

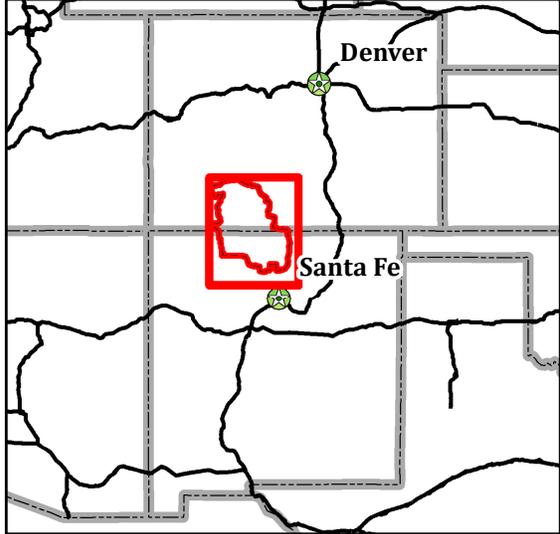
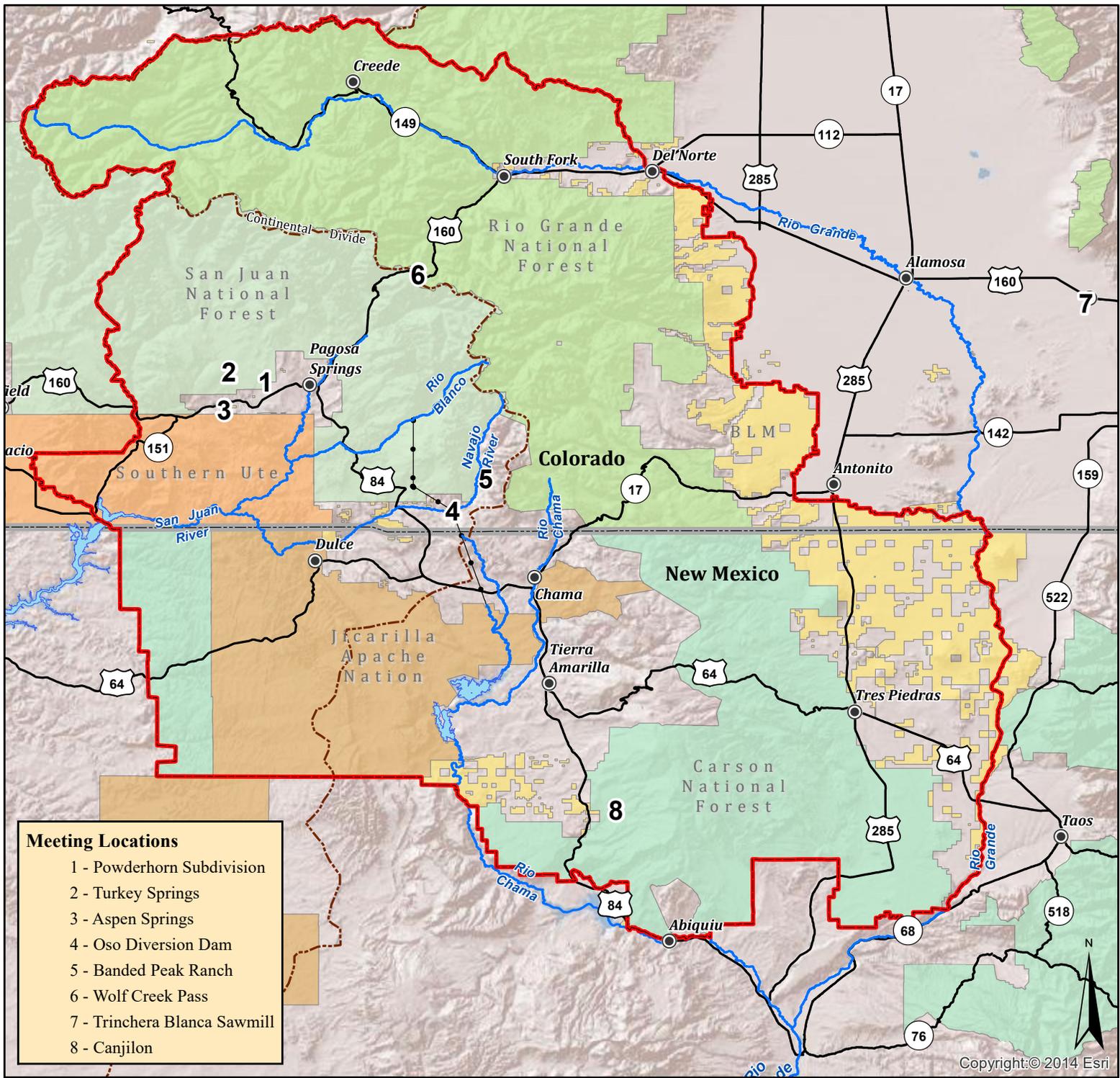


2-3-2
COHESIVE
STRATEGY
PARTNERSHIP

CROSS BOUNDARY MEETING, STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

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Cross-Boundary Meeting

- 232 Partnership Boundary
- Highways
- Major Rivers
- San Juan - Chama Project





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2-3-2 Accomplishments Since 2016

The 2-3-2 cohesive strategy partnership launched in early 2016 out of a collective public and governmental interest to address forest health concerns and protect headwaters and water resources in Colorado and New Mexico through cross-boundary forest and fire management, collaboration and planning. More than 5.1 million acres make up the 2-3-2 footprint (for comparison, the 2-3-2 footprint is approximately the size of Delaware and Connecticut—combined). Below are some of the successes achieved by the partnership as of the last quarter of 2018. Additional accomplishments are highlighted and kept current on the 2-3-2 website (www.232partnership.org).

CHALLENGING THE NOTION OF BOUNDARIES: social, political, & ownership

The 2-3-2 represents a diverse spectrum of partners from two states, across public and private lands that includes non-profit entities. The current partnership of 24 organizations and government agencies works across the geography of the 2-3-2, has shared resources to address fire management and apply prescribed fire, has leveraged partner efforts, and has established critical relationships that will lead to additional successes going forward.

SHARING RESOURCES: secured over \$5 million to date

By establishing trust and critical communication between partners, the 2-3-2 has leveraged funding opportunities, matched needs, and built programs to utilize at-risk funds. To date, partners in the 2-3-2:

- Secured the use of \$1.5 million for the development of a FireWise Program and forest thinning treatments to help protect homes in Rio Arriba County
- Secured \$750K for work supporting the goals of resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities and a safe and effective wildfire response under the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy
- Raised \$1 million from Albuquerque, New Mexico's water utility for forest restoration efforts in Colorado's Blanco and Navajo watersheds, where most of Albuquerque's water supply originates
- Leveraged existing finances to secure \$3.25 million in Regional Conservation Partnership Program funds from NRCS to implement on-the-ground conservation practices on private lands, with an emphasis on forest and watershed health. Like the 2-3-2, these funds are contingent upon diverse participation and the implementation of innovation solutions.

WORK ON THE GROUND: early achievements

Partners in the 2-3-2 share critical, on-the-ground resources for forest management and fire. To date, partners in the 2-3-2 have:

- Jointly treated nearly 10,000 acres through prescribed fire
- Promoted expanded use of prescribed fire on the landscape leading to additional prescribed burns and public acceptance



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- Created and maintained critical networks for timber suppliers, wood processors, and their materials and markets. Partners support creative solutions to wood utilization and the promotion of local wood products

PROMOTING COORDINATED APPROACHES TO FOREST MANAGEMENT

Diverse representation within the partnership promotes dialogue about shared impacts and opportunities on topics such as wildlife habitat and connectivity and the health of streams and aquatic species. These conversations include collective thinking about resources across boundaries on the landscape. Through shared management experiences, partners are better informed and able to consider and incorporate multiple values into treatments; work together to manage for forests that are resilient for the optimum number of values; identify appropriate treatment efforts to achieve agreed upon goals; and strategically apply these efforts across the landscape regardless of ownership. These relationships have already resulted in cooperative prescribed burns of more than 10,000 acres by representatives of three forests, BLM, Colorado Department of Fire Prevention and Control, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, local entities, multiple NGOs, and others.

ELEVATING LOCAL EFFORTS

The 2-3-2 was launched with the recognition that existing local efforts in smaller geographies (e.g. Chama Peak Land Alliance, San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership, and San-Juan Chama Partnership) work successfully across lines and develop innovative strategies for sharing resources and tools. But the 2-3-2 also recognized that when it comes to protecting forests and water resources, the scale of the impact had to be greater and extend across a much larger geography. Rather than creating something entirely new, the 2-3-2 embraces these existing collaborations and elevates their efforts through the broader partnership.

ESTABLISHING CRITICAL CONNECTIONS & TRUST

Through quarterly in-person meetings (hosted at locations throughout the 2-3-2 geography), bi-monthly web meetings, and regular communication, the 2-3-2 has established a critical cross-boundary dialogue about resource management and developed networks for sharing resources, lessons learned, and tools for coordinating land management activities. Just one of many examples is set forth below.

“When Jeremy Marshall [District Ranger, Carson National Forest] told me that the Blanca Mill is putting on a second shift and maybe taking more outside wood, that made me think that it could serve as a close mill for our purchasers to be able to take the wood harvested off of the forest. This could reduce their costs and allow for them to bid on more of our sales as they might be able to increase their capacity having a mill so close by (as opposed to Montrose for example). **I think that communication of important information such as this is one of the greatest values of the 2-3-2. Just by communicating, we are helping everyone find ways to work more effectively and efficiently, and in a way that makes sense for the landscape.**”



Andrea Jones, District Ranger
Rio Grande National Forest, Conejos Peak District



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Site Preview: Aspen Springs

This is a driving location. We will not get out of the vans.

Aspen Springs is the second largest subdivision in the United States. Made up of nearly 6,000 lots on 6,000 acres, and some of the least expensive properties in Archuleta County. There is no homeowner's association or covenants, no municipal water system and few usable wells. Many areas have a 45-minute response time for fire and emergencies and the only electrical power lines serving the Pagosa Springs area pass through Aspen Springs. The subdivision is immediately upwind of the majority of the Pagosa Springs area population and infrastructure and the area immediately southwest of Aspen Springs is known for frequent natural and human-caused fires.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the USFS have done extensive mitigation work on their lands bordering Aspen Springs to the south and the Turkey Springs area immediately north. To the northeast, NRCS has been involved in treatments in the Elk Park subdivision.

Early efforts by the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP) and the 2-3-2 Cohesive Strategy Partnership identified the Aspen Springs area as a high-risk section of private land that had seen little work over the years. Many of the local partners had repeatedly tried to get landowners to take interest in wildfire mitigation with very limited success. The partners started a Low-income mitigation program with the help of a CAFA grant through SJHFHP. Work began in late summer of 2018. Interest in the program is high and residents have formed a Firewise Team (Wildfire Adapted Partnership) to spread the word about evacuation procedures and the importance of mitigation.

The partners plan to do a major promotional and educational push in the spring of 2019 to advance program participation.

Key Takeaways

- We need methods for addressing all lands, regardless of income
- These lands reduce effectiveness of work on surrounding properties
- We have work yet to do





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Site Preview: Powderhorn

Powderhorn is a subdivision that lies within the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) boundaries. Wildfire Adapted Communities (formerly FireWise) has been working with landowners to develop defensible space. This initiative was used to supported by and used to educate partners from the 2-3-2. During a TREX Event, partners learned to determine which trees were removed and which remained. In addition to helping secure individual homes and communities, this approach to stakeholder engagement nurtures community support for prescribed fire and other forest treatments on a broader scale.

Presenters

Aaron Kimple, San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership
Bill Trimarco, Archuleta County Program Manager, Wildfire Adapted Partnerships
Homeowner, Powderhorn subdivision, Pagosa Lakes Properties Owners Associations (PLPOA)

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

- The value of demonstration for homeowners and partners
- Homeowners acknowledging risk of wildfire
- How work on private lands ties in with efforts on the USFS
- Supporting homeowners can help work get done and garner community support

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Importance of identifying community champions
- The power of demonstration for cultivating support
- The need for ongoing cross-boundary maintenance





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Site Preview: Turkey Springs Landscape - Brokover site

Turkey Springs can be described as the playground for the Town of Pagosa Springs. It is heavily used for mountain biking, hiking, camping, hunting and motorized vehicle use. There are miles of developed Forest Service trails through a ponderosa pine/ oak forest. The terrain is gentle and accessible to people of all ages and skill levels. The area borders densely developed private land to the east, north and south. Primary residences in the Pagosa Lakes area and Wildflower subdivisions border National Forest and are heavily forested. Predominate southwest winds would push any fire on FS land toward these populated areas.

Due to its proximity to Pagosa Springs this site has been managed extensively for the past century. Multiple past timber harvests, pine thinning and oak mastication treatments and prescribed fire cumulatively reduce the risk of fire to nearby communities and reduce the severity of potential fires to this area. Local land managers have identified this area as an important fire hazard reduction zone to the Pagosa Lakes community, and have worked together to obtain grant funding for fuels reduction treatments on adjacent private lands. Fuel reduction efforts will continue into the future in order to mitigate fire hazards in this strategic changing landscape. San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP) assisted with public outreach, education and coordination on treatments, which has been essential for maximizing NEPA efficiency, staging treatments, avoiding disputes and facilitating forest restoration.

Presenter(s)

Aaron Kimple, Forest Health Director of Mountain Studies Institute, Coordinator of San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership & the 2-3-2

Fred Ellis, Assistant Fire Management Office, San Juan National Forest, Pagosa Ranger District

Jerry Archuleta, District Conservationist, National Resource Conservation Service

Jim Friedley, Forester, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Emily Hohman, Executive Director, Chama Peak Lands Alliance

Topic(s) To Be Discussed

- History of past management (mechanical and prescribed fire treatments)
- Continuing need for maintenance thinning, mastication, and prescribed fire treatments on National and private lands

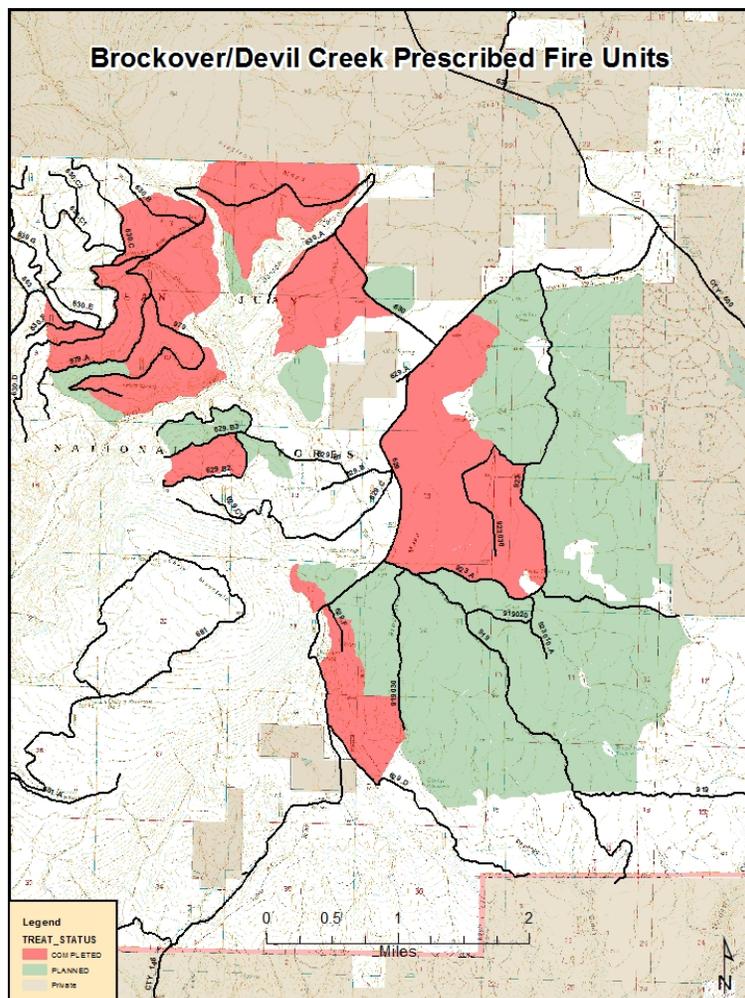
- Opportunities to facilitate both prescribed fire and thinning efforts
- Importance of community outreach, education and collaboration to obtain funding and facilitate treatments in the wildland urban interface (WUI) on federal and private lands
- Need for and challenges associated with the working on near private lands

Key Takeaways

Restoring and maintaining a fire adapted WUI is a continuous process that will require sustained effort over time. These efforts will protect firefighter safety, infrastructure and reduce negative impacts in these forests in the event of a wildfire.

CAFA grant support (like the grant supporting the Stollsteimer Watershed Low Income Mitigation Project) and other private land mitigation funds support treatments on strategic private lands that reduce the overall hazard to the broader community.

Support for outreach, education and coordination is essential, especially in landscapes where social values and fire hazards intersect.





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Site Preview: Placita Garcia

Placita Garcia is a small community that abuts the Canjilon Ranger District of the Carson National Forest. The Montoya fire of 2002 brought the need for treatments into sharp focus for homeowners in the area, one of whom you'll hear from at the stop. The landscape-scale work that has been accomplished since the fire required multiple funding sources.



Presenters

Mary Stuever, Chama District Forester, New Mexico State Forestry
 Alicia Gallegos, Environmental Coordinator, Carson National Forest
 Homeowner in Placita Garcia
 Jonathan Romero, Canjilon Ranger District, Carson National Forest
 Joe Carrillo, Chama District Timber Management Officer, New Mexico State Forestry

Topic(s) To Be Discussed

- The threat that the community faced from fire
- Application of multiple sources of funding
- State working on USFS lands
- A full suite of tools was applied to achieve goals

Key Takeaways

- There is a need to work across State and Federal Lands
- State initiatives are critical for promoting the connection between watersheds and healthy forests
- Planning and prioritization needs to be shared among managers
- Work needs to be supported by multiple funding sources
- We can get more work done by working together
- The 2-3-2 offers opportunities for partners to leverage work and have greater overall impact on the landscape.



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Site Preview: The Wedge

This stop highlights the power of a demonstration site to inspire and engage a community with forest management. The treatment done at the Wedge shows that the work of one location can be leveraged for broader work on the landscape.



Presenters

Page Buono, Mountain Studies Institute
Jonathan Romero, Canjilon Ranger District, Carson National Forest
Joe Carrillo, Chama District Timber Management Officer, New Mexico State Forestry
Mary Stuever, Chama District Forester, New Mexico State Forestry

Topic(s) To Be Discussed

- The importance of community engagement/ understanding and the role demonstration sites can play in cultivating both.
- The threat that the community faced, and continues to face, from fire
- How the partners of the 2-3-2 applied leverage to secure funding from the Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- How the RCPP will be applied in the 2-3-2 landscape

Key Takeaways

- Educating the community helps promote work on the ground
- We can get more work done by working together
- The 2-3-2 offers opportunities for partners to leverage funds and capacity to accomplish work on a landscape scale
- Better communication is needed around smoke and prescribed fire



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Site Preview: Banded Peaks Ranch

The Banded Peak Ranch (BPR) in the center of the 2-3-2 geography exemplifies the need for restoration across boundaries of ownership and jurisdiction. BPR is the water source for much of New Mexico's water, and is part of a continuous forested landscape that stretches across the CO-NM line and includes two major watersheds (Rio Grande and San Juan/Colorado River).

Presenter(s)

Andrea Jones, Conejos District Ranger, Rio Grande National Forest
Laura McCarthy, New Mexico Associate State Director, The Nature Conservancy
Emily Hohman, Executive Director, Chama Peak Land Alliance
Tim Harman, Manager, Banded Peak Ranch

Topic(s) To Be Discussed

- Wildfire management, including pre-planning, risk management, and fire across boundaries where it makes sense
- The role of water in scaling up projects for the Rio Grande Water Fund, San Juan Chama Partnership, and 2-3-2 collaborative
- The role of private lands in the 2-3-2 and use of funding from downstream water users on BPR and other ranches.
- Introduction to the BPR management approach and what to look for as we drive through the ranch.



Photo by durangoalpineproperties.com

Key Takeaways

- We need continued support for implementation of the shared fire management and landscape resilience vision from the ground to the national level.
- We are challenged to learn how to co-manage risk across the landscape. Risk management requires that we have all tools available.
- Efforts to scale up restoration across the 2-3-2 geography have made clear that jurisdictional authorities, resources and capacity limit our effectiveness.
- These limits motivate the 2-3-2 partners to collaborate to fill the gaps, and they are barriers that hinder efforts to accelerate the pace of restoration.



Photo by Farms USA



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Site Preview: Oso Diversion

In 1962, Congress passed the Public Law 87-483 allowing the diversion of water from the Colorado River into the Rio Grande Basin to deliver water to inhabitants of Southern New Mexico. The Diversion Project has three dams and three tunnels, one of which is the Oso Diversion. Part of the BoR's San-Juan Chama Project, the Oso Diversion diverts water from the tributaries of the San Juan River in CO, through the Continental Divide, and into the Rio Grande Basin, primarily for use by Albuquerque, NM.

Presenters

Aaron Kimple, 2-3-2 Coordinator, Mountain Studies Institute
Dagmar Llewellyn, Hydrologist, Bureau of Reclamation
Jennifer Faler, Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation

Topic(s) To Be Discussed

- Headwaters supply water to downstream communities (ABQ, Santa Fe)
- Roughly 30% of New Mexico's surface water comes from CO
- Maintenance and operations of the Diversion is administered by the BOR
- In many ways, these diversions were the impetus for coalescing the partners of the 2-3-2.

Key Takeaways

- Protecting Colorado's Forests protects NM water and the communities that rely on it
- Proactive work and coordinated planning are more effective than clean up





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Site Preview: Wolf Creek Pass

The Wolf Creek Pass site demonstrates the interconnection of social, ecological, and economic values across the 2-3-2 landscape. No anthropologic boundary is effective against natural processes, as experienced by both the San Juan and Rio Grande Forests during fires and beetle epidemics that crossed from one forest to the other, impacting private and State lands in the process. Wolf Creek Pass is one of the wettest places in Region 2 and throughout the Southwest. The forests on this pass mark the headwaters of rivers that provide essential water to communities in both Colorado and New Mexico. Protecting the health of forests on the pass supports not only the resilience of human and wildlife communities, but local economies as well. Wolf Creek Pass boasts some of the largest and most productive spruce-fir forests in the country. While many forest products in Region 2 are considered low value, these trees are in demand regionally and command a high value as house logs due to their species, diameter and height. While there are social, wildlife, hydrological and economic impacts that make management difficult, the demand for the trees and the proximity to roads make active management in some areas of this location possible.

Presenters

Aaron Kimple, 2-3-2 Coordinator, Mountain Studies Institute
Kevin Khung, San Juan National Forest, District Ranger, Pagosa Ranger District
Dan Dallas, Forest Supervisor, Rio Grande National Forest
Patt Dorsey, Southwest Region Manager, Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Garrett Hanks, Southwest Public Lands Coordinator, Trout Unlimited

Topic(s) To Be Discussed

Standing on top of Wolf Creek Pass, it is unequivocally clear that what happens on one forest impacts the other: wildfires burn up and over the pass, beetle move across the landscape regardless of ownership boundaries; communities on both sides are connected by recreation (the ski area, trails, hunting) and industry; and the wood products businesses benefits by having access to both forests (if salvage sales aren't happening on one forest, they likely are on the other). Overall local support for salvage on the Rio Grande National Forest is strong, but gaining this

support took time and effort. Strong collaboration, coordination, education and outreach from groups like San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership, RWEACT and the 2-3-2 Partnership on the positive and negative impacts of salvage logging make projects like those at Wolf Creek Pass possible. The efforts of these collaboratives and the work of the 2-3-2 to coordinate management across these connected forests provides huge potential for prescribed fire and industry, but coordinated management is critical to optimize the benefits of all forest management strategies for both forest health and community resilience.

Key Takeaways

- Coordinated, proactive planning can help address needs of all user groups and address community concerns
- Managing resources across boundaries can support all activities and values on all lands
- There is growing interest and demand for sustainably produced local forest products in the 2-3-2 landscape. Most timber purchasers in the 2-3-2 landscape work with several different sawmills in both the San Luis Valley (in CO and NM) and the San Juan Basin.
- Coordinated management across forests provides more reliable products for these industries
- The 2-3-2 would like to move forward with the collective planning priority project mapping process.





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Site Preview: Blanca Mill

Blanca Forestry Products (BFP) is a state-of-the-art sawmill dedicated to producing high-quality lumber and forest products sourced by sustainable harvest practices under responsible stewardship. Seeking logs from across the 2-3-2 landscape and beyond, BFP is one tool in the toolbox helping to make forested lands healthier and more resilient. As one example, BFP is making possible the restoration work occurring on the Carson National Forest’s Tres Piedras Ranger District. Kuykendall Logging is the contractor undertaking that work and approximately 90% of the timber is trucked to BFP.

Presenters/Logistics/Questions

Ty Ryland, President, Blanca Forestry Products
Mike Zojonc, General Manager, Blanca Forestry Products
James Duran, Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest
Jeremy Marshall, Tres Piedras District Ranger, Carson National Forest
Danny Kuykendall, Owner/Operator, Kuykendall Logging

Topics To Be Discussed

The log processing capacity brought on line by BFP is a game changer for the Carson National Forest west zone by helping logging operators in the area to prosper. As a result, timber sales are being bid on and contracted for and restoration work is getting done. The Ranger District has been sending 3100 CCF yearly to BFP but Kuykendall may be able to increase this to 4000-5000 CCF yearly. The annual target of the entire Carson NF is 16,000 CCF, which is mostly firewood.

By helping logging operators to stay in business, BFP maintains and expands the capacity for other timber and biomass projects across the 2-3-2- landscape.

Key Takeaways/Asks

- a) Logging trucks travelling from New Mexico to Colorado navigate a number of state and federal highways with differing shipping weight limits. If the federal weights could be standardized and/or if the state would issue overweight vehicle permits, more logs on fewer trucks could make the trip from New Mexico to BFP. The 2-3-2 would be pleased to work with the federal delegations and NMDOT to address this issue.

b) Working across the 2-3-2 landscape boundaries could increase our pace and scale of restoration by sharing resources. For example, we need to identify and act on opportunities for environmental analysis, cross boundary burns or fuel treatments where two national forests or other land managers could combine efforts, make a bigger impact on the ground while saving time and money. What projects are coming up that we should look to accomplish in conjunction with a neighboring forest or land manager?

