



Witnessing Change

Program Overview

The Witnessing Change website provides a place for citizens to engage in the use and interpretation of photo-monitoring as a means of assessing change in the landscapes of North Central Washington. The website allows citizens to upload photos taken at specific locations designated by the land manager and to compare them with those taken in previous years. When arranged for comparison, these photos will help tell the story of landscape change while raising awareness and engaging the public in making a contribution to the management of those lands in a scientifically meaningful way.

Success Indicators

- The program demonstrates how citizens can play a meaningful role in monitoring the success of biodiversity management activities.
- Citizen participants become partners with the landowner by collecting valid, replicable scientific information that is used to adapt management.
- The program can be maintained at modest expense and provides a replicable model for use in other regions of the state and country

For More Information

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Program Goals

- To reinforce and grow the constituency for stewardship and restoration of diverse lands
- To move participants from passive appreciation into active and informed involvement
- To engage the public in a meaningful way, helping them to feel invested in their environment.

Program Users

- Citizens including local residents and visitors, teachers and students that walk the trails and download photos to the sites
- Trail stewards that act as moderators reviewing photos uploaded by citizen users and answering questions
- Administrator who acts as a website overseer, assisting stewards and citizens as they use the system, providing technical support and program guidance. The administrator role may be filled by a team of individuals, providing different kinds of service for different technical and user needs. Administrator users set up new trails, assign stewards and manage users and user issues.
- Landowners designate the trails, define the monitoring objectives and use the photos to document change and adapt management actions as needed