



**2-3-2
COHESIVE
STRATEGY
PARTNERSHIP**

NOTES

2-3-2 Partnership Meeting, Wednesday, May 20

Where: Zoom

When: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Action Items in RED

Action Item Overview:

Whole partnership

- Timeline and list of accomplishments to be circulated with notes for input and review
- Monthly check ins to be scheduled so partners can share updates and stay informed about changing conditions with COVID and Wildfire season
- Access NM State forest action plan and make comments:
<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/statewideassessment.html>
- Role of the 2-3-2 in carrying NM and CO forest action plans forward to be a focus of a fall 2-3-2 meeting
- Comment on the Northern New Mexico Riparian, Aquatic, and wetland Restoration Project by June 1: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56975>

Forester and contractor partners:

- RFPs for forestry work to include photographs and generally improve advertising
- Connect with contractors to get a better idea of what they are squaring up to with COVID
- Consideration of ways to advertise timber sales using 2-3-2 platforms (with Education and Outreach)

Fire and forest management partners and Fire Management Committee:

- Emily Hohman to share PDFs of published PODS reports
- Consideration of how to move PODS applications and work on to private lands and coordinate connectivity
- Use of PODs to bridge the conversation between fire managers and silviculturists about desired conditions
- Consideration of prescriptions used that inform larger scale Rx fire and the conditions they create on the landscape
- New Chairman needed for fire management committee

TRAM committee:

- Alignment of PODS maps for 4 forests
- Support consolidation of information as appropriate from May 1 planning and prioritization meeting
- Exploration of SWERI toolkit for monitoring designs established to answer specific monitoring questions

In Attendance: Aaron Kimple (MSI), Dana Hayward (MSI), Anthony Culpepper (MSI), Marcie Bidwell (MSI) Page Buono (Contractor), Adam Moore (CSFS Supervisory Forester, Alamosa), Melissa Simmons (CSFS), Damon Lange (CSFS), Tim Reader (CSFS), Mary Steuver (NMSFS), Matt Tuten (SJNF silviculturist, Pagosa Springs Ranger District), Michael Tooley (RGNF, silviculturist), Vincent DuPont (RGNF Conejos Peak District Ranger), Sid Hall (RGNF Fuels Specialist), Bernie Ross (CNF Supervisory Forester), Jeremy Marshall (CNF West Zone District Ranger), Karl Buermeyer (SFNF, Jemez Ranger District), Ian Fox (USFS Region 3, Forest Restoration and Forest Products), John Waconda (USFS Region 3 Restoration Partnership Coordinator), Emily Hohman (TNC Fire Learning Network), Eytan Krasilovsky (FSG Deputy Director), Esme Cadiente (FSG), Ashley Downing (WAP Executive Director), Bill Trimarco (WAP), Mike Smith (Renew West), Randy Johnson (COwood Business consultant), Alan Barton (NMFWRRI), Paul Orbuch (Consultant), Joe Lavorini (NFF), Caleb Stotts (CPLA), Garrett Hanks (TU), Daniel Roper (TU),

AGENDA

9:30 am – 9:50 am: Welcome, introductions, agenda

- Quick introductions
- All member meeting vs. May 1 planning and coordination meeting
 - May 1 = projects and project work, to inform whole group discussion
 - Implementors and land managers from the 2-3-2 and Rio Chama CFLRP
 - Identification of shared visions for work on the landscape and opportunities to work collaboratively across boundaries
 - Familiarization with work happening across the landscape
 - Mobilization for potential future funding
 - Lots of alignment already exists in the social, economic, and ecological spheres across the landscape
 - May 20 whole membership meeting
- Lumberton Fire (Mary Steuver)
 - It just keeps on giving
 - Fire culture is changing with COVID
 - No big fire camp, working in modules
 - Consideration of how to react if a firefighter presents symptoms
 - Planning and preparation is key
 - Isolation until testing complete on the module and with drivers
 - HIPPA and reliance on employees to communicate challenges
- Timeline/Orientation
 - Natural drivers: Little Sand (2012) and West Fork (2013) fires
 - Identification of community resources, areas of interest, bringing people together
 - Water that starts in CO is extremely influential and important to communities in NM
 - Working with collaboratives downstream from the headwaters
 - 2016 Partnership launch (TNC, NMSFS, CSFS, CPLA, USFS and others)
 - Now considering opportunities to expand
 - Jim Hubbard and Vicki Christiansen tour the 2-3-2 landscape with partners
 - 2018 cross boundary tour
 - 2019 TREN
 - 2020 CFLRP proposal
 - Moving toward to the future
 - Considerations of how to plan and work on the landscape together
 - May 1, 2020 coordinated planning meeting

- Building a vision for a full landscape approach in this region
 - Future implementation and monitoring, engagement in a collaborative adaptative management process
- Successes and accomplishments
 - Connections for Rx fire in the joint landscape (All Hands All Lands, TREX)
 - More than 10,000 ac treated to date
 - First TREX in region 2
 - Pre-planning, fire mitigation, and natural resource management
 - Leveraged funds to support CAFA grants for low income fire mitigation
 - Secured 1.5 million for FireWise Program in Rio Arriba County
 - Leveraged funds to secure \$3.25 million in RCPP funding
 - Maps and Planning
 - Initiation of mapping collaborative projects and efforts
 - Smoke map
 - Education and Outreach
 - Website and resources
 - Monthly newsletter to elevate local efforts
 - Tours and learning resources to promote benefits of Rx fire
 - Working together: this is a unique initiative across the country!
 - 2 states, 4 forests
 - Structure and protocols, 3-year action plan to guide partnership
 - Informed direction and geography of Rio Chama CFLRP
 - NM and CO incorporated 2-3-2 perspectives and work into Forest Action Plans
 - Establishment of critical relationships to advance cross boundary work and resource sharing
 - Regular meeting of partners to coordinate work effectively and efficiently at landscape scale
- Timeline and list of accomplishments to be circulated with notes for input and review

9:50 am – 10:15 am: COVID-19 Updates & discussion

- Challenges, opportunities to support one another
- Connectivity across the region is important, as is building capacity to build up local efforts
- CSFS (Adam M. and Damon L.)
 - Offices closed, foresters driving vehicles independently, not currently sending personnel out of state
 - Work is continuing
 - Meeting with landowners, practicing social distancing and wearing masks as appropriate
 - Sharing information about trends will be important
 - RFPs for forestry work with pictures: is this an area we could improve? (usually only include maps and stats) (Adam M.)
 - Giving people a better idea of what they are bidding on if they aren't looking at the site
 - Could be helpful, depending on the type of contract (huge timber sale, maybe not as much?) (Matt T.)
 - This could be really beneficial with smaller projects and service contracts
 - The ways contracts are advertised and marketed could improve

- A website is as good as it gets at this point
 - Treating purchasers and contractors as customers to get better outcomes.
 - Making these changes comes with challenges
 - Moving towards “virtual show me” trips for contractors where maps and photos of projects are included (Melissa S.)
 - Video clips, drone video in the future
 - Cost effective technology could make a big difference in the quality of bids from contractors
 - Yes to treating contractors as customers!
- WAP (Bill T.)
 - Offices closed to the public
 - In full swing to get private lands work going, site assessments still happening with social distancing and masks as needed
- TNC Fire Learning Network (Emily H.)
 - Spring TREX events and cooperative burning cancelled
 - Fall events still in planning phases, including contingency plans
 - Local resources and capacity as a focus
 - Thinking ahead into spring 2021
 - Releasing RFPs to regions supported by the FLN and considering ways events can be moved to virtual platforms
 - Preserving individual institutional capacity for the future
 - Focusing on the people critical to work
- FSG (Esme C., Ayton K.)
 - Moving education and outreach concerning wildfire and wildfire mitigation to online platforms
 - No cooperative burning this spring, but All Hands All Lands burn teams still scheduled to work in the fall
 - Youth Crew fuels team still scheduled for fall
 - Currently hiring
 - If burning can’t happen, other work to be done
 - FS Youth Corps cleared by NM Governor to do work, will be different than in the past
 - Small modules
- NMFWR (Alan B.)
 - Most collaborative groups have moved online and are continuing work
 - SW Collaborative support network is growing
 - NM Highlands considering how to phase in opening of campus
 - Contact tracking is a big hurdle and challenge
 - Figuring out summer field season and hiring
 - GIS out in the field, playing with new drone resources
- USFS (Matt T. Ian F.)
 - Timber: economy is taking a strange hit and it’s unclear where we’re going next
 - Purchasers and contractors don’t know enough at this time to make changes to their plans
 - Housing market, unemployment, and unknown economic factors are going to impact timber
 - Building in options so able to respond to needs that come up

- Opportunities for NM operators to bid in CO
- Bids on contracts in CO
 - People are bidding the max on contracts because they can't get out on the ground
 - This happened with a regional contract(s)
 - Could be beneficial to keep contracts more local so people can get out and look at the projects
 - Mastication bids of Rio Grande are coming in over budget (Mike T. RGNF)
 - Most recent thinning contract 30% higher than estimate (Sid H. RGNF)
 - Could we be seeing increased rates due to high risk insurance rates and/or potential COVID losses?
 - Could we elevate this up to the insurance industry?
 - Hard to say why these went up, but this could be part of the dynamic (Ian F.)
 - Reach out to contractors and get a better idea of what people are squaring up to
 - New timber sale (North Fork up on Sand Bench north of Pagosa)
 - Engelmann spruce and fir
 - Potential Blanca mill interest
 - Pay attention to
 - Link to ad and info out to group for this sale
 - Consider ways to advertise timber sales using 2-3-2 platforms
- This is proactive! Way to have a forum for communication (Ian F.)
 - Lots of moving parts, and we don't know what we don't know
 - Want to accelerate the pace and scale of restoration and support the economy
 - How are we going to get there?
 - Much of work is reactive, but this forum allows for thinking and strategizing
 - Deliberate and intentional effort will get us where we want to be
 - Patience and intentionality are needed
- Coordination of projects (John W.)
 - Status, NEPA, sales ready to be contracted, matching fuelwood and timber to communities, locating available work, identifying work shortages, knowing what challenges we face in this landscape
 - All Lands effort in NM and Region 3 (Ian F.)
 - Identifying and communicating these things will become more and more important
 - Started as part of response to MSO injunction, but now these conversations and planning are being directed toward COVID response as well
 - Contracting changes and challenges
 - Larger transportation costs, testing costs, new things to consider in contracting and project planning will create new challenges
 - Restoration need will always be there
 - Hope to consider proposals comprehensive in scope: restoration, wood supply, biomass, wood energy, economy
 - Critical to gather information and communicate

- RGNF
 - Preparing for potential stimulus funding and considering projects that could be ready
 - Stage 2 fire restrictions in RGNF
 - keeping eye on the ball for Rx burning later in the year
- Trout Unlimited (Garrett H.)
 - Funding is uncertain from the non-profit side
 - Some will continue, some won't
 - Work to re-route and consider budgets
 - Get creative to modify grant contracts and seek out new partners
 - Important to get out ahead of planned projects on public lands
 - How can we best support these projects, given changing budgets?
- Is there value to get folks on this call to keep up an exchange/sharing? (Paul O.)
 - How often do we need to touch base to best stay ahead of changing conditions?
 - Fire season and COVID
 - There are lots of starts that can lead to big fires this time of year
 - Stick with quarterly meetings for bigger picture stuff
 - **Host something in June and see how it goes (73% yes, 27% no), shorter check in.**
 - **A good use for the newsletter also**

10:15 am – 10:30 am: State Forest Action Plan updates & discussion

- NM State Forest Plan: out for review
 - **Look at forest action plan and make comments**
 - FSG has been part of the conversation
 - Actionable strategies outlined at the bottom of the plan
 - Opportunities for collaboratives and partners to look at where they can help
 - Start here if you are limited on review time
 - **July 15 goal for release**
- CO State Forest Plan
 - Extra time to work due to COVID, **release pushed to end of August**
 - Specialists doing layout starting week of May 18
 - 90-100 pages with maps
 - Website format for access
 - Series of meetings around the state looking for trends, done as stakeholder meetings vs. open public comment
 - This process done last fall
 - Internal review
 - Other partners looked over
 - RMRI, Forest Health Advisory Counsel, etc.
 - Will not go out to the general public for review
- Both CO and NM are recognizing the connection between headwaters in CO and communities downstream and are coordinating in their action plans to prioritize these shared resources and landscapes
 - Yay 2-3-2!
 - Working across boundaries
- What is the roll of the 2-3-2 in carrying forest action plans forward?
 - Build relationships with states so the 2-3-2 and its partners can support states as they move forward with planning and employing actionable strategies

- This group can position to provide the “how” to get things done
- Group cohesion and working together towards common goals will be important
- Implementation support
- Focus of a 2-3-2 meeting in the fall, once they are out
 - Consider how CO and NM forest plans align with May 1 2-3-2 planning meeting objectives and outcomes
 - How can we support the action items in forest action plans?

10:30 am – 10:40 am: Shared Stewardship, RMRI, PODS, Stimulus

- CLFRP Proposal
 - June 22 FACA meeting, news to come in July
- Shared Stewardship
 - CO and NM have signed MOUs
 - Still figuring out how this plays out on the ground
 - Collaborative groups can be implementors
- RMRI
 - USFS and Wild Turkey Federation
 - SJNF West selected for a RMRI
 - Lots of work and initiatives more forward
 - Local process for evaluating, prioritizing, and moving work forward within the RMRI framework
 - Regional effort for how partners will coordinate
 - RMRI to be an opportunity carried nationally, working on a more regional structure for how these will work and interact with one another
 - Opportunity to be a tool for implementation of shared stewardship
 - \$ still to be fully figured out, some \$ from USFS, private contributions still TBD
 - Opportunity to demonstrate how states and USFS can work together and move work on the ground with the support of local communities
 - PODS to be a component of planning for RMRI projects
 - RMRI and Shared Stewardship connectivity
- PODS
 - Different states of development in 2-3-2 landscape
 - Carson and Santa Fe NF
 - PODS structured and presented to community
 - San Juan and Rio Grande NF
 - PODS still in process
 - Discussions about incorporating desired conditions from forest plan into PODS on SJNF
 - Forest plan desired conditions (silviculture, fire, fuels), filling a gap in the agency
 - How do we get more unplanned ignitions to become managed ignitions?
 - The more you know about what you’re trying to accomplish with fire in a POD, the more likely you’ll get a “yes” for managing it
 - What types of Rx are being used for large scare Rx fire?
 - Can be minimal, or detailed
 - No observed standard across the agency

- This is an area where we can work together and consider options for informed fire management on larger scales
 - A job for the fire management committee?
 - What does fire look like on the landscape, what does that mean for our Rx, and what kinds of changes are we getting from those events?
 - Integration of desired conditions into operational frameworks
 - Continue this conversation (PODS, fire, and desired conditions)
 - Silviculturists and fire managers don't always see eye to eye
 - Bring these together
 - Use of PODS to bridge this conversation
 - Examples of putting PODS to work in other areas
 - Cuba District
 - East Zone of SFNF, PODS are helpful, less useful in West Zone
 - Emily H. suggests referencing published reports on PODS implementation
 - Mike C. and Courtney S.
 - PDFs to be shared
 - Working to move PODS onto private lands also, how to we coordinate that connectivity?
 - CPLA
 - Developing fire mgmt. plans for private lands, Mike C. hopefully to move forward with research
 - NM/CO area is ahead of the curve in considering impacts on private lands and working across public/private boundaries
 - This work is being elevated to other regions as well
 - Consideration of CWPPs and incorporation with PODS
 - PODS as a framework
 - important to ground truth and fill in with locally relevant information
 - PODS development has offered great communication and dialogue
 - CSFS approached by Region 2 to provide examples of current accomplishments under Shared Stewardship
- Stimulus
 - 2-3-2 well positioned to put stimulus dollars to work

10:40 am – 11:00 am: Committee Updates & discussion

- Committee leads to meet quarterly
 - Goal is to consider where to support one another and think about what conversations to elevate to the full partnership
 - Preparation for full meetings
- Executive (Aaron Kimple)
 - Considering what the geography and structure of the 2-3-2 looks like in the future
 - Expanding geography to include SFNF
 - Defining geography will likely be functionally and spatially dependent on news about the CFLRP
 - July
 - Considerations of expanding executive committee members in the event of expanded geography
 - Seeking funding to support group coordination and efforts beyond July 2021

- CFLRP to impact strategy
 - Moving forward and seeking funding regardless
 - Want to support other committees
- Outreach & Education (Page Buono)
 - Welcome Packet
 - To ease transitions and turn over challenges with agencies and partners
 - Currently in draft form, to be circulated for input prior to final drafting
 - Press Releases and PSAs
 - Topics, stories and messaging being discussed within E&O committee
 - Smoke map resource
 - Mitigation work is continuing
 - Use of various news channels
 - Newsletter
 - Consider how to **incorporate advertisements for contracts** (Matt T.)
 - Best ways to get info out about available opportunities
 - Links to contract packages/advertisements
 - Start small, with just one example
 - **Carry this convo forward – solicitation and maintenance of this info (longer term strategy)**
 - Web Presence
 - FB page
 - Website updates (smoke map and COVID page)
- Biomass & Markets (Bill Trimarco/Tim Reader)
 - USDA Wood Innovations Proposal Success
 - CSFS and NM Highlands University under umbrella of SWERIs, NAU is the lead
 - Aiming to expand biomass business and markets in CO, NM, and AZ
 - Just beginning, getting agreement signed with USFS
 - Mail surveys of CO forest product manufacturers
 - CSFS, U. of MT and Interior West FIA
 - Surveys used to create a web database and informational map
 - Accuracy of industry capacity is important
 - RMRI Biomass and Workforce Subcommittees
 - Biomass subcommittee of RMRI
 - Renew West and carbon sequestration
 - Compiling sources of job recruitment and training and surveying CO fuels mitigation contractors
 - Support for displaced coal workers
 - New CSFS web resource
 - To support industry participation in and profiting from collaborative forest process
 - Seeking new and active committee members
- Fire Management, Capacity & Efficiency (Sid Hall)
 - Collaborative fire management charter
 - Awaiting grants and agreements feedback
 - Likely to be an MOU
 - Exploration of All Hands All Lands agreements and coordination
 - Working with TNC and FSG to get better procedural understanding

- 2 aspects: agreements with TNC and USFS for work, and figuring out how to pay for work
 - TREX training opportunity in 2020 or 2021
 - Timing and sponsorship unclear, but planning
 - Agreement for TREX opportunities on tribal land in process
 - Rio Grande and San Juan opportunities
 - **Aligning PODS maps for 4 forests**
 - **TRAM committee to support this initiative**
 - Larger convo in 2-3-2 about how and why partners use PODS
 - Planning tool
 - **New chairman needed for committee**
- Wildlife & Water (Garrett Hanks)
 - Seeking new committee members
 - Determining wildlife priorities in the 2-3-2 landscape
 - Consideration of critical partners
 - Tx impacts on wildlife and habitat corridors
 - Upcoming initiatives:
 - Rio Grande Basin Study in NM (Bureau or Reclamation)
 - Evaluate future climate change scenarios in the basin and plan for water shortages and identify opportunities for filling those shortages
 - Not just about consumptive use
 - Watershed and river restoration, landscape scale water storage
 - Northern New Mexico Riparian, Aquatic and Wetland Restoration NEPA
 - Carson and Santa Fe NF (along with Cibola and Kiowa National Grasslands)
 - **Comments due June 1, participate!**
 - Should play nicely with CFLRP proposal and open doors for work in the years to come
 - Biologist positions remain unfilled on forests in the 2-3-2 region
 - To pursue future projects, it would be great to get those filled
 - Figure out how to share resources while these are vacant
 - CO forest products companies could help with erosion control (from Melissa Simmons, a resource)
 - Aspen excelsior
 - Mountain Pine Manufacturing – pine woodstraw product
- TRAM (Anthony Culpepper)
 - Seeking new and active members
 - CFRP Proposal
 - Didn't proceed with proposal idea (refining PODS based on community values)
 - Still important conversations to carry forward
 - PODS on private lands, applications on fed lands
 - Data management and storage
 - Bringing individual efforts back together
 - Prioritization Map
 - Want to support **consolidation of information as appropriate from May 1 planning and prioritization meeting**
 - Waiting on CFLRP

- Could need to mobilize quickly given monitoring components
- **Monitoring design – SWERI toolkit with designs established to answer specific monitoring questions**
 - **Follow up with SWERIS on this**
 - Don't want to reinvent the wheel, and it's a good opportunity for setting us up to better share about processes and outcomes of monitoring
 - Social, economic and ecological values to be monitored
 - 3rd party monitoring opportunities (FSG, MSI, CWFRI, CPLA etc.) what are we all doing and how can we do it better. Dialing these processes in and all being on the same page will be important
 - Peer sharing about monitoring should happen regardless of the CFLRP
 - Key partners to bring into the committee
 - Agencies also all have extensive monitoring efforts

11:00 am – 11:35 am: Outcomes from Rio Chama/2-3-2 Coordinated Planning Meeting

- Outcomes from this meeting to be circulated
 - Notes, Map

11:35 am – 11:50 am: Round-robin partner updates

- Did not have time in this meeting

11:50 am – 12:00 pm: Wrap-up and next steps

- Committee next steps
 - Connecting TRAM and Fire
 - Monitoring with key monitoring partners
- Monthly COVID updates
 - Pick a standing time
- PODS meeting
- July 15, Sept 16 meetings
 - plan on them being virtual
- Way to work and address the landscape together