****

**MEETING NOTES**

**2-3-2 Partnership Meeting, Wednesday, March 25**

**Where**: Zoom

**When**: 10 am – 12:00 pm

**In attendance**: Dana Hayward (MSI), Page Buono (contractor, 2-3-2), Aaron Kimple (MSI), Sid Hall (Rio Grande NF, Fuels), John Waconda (USFS SW regional office, restoration partnership coordinator), Alan Barton (NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute), Bill Trimarco (WAP, RA, SJH), Caleb Stotts (CPLA), Christine Bishop (Santa Fe NF range), Fred Ellis (San Juan NF fuels), Garrett Hanks (TU), James Melonas (Santa Fe NF forest supervisor), Jamie Bennett (Santa Fe NF Cuba district ranger), Karl Buermeyer (Santa Fe NF, Jemez CFLRP implementation coordinator), Matt Tuten (San Juan NF timber, silviculturist), Michael Tooley (Rio Grande NF, silviculturist), Paul Orbuch (USFS and MSI contractor for shared stewardship), Gordon West (Troll Works), Jerry Archuleta (NRCS), Andrea Jones (Rio Grande NF, Conejos Peak district ranger), Adam Moore (CSFS)

**HIGHLIGHTS**

* Important to connect with partners and communities to work together, lets stay up and running!
* Current understanding of CFLRP is that we’ll hear by May/June
  + If you hear any new news, please forward it to Aaron so we can share it with the whole partnership
* Rio Chama CFLR + 2-3-2 Coordinated Planning Meeting moving to a virtual format, stay tuned!
* Currently, Rx burns planned for Carson, Santa Fe, Rio Grande & San Juan National Forests all on hold
* Region 3 reports no current changes in budget or allocations
* Unknown impact on timber markets at this point
* Currently, wood products activities included under essential work exemptions under new “stay-at-home" orders in both CO & NM
* We’re a group that works together and that cares about each other! Reach out as needed.

**ACTION ITEMS**

* **(Page, Aaron, Bill)** Pursue clarification about exemptions in CO regarding the type of work: Can we have an understanding of where the state stands and encourage allowance of work related to wood products removal. The goal is to follow COVID-19 management needs and also allowing work to occur on the ground. Forest thinning and forest products are essential services.
  + Currently included in NM essential service, request for 2-3-2 EC to advocate for timber production and harvesting exemption in CO
* **(All partners)** Given the possibility of some sort of stimulus package for wood products, forest mgmt: important for partners to consider project wish lists, given potential quick turn arounds with a stimulus package. 2-3-2 should pay attention to this and be ready
  + Potential outcome of Coordinated Planning Meeting
* **(Aaron + Gordon)** Interaction with calls to senator Heinrich’s office regarding biochar and managing forest biomass.
* **(Dana)** Collect & share COVID-19 resources on website (in progress, linked here: )
* **(Page, Aaron)** Stress keeping communities, resources, and habitats safe! Be proactive to reduce future strain on communities. Draft letter to Red Cross expressing concern about what plans are in place in the event of a wildfire involving evacuations.
* **(EC)** Develop fundraising strategy
* **(Garrett Hanks + EC)** Reach out to 2-3-2 members that have expressed interest in the committee
  + - * Andrea Jones will join this committee
      * Reach out to CPW SW area manager
      * Jacob Edwards?
    - Schedule a conversation with the Exec committee as a consult
* **(Dana)** Convene committee chairs for calls/update before May 20 meeting

**NOTES**

**10:00 – 10:15: Welcome & introductions (thank you, Zoom tips; hand raise, agreement, meeting)**

* Important to connect with partners and communities to work together, lets stay up and running!
  + Preparing communities for possible compounding factors
    - Despite COVID, we are approaching fire season
  + Promote the strength and resilience of communities into the future
* Agenda changed a bit (instead of talking about March 13, which has been postponed)
  + Page will reach out about how to move forward with this meeting digitally
  + Map has been produced with shape files and data
    - The work this group put into this was and is important!
* CFLRP update
  + Update from Lindsay Buchanan (USFS National CFLRP program coordinator)
    - need to stand up of a FACA committee to decide which CFLRP projects to fund.
    - Members had been identified but had not been signed off yet.
    - Outreach has been done with Tipton, Bennett and Gardner’s offices to move this forward
    - Aaron reached out to LB on 3.24, and she confirmed that they’ve been moving forward, so the decision-making time frame is on track (despite COVID-19)
    - Should hear May/June
  + If you hear any new news, forward it to Aaron so we can share it with the whole partnership

**10:15 – 11:15: COVID-19 pandemic – updates, concerns, opportunities**

* There are challenges facing all partners, especially for work on the ground. Lots of unknowns
* FEDERAL (USFS funding/projects)
  + Updates
    - John Waconda (USFS) - Region 3 has no current changes to budget or allocations and moving forward with work plans as outlined
    - Gordon West (Troll Works) - CFRP project in NM is delayed, can’t move forward at NM Highlands at this time
      * Senator Heinrich is knowledgeable about forest thinning and biomass, and also interested in biochar. He is pro scaling up this work. GW has been on calls with Heinrich’s staff, currently in the education stage, but seems like there is interest.
    - Jamie Bennett (SFNF, Cuba) - COVID and injunction will cause reassessment about whether current projects are a priority, or if new priorities will arise
      * Working through project exemptions with the injunction in place. Some projects were exempted before December
        + silviculturist is continuing inspections for small diameter timer.
      * Carson and SF are working on fuel wood permit sales
        + Community challenges buying BLM permits online
      * No ability to do field work at this time.
    - Jeremy Marshall (Carson NF) - delay/postponed Rx fire and delays with seasonal hiring
  + What does this mean for on-the-ground work?
    - Matt Tuten: unknown impact on timber markets for timber sales and contracts. Still planning on offering contracts in late summer/early fall, but unclear
    - Jon Waconda: Conversation in congress about a stimulus bill for forest enterprises and business while addressing fire and fuels challenges.
      * Letter going around from fire adapted CO to encourage that inclusion in the stimulus package
  + Implications for Rx fire?
    - Fred Ellis (San Juan NF)
      * still planning on onboarding seasonals but it’s all in flux
        + Columbine and SJ Hot Shots
        + Pagosa seasonals April 13th
      * Hold on Rx fire at this time in region 2. Mechanical contracts will likely move forward. Unclear about Rx fire in the fall
    - Sid Hall (Rio Grande NF)
      * Rx burns on hold
      * Still planning on onboarding seasonals
        + likely virtual, waiting for guidance.
      * SW Conservation Corps is delayed in bringing crews on, likely will have a crew by the end of May (timing challenges with training), currently moving forward and have funding – forest thinning and chainsaw work.
    - Seasonal onboarding happening: San Juan, Rio Grande, Santa Fe, maybe not Carson at this time. Unclear what workload will be
      * Caution to avoid tasking the health care system
      * Trying to figure out how to renew red cards
  + Implications for monitoring?
    - Not discussed
* PRIVATE LANDS
  + Updates
    - Jerry Archuleta (NRCS) - funding seems ok for now, projects and timelines will likely get pushed to later in the summer
    - Caleb Stotts (CPLA) - Laura McCarthy (NMSF) cleared exemption for forest thinning for public safety, wildfire protection, and natural resources extraction; good clarity from NMSF.
      * Moving forward with planning and goals related to forestry work for now
      * Needs clarity from CO side
        + Contacts with CO dept natural resources and state FS, we could outreach and encourage a similar direction

Caleb to forward info from NMSF to Aaron

* + - Garrett Hanks (TU) - Concerns about restoration field work and contractors as well as funding
      * Work is split on public and private lands
      * Unknown impacts regarding funding from partners
    - Bill Trimarco (WAP) – lack of clarity about non-essential vs. essential work is creating worry from contractors
      * Looks like contractors can still work in CO, but it’s unclear
        + Specific guidelines for workers at job sites
        + Desired clarity on exclusions for activity (order vs. advisory).
        + Who is restricted, and does it impact our work on private lands?
        + What role can the 2-3-2 play in helping guide the conversation?
      * What are some ways we are structuring this work to ensure exclusions?
      * Mitigation vs. wood products industry
    - Gordon West (Troll Works) - Wood products workers of all kinds were also added to the exemption list in NM (timber, paper and other wood products)
    - Pursue clarification about exemptions in CO regarding the type of work: Can we have an understanding of where the state stands and encourage allowance of work related to wood products removal. The goal is to follow COVID-19 management needs and also allowing work to occur on the ground. Forest thinning and forest products are essential services.
      * Base it on work already done by NM
      * Support clarity and advocate for certain exclusions
      * Bill Trimarco to work with Page and Aaron on this language
* STATE LANDS (only CO on the phone)
  + Adam Moore: San Juan was going to hire through SCC, but it’s a no-go
    - those folks are looking for work
    - Starting to consider project wish lists, given potential quick turn arounds with a stimulus package. 2-3-2 should pay attention to this and be ready
    - How do we support one another going forward?
* What else can the 2-3-2 offer at this time? Messaging, outreach?
  + Connect with DNR and CSFS on the CO side
  + Considering where work is available based on timing
  + Interaction with calls to senator Heinrich’s office regarding biochar and managing forest biomass. Who is the best person to be involved with these calls? Important to rope in delegations beyond NM. Bridge to CO**.** Aaron will follow up
  + Stress keeping communities, resources, and habitats safe! Be proactive to reduce future strain on communities.
    - What plans are in place in the event of a wildfire involving evacuations? Who can we carry this concern to? Red Cross, local emergency managers
      * Evacuation center exclusions for groups, still unclear
  + Website page and reference – do we want a COVID-19 page? Website update for COVID-19 resources and news related to wildfire, watersheds, forest products, industry, wildlife and other 2-3-2 and partner focus area

**11:15 –11:45: Workplans (what’s missing, what needs to be re-prioritized, what is on hold)**

* Executive Committee (Jeremy Marshall, Kevin Khung, Adam Moore, Andrea Jones, Mary Stuever, Anne Bradley, Caleb Stotts, Normal Vigil)
  + Cross boundary tour
    - There is a need for another given the change in leadership in CO and NM
    - Will wait for these positions to settle in
    - Aiming for spring 2021
  + Moving forward with mapping for planning and prioritization
    - Promoting and facilitating shared information among partners
    - This will feed into annual documentation of work completed and inform future work
  + Fundraising is a TOP PRIORITY
    - Standing call monthly
    - Funding secured through July 2021, then we need more
  + Consideration of organizational structure and expanding geography
    - Would like a representative from the Santa Fe NF on the Exec committee
    - CFLRP work prompted geography shift to include the SFNF
      * Measures of success will come out of this if secured
    - Examining whether the right structure is in place to move forward
      * Aiming to create a structure that is inclusive for all
      * Taking a look at the relationship between the Exec committee and other sub committees
        + A revised or newly articulated structure could identify key people or positions that can bridge conversations across committees
      * Structuring to be discussed further at May 20 meeting
* Biomass & Markets ()
  + Biomass facility modeling
    - Based on OSU work
    - CSFS is charging on this (Tim Reader and Randy Johnson)
  + Funding
    - When information about grants and funds is available, the committee circulates it and shares with the Exec committee
  + Adding new partners and inviting industry partners to get involved
    - Successfully added new partners this year
    - Consideration of inviting industry partners virtually or wait until after COVID-19
  + NM Legislative summary is in progress
  + Latilla material project is also in progress
    - Identification of sources
* Education & Outreach (Page Buono, Dana Hayward, Adam Moore, Mary Stuever, Andrea Jones, Matt Tuten, Jerry Archuleta)
  + Integration of other committee and partner priorities
  + Newsletter
    - Information distributed as provided
    - Always looking for and recruiting new information
  + Press Releases
    - In the works, would like to expand the scope beyond Rx fire
  + Press contacts
    - Want to keep this updated as much as possible
    - Media contacts list on drop box
  + Website
    - Create a COVID-19 resources page
    - Keep up to date, easy to use and consistent with language
  + Podcasts/Videos
    - Currently have 3-5 storyboard concepts and are working through what story we want to tell and how this will play out
  + Welcome Packet
    - Need to address challenges presented by turn over in partner organizations
    - Outline is in progress, drafting to come
    - Goal is to have a final document with additions by May 20
  + Jamie Bennett Comments
    - Working to plan a community erosion workshop with TNC partner support
      * Want to do a field visit, the best time to see erosion and erosion potential is in the spring (currently hoping for a May 21 scout)
      * Plan work for fall
      * Goal is to create an open dialogue and promote productive work that prevents post fire erosion
    - Presents opportunities for shared lessons including how to plan for content of the workshop and timing
    - Lots of story potential in this event
* Fire Management, Capacity & Efficiency (Sid Hall, Anne Bradley, Mary Stuever, Fred Ellis, Andrea Jones, Caleb Stotts, Paul Delmerico, Mike Remke, Dave Lasky)
  + TREX and Rx burns with other partners
    - Fred is working on next steps for TREX
    - Held a call about working with all hands all lands (forest stewards guild, TNC, RGWF) to expand capacity and programming across the 2-3-2 landscape
      * Need for resource sharing agreements with TNC
      * Brian Keating (Region 2 fuels and fire ecology lead)
      * Agreements will have to be completed on a forest by forest basis
        + Pursue in region 2
  + Collaborative Fire Management Charter
    - Emily Hohman has started on this, but is stalled currently, waiting for more information to ensure the charter will meet federal requirements
  + PODS Mapping
    - Considering how boundaries match up
    - Political jurisdictions have been a challenge, but it’s moving
    - Caleb S. is learning about northern New Mexico efforts by the BLM to develop, align and apply PODS mapping
    - Remote work is somewhat restricting what can be done with GIS
    - This seems to fit in with Exec committee mapping efforts
      * TNC, MSI and other partner support could be key here
* TRAM ()
  + Work planning IP
  + Planning and Prioritization efforts will inform more work
    - Mike R. has and continues to compile polygons and work with PODS layers
    - If you or your organization is doing similar modeling or has information you can share, please do!
    - Wanting to work together with wildlife and water committee to add more layers to the data and consider how efforts demonstrate alignment of values
    - Working on identifying where to do monitoring work, when, and how data can be comparable
  + Shared definitions
* Wildlife and Water ()
  + Work planning IP
  + Taking action
    - Goal is to be more active and do something about the values that are communicated in this arena
      * Incorporation of values from this perspective into the larger conversation
  + How to move forward
    - Project planning and prioritization meeting will likely inform more discussion, starting points and work for this committee
    - Wildlife was written explicitly into the CFLRP (monitoring, values, prioritization)
    - Reach out to 2-3-2 members that have expressed interest in the committee
      * Andrea Jones will join this committee
      * Reach out to CPW SW area manager
      * Jacob Edwards?
    - Schedule a conversation with the Exec committee as a consult
      * Think through a broader presentation after this step
    - Consider larger efforts about watersheds and wildlife habitat in the 2-3-2 landscape
      * Rio Grande Basin Study
      * The 2-3-2 is a group of groups. Lets bring information already being discussed around wildlife and water into this forum
        + Reverse this as well, and go to these other entities and forums to engage
* Convene committee chairs together for a call before the May 20 meeting

**11:45 – 12:00: Wrap up & next steps**

* RMRI
  + SW CO selected to be primary project area along with upper S. Platte and Upper Arkansas also being selected
    - Interest could promote and encourage other activity into the 2-3-2 geography
    - Building redundancy: industry, community security
  + Advisory committee and steering committee (building charter)
    - There will be a CO regional committee that works on how all 3 projects connect
  + Funding
    - EIF: private $ for private land work
    - federal funds for public lands work
    - Not extensive funding coming in through RMRI yet, some from Federal Govt at this time. Private land money still being secured.
* May 20 meeting
  + Likelihood of this being in person is slim, may pivot to virtual meeting again, more info to come.
  + As we re-think coordinated planning meeting, considering how to integrate with the May 20 meeting and how best to move forward
* We’re a group that works together and that cares about each other! Reach out as needed.