

Building a Stewardship Economy:

Insights from Community Innovation in the Rural American West



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Building a Stewardship Economy:

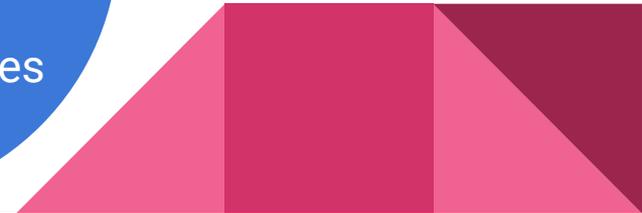
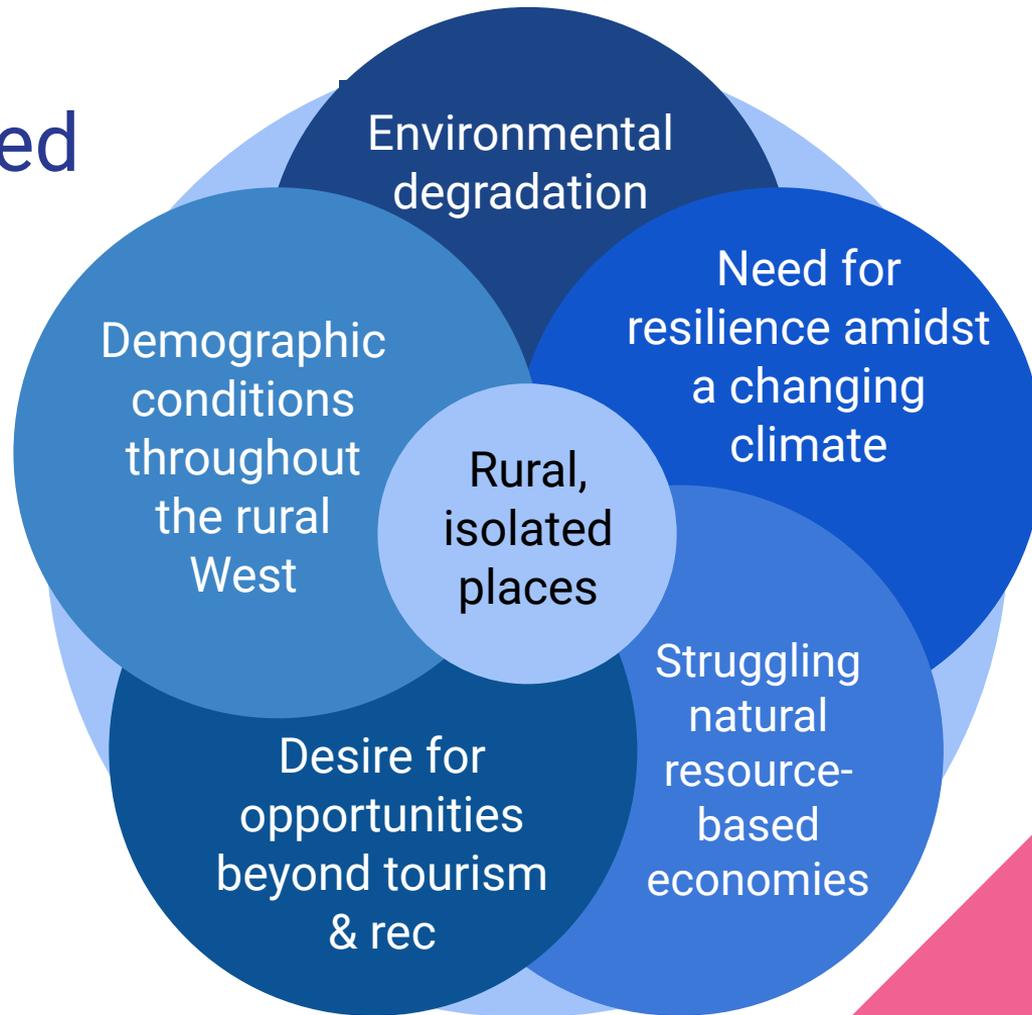
Insights from Community Innovation in the Rural American West



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Project Need



One Response: the Stewardship Economy Concept

Communities are adopting activities that contribute to local economies and advance natural resource stewardship

1. Promote stewardship of land and water resources
2. Develop rural economies and create jobs
3. Education/job training & advocate for good policy



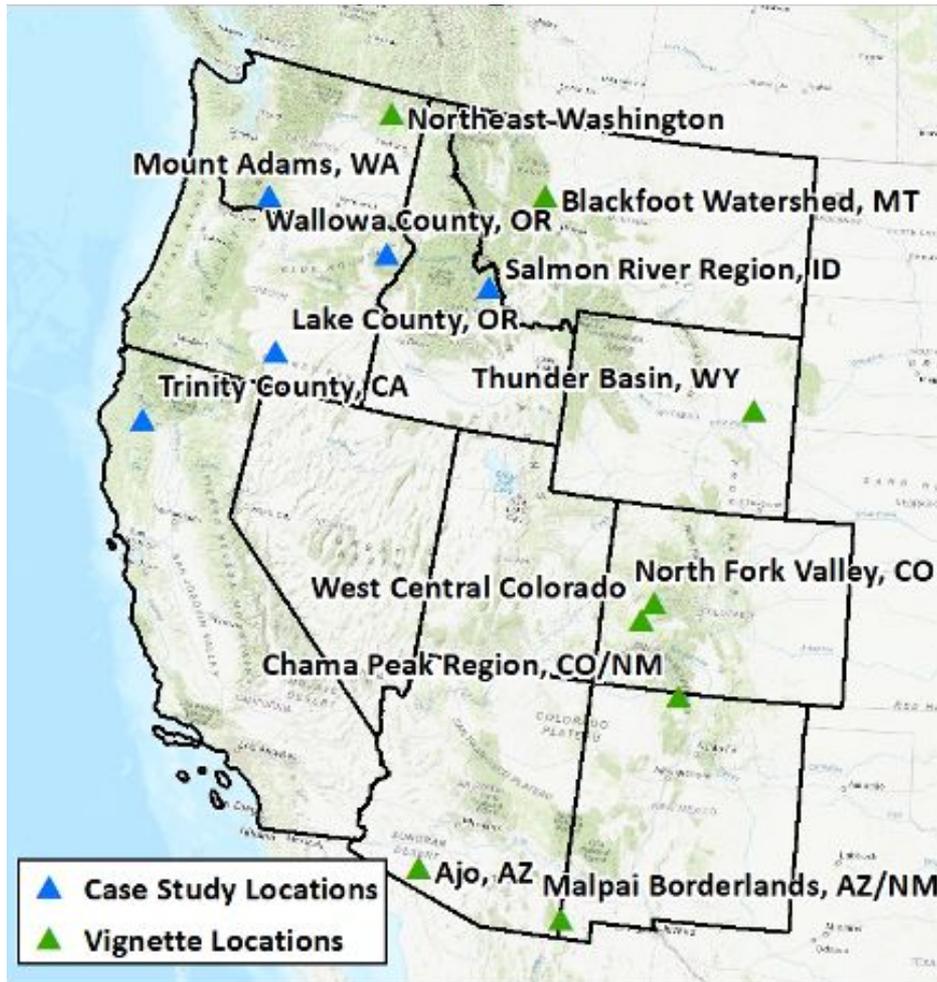
Mt. Adams Log Yard. Photo: Ryan Hawk. www.ryanhawk.com



Research Goals

1. Identify communities that are trying to build a stewardship economy
 2. Document communities' stewardship economy efforts, including their successes and challenges
 3. Analyse what has enabled and constrained communities' success
 4. Recommend actions to actors at every scale to help advance stewardship economies in the rural West
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Case Study Locations



Case Study Criteria

- Rural and isolated
- Linking social, ecological, and economic health
- Place-based
- >10 years of activity

Biomass Utilization



Lake County, Oregon

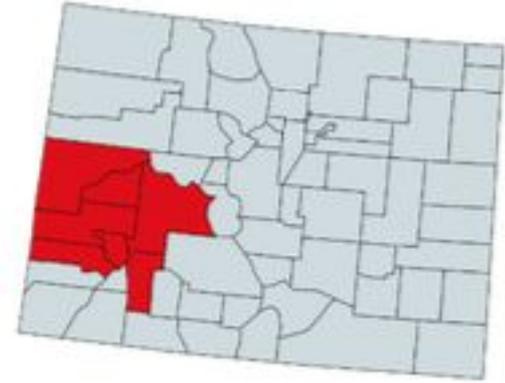
- Collins Company's invested \$6M in a small diameter sawmill (<10")
- Supported by a 35% tax credit from Lake County and successful forest collaboration
- Red Rock Biofuels will process woody debris into diesel and jet fuel
- Supported by a PILT agreement with Lake County



Pop: 7,800
Land: 77% public
Scale: 8,353 mi²

West Central Colorado

- Neiman Enterprises purchased and invested \$10M to refurbish a small mill
- Supported by public-private partnership
- Montrose Forest Products invests >\$18M to purchase a planer mill, a new gang saw, and a 60,000 square-foot building for the new planer mill
- Multiple supply options



Pop: > 250,000
Land: 73% public
Scale: 12,947 mi²

Wallowa County, Oregon

- Integrated Biomass Energy Campus co-locates biomass heat generation with Integrated Biomass Resources
- IBR has produced bundled firewood, densified heating fuel, posts and poles, and landscaping timber
- Received two USDA Woody Biomass grants



Pop: 7,000
Land: 58% public,
41% private
Scale: 3,153 mi²

Northeast Washington

- “A to Z” restoration project uses a single contractor from NEPA to treatment
- Contractor is local mill owner and longtime collaborative member
- Land ownership patterns and “visionary mill owners” helped maintain processing infrastructure



Pop: 66,500

Land: 35% public,
38% private, 21%
tribal

Scale: 6,223 mi²

What made it work?



https://www.heraldandnews.com/outdoors/collins-pine-weather-s-downturn-invests-in-future/article_5694b901-24cf-5348-b0d2-5535e53051eb.html

Enabling Factors

- History of forest collaboration → engaged, informed stakeholders; relationships with USFS and other key partners; relative consensus around forest management
 - Leadership by CBO to coordinate and steward local efforts
 - Development/use of innovative restoration authorities or tools
 - Investment by local government
 - CFLRP/JCLRP funding and process
 - Private investment
 - Grant funding (USFS Woody Biomass Utilization, HUD CDBG)
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What were the barriers?



Mt. Adams Log Yard. Photo: Ryan Hawk. www.ryanhawk.com

Constraining Factors

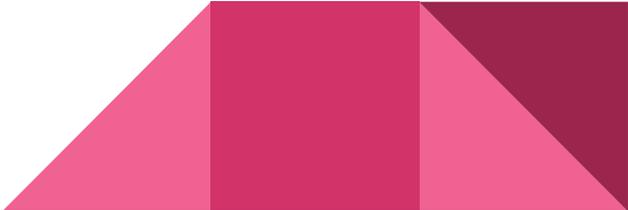
- Insufficient capacity and leadership at the local level
 - Lack of consistent funding/difficulty accessing capital
 - High transportation costs
 - Lack of existing infrastructure
 - Insufficient community buy-in, support, and participation
 - Agency and partner organization limitations
 - Global market forces
 - Supply challenges
 - Regulatory challenges
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Conclusions



<https://unsplash.com/photos/20zdX7F9XP>

Conclusions

- Every community faced challenges
 - These communities have had time to try, fail, and try again
 - There is no single answer to why one community succeeded where another did not
 - Luck and timing are also factors
 - Communities worked hard to build the conditions for success
 - “Early-adopter” communities have paved the way for the next generation of success
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Questions?



<http://scppa.org/page/loyalton-biomass>