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**Sept.11, 2019**

**NOTES**

**QUARTERLY PARTNERSHIP MEETING (NOTES)**

**WHEN**: Wednesday, September 11, 2019, 9 am – 4:00 pm

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Aaron Kimple, MSI; Page Buono, MSI contractor; Michelle Hamilton, MSI; Ellen Roberts, CSFS contractor; Daniel Denipah, Santa Clara Pueblo; Alejandro Garcia, Santa Clara Pueblo; Andrea Jones, Rio Grande National Forest; Josh Hall, San Juan National Forest; Paul Orbuch, MSI contractor; Bill Trimarco, WAP; Anne Bradley, TNC; Kathy Cahill, Carson National Forest; Matt Piccarello, Forest Stewards Guild; John Waconda, USFS Region 3; Adam Moore, Colorado State Forest Service; Tim Leishman, San Juan National Forest; Charles Curtain, Sangre De Cristo initiative; Bill Baker, retired ecologist; Anthony Culpepper, MSI; Mary Stuever, New Mexico State Forest Service; Erin Minks, Senator Bennett *. Via Zoom*: Dagmar Llewelyn, BOR; Emma Kelly, BOR; Garrett Hanks, TU.

**ACTIONS/HIGHLIGHTS**

* Identify and invite recreation voices to the conversation *(Executive Committee)*
* Provide feedback for CFLR & RMRI proposals within the 2-3-2 (*full 2-3-2 membership)*
* Draft and shared updated list of 2-3-2 accomplishments (*Executive committee)*
  + To be shared at the beginning of each meeting
* Andrea Jones & Josh Hall to connect re: boundary of CFLR proposal
* Anthony/TRAM committee: update polygons within 2-3-2 geography, including NEPA cleared projects in CO
* Committee to draft concept for spring workshop *(Page, Mary, Adam, Bill, Sid)*
  + Idea of March resource fair to address Rx fire capacity + wood products industry
    - Representation from projects
    - Representation from resources
    - Burden on who has projects
    - April Resource Fair
      * Small business administration
      * Restoration economy
* Incorporate feedback and finalize action plan
* Opportunity to join NWF Upper Rio Grande coalition wildlife call
  + Upper Rio Grande Coalition call
    - 30-65 people/call
    - next call on October 16
    - information forthcoming from Andrew Black
* Plan spring tour to visit Santa Clara restoration efforts *(Executive Committee)*

**MEETING NOTES**

**INTRODUCTION** (*presentation by Aaron Kimple)*

* Opportunities for landscape-scale work bringing us together
* Historic overview
  + Since 2016
  + Working together to enhance watershed resiliency
  + Geography is 5 million acres
* Accomplishments (overview)
  + First ever TREX in Region II
  + CAFA address low income housing
  + Initiated mapping of collaborative efforts
  + Development of map that shows sources of smoke
  + Increased application of prescribed fire on Carson and San Juan National Forests
  + Application of RCPP funds across 2-3-2 landscape
  + Increase in wood provided to Blanca Mill
  + Expanded conversation on biomass opportunities
  + Development and application of Firewise Program in Rio Arriba County
  + Support for community discussion around fire planning tools (PODs)
  + Drawn attention nationally for collaborative, landscape-scale work – RMRI and CFLR Programs

**SANTA CLARA PUEBLO RECOVERY EFFORTS** *(presentation from Daniel Denipah, Santa Clara Pueblo)*

**\*\*Presentation with more information included in post-meeting materials\*\***

* June 26, 2011
* 15,500 on Santa Clara land
* Burn area of watershed: 14,700 (approx. 15% of headwaters area)
* 23-mile stretch of River
* Emphasis on protection of areas that are still intact (in Santa Clara Canyon, along the creek specifically)
* Surprised to see Aspen coming back
* Significant issue with erosion and downcuts
* Goal of planting 250,000 seedlings/year
* Latilla shade structure for seedlings
* Impact on wildlife
  + Turkeys in particular
  + Mule deer as well
* Post Fire Restoration:
  + Since 2011: working on stabilization and restoration treatments
  + Linked with protection of recovery and culture
  + Had BAR & BAER funding
  + Searching for additional funding; in 2013 received CFRP for some restoration
  + In 2014, EPA grants
  + Watershed Restoration projects
    - Protect critical wetlands and springs
    - Restore streams
    - Promote upland and stream bank stabilization
    - Promote vegetation recovery and reforestation
      * Some assisted recovery
    - Build community stewardship
      * Working with schools and have a hoop house so school can be involved with planting
      * Youth disconnect from canyon
        + Generational gap of kids who haven’t even been up there
    - Barriers for cattle and wildlife now
    - Directional and contour tree felling
      * Pick places with better soil health to create microsites for planting; didn’t want to plant in areas that weren’t treated;
    - Channel Restoration Treatments
      * Elevate channel bottoms
      * Prevent future erosion
      * Reconnect vegetation with water
      * Protect wetlands and springs
    - Rock dams and Zuni bowls
      * In partnership with Santa Fe Indian School to plant more glass plugs
      * 120 students for two days
      * Cone collection and rock dam construction
    - Log Mattress and log drop structures
      * Log drop (left) and log mattress (right) structures work well to catch sediment loads
    - Working in 25 tributaries, but 17,000 structures up and down those tributaries
      * Reduced scouring in bottom creek
      * Induced meandering
* Bill Zeedyk: Let the water do the work
* Work force:
  + Worked with 5-6 when plans were initially getting developed
  + 42 employees max – majority were techs
  + Transition of workforce from suppression to recovery, importance of community coming together
  + Tribal leadership was effectively focused on this
* **Significant opportunity to learn from Santa Clara**

**2-3-2 ROLE IN CFLR/RMRI PROPOSAL** *(highlights from discussions about CFLR & RMRI, below)*

* NM partners to help shape the CO proposal
  + From the watershed perspective
* Engage NM & CO delegation on movement of FACA
* 2-3-2 going to solicit feedback from communities w/in the 2-3-2 landscape
  + no single entity will know all of the players
  + Update and map polygons in our landscape (TRAM committee)
    - CO State lands
    - Inholdings
    - Work done/planned/approved
    - CPLA/NRC/
  + Include work that is already NEPA cleared (TRAM committee)
    - In CO

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESEARCH INITIATIVE** *(presentation from Aaron Kimple & discussion)*

* What is it? Unclear
  + Happening in CO
  + Funding at National Level from Wild Tukey Federation
  + Being piloted with Region II
  + Goal of more focused impact on the landscape
    - Target $$ to move one funding toward “completion” vs “random acts of restoration”
  + Will be an evaluation committee to evaluate proposals from three areas
  + 2-3-2 has come up repeatedly, along with the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership
    - forests, watersheds, partnerships all key components
  + All lands
    - So could dovetail well with CFLR
* Additional CFLR for San Juan National Forest
* Existing NEPA cleared projects?
  + Eager for early traction, so NEPA cleared are priority
  + But more nuance to specifications that highlight other criteria and relevance for projects
* Goal of addressing local barriers

**COORDINATED FUNDING/PLANNING EFFORTS FOR CFLR** *(CFLR updates from Josh Hall & Ann Bradley)*

* Forest Service Action Plan & CFLR & RMRI = identifying similar areas of focus
* CFRP included in Farm Bill
  + Authorized for $80 million, not yet appropriated
  + In House version, approximately $32 million
  + CFRP launched in 2010, so round of projects coming to “completion”
    - $28 million needed to complete remaining projects
    - Current projects asking for extensions
  + **Tier II proposal due in January (goal of 15th)** 
    - Still no FACA committee, and FACA committee will make this decision
  + Depending on Senate & House, more funding likely to be authorized
* Main driver of CFLRP = reducing fire risk to communities/reduce “uncharacteristic” fire
  + Watershed seen as ancillary benefit
* Submitted Tier I proposal approximately 1 month ago, received go ahead on 09/09
* Focus = advancing Tier 2 proposal
* PROJECT
  + Over 3 million acres
  + Four forests
  + 750 k acres on Carson, .5 mill + on Santa Fe, 18kon San Juan, 35 k on Rio Grande
  + 100,000 acres for fire & fuels TB approved (NEPA)
  + and in process on aquatic/riparian NEPA (for SF & Carson)
    - for wetland/riparian/aquatic
  + Re: Fire & Fuels focus:
    - Approx. 20-30k over 10 year on SJ
    - On Santa Fe & Carson, 300k over 10 year (approx..20% of USFS lands)
      * On annual, approx. 10-13 k acres of Rx burn annually
        + Currently SF treats approx. 25k
    - 1,000k mechanical harvesting for timber
      * in range of Blanca Mill
      * and Wallatowa Timber (main contractor for SJ Jemez)
    - SJ running approx. 500 acres of timber to local mills
      * Approx. 600 acres annually on SJ – mechanical treatment
  + Max funding = $4 million/year w/ 50% match
    - Approx. 50-60% of USFS restoration projects budget goes to fund these projects
  + $$ only spent on USFS land
    - Huge role of collaboratives to inform how to put the $$ and the work on the ground
    - Where/how to prioritize work and link it up with Federal and Tribal land to compliment existing projects/efforts/values
    - Requirement in CFRP for multi-year monitoring
  + Partnerships
    - How to leverage partnerships throughout (vs. just at the launch)
  + Q: Game & Fish (Pitman Roberts)
    - What are the other potential funders?
    - For CFLR –
      * NMGF agrees it’s a priority landscape
      * Committed to longer term funding

**DISCUSSION**

* + Re: state line (as boundary for project proposal)
    - Why that? Ie., Cumbres and Toltec creates a fireshed along that border
  + Re: Capacity: from Ellen – what can we do within 2-3-2 to increase capacity
    - Josh: requirement of socioeconomic impacts
    - Increasing pipeline of education programs to workforce
      * i.e., Blanca Mill
      * Specifically thinking about a restoration economy
    - Potential analysis of what capacity is needed
      * TNC has done this for Rx fire
      * I.e., do we need thinners? Do we need riparian restoration?
    - From Kathy Cahill
      * Plug for Job core
      * Provides a lot of education to people who need the skills
      * What is the capability of programs that already exist?
      * Nearest is in CO
    - From Andrea
      * In Rx (fire use) a lot of questions about what resources are available?
      * One of biggest hold-ups in San Luis is lack of biomass
        + Standard producers can’t take more
* What is the role of the 2-3-2?
  + Not sure about boundary – potentially possible to still adjust (from Josh Hall)
    - 2-3-2 can facilitate additional feedback/input
    - Goal of relatively complete proposal by Thanksgiving
      * Getting things on calendar of people who can actively contribute to CFLR
      * **Major push over next 6-8 weeks**
      * **Supervisors will want big meeting = open from all collaboratives in November**
        + Have a decent draft by then
      * Then input developed back in with small group
      * OUTSTANDING: prioritization, capacity, monitoring
* What can 2-3-2 do to help the CFRP?
  + Timeline 2020-2021
  + John W: group offers access to associated elements of CFLR
  + Monitoring social dynamics of large, landscape scale work
    - Participation
    - Communication
    - Outreach
  + Field trips, tours, workshops, etc.
  + Social/political connections
    - Need a connection to the politics of CFLR
    - I.e. Community conversations
  + The group must feel empowered
    - Period of building social capital
    - Building respect and trust
    - It takes time
  + Right projects in right places
  + Priority setting discussion
    - What are opportunities to work within existing NEPA
    - What prioritization was already identified within the NEPA
    - Importance of transparency
    - Opportunity to monitor/report
      * Funding leveraged
      * Jobs/timber leveraged
      * Opportunity to include in proposals other opportunities for monitoring?

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION** *(presentation from Andrew Black regarding recent wildlife summit)*

* Initiative called: Connected Corridors
* Upper Rio Grande Wildlife Corridors Summit held mid-August in Taos
  + This region has of the most intact wildlife habitats within the US
* The Event:
  + Approx 170 members in attendance
  + Sponsoring Udall’s Federal Wildlife legislation
    - Deb Holland – 35th generation NM
  + Center for Western priorities podcast
  + Discussion about managing acequias for wildlife/connectivity
  + Big game wintering range discussion & questions
  + Wildlife corridors act
  + SW Tribal fisheries commission
* Also from Udall: Stand-alone bill
  + Wildlife connectivity autonomy for Tribes
* Emphasis not just on wildlife
  + But also on healing nature of wildlife and wild land

**3-YEAR ACTION PLAN (***presentation by Page Buono, Aaron Kimple & Adam Moore + discussion)*

* Framework can act as a prioritization tool
* Missing strategies
  + Mastication & thinning
* Re: monitoring
  + Ideas from RGWF
    - Multi-party monitoring
    - Reducing risk of wildfire impact
* What is forest health?
  + Review work
  + Appropriate work
  + Accomplishments
  + Complete work

**SHARED RESOURCES FOR RX FIRE** *(overview by Aaron Kimple in Sid Hall’s absence + discussion)*

* What is the best way to communicate about and share resources for Rx fire?
  + Need for this echoed by other partners in the group
  + Concern brought forward by Sid Hall/Fire Management Committee
* 2-3-2 can continue to access our list serve to promote both resources available and needs
* Idea of workshop next spring
  + Resource fair for people to share their resources
  + Promote TREX
  + Share needs
  + Add a component about woods products industry?
* *Can we integrate the resource sharing Josh Hall has with San Juan & Rio Grande?*
  + Collaborative compiled list of available resources
  + For private/state/federal/land management

**PROJECT UPDATES (***round-robin updates)*

* **San Juan Headwaters**
  + Created map to share with community where smoke is coming from
  + Project updates coming soon
* **Ellen Roberts**
  + Working on the idea of a Colorado Forest Carbon plan
  + CA only other state
  + Will incorporate carbon/forest health/watersheds
  + RMRI (more updates later)
    - Investment from Wild Turkey Federation into Region II
  + EIB feasibility study coming in the next 1-2 weeks
* **Daniel Denipah & Alejandro Garcia (Santa Clara Pueblo)** 
  + Burned 2,000 acres in 2019
  + Approximately 2,000 in 2019
  + Working under RGWF on main stem of the creek; working to bring back trout
  + Addressing invasive species
* **Erin Minks, Senator Bennett**
  + Farm Bill reauthorization
  + For those who are part of 2-3-2, we want to understand how programs are operating on the ground
  + Maintaining relationships with Forest Service partnerships
  + Bennett very interested in cross-state model
  + Interested to ensure RMRI is ground up
* **Andrea Jones, Rio Grande National Forest** 
  + Draft record of decision on Forest Plan Revision
  + Working on CFLRP & RMRI
  + Transition from timber salvage to landscape scale veg management
    - Focus moving forward
  + Huge increase in recreation
* **Josh Hall, Santa Fe National Forest** 
  + Published draft plan
  + Launched meeting/toolbox approach for riparian aquatic restoration
    - Will clear those projects to move forward projects across three forests to kickstart restoration
    - Goal of building capacity of **restoration economy**
  + Interagency wildlife response team (mapping products from EPA, CDC)
    - As potential resource for SJHFHP
* **Paul Orbuch, Consultant**
  + Arkansas signed Shared Stewardship
  + Nov. 14 NM – signing Shared Stewardship agreement
  + CO- reviewing an agreement, likely signing early 2020
* **Mary Stuever, NMSFS** 
  + San Juan Chama Watershed Partnership
    - RCPP funding through East Rio Arriba Soil & Conservation District
      * Launching riparian work
      * Almost done with forest job sheets, moving toward implementation
      * $1.5 million in forestry, riparian, ag
    - Recently received $25,000 from catalyst
      * Targeted landowner outreach, going beyond the “low-hanging fruit”
  + From Canjilon
    - Secure rural schools + Firewise to focus on Brazos Canyon fire district
    - Project in El Calde/Valarde Firewise work, in planning phase
    - Work on Animas River
      * A lot of work focused on Navajo Nation (on Russian Olive & salt cedar)
  + State Forestry
    - Last legislature, more $$ for public lands
    - New program, called FAWRA
      * Wetland restoration (including Santa Clara)
      * Archeological clearance for work on the Santa Fe
    - Forest Action Plan
      * Putting together expert panels to review 8 models under 6 threats, to compare and contrast, assessment
      * Including scenario planning
      * Shared stewardship: delayed signing b/c wanted ample opportunity for Tribal consultation
* **Bill Trimarco, WAP**
  + Secure rural schools act $$, was going to be returned, 2-3-2 Partnership pulled together the team to supply what they needed to secure that $$ and allocate their funds!
  + WAP – formerly known as FireWise of SW Colorado
    - Working on volunteer ambassador program
    - 135 volunteers
    - Chipper rebate and cost-share program
  + In last three years since 2-3-2 launched (between WAP & SJHFHP\_
    - 160 events
    - Personally contacted 300 individuals
    - Newspaper and radio
    - Funding from Ballantine Foundation ($1000)
    - CAFA grant
      * Aspen Springs subdivision
        + 8,000 homes
        + no water or sewer infrastructure
        + 1/3 has no electrical power
      * Low-income
      * Been doing defensible space work
        + Accomplished close to 40 acres
* **Ann Bradley, TNC**
  + working on statewide analysis
  + post-fire efforts
    - visitation of Pumpkin, Haymen, Las Conchas
      * how to coordinate fire management & reforestation
    - growing interest on focused opportunities for reforestation
    - NM became a signatory of climate alliance, reduce carbon inputs
      * Mitigation opportunities
      * Natural land carbon capture
    - Current exploration of seed source
      * NM state nursery in Mora
      * What can nursery culture do to prepare seedlings?
      * More open house on Saturday, 09/13
        + + tamales
* **Kathy Cahill, Carson National Forest**
  + Draft Carson, meeting in Taos at Sage Brush next week
  + Planning on program of work
    - Heavily focused on thinning & Rx burn
    - NM Game & Fish on doing the work
* **Matt Piccarello, Forest Stewards Guild** 
  + Rx fire work force
  + 18-25 year olds getting trained with fire fighters
  + Greater Santa Fe Fireshed
    - Continuing education and outreach into Rx fire season
  + All Hands, All Lands burn team
    - Bringing together partners and resources
  + Two CRFPs involve burning
    - On Tres Piedras
      * Rx burn on State trust and maybe BLM lands
  + Forest Stewards Guild has a new office in Loveland, CO
  + 10,000 acres burned
* **John Waconda, Region III**
  + Focus on efficiencies
    - Potential to revive categorical exclusions
      * For treatments that work
    - Tiber harvest quotas
      * Revitalize timber industry
      * Lack of industry/workforce/markets
    - Remote sensing for more scaling practices
      * Working with partners like TNC (Four Fry)
  + Grants & Agreements
    - IDIQ grants with service providers
    - Preferred vendor lists
    - Super partners
      * i.e., TNC to receive larger funds & dole them out
  + Work Force
    - Looking for more efficient hiring practices
    - Working with institutions on curriculum development
  + Integrated Restoration
    - Tier III proposals
    - Partnerships = focus of process
    - Support conservation finance
    - Partner with corporate entities
* **Adam Moore, CSFS**
  + RMRI meeting in Durango next week
  + CAFA in Conejos Canyon
    - Huge difference when you can walk in with 100% funding
  + La Jara Reservoir
    - RM Elk – State Land Enhancement – Wildlife Habitat
  + Wildfire Risk Reduction Program
    - Capacity portion (purchase equipment)
    - Defensible space/restoration projects
* **Tim Leishman, SJNF**
  + Upper Rio EA, early development of planning efforts
    - Spruce salvage
    - Restoring areas with non-functioning hydrology
  + First project in that landscape
    - 250-acre spruce salvage sale
      * lot of good intermediates
      * Moving to more pine
    - Small timber sale near Chromo
      * Ideal for smaller operators
      * For sale currently
    - Fuels management
      * Started ignition yesterday in WUI in Turkey Springs landscape, burnt on 300 acres
      * Planning to burn into Rio Blanco watershed
* **Charles Curtain, San Cristo Initiative**
  + San Cristo Initiative
  + Looking at Biomass utilization
    - Bringing together large science and conservation, national resource stewardship, and rural economic development
  + Santa Fe Community College for Biomass
  + Pilot project of bringing together multiple disciplines
    - And try something new
* **Bill Baker, Ecologist** 
  + Research to understand historical forests and fire over large land areas
  + Recently completed project on Uncompahgre CFRP
* **Anthony Culpepper, MSI**
  + **San Juan TREX**
    - In development for 18 months, planned to happen last fall but not feasible
    - First TREX solely w/in Region II
    - Funded by SJNF
    - Second day, some operations clipped back because of moisture
      * 30 participants
      * from Burn Boss, Incident Command, to new FF Type II
    - TREX modules between Dolores & Columbine & Chimney Rock/Pagosa Ranger District (Brauckover)
  + **MSI**
    - Full monitoring framework – “The Space Station”
    - Initiated monitoring with SJNF and within 416 Burn