

# Equity in Community Forestry in the Western US

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**Oregon State**  
University

# Why equity?

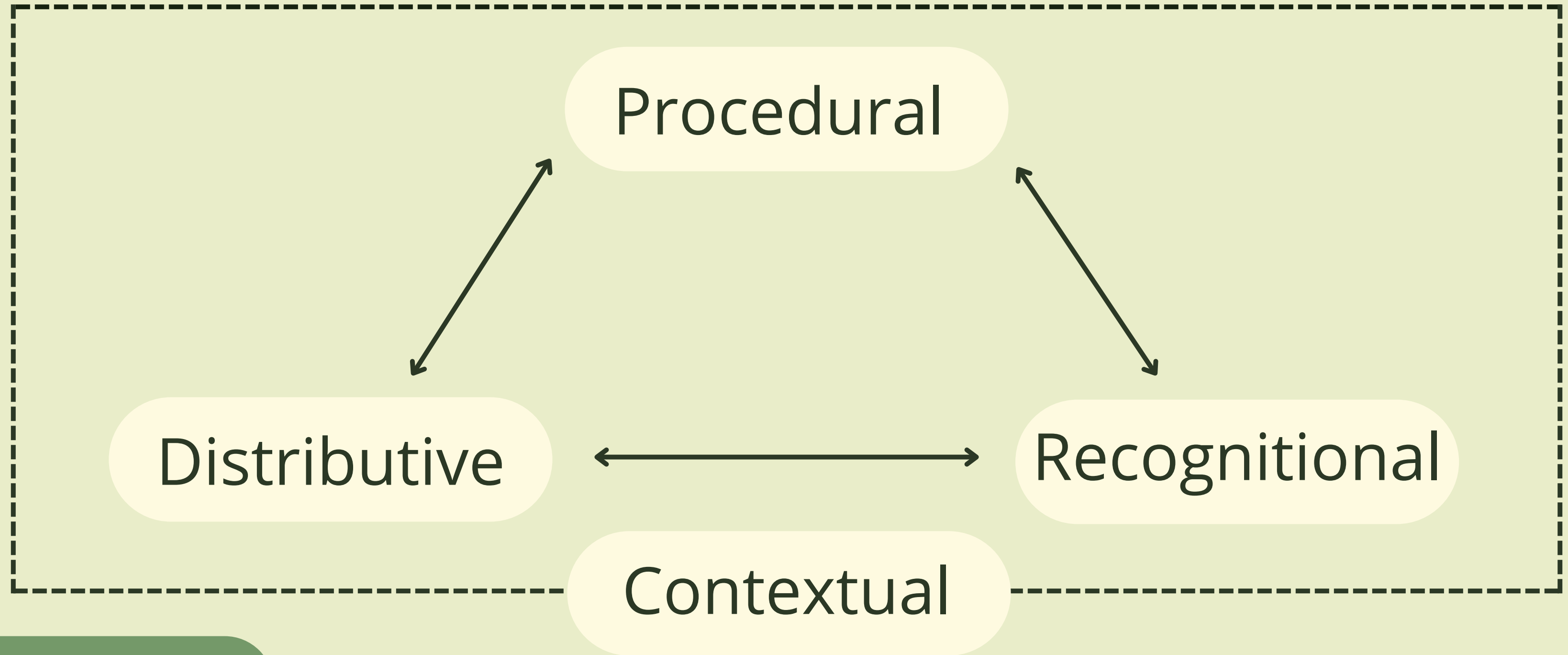
The focus on community does not necessarily mean that everyone in the community is benefitting

It is important that we look at who within the community has access to these benefits and decision-making spaces

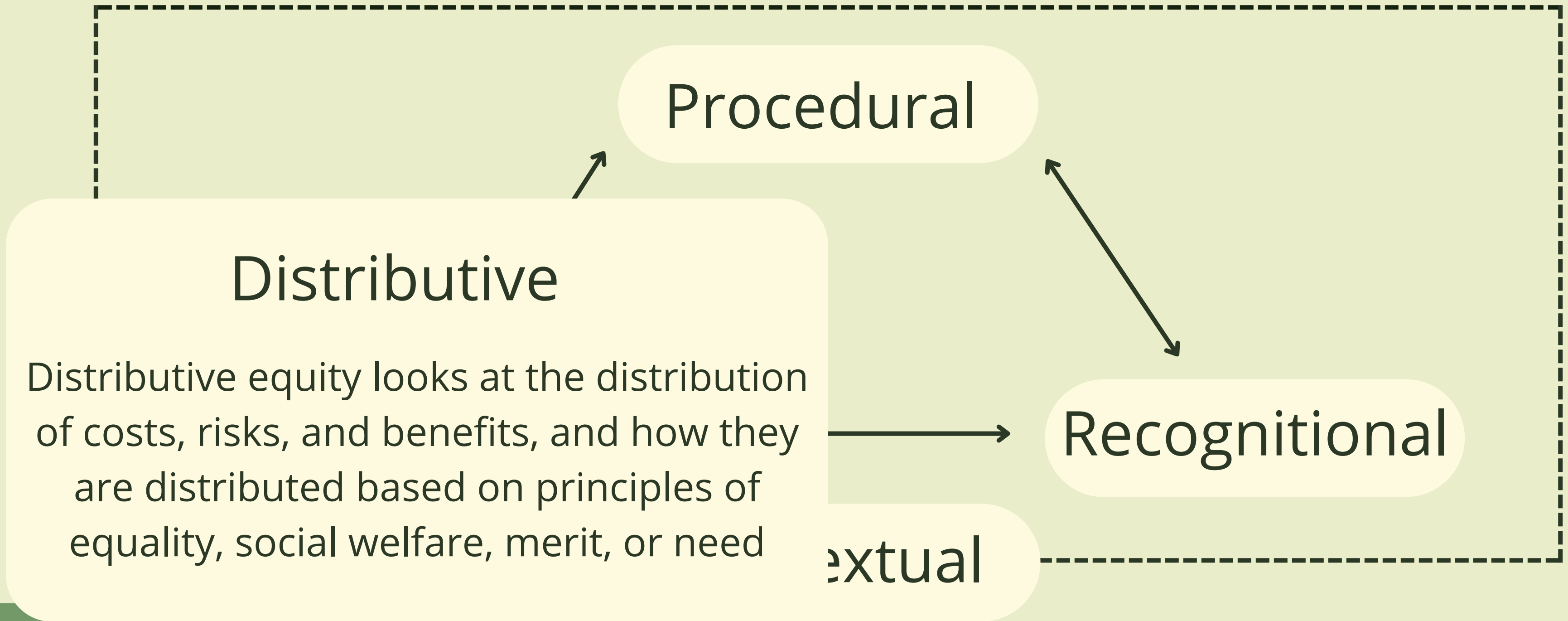
# What is equity?

"Equity refers to ensuring that everyone has what they need for wellbeing in a given context, implying 'more for those who need it.'"

# Equity Framework



# Equity Framework



# Procedural Equity

Procedural equity addresses the public participation and inclusion of marginalized groups within the CF decision-making process

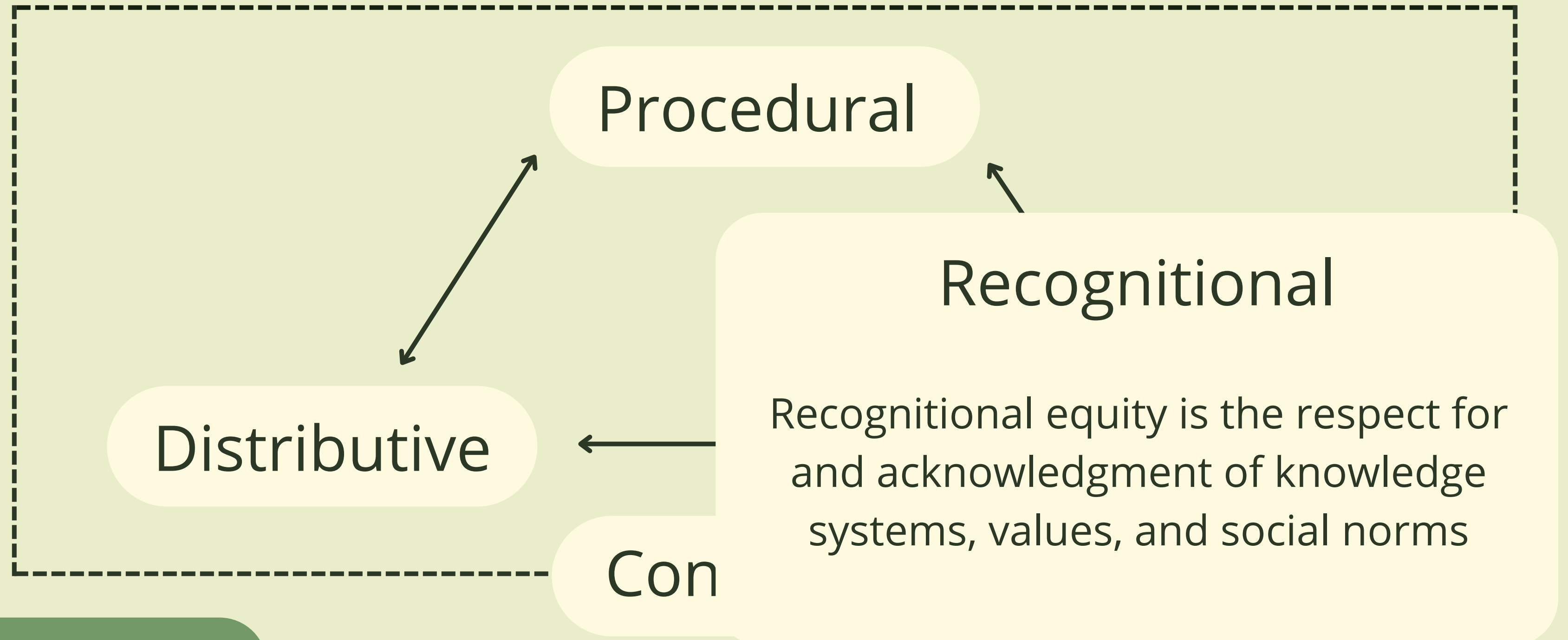
Distributive



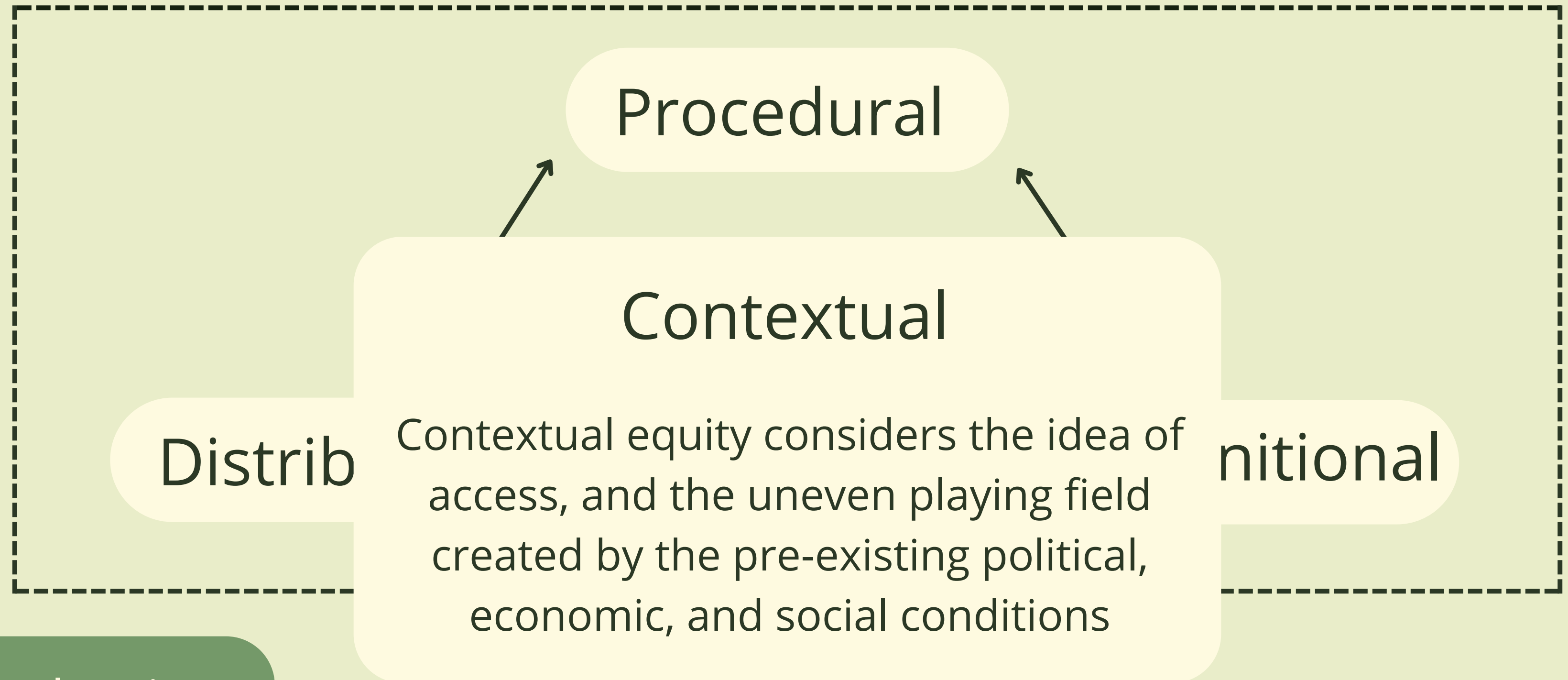
Recognitional

Contextual

# Equity Framework



# Equity Framework







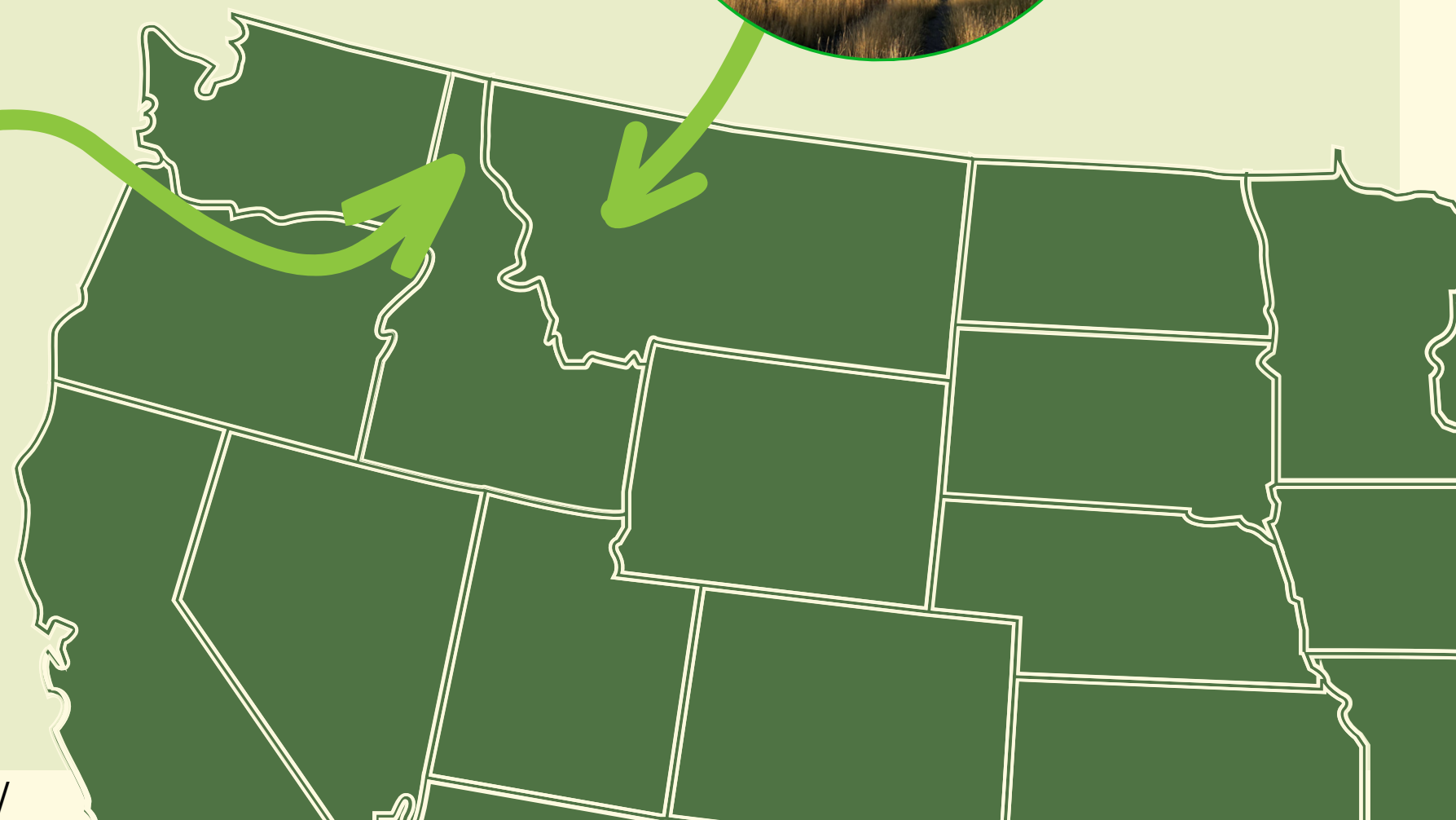
# Research Question

How are equity considerations manifested in CF management in relation to access to decision making spaces and benefits from CF management in the western US?

# Two case studies

 Blackfoot Community Conservation Area Core

 Pine Street Woods




Methods

# Two case studies

## Blackfoot Community Conservation Area

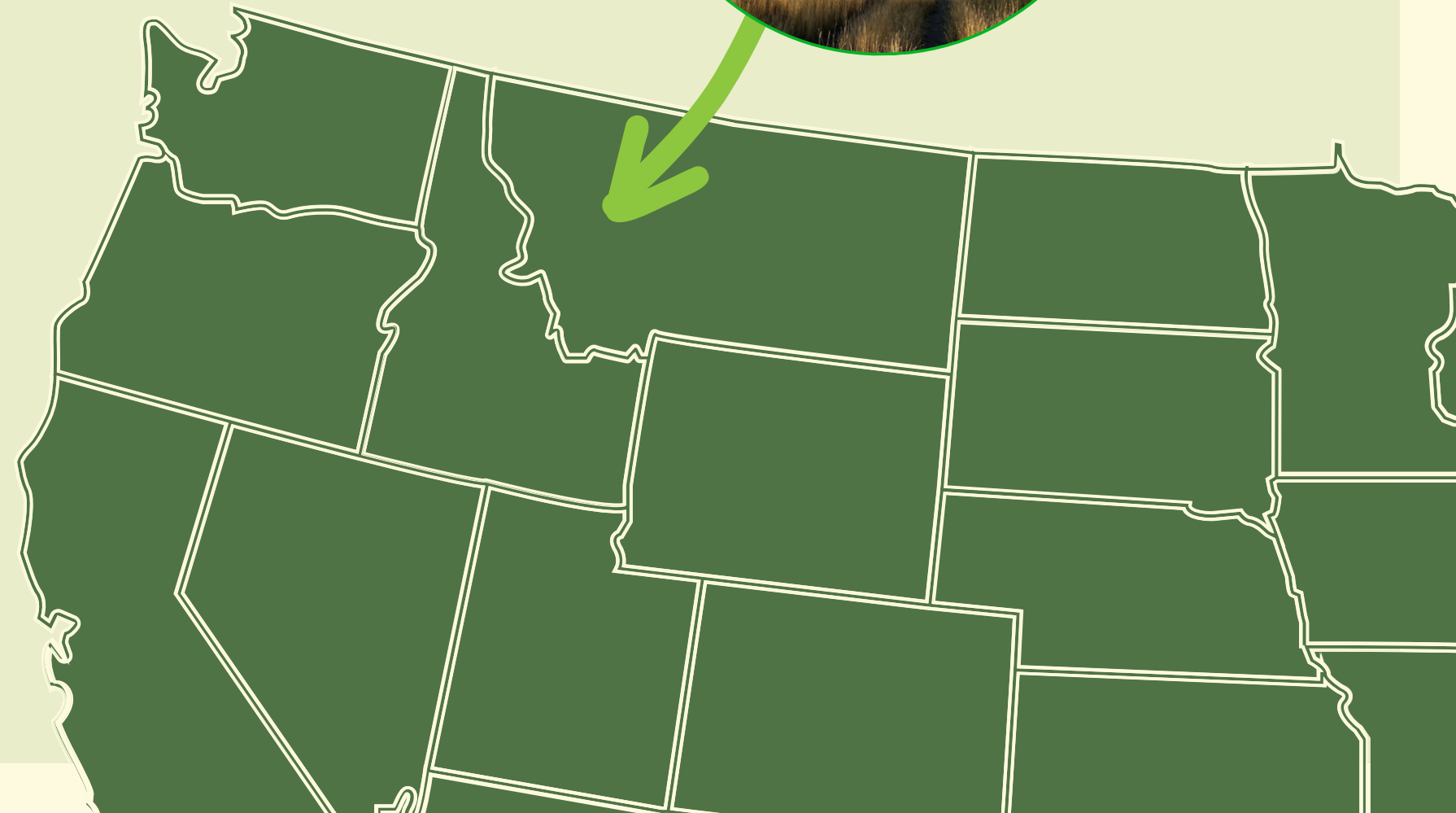
 Established ~2008

 Ovando, Montana

 5,609 acres

 ~300 people

**Blackfoot**  
**CHALLENGE**  
*Better Rural Communities through Collaborative Conservation*



Methods

# Two case studies

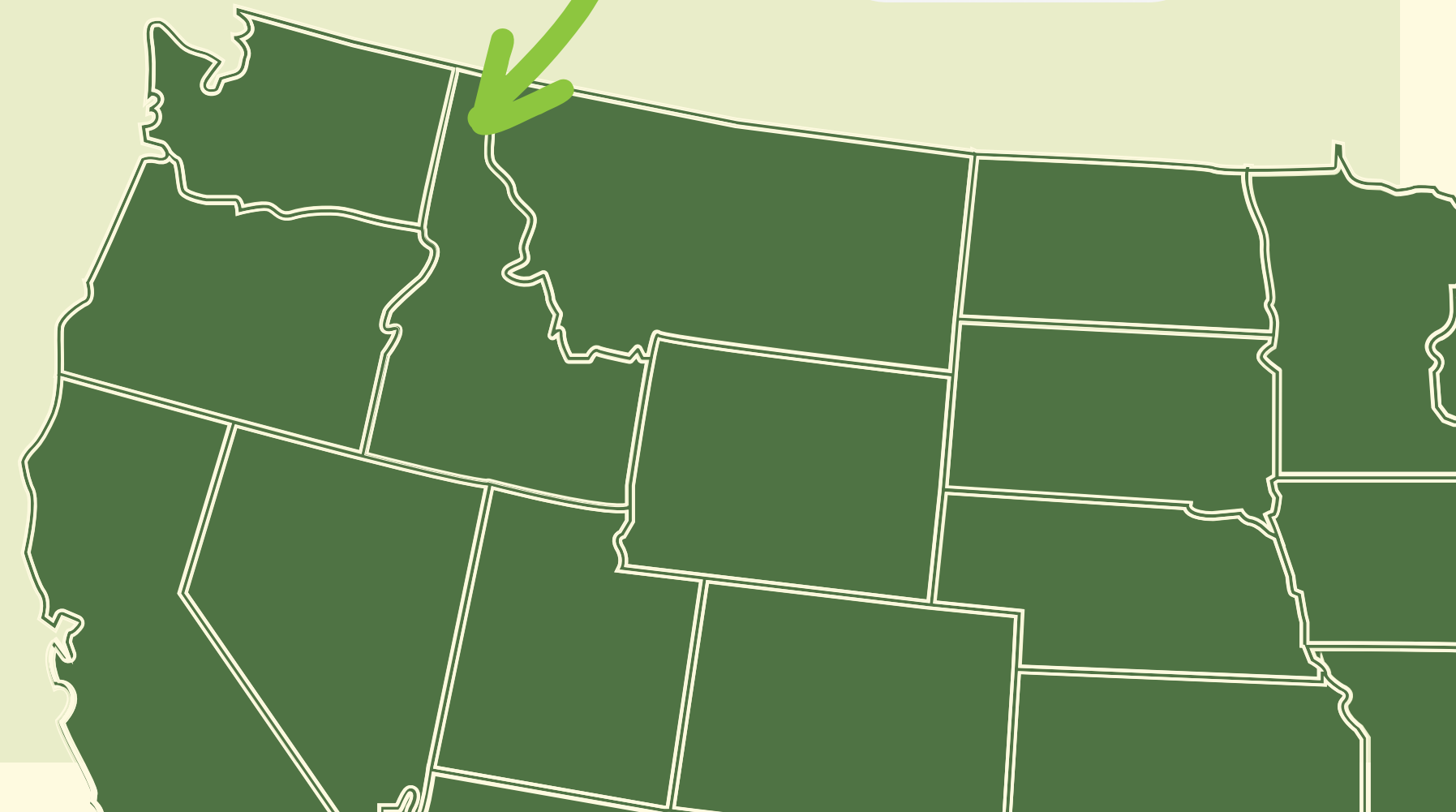
## Pine Street Woods

 Established 2019

 Sandpoint, Idaho

 228 acres

 ~11,700 people



Methods

## BCCA

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~90% White  
<1% Black  
~5% Native American  
~4% another race  
~2% Hispanic

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ave. age ~46

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~22% disabled

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## PSW

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~92% White  
<1% Black and Native American  
~7% another race  
~6% Hispanic

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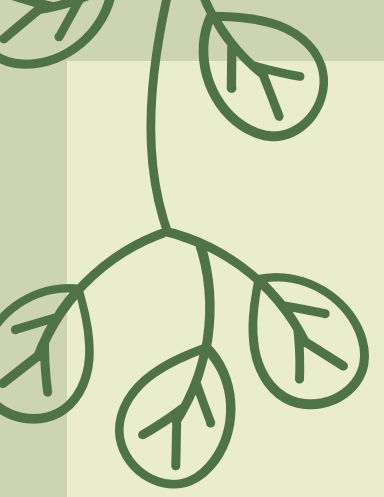
ave. age ~48

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~15% disabled

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Both have growing wealth gaps








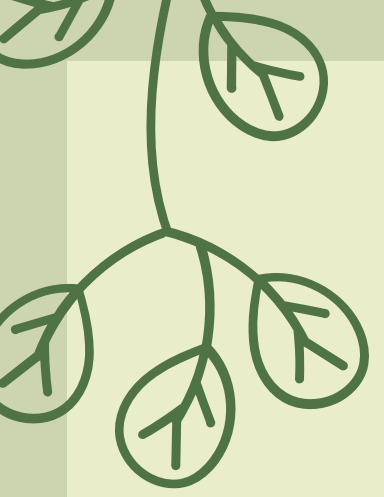
# Procedural Equity

Public participation and inclusion in CF decision-making processes, emphasizing the recognition and affirmative action necessary to include marginalized groups



# Formation of BCCA

-  Public participation was a focus from the beginning
-  Driven by the community to maintain access to nearby land
-  Purchased and owned by the Blackfoot Challenge, who held meetings and conducted surveys
-  Community remained at the center of the process
-  Avoided elite capture



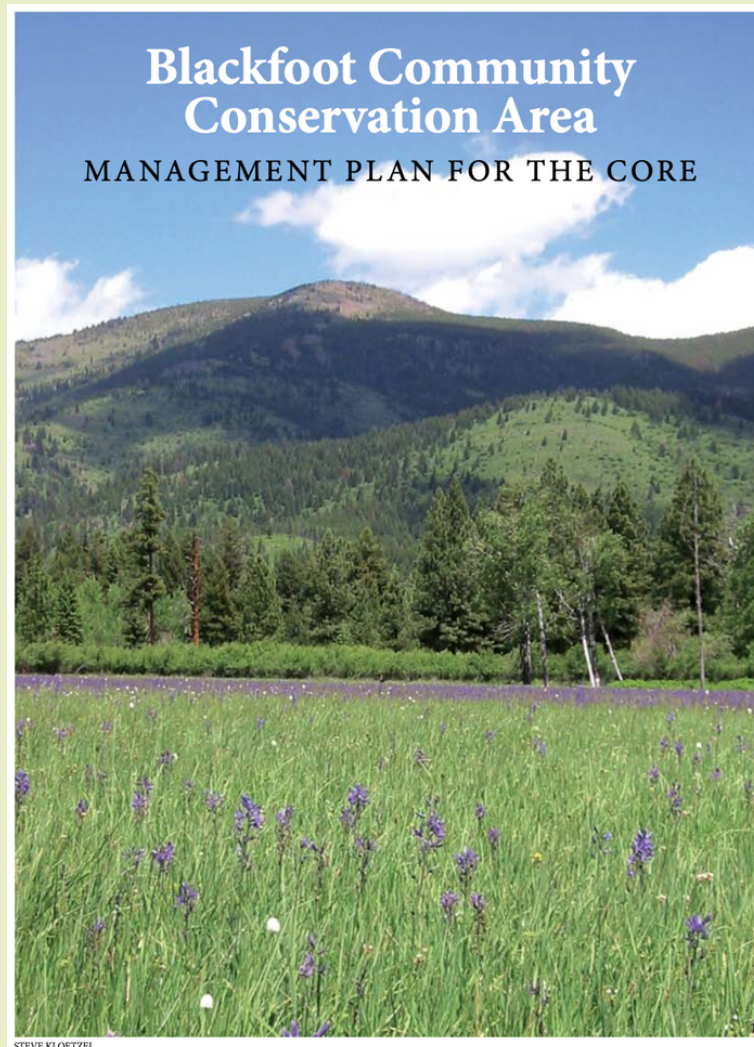
# Processes of the BCCA



Formal decision-making structure



Participatory democracy



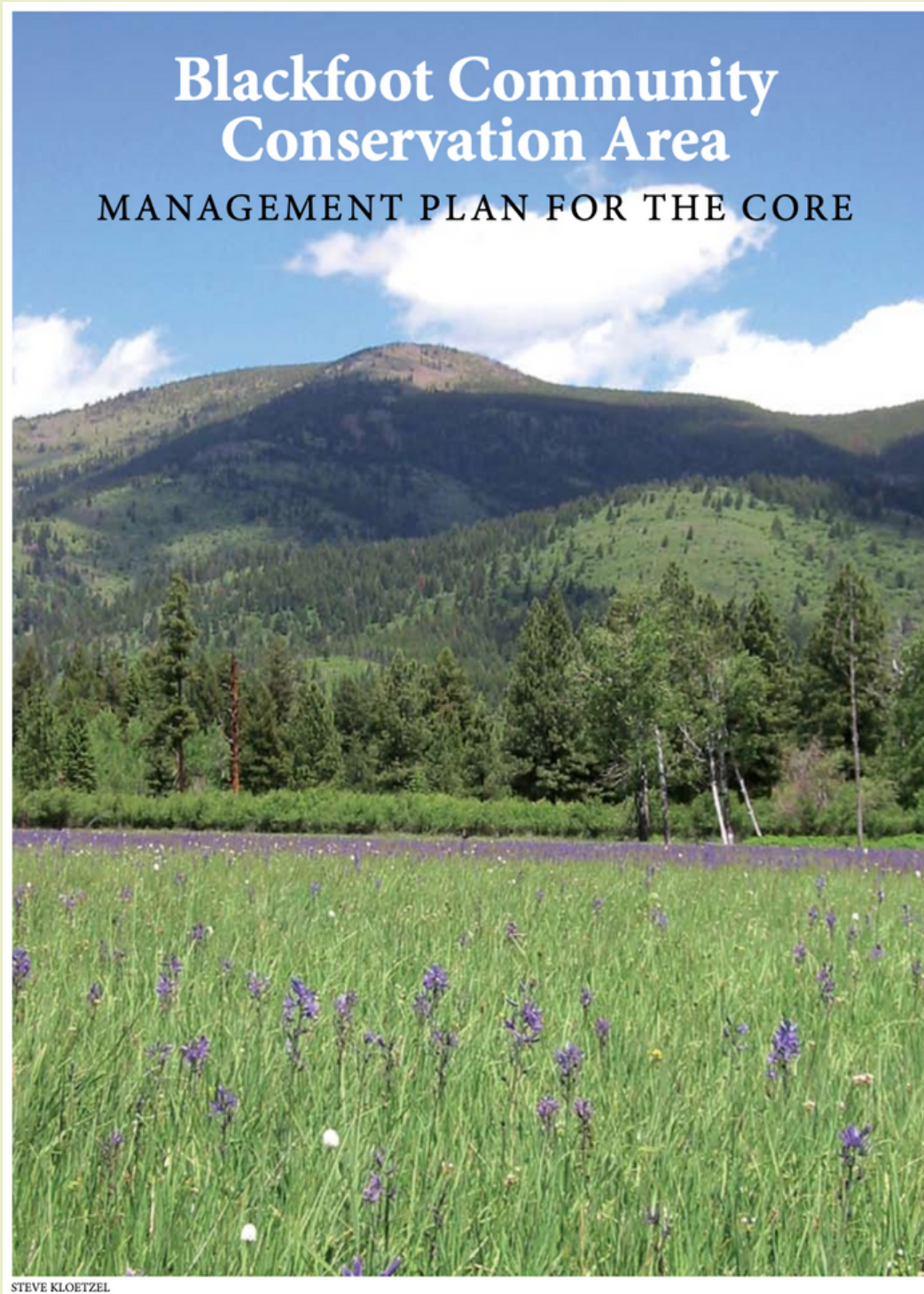
15 member  
council

11 stakeholder positions

4 agency positions



# Processes of the BCCA






The existence of term limits might further diversify the representation of the Council

(Rosenblum, 2020; Carroll & Jenkins, 2001)



# Formation of PSW

-  Driven by the leadership of Kaniksu Land Trust (KLT)
-  Worked with representatives of stakeholder groups within the community
-  Public became involved after the process began

# Processes of PSW



- 🌿 Conduct surveys
- 🌿 Presence at community events
- 🌿 Interact with the community on social media and on the forest
- 🌿 Presence at the CF

# Processes of PSW

Informal community input in decision making

The relationship with partners and the community is dependent on KLT leadership





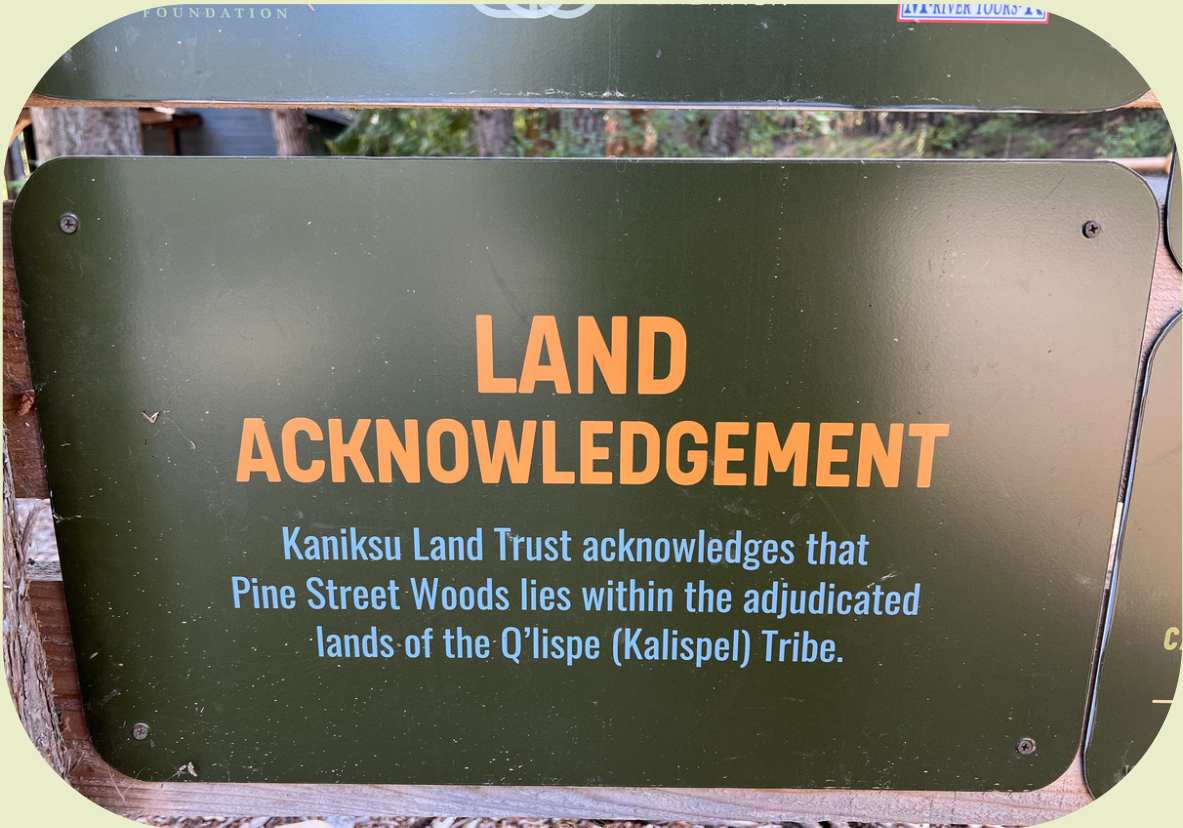
# Kalispel Natural Resources Department



An existing relationship built on respect and trust



Sister community forests





# Distributive Equity

Distributive equity looks at the distribution of costs, risks, and benefits, and how they are distributed based on principles of equality, social welfare, merit, or need

# Access to benefits at the BCCA



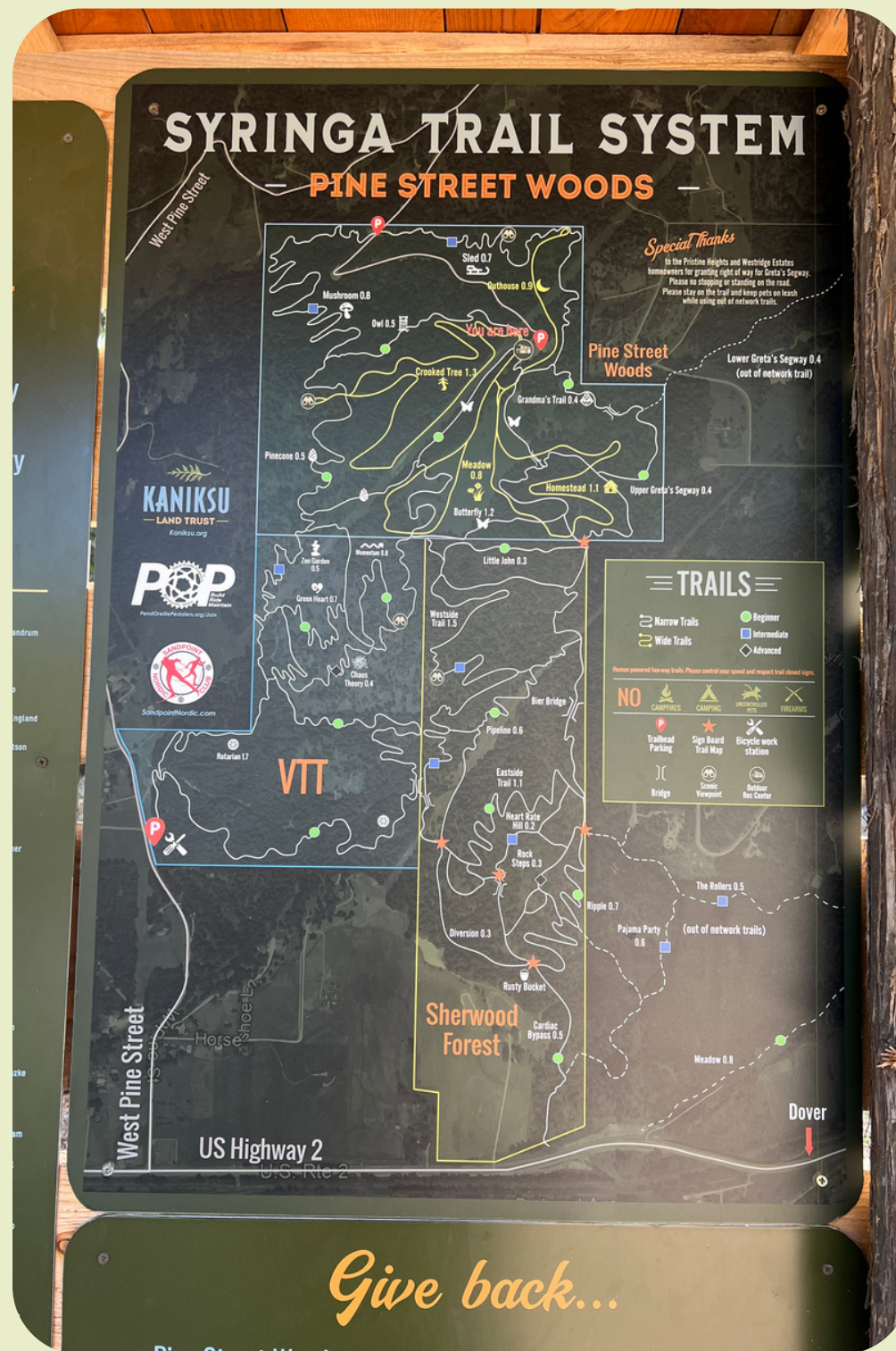
At first, access to the BCCA was fairly restricted



They changed the rules to allow periods of motorized access



# Access to benefits at PSW



Access for the community was key to PSW

Recreation spaces were not previously accessible to many in the community

Give back...



# Access to benefits at PSW



# Access to benefits at PSW



Partners like POP and the Nordic Club build programs to increase access for the community



## BCCA

## PSW

Procedural

Transparent and participatory processes, though with notable barriers

Include voices from the community, but dependent on leadership

Distributive

Processes influence access to the CF

Providing access is a primary goal

Conclusion