

# SHOW THEM YOU'RE LISTENING. LITERALLY!

How the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership Utilized Values-Based Spatial Planning to Visualize and Prioritize Collaborative Forest Restoration



*Tucked away in northwestern California, the community of Orleans experienced significant loss due to a wildfire in 2013. Since then, we've been using values-based spatial planning to chart a better path toward wildfire resilience, including leveraging the 2013 wildfire footprint to create additional fuel breaks around our community.*

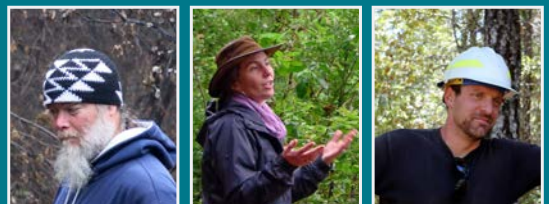
*Photo credit: Thomas Dunklin*

## FROM STEREOTYPES TO SHARED VALUES

The Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRP) officially launched in 2013. However, the conflicts surrounding the issues we're trying to address are decades, and in some instances centuries, old. From timber wars to the genocide of indigenous people, the stakes couldn't have been higher when we first started. It was easy to categorize, or stereotype, everyone at the table: "the tribal member," "the logger," "the environmentalist." But as we took time to get to know one another, we began to realize how nuanced, and often overlapping our values actually were. Some members of the Karuk Tribe worked as loggers. Environmentalists weren't all "preservationists" by default, and supported Traditional Ecological Knowledge and mechanical thinning in roadside plantations. Loggers expressed a deep connection to fishing and restoring rivers. Seeing people for their entire selves, rather than assuming that they fit into one simple category revealed where our values overlapped, and quite literally, where we could work together.

## SEEING BEYOND SINGULARITY

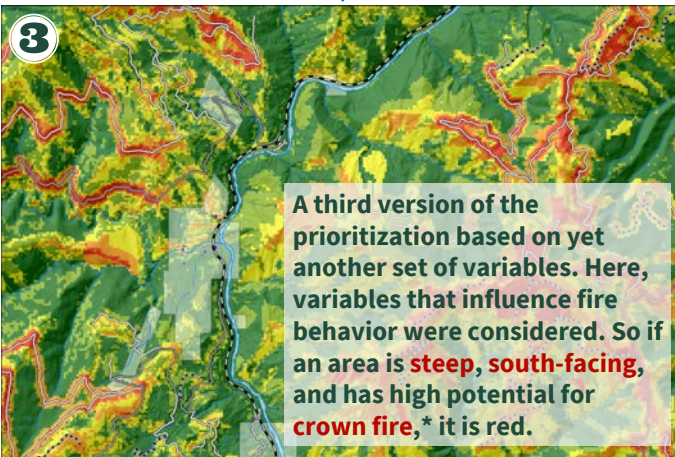
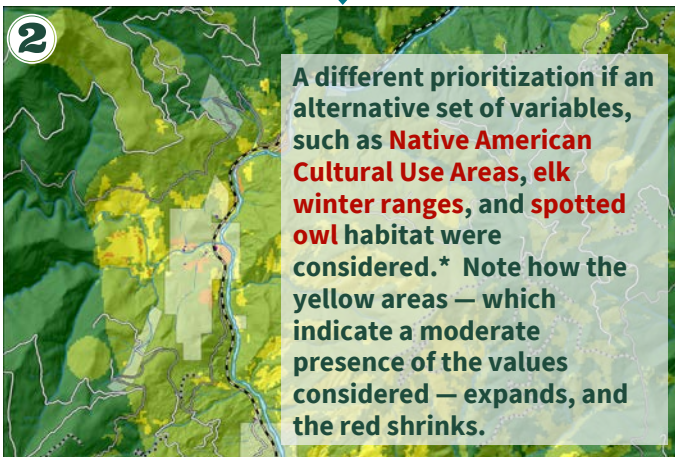
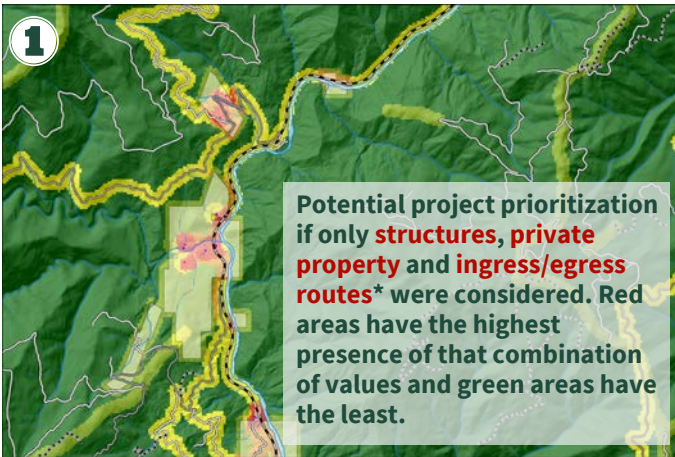
By taking the time — in some cases years — to get to know our partners, we began to understand their, and collectively our, multifaceted values. We learned that behind each face were numerous, often overlapping values.



No partner is defined by just one affiliation or one job title. Recognizing that is how we began to find common ground. Seeing each other more holistically helped each of us as seers be less ideological as well.

*Photo credits: Top row — Mid Klamath Restoration Partnership, Bottom left: Salmon River Restoration Council, Bottom center: Mary Huffman, The Nature Conservancy, Bottom right: Mid Klamath Watershed Council.*

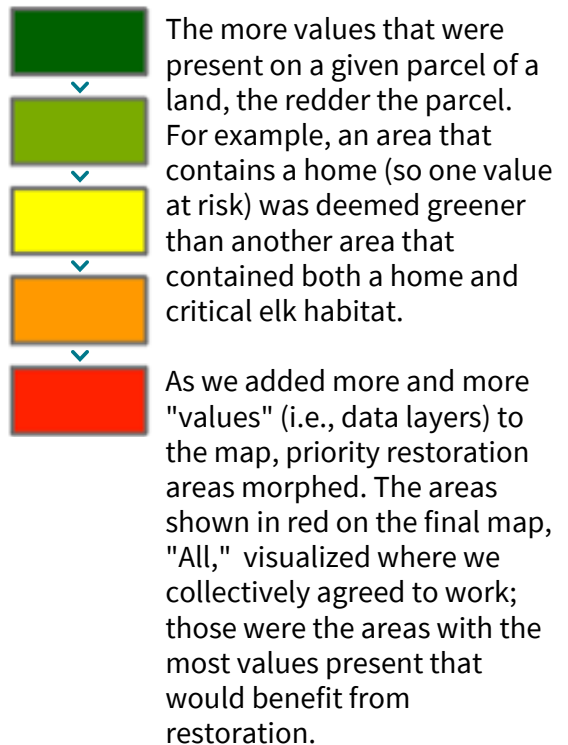




## Merging Multiple Values into One Vision

Through a series of meetings, we created a list of what WKRP partners individually cared about. Then, we put those values on a map. Sometimes the data layers already existed, such as past wildfire footprints, but other times, we had to geo-locate and digitize the data manually. In those cases, partners always had the opportunity to participate in collecting the data, so that they felt comfortable with its integrity. Each value essentially became a data layer, or in some instances, multiple data layers. People's eyes lit up as their "layers" appeared on our project area's map. **They knew our treatment prioritization was accounting for what they cared about.**

## The Magic Behind the Map



*\*The examples listed in red on maps 1-3 are not exhaustive. Several additional variables, or values, were included in each map. The maps shown here were made for educational purposes. See contact information below if you're interested in more specifics.*

For questions about our technical mapping or collaboration processes, please contact WKRP co-lead Will Harling ([will@mkwc.org](mailto:will@mkwc.org)).