

## ***New:* Participatory Biological Monitoring Guidelines**

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*Project Title:* Broadening Participation in Biological Monitoring: Guidelines for Scientists and Managers

*Team:* David Pilz, Heidi Ballard, Eric T. Jones

*Administration:* Institute for Culture and Ecology (IFCAE)

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Biological monitoring is essential for understanding environmental change but is often expensive. From the hundred+ year-old Audubon Christmas bird count to the EPA's volunteer water quality monitoring to the growing multiparty monitoring movement by community-based forestry organizations, participatory monitoring has proven to be an effective way to increase biological monitoring activities, build support for science, and increase public involvement in understanding environmental change.

A goal of this project has been to synthesize the literature and stakeholder knowledge on participatory monitoring and create a tool to help forest managers and scientists: 1) broaden participation to meet biological monitoring needs while maintaining scientific standards, and 2) build positive long-term relationships with participants and their local communities. The guidelines are designed as a reference handbook on the managerial, scientific, and social considerations of participatory monitoring and complement rather than duplicate existing manuals providing monitoring methods (e.g., *Monitoring Plant and Animal Populations*, Elzinga et al. 2001). The guidelines can be scaled to work with any type of project whether bottom-up or top-down, large or small, volunteer or small contractor.

While oriented toward natural resource managers and scientists in the U.S., the guidelines are likely useful to anyone interested in participatory biological monitoring. In creating the materials the interdisciplinary team drew from their professional experiences in participatory research, as well as the invaluable insight of many advisors and reviewers from the University of California Berkeley Cooperative Extension, the Forest Service Inventory and Monitoring Institute, Rural Action, the National Network of Forest Practitioners, and many others (see report). Much guidance was also gained from multistakeholder workshops held throughout the United States over the last several years.

The project maintains a network of advisors and consultants to assist with local implementation. Please see the list of organizations provided in the appendices or contact the Institute for Culture and Ecology.