



FIRES4

Economic impacts of wildfires and adaptive land management to reduce wildfire risk and impact

Convenor; Jon Walker,
Moors for the Future Partnership

Losehill Hall, 13-14 May 2009
Castleton, Peak District National Park

www.fires-seminars.org.uk





The University
of Manchester



Fire Interdisciplinary Research on Ecosystem Services (FIRES): fire and climate change in UK moorlands and heaths



Remit of ESRC/NERC transdisciplinary seminar series ecosystem services

- To develop *trans-disciplinary* research across social and natural sciences under the theme of sustaining future ecosystem services.
- To bring together economists, social and environmental scientists, other experts and stakeholders to explore and develop *ecosystems services approaches* and build research capacity for future inter-disciplinary research.
- Focus on advancing *research* & enhancing *knowledge exchange* with non-academic users/or international academics.

Organisation

Steering Group

- Julia McMorrow, University of Manchester (Coordinator)
- Colin Legg, University of Edinburgh (Co-I)
- Jonathan Ayles, University of Manchester (Co-I)
- Jon Walker, Moors for the Future Partnership (Co-I)

- Mark Jones, Chief Fire Officers' Association
- Simon Thorp, Heather Trust
- Claire Quinn, Sustainable Uplands, Rural Land Use and Economy (RELU) University of Leeds
- Klaus Hubacek, RELU, University of Leeds
- Gina Cavan, University of Manchester



Cooperation between communities

Balance within and between three sets of participants:

- **Disciplines**; socio-economic and environmental scientists
- **Career stages**; established and early career
- **Sectors**; academics, policy-makers, land managers and other stakeholders

Additional funding from:



The University
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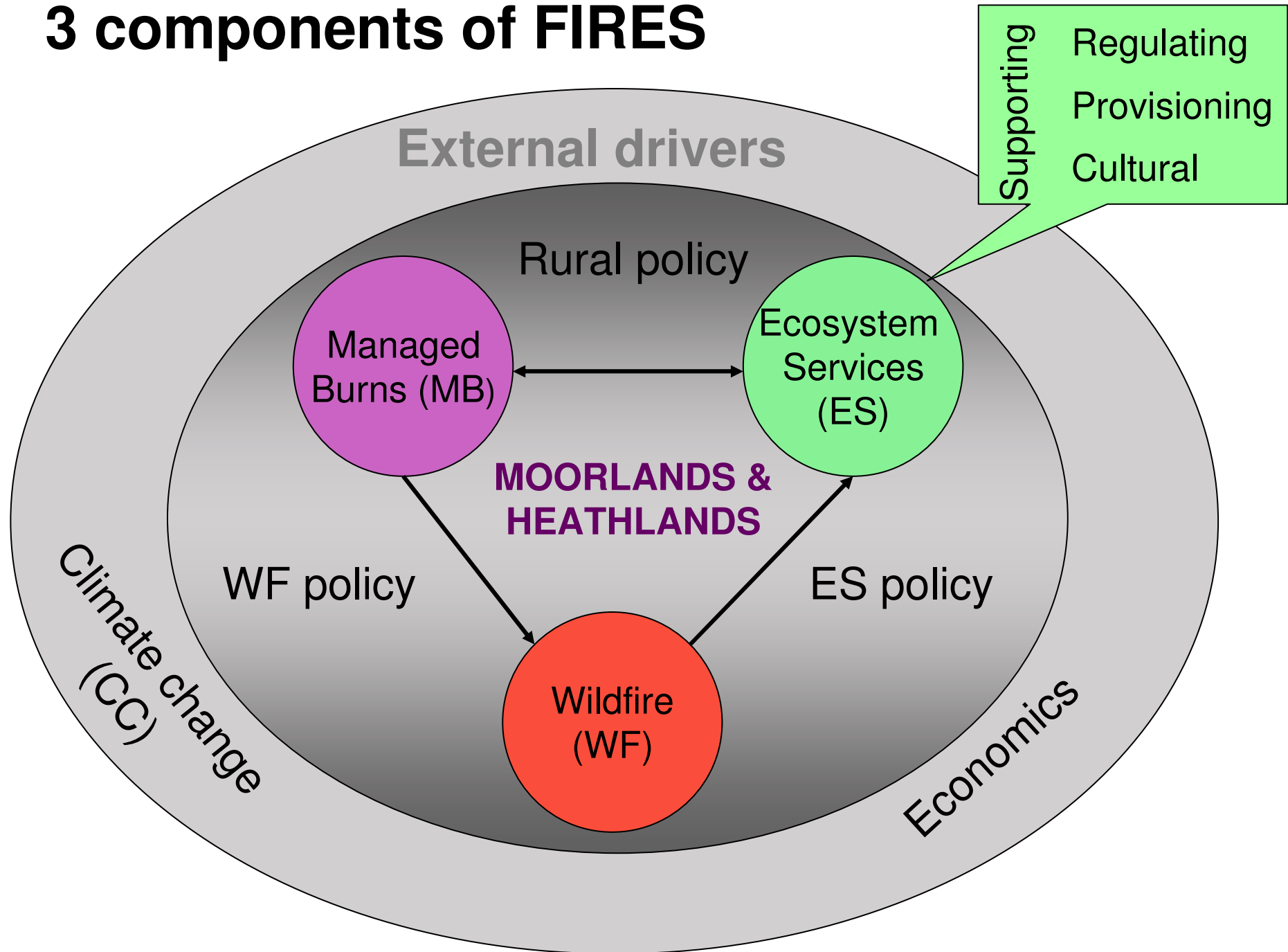




FIRES: Fire Interdisciplinary Research on Ecosystem Services

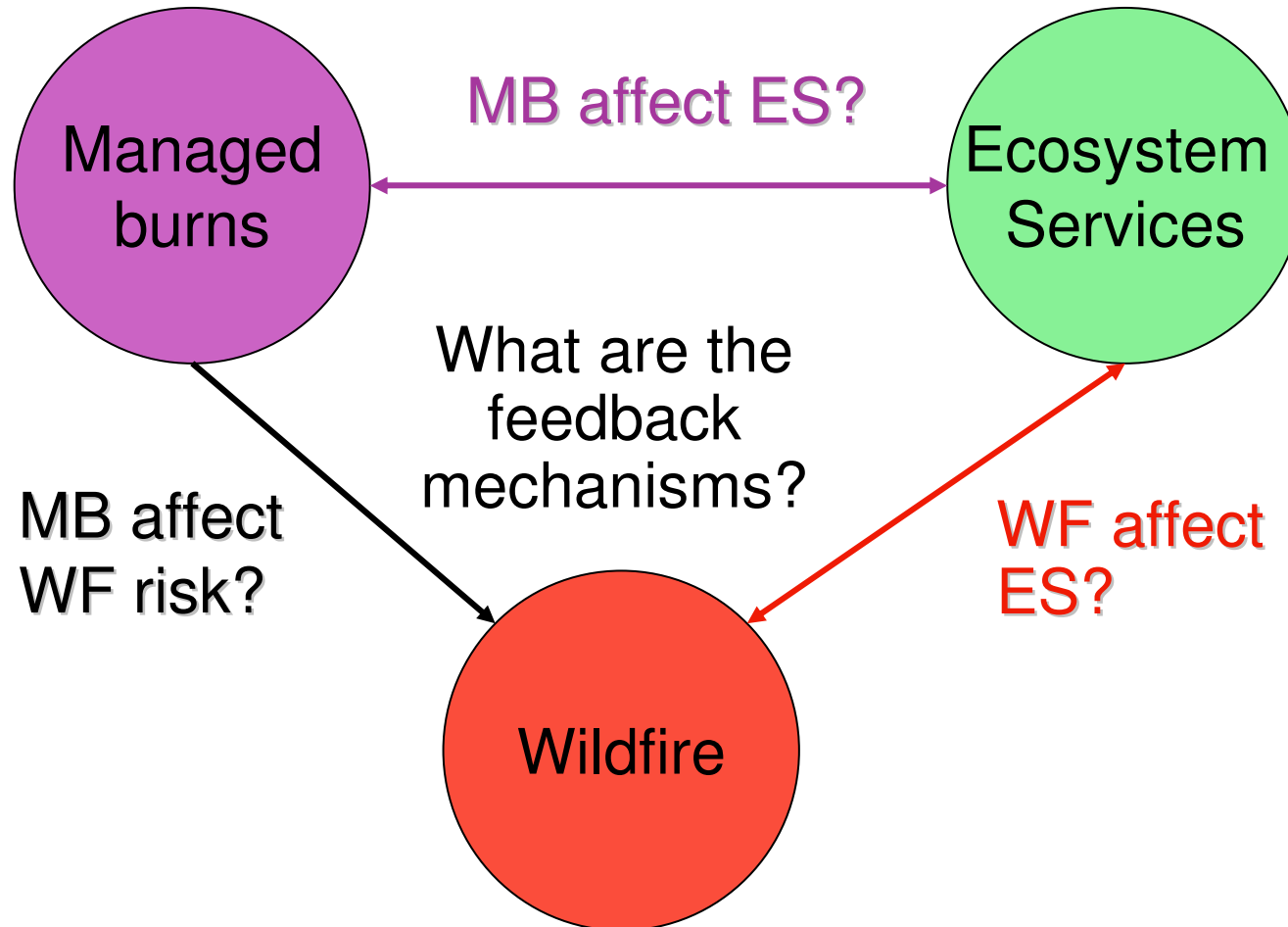
1. The role of managed fire in ecosystem services of UK moorlands and heathlands
Edinburgh, 31 March – 1 April 2008
2. The impact of wildfire on ecosystem services: relationships between wildfire, climate and people.
Manchester, 24 June 2008
3. Forecasting and modelling wildfire risk in UK moorlands and heathlands
Manchester, 31 March – 1 April 2009
4. Economic impacts of wildfires and adaptive land management to reduce wildfire risk and impact
Peak District National Park, 13-14 May 2009

3 components of FIRES



Basic questions so far

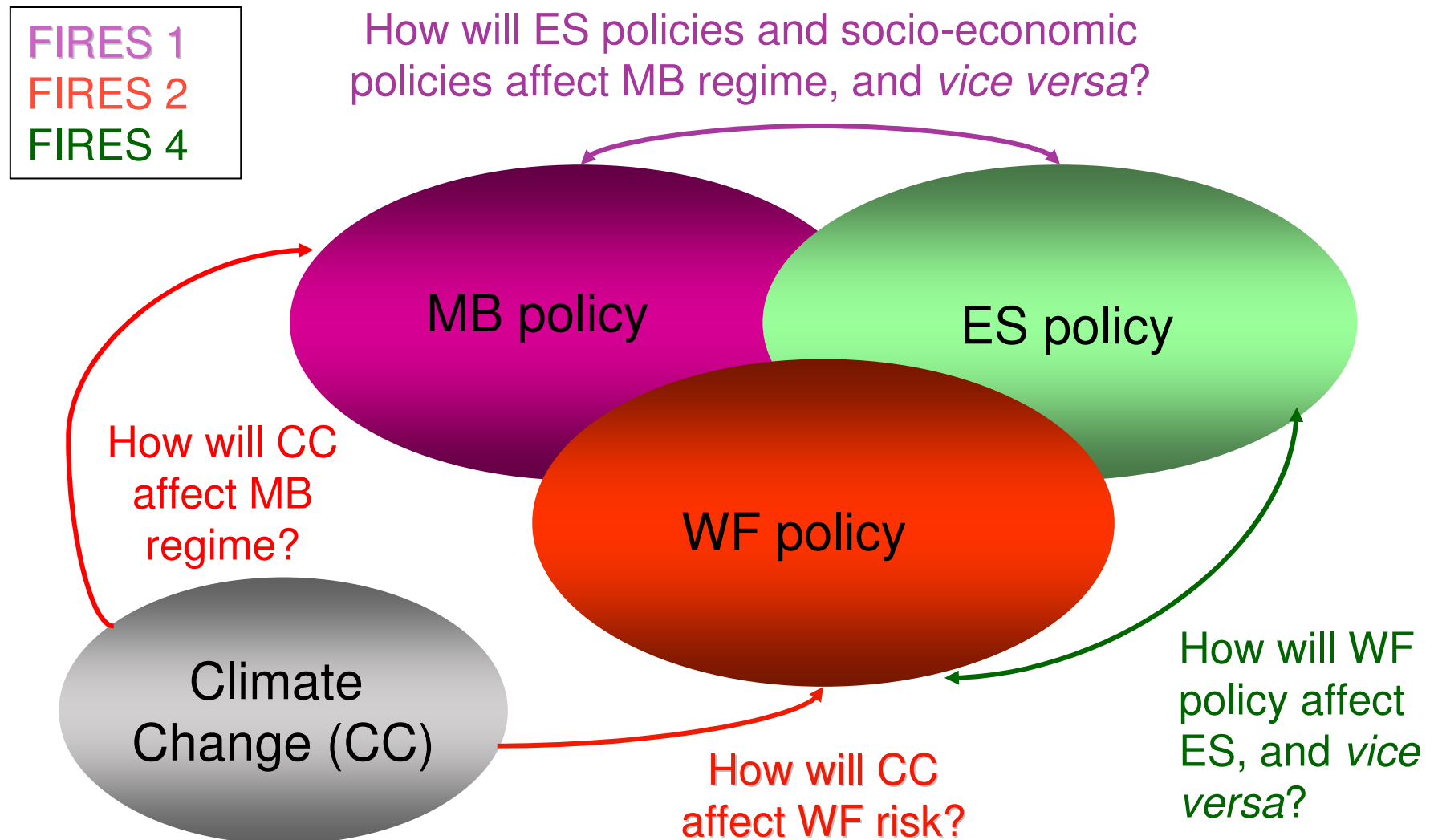
To what extent does.....



Can we model when,
where & how WF occurs?

- FIRES 1
- FIRES 2
- FIRES 3
- FIRES 4

Broader policy questions for FIRES4



- **Policy Panel**
- **Adaptive management** workshop day 2; reducing wildfire risk and impact whilst adapting to CC and changes in other policy areas



Four themes for FIRES4

- Realities of fighting moorland and heathland fires ▶
- Economic impact of wildfires ▶
- Policy interactions
- Adaptive management

Realities of fighting moorland and heathland fires

Wildfire risk and data

Cath Reynolds, Department for Communities and Local Government

Fighting UK wildfires

Andy Elliott, Dorset County Council

The role of the helicopter in moorland wildfire fighting

Chris Ruddy, Pennine Helicopters



Economic impact of wildfires

Importance of being able to cost intervention and damage of WF

- Direct cost of suppression
- Cost of prevention – increasing moorland resilience, reducing risk of ignition, fuel management, *etc.*
- Indirect costs to all ecosystem services, including restoring wildfire sites and costs to the local economy – harder to cost, environmental economics.

Cost-benefit analysis; costs of suppression and prevention against benefits, i.e. costs saved

- Bleaklow, 18 April 2003 case study.
- [Greenfield 13 April 2009, Kinder, 26 May 2008]

