

PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

Beginning in the spring of 2020, the 2-3-2 Cohesive Strategy Partnership (2-3-2) undertook a coordinated planning process that integrates and builds upon existing planning processes from local, place-based collaboratives, USFS planning, and statewide Forest Act Plans for both Colorado and New Mexico. In order to develop a shared language for planning, and to bridge the various scales of planning, we developed the stepwise process outlined below. Planning processes are designed to build out project catalogues and review projects on both the short (1-3 year) and long (10+) year timeframe.



PRIORITY LANDSCAPES: Priority landscapes are the largest scale of planning. For the 2-3-2, the Rio Chama CFLRP is identified as a priority landscape.

SUBREGIONS: Loose boundaries that help divide the massive (nearly 5 million acre) geography into bite-size chunks for planning. Subregions may dissolve or may continue to be used to organize conversations into the future. The boundaries of subregions are flexible, and focal areas will often cross them. The goal of subregions is to help partners with limited time and capacity focus their energy and attention on portions of the priority landscape that they are most interested and invested in. Subregion leads stay coordinated to address and integrate focal areas that overlap subregion boundaries.

FOCAL AREAS: Roughly 100-200k acres (smaller when appropriate), focal areas are a way of further honing-in on *where* on the landscape we should work. Development of focal areas should be informed by a combination of vulnerability assessments (like NM or CO FAP), existing planning or prioritization efforts (like USFS 5-year plans, existing NEPA, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Source Water Protection Plans, etc.), local knowledge, community and stakeholder values, and existing funding. Focal areas can help leverage additional funds.

PROJECTS AREAS: Within each focal area, project areas are the roughly 1-2 HUC 12 watersheds, or 30-40k acres where work needs to happen and compliance (permits, surveys, clearances, land management plans, burn plans) needs to be in place.

TREATMENTS AND ACTIVITIES: Treatments and activities are the finest scale, very specific, acre-by-acre or mile-by-stream-mile implementation plans associated with each project area.

STEPWISE PROCESS (in brief):

- 1) Priority areas identified by large-scale planning efforts (like state FAPs)
- 2) Within the priority area, develop rough subregions based on existing collaborative boundaries, land management boundaries, shared resources, etc. and identify 1-2 sub-region leads.
- 3) Within each subregion, work with partners to identify focal areas through existing efforts (like PODS) where they already exist or develop them where they don't. There is not an exact science for this, but focal areas should be large enough to encompass multiple projects and leverage multiple funding sources; should reflect a combination of vulnerable community and ecosystem values and have a high opportunity for impact (partners and capacity in place, existing NEPA, existing funding). Focal areas should be captured geospatially with shapefiles. Complete the "planning template spreadsheet" row associated with each focal area to capture important metadata.
- 4) Within each focal area, begin to identify planning projects on both a short (1-3), medium (3-5) and long (5-10) year planning timeframe. Capture the metadata for projects in the spreadsheet, under the associated focal area (each focal area should have a tab, and projects and their corresponding treatments and activities should be nested within that).
- 5) Annually, the 2-3-2 Partners revisit spreadsheet and spatial data annually to assess work completed, identify and address gaps in planning, and advance planning on the various time scales. Subregion meetings to review and revisit focal areas and project lists occur as needed throughout the year to ensure up-to-date and accurate focal area and project information.

PLANNING PROCESS DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE:

- **2020:** Partners engage in State Forest Action Planning efforts, work with USFS partners on presentations of upcoming projects and planning processes.
- **Winter 2020:** Presentation from CO and NM State Forest Action Plan processes, and findings for the 2-3-2 geography
- **January 2021:** Place-based collaboratives (SJHFHP, SJCWP) present to full 2-3-2 on existing planning efforts (prioritization and focal area concepts)
- **Spring 2021:** NM identifies 2-3-2 landscape as a top-10 priority landscape

- **Spring 2021:** 2-3-2 hosts meeting to review focal area concept, and begin dividing into subregions for further development (with working sessions assigned for summer)
- **Summer 2021:** Subregion leads host multiple meetings to review focal area concept, identify and draft focal areas.
- **Fall 2021:** Subregions present proposed focal areas to full 2-3-2 meeting for any additional feedback; subregion leads continue aggregating and compiling projects
- **Winter 2021:** 2-3-2 members and executive committee review project catalogues for full geography, begin to identify planning and funding gaps, and develop a “workplan” for 2022/2023 (we ultimately want to be further ahead of this).

ANNUAL PLANNING TIMELINE, moving forward:

Fall (October/November): Partnership meets to review past year successes, and identify out-year (short-term) project priorities and needs

Winter (January): Learning (emphasis on integrating new science, case studies, adaptive management)

Spring (May): All Hands meeting about longer-term vision (what do we want to be doing in 3-5 years, how do we get there); outcomes integrated into project catalogue

Summer (August): Review and planning (in preparation for fall meeting)