



# Creeks & Communities:

A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating  
Cooperative Riparian Restoration  
and Management





## Bear Creek OR 1976

Lots of creeks look like this

We know they can be better

## Bear Creek OR 2003





## Dixie Creek NV 1989

Why isn't it happening in  
more places?

## Dixie Creek NV 1995



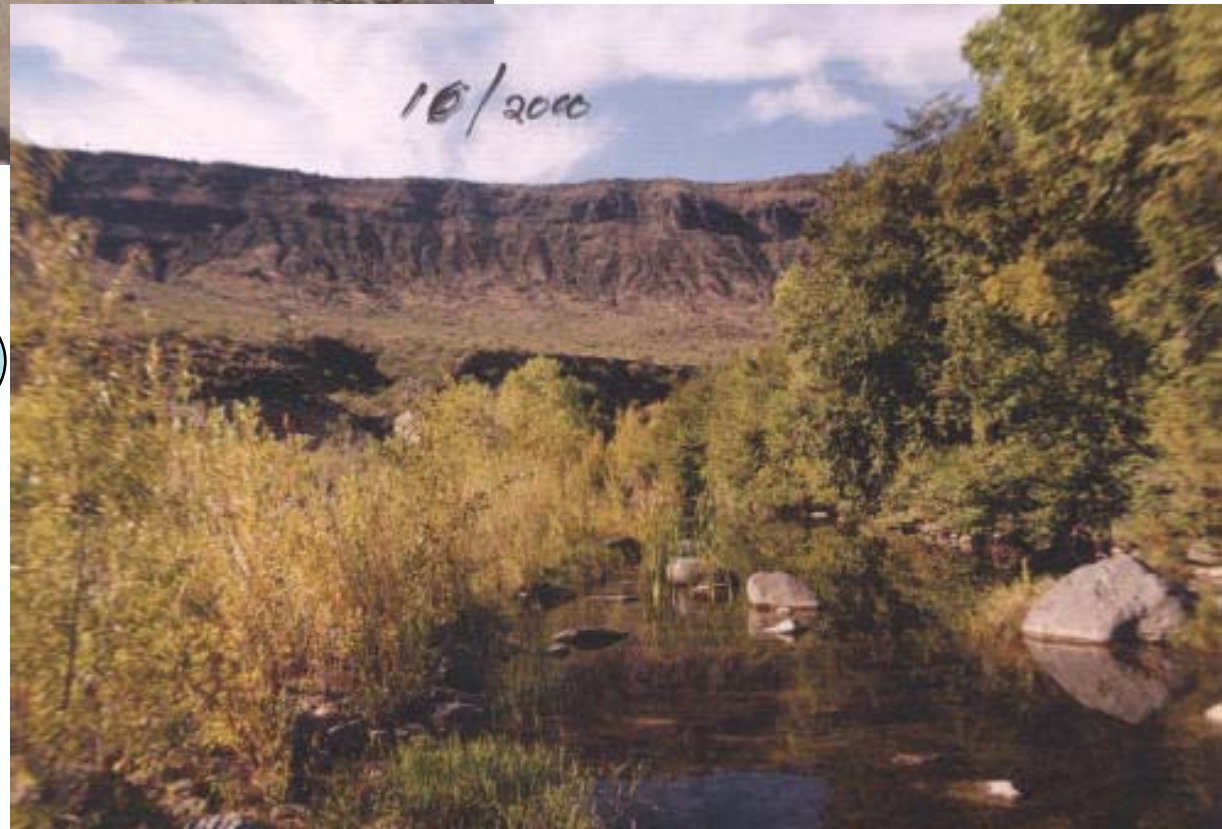


# Burro Creek AZ 1981

In part, it's about having a common understanding of how streams work.

And it requires working with people on their lands and their issues.

# Burro Creek AZ 2000







**Lawsuits and regulatory approaches often leave out the people who must implement solutions and who are typically most affected by their management**

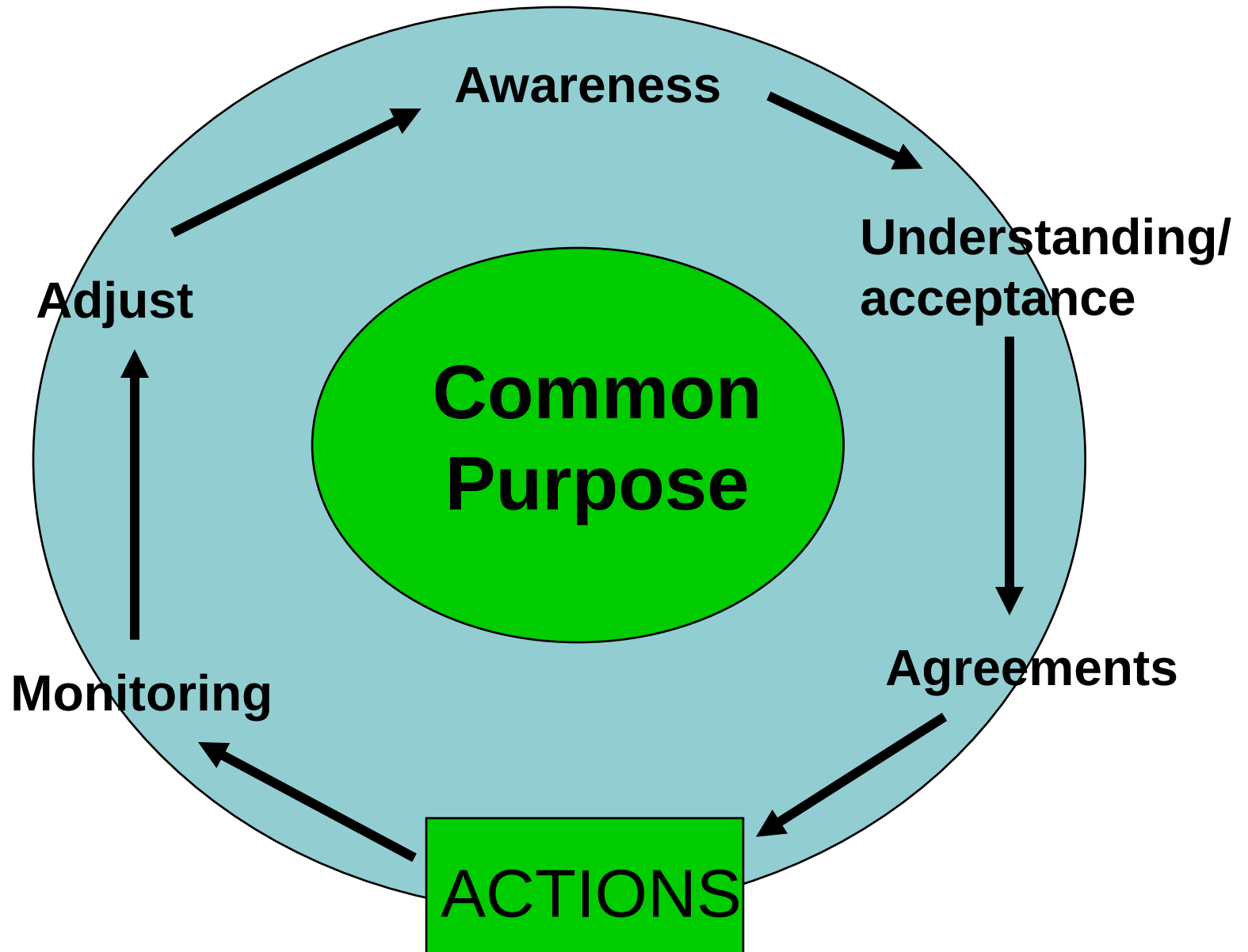


# Creeks & Communities

Creeks connect people, science and communities.

They must work together and individually for restoration and improvements on a large scale.





# Good Science is Important: *and seldom enough*



- Conflicting Science
- “Good Science” changes over time.
- Science from somewhere else.
- Socio/Political factors important



Our society is literally awash today in data, information & knowledge (science). And yet in many places our creeks are failing to produce the values they offer when healthy.

What is often lacking is fully understanding what it all means, and then having the wisdom to apply what we know in ways that best meets the needs of people and the ecosystem.

(Dee Hock 1999)



# Useful Scientific Information

- Understandable to stakeholders with a range of scientific backgrounds
- Seen by all parties as legitimate and valid (believable), relevant and trusted
- Used to identify the costs/benefits and risks/tradeoffs of alternatives, not to make the decision

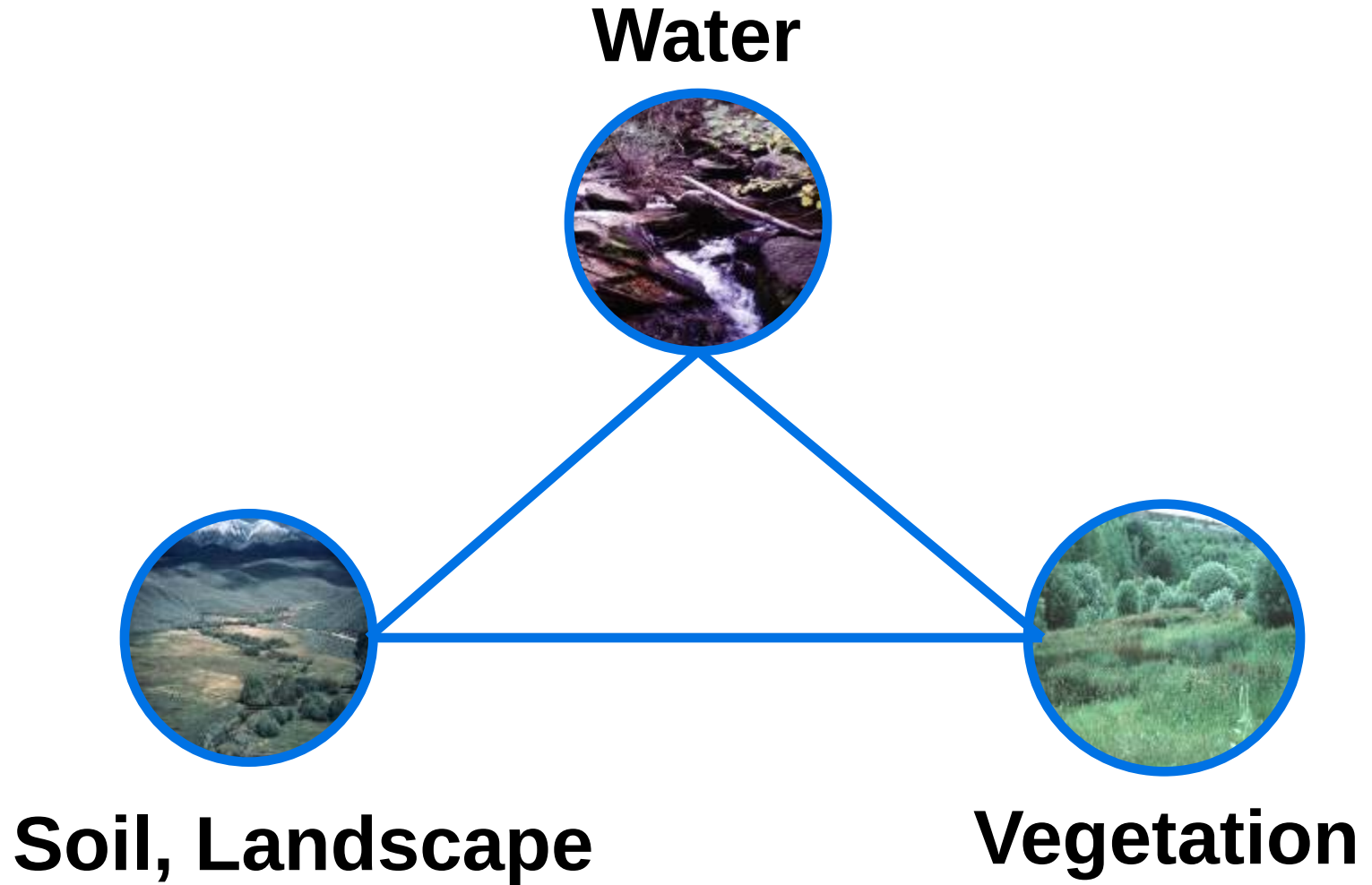
# Creeks & Communities



By focusing on stream health, we help to create a common vision of what is possible and what is needed for management and/or restoration



# Focus on Function





**“Information does not resolve social  
conflicts, people do.”**

**(Duane 1997)**

# Working Together for Creeks and Communities

- Given that the situation is complex, fraught with conflict and views polarized, how can people work together for common solutions?



 If you bring together the right people, in constructive ways, with good information, they will produce:

- Better decisions
- Improved relationships
- Sustainable communities and landscapes

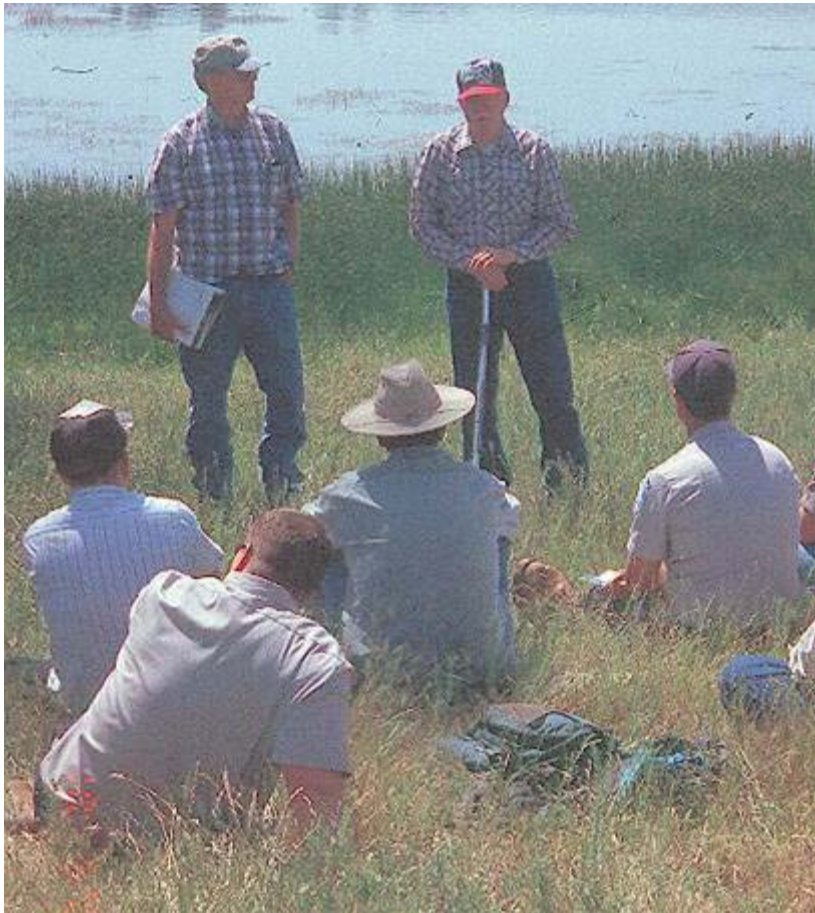


# Build Ownership & Commitment





# Working Together for Creeks and Communities



- Bring affected interests together
- Create learning environments, build relationships/trust
- Build community information base
- Empower people

# Working Together for Creeks and Communities

## Bring Affected Interests Together

- Has an interest or concern (self-identified)
- May be needed to implement the outcome
- May try to undermine the effort





# Working Together for Creeks and Communities

## Create Learning Environments

- Safe atmosphere
- Explain basic ecological processes in a way everyone can understand.
- Listen to everyone for new possibilities and approaches





# Working Together for Creeks and Communities



## **Build community information base**

- Common vocabulary
- Understanding of physical function
- Time, risk and cost
- Individual and watershed choices



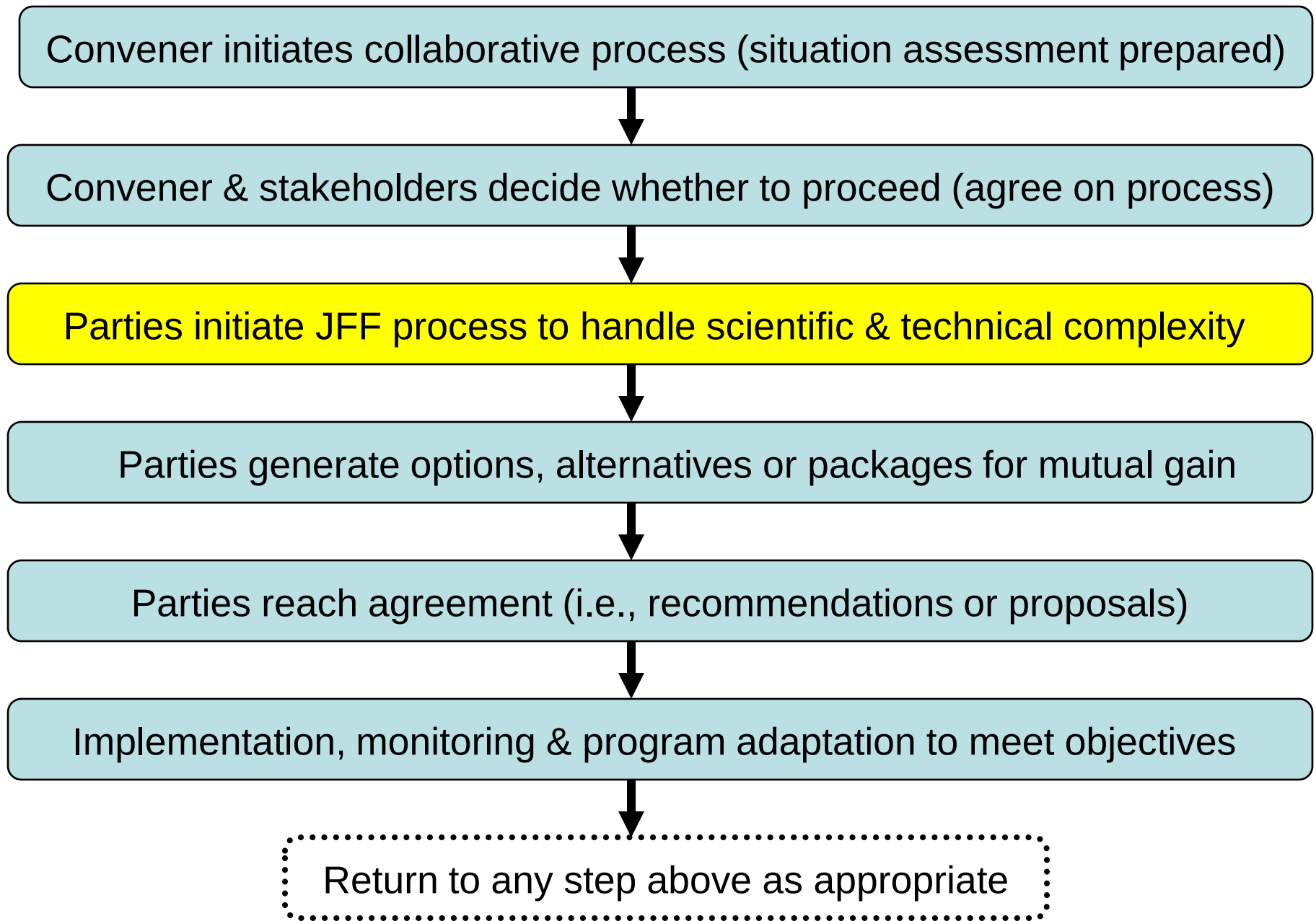
# Integrating Science into Collaborative Decision-Making



✓ Joint Fact Finding

✓ Structure the conversation





*\*Figure adapted from Consensus Building Institute, 2002*



# Working Together for Creeks and Communities

## Empower people to Create Change

(Community & Individuals)

- Improved relationships
- Trust
- Technical know how and support
- Financial support



