

Designing and implementing a successful integrated project

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Overview

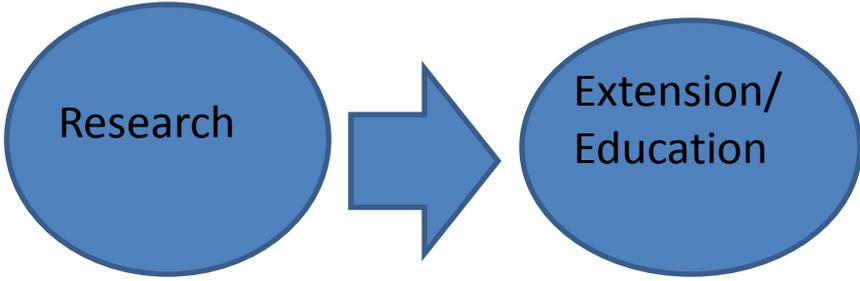
- What are integrated projects?
- What are the benefits of integrated projects?
- Integrated project design
- Integrated project implementation

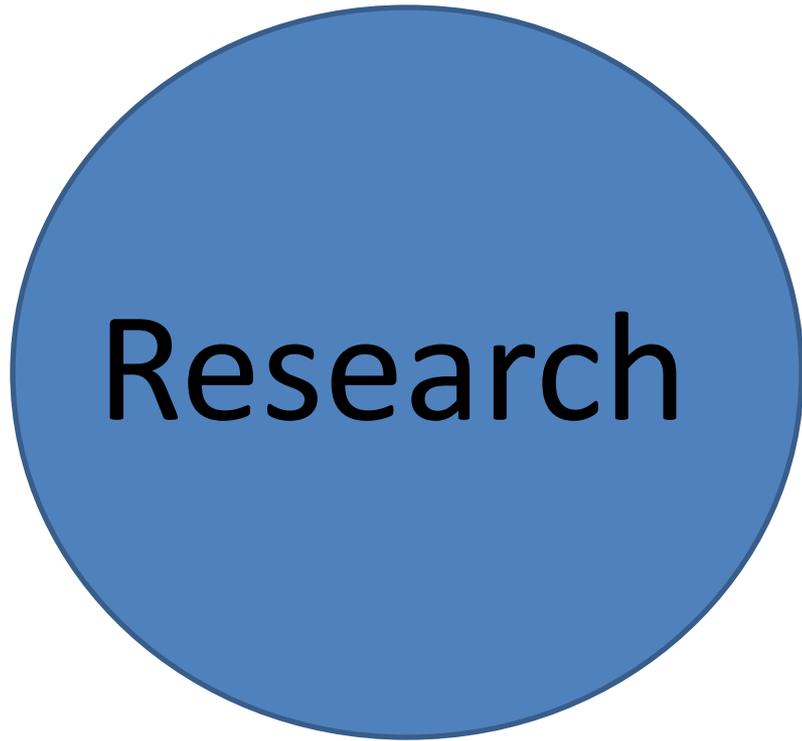
A paradigm shift occurred 8-10 years ago

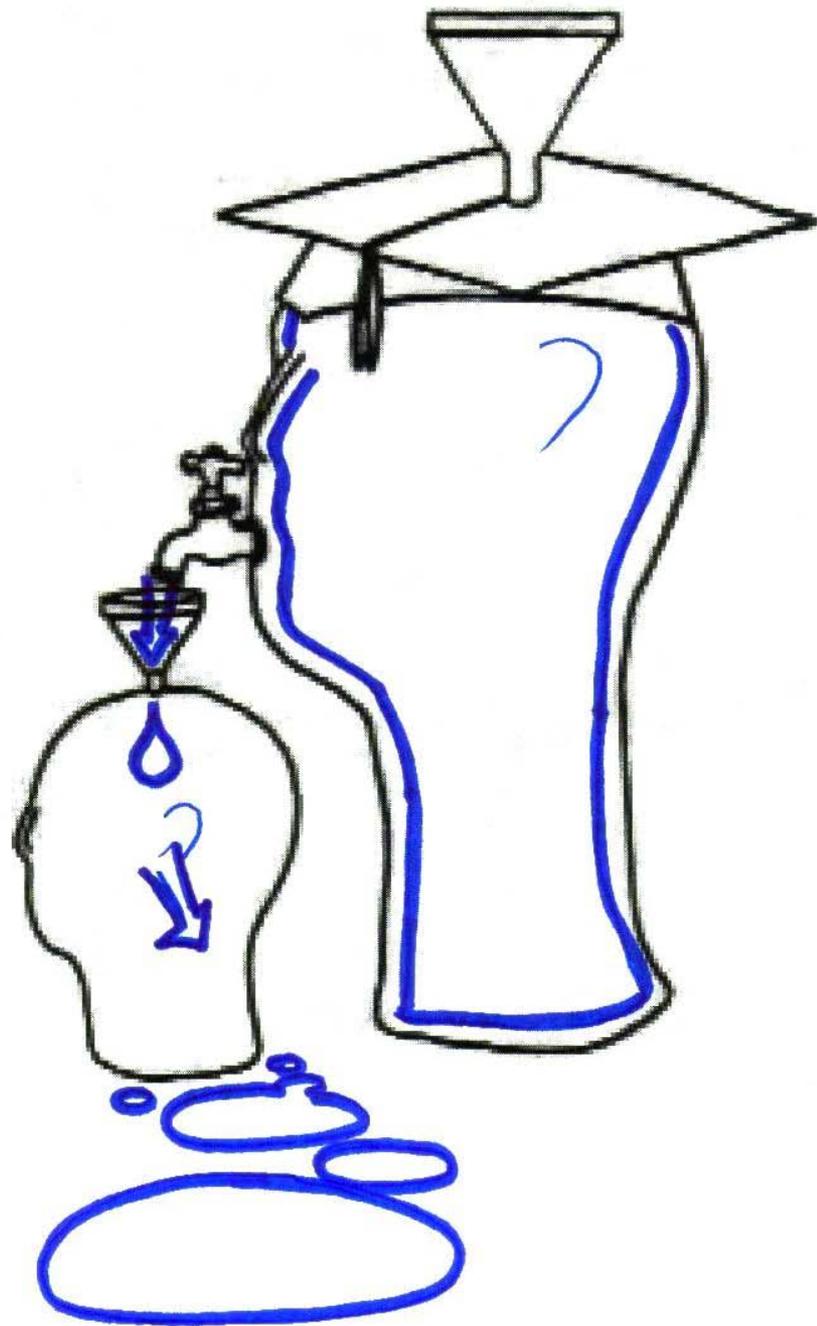
- Before NIFA, the USDA National Research Initiative was seen as the funding source that would “move the envelope of science ahead” with almost all the emphasis on basic science.
- Over time, this model evolved to more integrated projects to address the “lack of human behavior change occurring on-the-ground”.

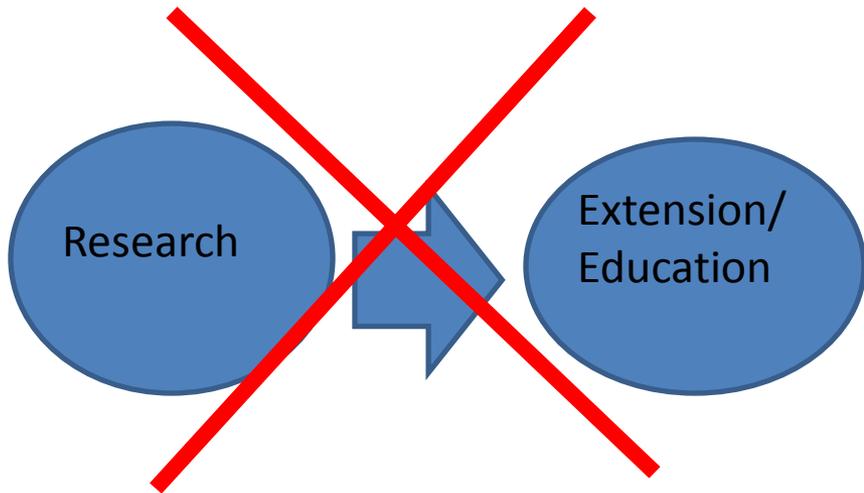
Integrated projects

- Bring together the three components of the agricultural knowledge system (research, education, and extension)
- “the components complement one another and are truly necessary for the ultimate success of the project or program”

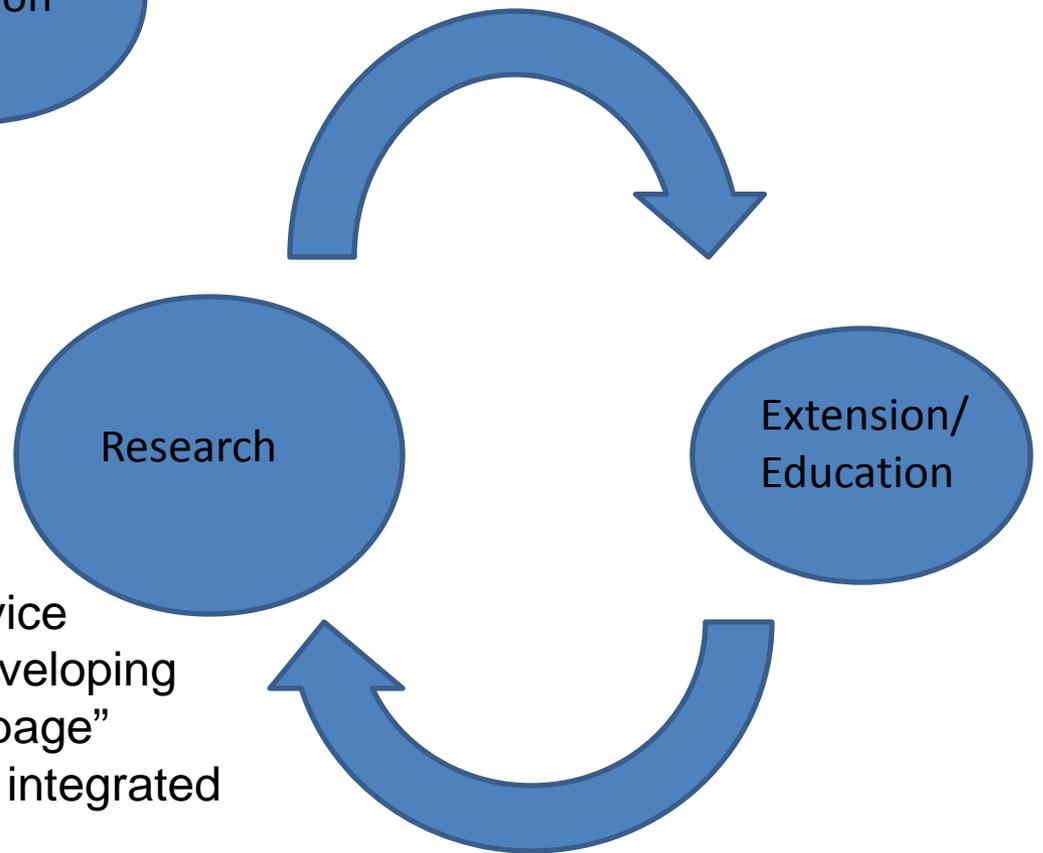








To accomplish this dynamic interplay, the Outreach/Education effort is central and requires project expertise in this area. All too often, failed projects pay Outreach lip service in their proposals. For example, “developing a brochure”, or we’ll “author a web-page” is not sufficient activity to pull off an integrated project.



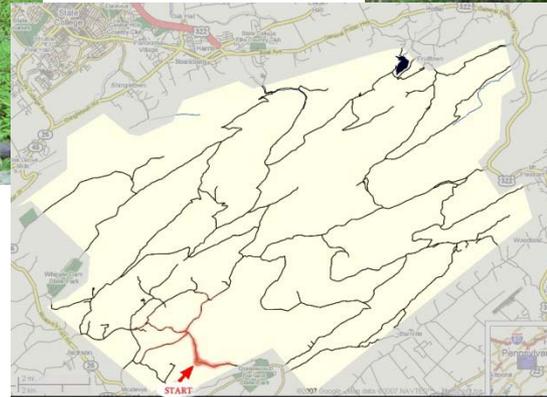
Help the reviewer see how your proposal.....

- explicitly addresses the intent of the RFA and does so in a genuinely integrated way
- Is written by a team containing research and extension expertise
- how your research is linked with outreach in a way that will inform behavior change on-the-ground
- was shaped by input from your stakeholder audience (stakeholder letters of support help here)

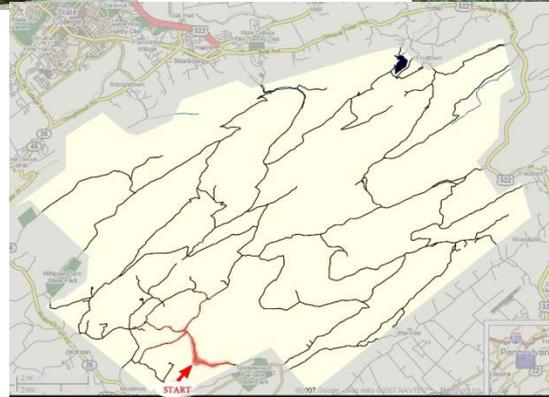
Benefits of integrated proposals

- Relevance of research
- Relevance of extension
- Rapid dissemination of information
- Interesting and exciting

Improving forest road management techniques to hinder plant invasion



Project development: we observed a new problem



Who could help us understand the road dynamics?

Centre for Dirt and Gravel Roads Study



- Helped us understand the civil engineering of roads
- Their primary mission is training road maintenance supervisors for the 25,000 miles of dirt and gravel road in PA
- Environmentally sensitive management practices
 - More erosion/sediment
 - Less informed biologically

An integrated project best represented the strengths of our group

Project Goals

Quantify the role of road management in the dispersal of forest invasives, determine how to reduce human-mediated spread and alter road management to resist invasion.

Objective 1: Quantify the movement of propagules during road management

Objective 2: Quantify the off-road fate of propagules moved along crowned versus entrenched forest roads

*Objective 3: Model the spread of *Microstegium* using spatially-explicit simulations*

Objective 4: Change the way that roads are managed to reduce the spread of invasive species

Key personnel

- David Mortensen, WEL
- Emily Rauschert, WEL
- Kevin Abbey, CDGRS
- Barry Scheetz, CDGRS
- Steve Bloser, CDGRS
- Dave Sandy, WEL

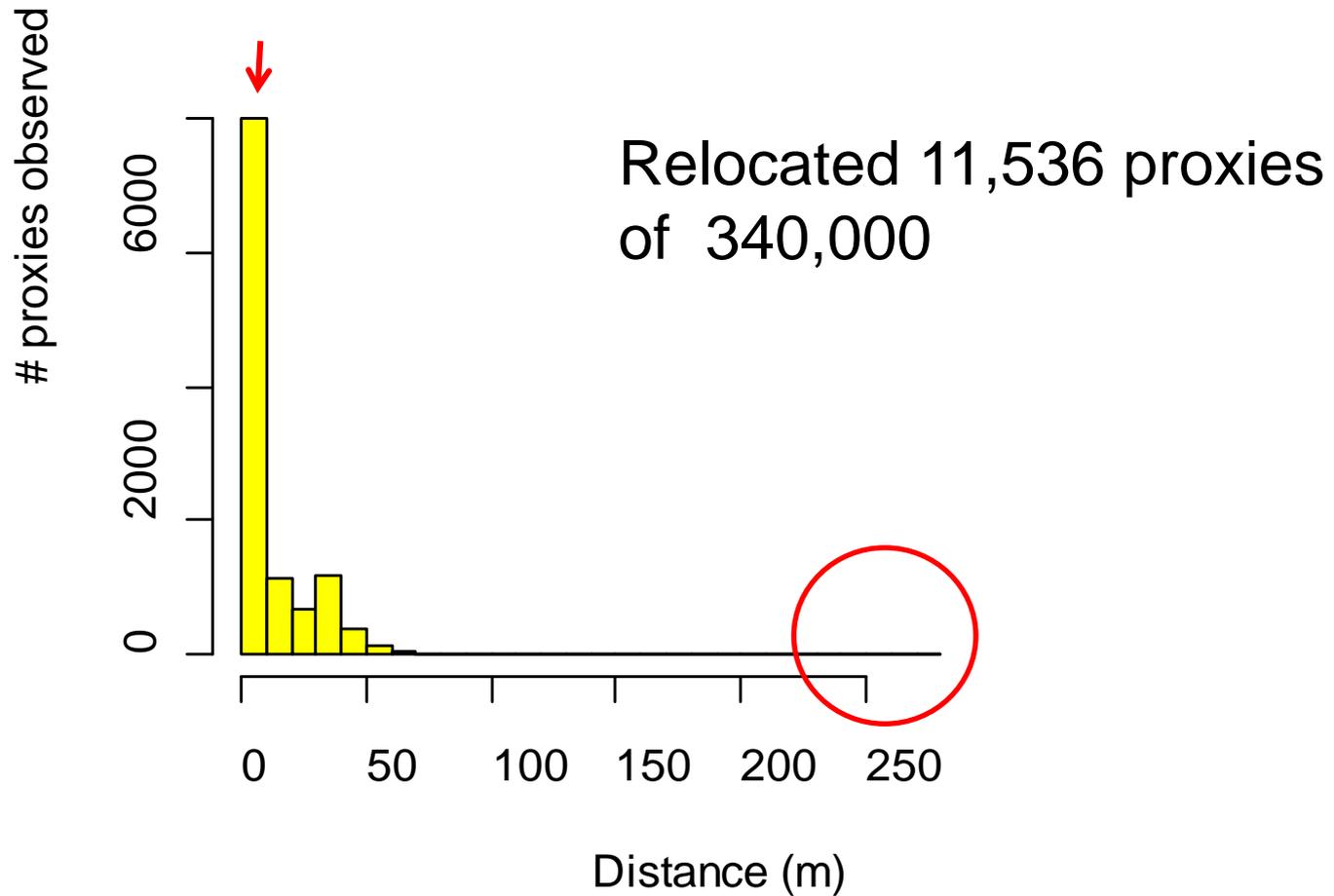


Key research and extension activities

Movement of invasives along roads



We've shown that road grading can move invasives



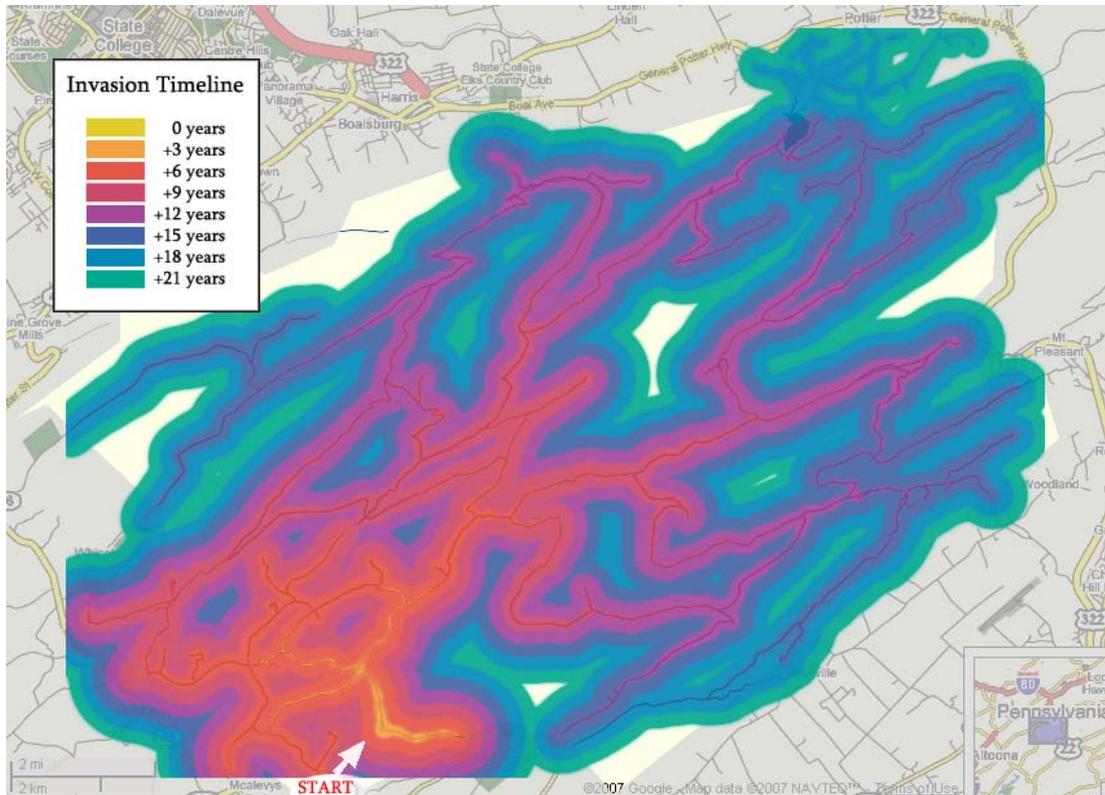
Key research and extension activities

Movement of invasives into forests



Key research and extension activities

Modeling spread along roads



Key research and extension activities

Engagement with managers and stakeholders



Key research and extension activities

ESMP training



Key research and extension activities

Retraining road managers annually



Collaborative extension success

- We (the researchers) have learned a lot from doing extension activities
 - From stakeholders
 - From extension collaborators
- We have also changed the way CDGRS personnel view the forests
- We have reached a large number of stakeholders, including a high proportion of decision-makers
- We are working on additional publications that share this information

Designing an integrated project

- Be prepared to hear totally different jargon
- Be prepared to spend significant amounts of time with extension/education partners
- Don't wait until the end to start extension/education
 - Expect to learn from extension and education in ways that will affect the research plans
- Work together on all parts of the project