



RESEARCH BRIEF

A multi-benefit framework for funding forest management in fire-driven ecosystems across the Western U.S.

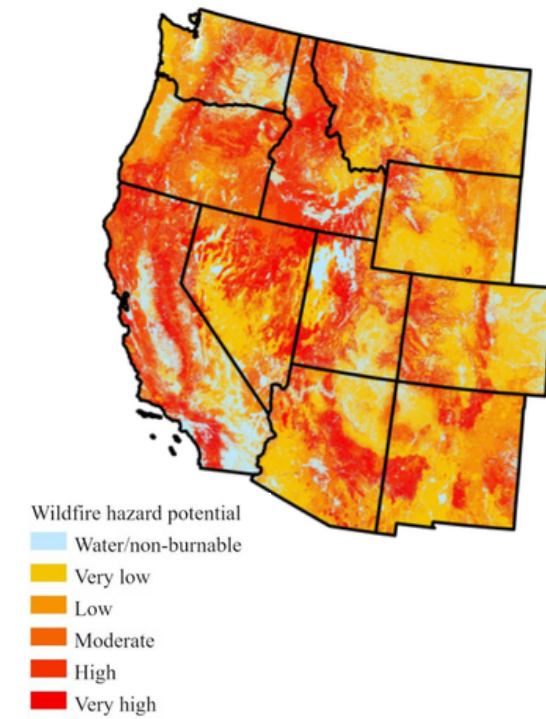
For more information, contact :

Kim Quesnel Seipp
kim@blueforest.org

Tessa Maurer
tessa@blueforest.org

Research Summary

- Forest management is needed to address catastrophic fire risk across the Western U.S. but lack of funding is one challenge that prohibits action
- Healthy forests offer many benefits to people & ecosystems, but leveraging these to support management is a challenge
- This research proposes a multi-benefit framework to increase the pace and scale of action by enabling cost-sharing & private-public partnerships



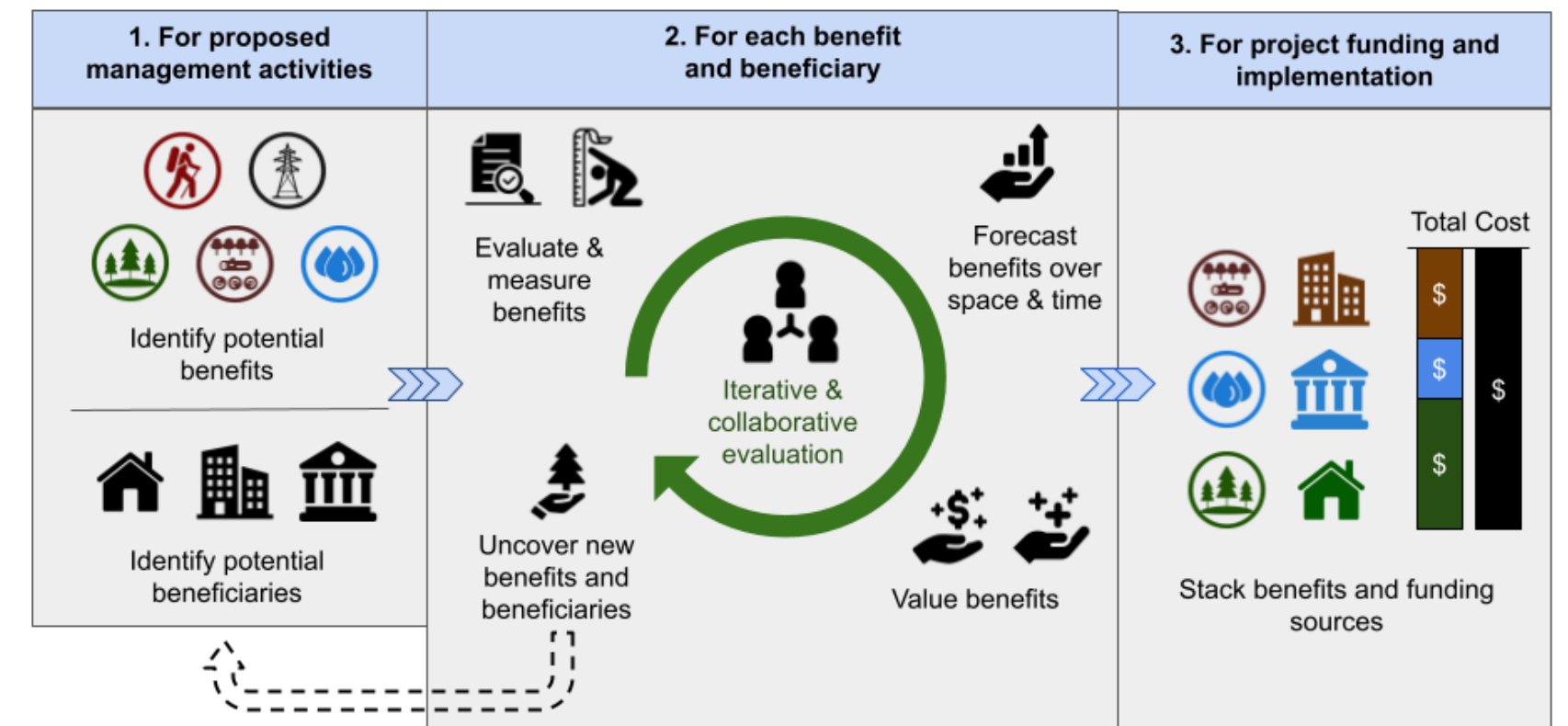
The Challenge

Forests across the Western U.S. face unprecedented risk due to historic fire exclusion, environmental degradation, and climate change. Forest management activities like ecological thinning, prescribed burning, and meadow restoration can improve landscape resilience. Insufficient funding is a key obstacle that limits the pace and scale of forest management implementation.

A multi-benefit framework

To address the challenge, this research proposes a multi-benefit framework to engage public and private parties that benefit from forest management by leveraging the multiple benefits of a resilient forest.

A key feature of the framework is to co-produce forecasted benefit values with beneficiaries. This iterative and collaborative process allows diverse groups to contribute to a single project, even if they benefit in different ways.



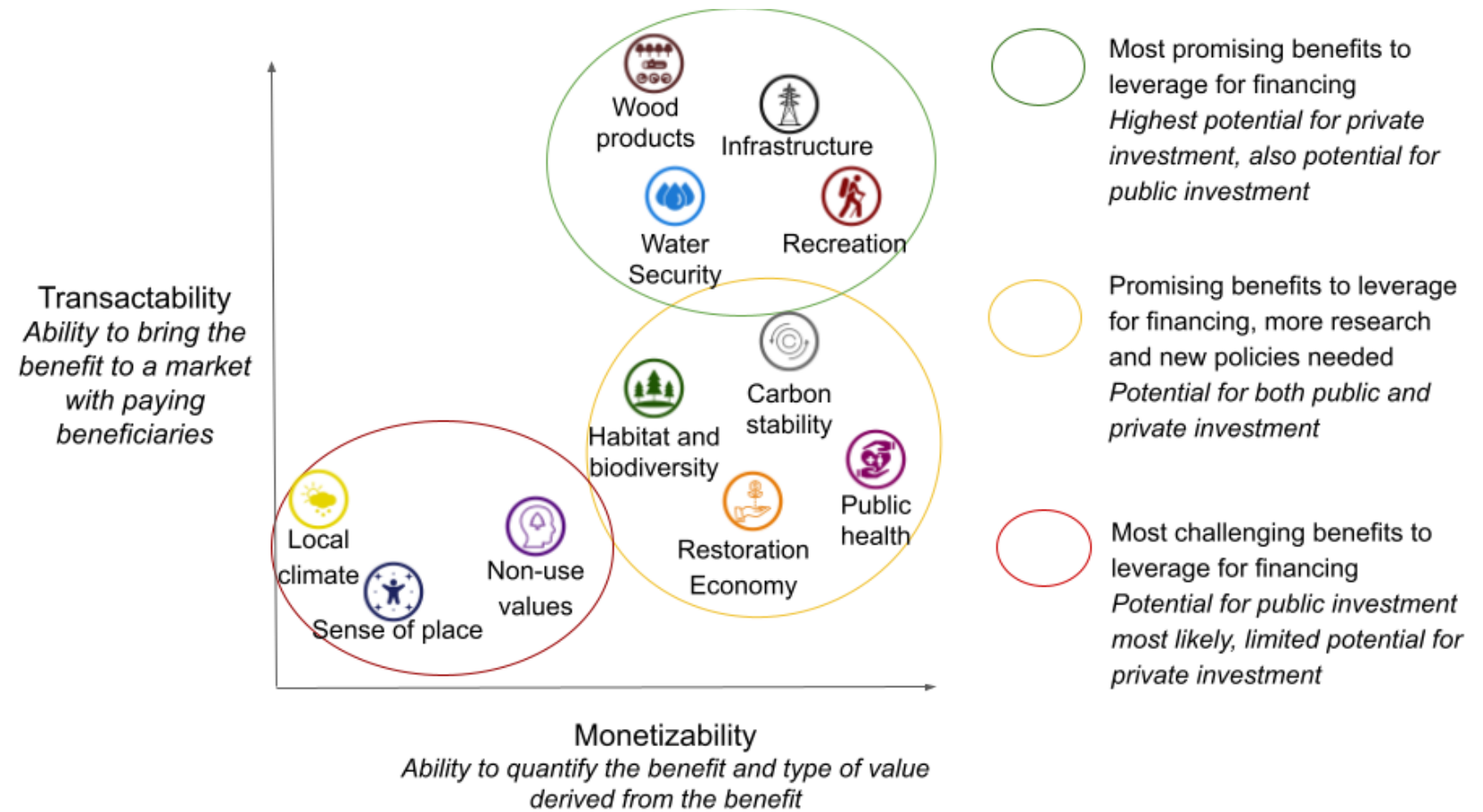


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Eleven Benefits of a Resilient Forest

The framework aims to leverage many of the benefits of a resilient forest. In this paper, eleven such benefits are identified across biophysical (e.g. tons of CO2e), socio-cultural (e.g. non-use values), & economic (e.g. income from wood products) metrics.



Opportunities to further leverage benefits

To better understand how the eleven identified forest management benefits could be leveraged, this research characterized each benefit based on its relative **monetizability** (assigning a financial value to the benefit change) and **transactability** (willingness of beneficiaries to pay for that change). How each benefit fits on the two scales has direct implications for valuation and therefore leveraging funding.

This research brief is based on the study [A multi-benefit framework for funding forest management in fire-driven ecosystems across the Western U.S.](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2023.118270) (https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2023.118270) published in the *Journal of Environmental Management*