

Building the Sierra Meadows Partnership: Relationship, Reconnection, Restoration



Rene Henery, PhD.

Trout Unlimited; University of Nevada, Reno

Science -
Research

Restoration -
Species

Restoration -
Hydrology

Management

Our Process

- **Many related efforts**
working in parallel



Largely independently...

- ◇ NGOs, agencies, private entities, consulting firms working on restoration
- ◇ Restoration method focused project design
- ◇ Limited research or monitoring
- ◇ Agencies state and federal managing lands for human uses...
- ◇ Agencies state and federal managing lands for species recovery...
- ◇ State agencies and private land owners managing lands for hydrologic benefit
- ◇ Small state, federal, and private funding pools



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NFWF -
Meadows BP

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- **Vision** for a broader effort and **seed money**



Enter NFWF business plan...

- ◇ Brought stakeholders to the table
- ◇ Catalyzed engagement in an initial shared vision
- ◇ Created greater awareness – players, state of existing efforts, knowledge base, data gaps, etc.

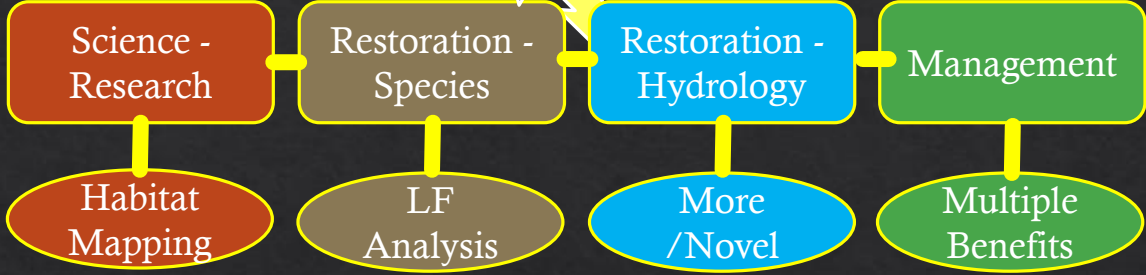
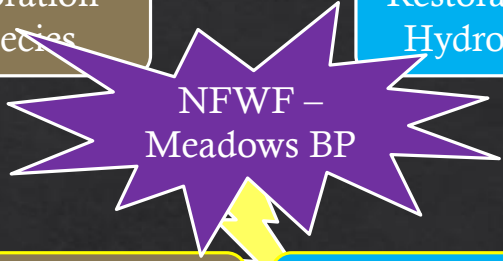


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- **New tools** – for individual efforts but designed to work together



Working separately together...

(Relationships - Part 1)

- ◇ To develop tools to improve understanding in our respective areas
 - ◇ e.g. For Fish: MRFAT, Stream Habitat typing; For rapid assessment: Meadow Score Card
- ◇ Working in small partnerships
- ◇ With an eye towards integration
- ◇ Sharing some information on a regular call
- ◇ Building relationships slowly
- ◇ Getting to know each other...

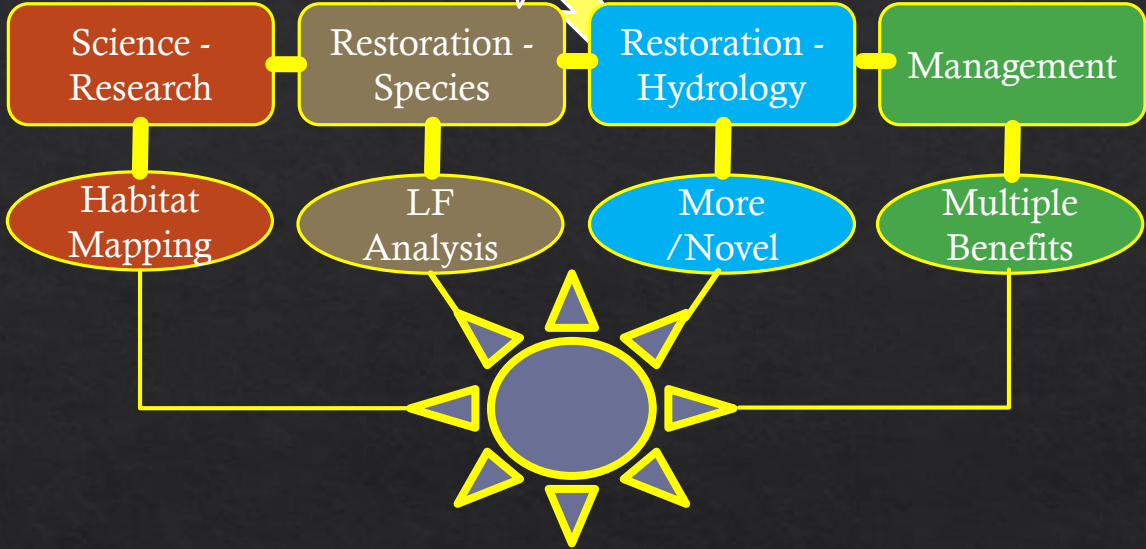


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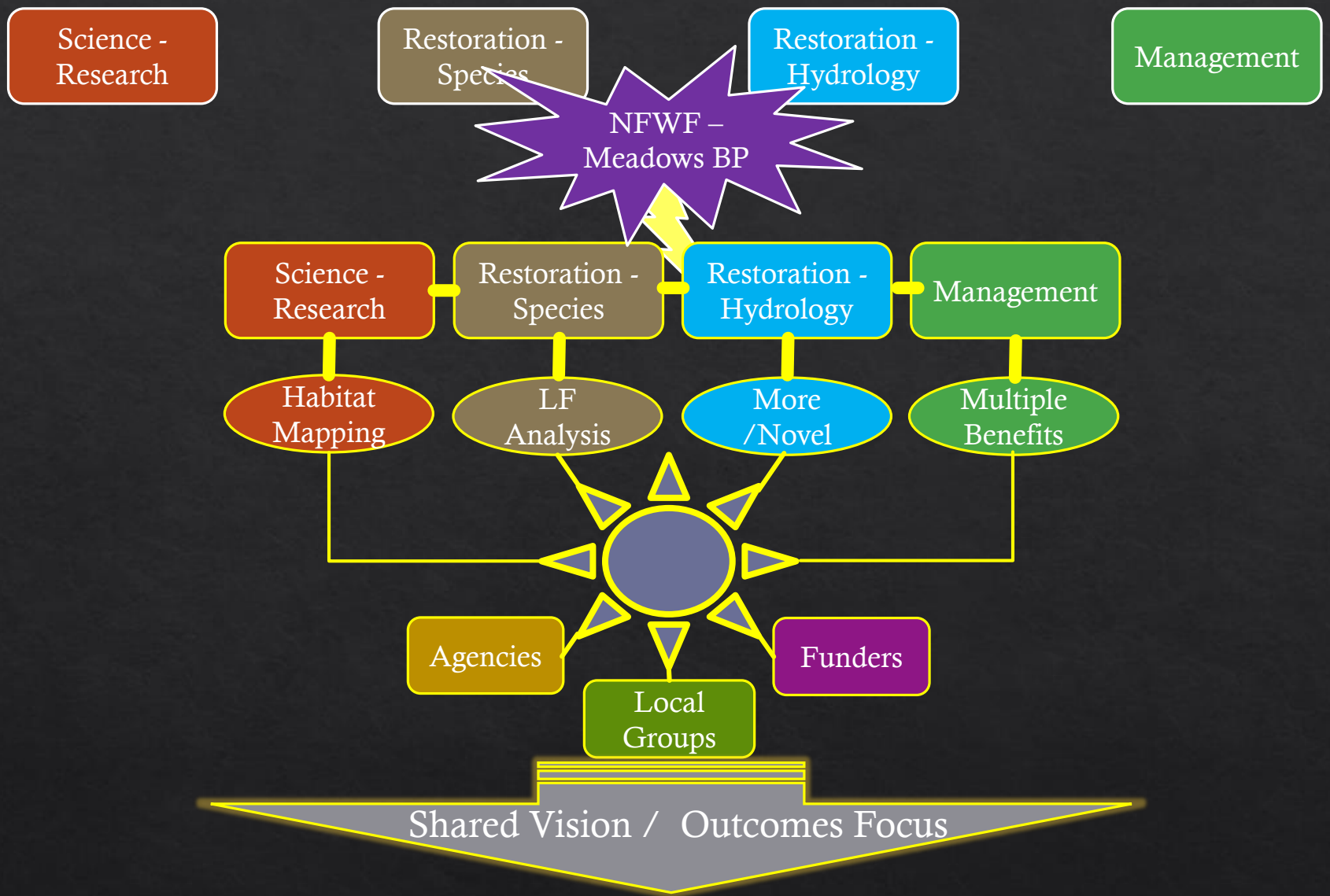


Not just your average conference...

(Relationships – Part2)

- ◇ Annual Sierra Meadows Workshop
- ◇ Small group initially (<50), relaxing/ inspiring venue, good food, time for self care and relationship building
- ◇ Projects presentation, funder presentations, science presentations
- ◇ Discussions around goals, objectives, techniques, and resources
- ◇ Gradual orientation towards desired outcomes, expressed in terms of by functional processes, in key categories: Soils, Hydro, Bio.





Our Process

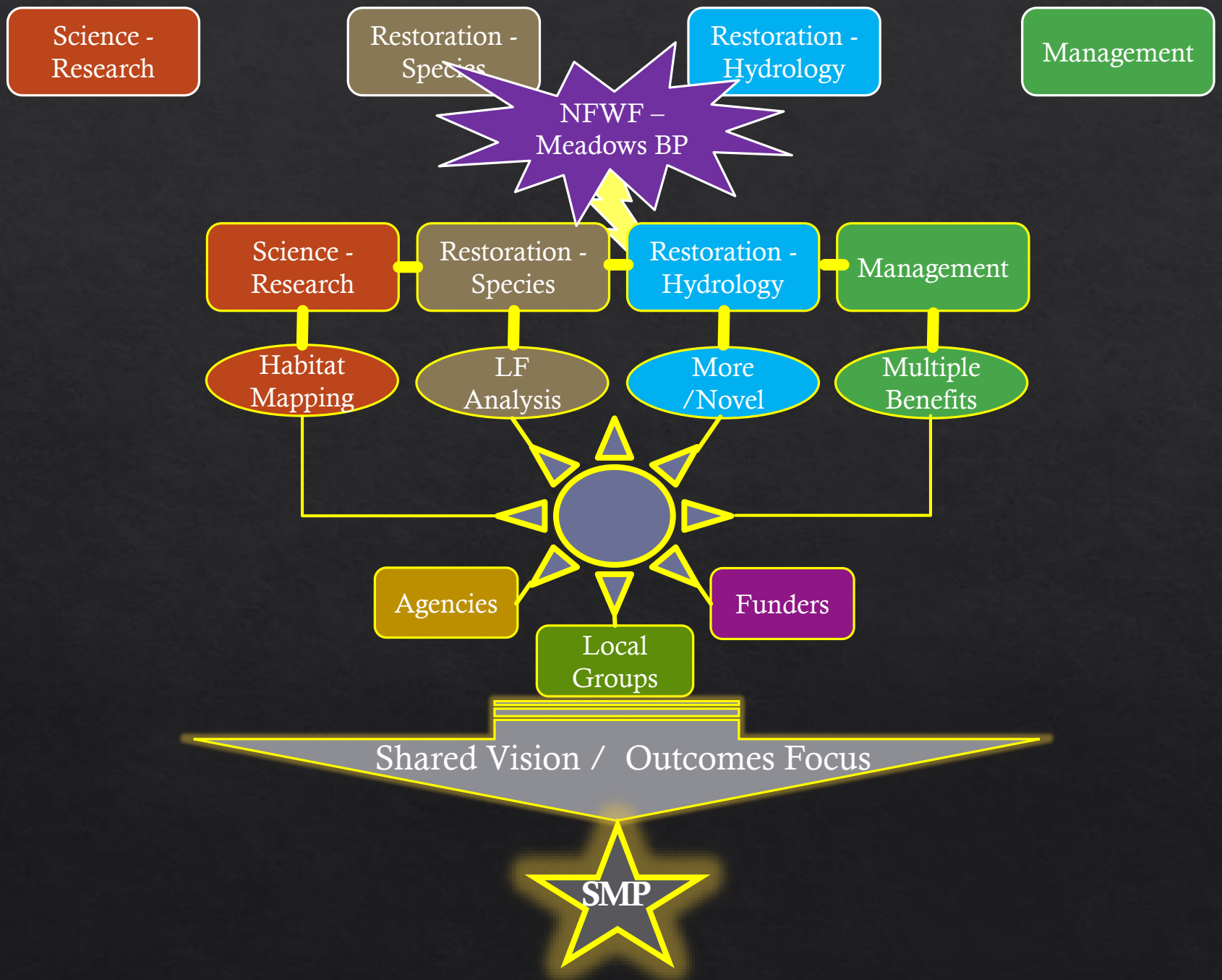
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- **New members** – Local interests, state, funders
- Development of a common vision with a **focus on desired outcomes and measurable objectives**

Growing and deepening...

(Relationships – Part3)

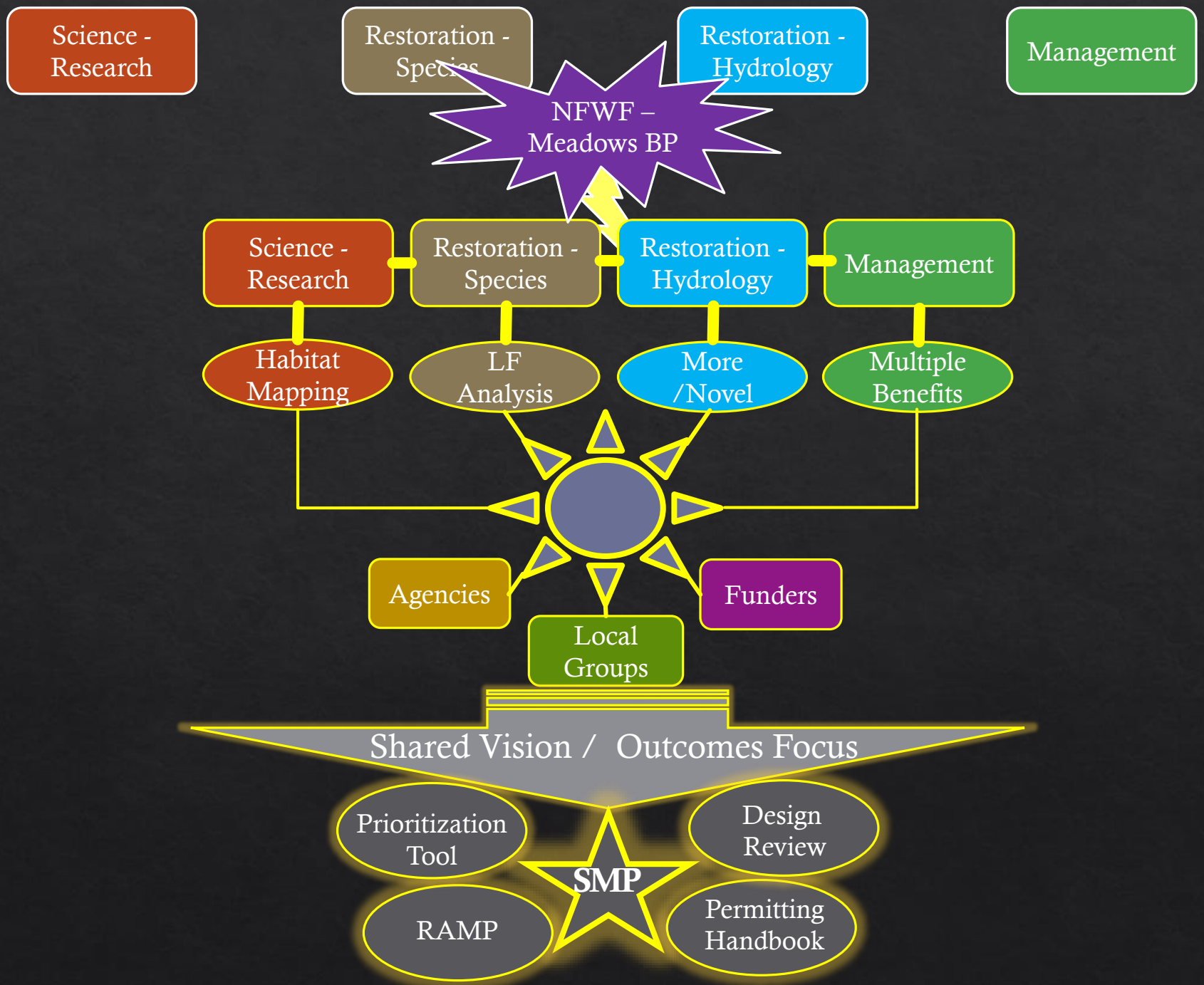
- ◇ New groups enter dialogue
- ◇ Partners work together to expand and focus existing funding sources and cultivate new ones
- ◇ Projects presentation, funder presentations, science presentations
- ◇ Discussions around goals, objectives, techniques, and resources
- ◇ Gradual orientation towards desired outcomes, expressed in a by functional processes, in key categories: Soils, Hydro, Bio, Car





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- SMP Formation



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- SMP Formation
- SMP products and efforts

The SMP is born!...

(Relationships – Part 4)

- ◇ Inclusive
- ◇ MOU – State and Federal Agencies, NGOs, Private entities, Funders, etc.
- ◇ Common goal: Pace, Scale, Efficacy
- ◇ Large collaborative efforts to support the whole SMP:
 - ◇ Prioritization tool: Open Access
 - ◇ Design Review Group
 - ◇ To provide counsel and resolve differences
 - ◇ Collaborative outreach
 - ◇ Project permitting and Implementation guidance
 - ◇ Research and Monitoring Protocol (RAMP)



Next Steps ...

- ◇ Charter
- ◇ Outreach to expand membership
- ◇ Application of prioritization tool
- ◇ Finalization of RAMP
- ◇ Analysis of research and monitoring data to inform design
- ◇ Institutionalize funding for clearinghouse
- ◇ More sharing, more connecting, more working together...



Thank You!

SMP Partners:

- American Rivers
- CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- CA Trout
- CA Tahoe Conservancy
- CA Dept. of Water Resources
- Feather River Land Trust
- Foriver
- Forest Creek Restoration
- The Institute for Bird Populations
- National Forest Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Plumas Corporation
- Point Blue
- The Sierra Fund
- Stillwater Sciences
- The Trust for Public Land
- Trout Unlimited
- Sierra Foothill Conservancy
- Symbolic Restoration
- SYRCL
- UCDavis
- UC Merced
- USGS
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Water Institute

