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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