

Slide 1

# Planning for Success!

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The slide features a blue gradient background with horizontal lines. The title "Planning for Success!" is in large, bold, orange letters. Below it, the name "Russell Scofield" and affiliation "Bureau of Land Management, Desert Managers Group" are in white. Two logos are positioned at the bottom: the Desert Managers Group logo on the left, which includes a stylized orange mountain range and the text "DESERT MANAGERS GROUP" in yellow, and the official Bureau of Land Management logo on the right, which is a white shield with a blue border containing a landscape scene and the text "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT".

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Many of the other talks that you will be hearing over the next three days relate to the specifics of how to perform various methods of restoration. I'm not going into tools, techniques, or even strategies. I'd just like to impress the importance of planning and some things to consider in the planning process.

## Questions that must be ask

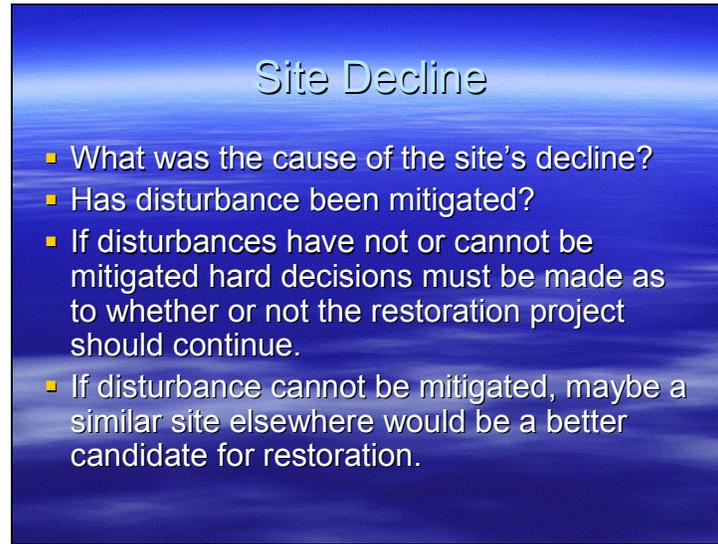
- What are the project's objectives or what are we restoring for?
  - Ecosystem functionality
  - Aesthetics
  - Habitat improvement
  - Route camouflage
  - Improvement of water quality
  - Other reasons

Before we can start planning we have to answer some questions.

## How shall we measure the achievement of these objectives?

- Monitoring of the restoration project itself.
  - Did the plants survive?
- Monitoring of the restoration project's overall objectives.
  - Did we actually improve habitat?
  - Is the route we attempted to camouflage receiving use?
  - Did we achieve ecosystem functionality?

We monitor for many reasons but for this purpose, we need to measure the project's success so we can report back to management, funders, and people that were involved in the project.

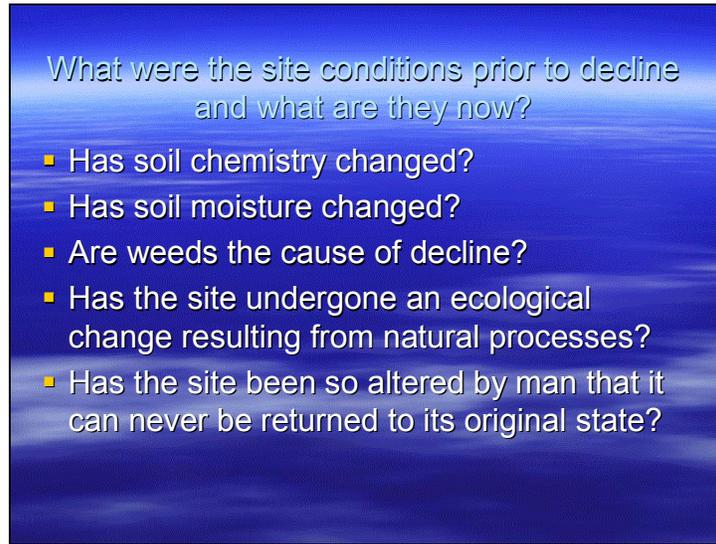


### Site Decline

- What was the cause of the site's decline?
- Has disturbance been mitigated?
- If disturbances have not or cannot be mitigated hard decisions must be made as to whether or not the restoration project should continue.
- If disturbance cannot be mitigated, maybe a similar site elsewhere would be a better candidate for restoration.

In order to restore a site, we must know why it declined in the first place. Failure to address the causes of decline will guarantee project failure.

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What were the site conditions prior to decline and what are they now?

- Has soil chemistry changed?
- Has soil moisture changed?
- Are weeds the cause of decline?
- Has the site undergone an ecological change resulting from natural processes?
- Has the site been so altered by man that it can never be returned to its original state?

Chemistry- pollution, salt cedar

Moisture- ground water pumping, non-native plants (maybe not even weeds), stream bed alterations

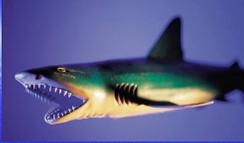
Salt cedar monoculture?

Must you restore the site to a different successional stage? Has the site experienced some of these community changes that USGS talked about Monday and Tuesday.

Is your riparian area not the fill for a freeway?

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## THE BUDGET

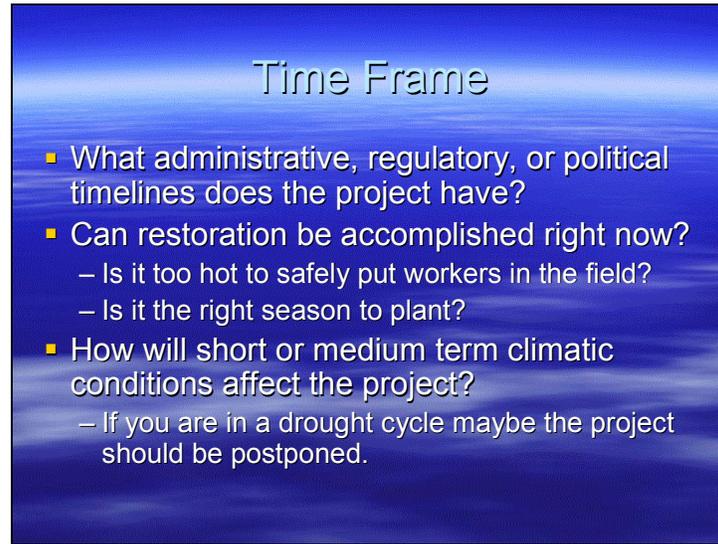


- How much money do I need?
- How much money do I really have?

UH-OH

- Are there opportunities for partnerships, collaboration, or alternative funding?
- Use of volunteers

Even though the budget might not excite a few of you, it is a very important aspect of your restoration plan.

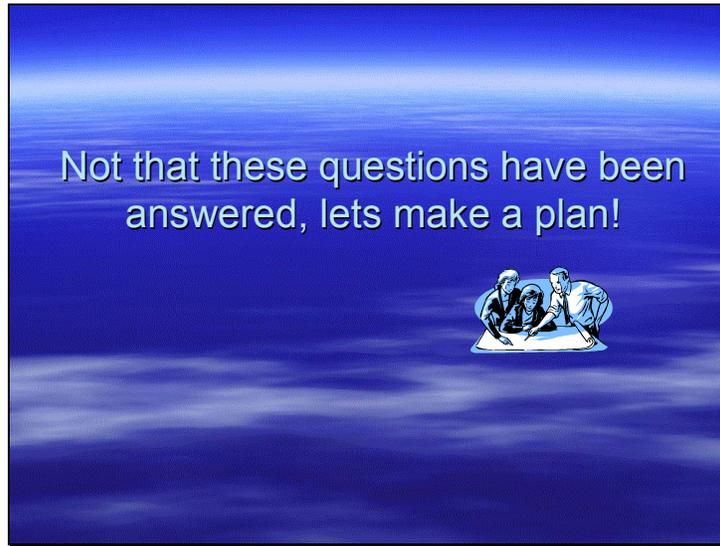


### Time Frame

- What administrative, regulatory, or political timelines does the project have?
- Can restoration be accomplished right now?
  - Is it too hot to safely put workers in the field?
  - Is it the right season to plant?
- How will short or medium term climatic conditions affect the project?
  - If you are in a drought cycle maybe the project should be postponed.

If you think that your restoration project is subject to these kinds of pressures, you might want to think again. Especially if you are spending someone else's money, you need to be aware of their intended time frames. Sometimes, however, you might have to inform them that their timeframes might be unreasonable.

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Many different types of restoration techniques might be used on one restoration project. You might even combine several techniques in one spot such as imprinting and vertical mulching.

Interpretation and LE must involve specialist in the early stages of planning.

## Projects should be:

- Scalable due to changing budgets or unforeseen complexities.
- Dynamic due to changing priorities or needs.
- Developed so they can be phased if necessary.
- Have benchmarks of accomplishment.

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**DESERT**  
MANAGERS GROUP

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The slide features a blue gradient background with a stylized desert landscape at the top. The text is presented in a 3D, embossed style. The BLM logo is located in the bottom right corner.