

# 2-3-2 COHESIVE STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP

## 31 Mile Road Tour: May 4th, 2022

### Partners Represented

Santa Clara Pueblo, United States Forest Service (San Juan, Santa Fe, Rio Grande and Carson National Forests), Mountain Studies Institute, Forest Stewards Guild, Ohkay Owingeh, Southwest Conservation Corps, Chama Peak Land Alliance, Trout Unlimited, NMFWR, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, Forest Fitness, Bureau of Reclamation, Wildfire Adapted Partnership, The Nature Conservancy New Mexico.

### Context

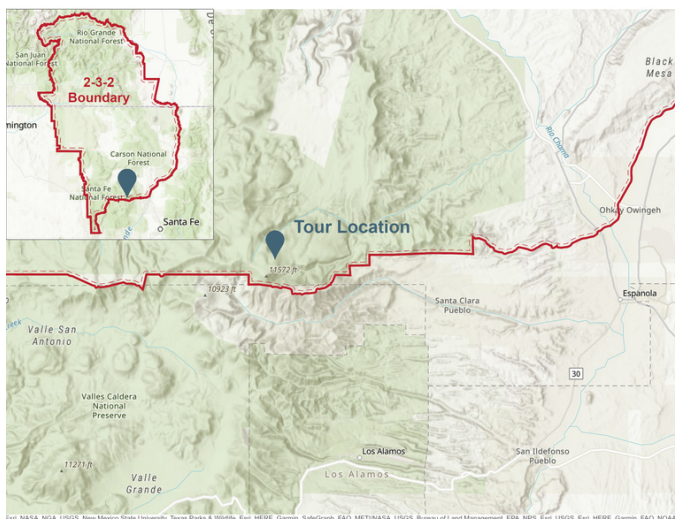
The Cerro Pelado Fire began on April 22nd, approximately seven miles east of Jemez Springs, New Mexico. Simultaneously, the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire burned 50 miles to the east, eventually becoming New Mexico's largest recorded wildfire.

On April 18th, just a week before this tour, the Biden-Harris Administration and the Forest Service announced the funding of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), including \$3 million/year for the Rio Chama CFLRP through 2032. This set an exciting tone for the tour as partners discussed how areas like 31 Mile Road will be perfect for implementing collaborative forest management projects.

The 31 Mile Road/Forest Service Road 144 is located approximately 15 miles north of the Cerro Pelado Fire, and just north of Santa Clara Canyon. This area

is a culturally and ecologically significant resource that attracts the interest of many stakeholders, including:

- Forest Service
- Santa Clara Pueblo
- Ohkay Owingeh
- Livestock grazers
- Private landowners



Map of the 232 landscape and Rio Chama CFLRP

### VALUES

- GRAZING
- RECREATION
- RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEM
- HISTORY AND CULTURE
- LOCAL JOBS
- BIOMASS UTILIZATION
- WATER RESOURCES
- LANDSCAPE HETEROGENEITY
- RESTORING FIRE REGIMES
- FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES
- INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION
- PRIORITIZATION
- MAINTAIN AREAS OF REFUGIA
- INVEST IN THE FUTURE

### OPPORTUNITIES

- TRUST
- COMMUNICATION
- INVEST IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- ESTABLISH LOCAL WORKFORCES
- USE HISTORICAL TECHNOLOGY
- INVEST IN NEW TECHNOLOGY



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### Tour Site I: Santa Clara Overview

This site overlooks Santa Clara Canyon in the Jemez Mountains. Fire scars are visible from the Las Conchas Fire in 2011, the Cerro Grande Fire in 2000 and the Oso Complex Fire in 1998. Together, these three fires burned 80% of the forested land on the Santa Clara reservation. Smoke from the Cerro Pelado Fire is visible in the background. Also visible from the overview is the work Santa Clara Forestry has done to mitigate further damage to their forested lands and watershed, including mechanical thinning and prescribed fire treatments.



*Above: Overlooking Santa Clara Canyon from 31 Mile Road with smoke from the Cerro Pelado Fire visible.*

*Right: Partners gather next to Rio del Oso to discuss the importance of the Oso drainage.*



### Tour Site II: Rio del Oso

The Oso drainage flows through burned areas in the Santa Clara Pueblo Reservation, through private land designated by Spanish Land Grants, across Forest Service Lands and eventually to Ohkay Owingeh, where it provides vital water supply. The Oso Drainage experienced flooding after wildfires within the last 20 years, but is making a welcome recovery. Vegetation is stabilizing the stream bank and encouraging the presence of aquatic life. The drainage also supports an impressive stand of Ponderosa Pine, which show evidence of cultural markings and past fires.

Like many other streams and rivers across the 2-3-2 landscape, Rio del Oso demonstrates the connectiveness of our communities and interests. 2-3-2 Partners participated in a values and goals exercise, where they discussed how to balance the many values in a place like this and how to prioritize goals/outcomes, especially when beginning to implement CFLRP projects across New Mexico and Colorado. The results of this exercise are listed in the panels to the right.

Interested in participating in the next 2-3-2 tour or full partnership meeting? Email Julia Ledford from Mountain Studies Institute to find out more: [julia@mountainstudies.org](mailto:julia@mountainstudies.org)

### TOOLS

- MODELING
- GIS
- VALUES AT RISK
- INVEST IN YOUTH

### GOALS/OUTCOMES

- CLIMATE RESILIENCE
- RESILIENCE TO FIRE
- INCREASE WATER ABSORPTION
- SNOW RETENTION
- MULTI-BENEFIT OUTCOMES
- FOOD PRODUCTION
- HEALTHY WATERSHED
- RIPARIAN NEPA
- AVOID FOREST CONVERSION
- ECONOMIC RESILIENCE
- DURABLE INVESTMENT
- PLAN FOR CHANGE

### NEXT STEPS

INCORPORATE WHAT WE LEARNED AND DISCUSSED INTO THE MAPPING, PLANNING AND PRIORITIZATION PROCESS FOR THE RIO CHAMA CFLRP.