declining within dry forests due to high fuel loads, mortality associated with insects and disease and stand replacing fire events. **Silvicultural treatments of fuel loads are necessary to conserve spotted owl habitat and to achieve overall forest health objectives. Although there is uncertainty and potential risk to spotted owl habitat from the effects of treatments, there is likely a greater risk of a stand replacing fire in dry forest habitat where silvicultural treatments are not implemented.** A natural fire regime across the landscape should be restored to manage for late-successional forests. The participants indicated that they need to have guidance on where and how to design their projects to fit into the broader context of spotted owl recovery.

Recommendations

10. **Conduct additional and more frequent workshops on managing dry forest ecosystems within the NWFP area.** Suggested topics for these workshops included but are not limited to: 1) **restoration treatments for NSO habitat,** 2) application of NWFP management direction for fire prone dry forests, and, 3) managing for owl prey in dry forests (e.g., **the development of silvicultural prescriptions.**



Recommendations

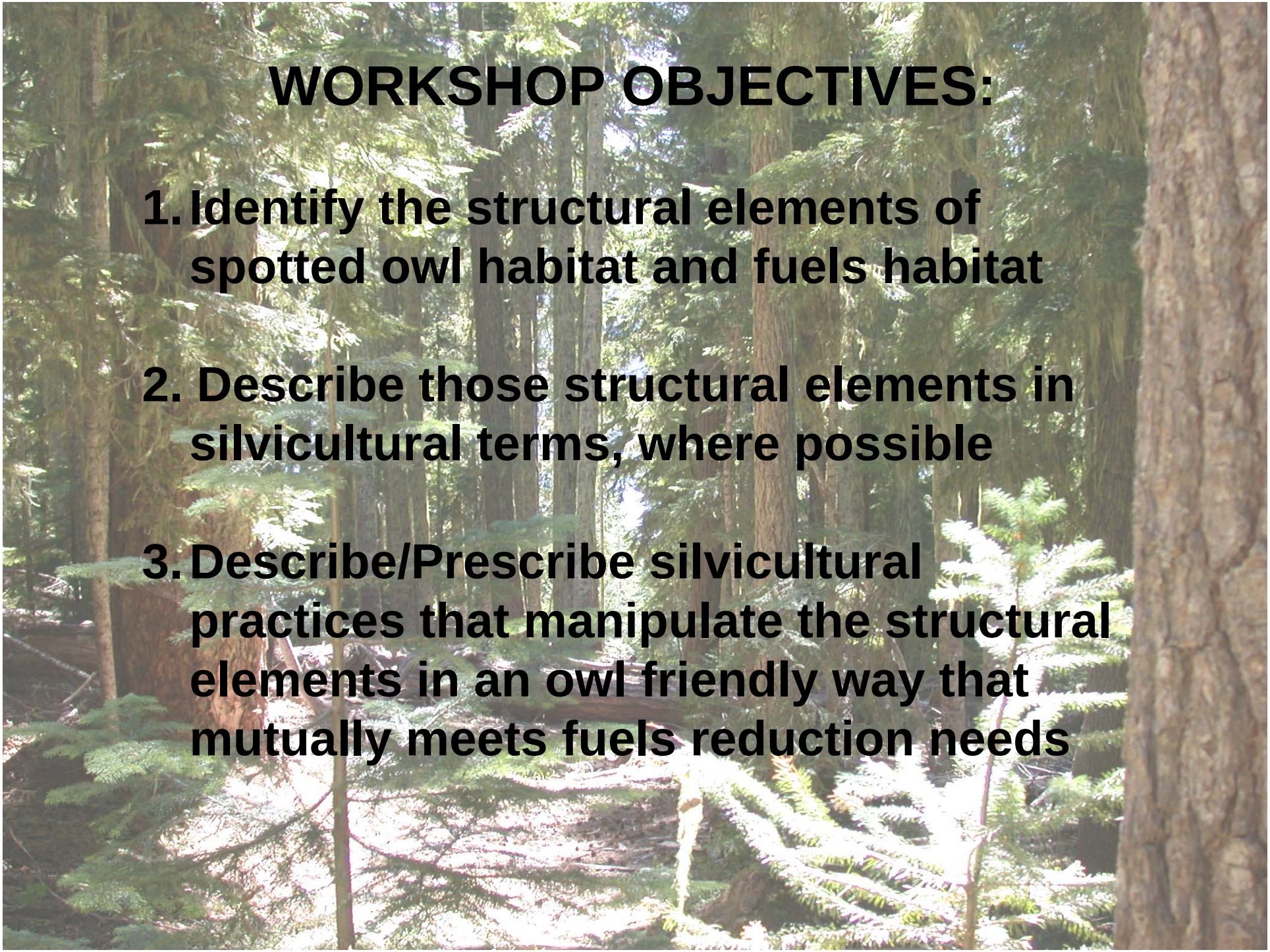
12. **Review and establish local spotted owl habitat definitions**. Spotted owl habitat is naturally variable in composition and structure in dry forest areas. Because of this natural variability and based on information within the SEI Report (Chapter 5: Habitat Associations), administrative units should review their local spotted owl habitat definitions to see if new information indicates a change should occur in their local definitions of spotted owl habitat. Additionally, **biologists and silviculturists should work together to define owl habitat in silvicultural terms to facilitate implementation of treatments that benefit spotted owl.**

Workshop Premise:

- Recognize a Need to Treat NSO Habitat
- Societal and Resource Tension in Conducting Treatments
- Reach Mutual Objectives on Same Piece of Ground

WORKSHOP GOAL

- Develop stand level silvicultural practices that are beneficial or neutral to northern spotted owl habitat in dry forest ecosystems of the Klamath Province

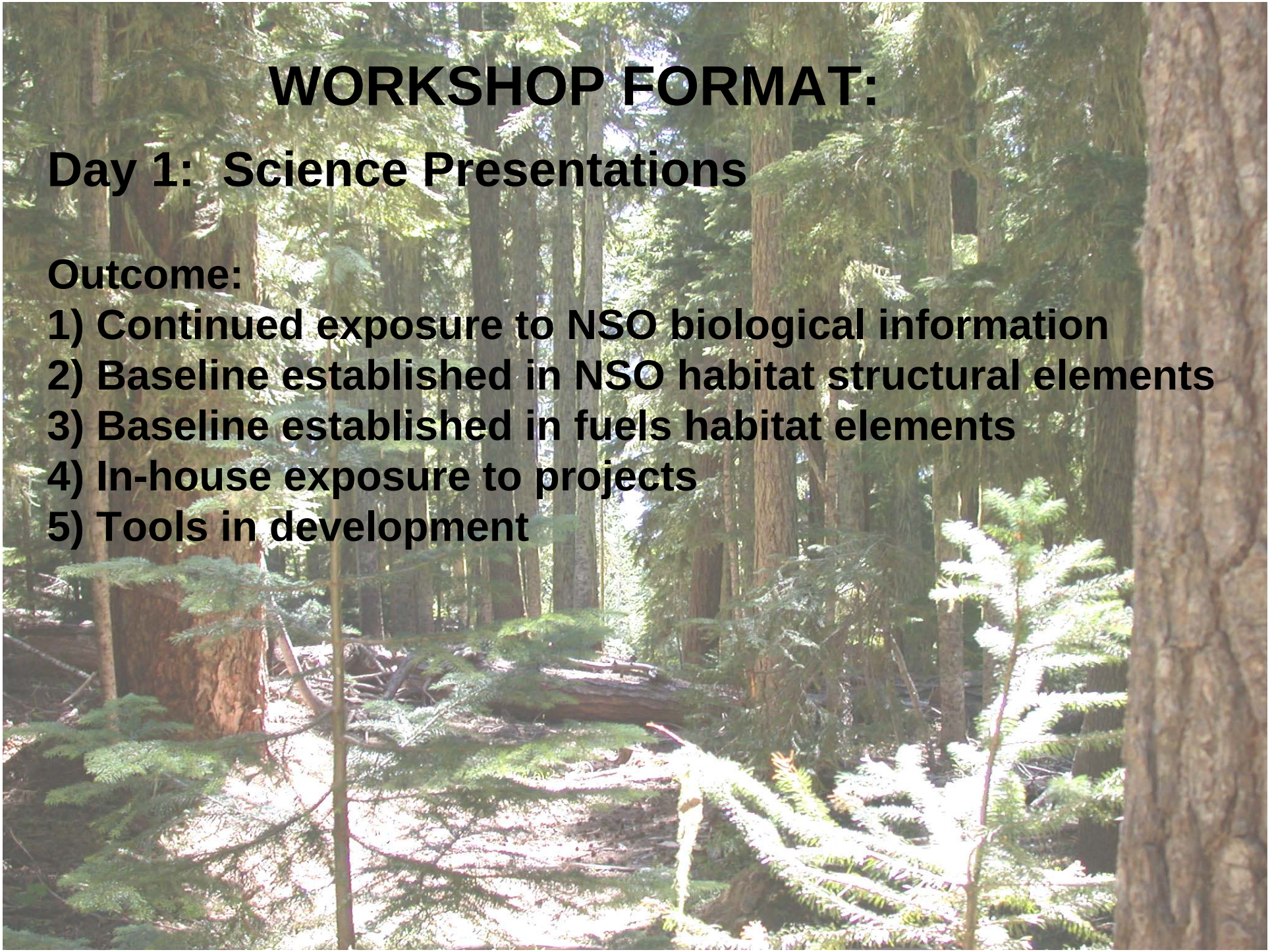


WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify the structural elements of spotted owl habitat and fuels habitat

2. Describe those structural elements in silvicultural terms, where possible

3. Describe/Prescribe silvicultural practices that manipulate the structural elements in an owl friendly way that mutually meets fuels reduction needs



WORKSHOP FORMAT:

Day 1: Science Presentations

Outcome:

1) Continued exposure to NSO biological information
2) Baseline established in NSO habitat structural elements
3) Baseline established in fuels habitat elements
4) In-house exposure to projects
5) Tools in development

WORKSHOP FORMAT:

Day 2: Field Trip Exercises

Series of Stops: landscape, owl core, treatments

Outcome:

1) See project examples
2) Convert “baseline” to silvicultural terms
3) Describe/prescribe silvicultural treatments
3) Peer sharing
4) Continued development of Tools

WORKSHOP FORMAT:

Day 3: Exercises Concluded

Outcome:

1) Share "owl friendly" prescriptions at stand & landscape
2) Calibrated across disciplines
3) Tools refined

Workshop Goal: Develop stand level silvicultural practices that are beneficial or neutral to northern spotted owl habitat in dry forest ecosystems of the Klamath Province

WORKSHOP PRODUCTS:

- Enhanced Interagency Collaboration
- Tool: A ‘Process” Checklist for Applying Treatments
- Tool: Dictionary - Calibration
- Better Ideas for Addressing Forest Health
- “OK” to work in NSO habitat – Strategic!
- Final Report with Recommendations


Have A Good Time & Thanks!