



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

## Full Partnership Meeting

**Where:** Red Bear Haus, Horca, Colorado

**When:** Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Time:** 10:00am – 1:45pm (morning meeting), 1:45pm – 5:00pm (field tour)

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**Commented [JL1]:** Dana, can you review this section? I wasn't listening because of my computer glitch

**In attendance:**

1. Eytan Krasilovsky, Forest Stewards Guild
2. Gabe Kohler, Forest Stewards Guild
3. Cody Dems, Forest Stewards Guild
4. Esmé Cadiente, Forest Stewards Guild
5. Dana Guinn, Mountain Studies Institute
6. Julia Ledford, Mountain Studies Institute
7. Laura Hanna, Mountain Studies Institute
8. Alex Handloff, Mountain Studies Institute
9. Jake Kurzweil, Mountain Studies Institute
10. Anthony Culpepper, Mountain Studies Institute
11. Josh Peck, San Juan National Forest
12. Adam Tlachac, San Juan National Forest
13. Andrea Jones, Rio Grande National Forest
14. Michael Tooley, Rio Grande National Forest
15. Vince DuPont, Rio Grande National Forest
16. Jose Romero, Rio Grande National Forest
17. Jeremy Marshall, Santa Fe National Forest
18. Sandee Dingman, Santa Fe National Forest
19. Karl Buermeyer, Santa Fe National Forest
20. Eduardo Cortez, Santa Fe National Forest
21. Bernie Ross, Carson National Forest
22. Theresa Nallick, USFS
23. Matt Tuten, USFS Region 2
24. Brandy Richardson, Public Affairs specialist for the Rio Chama
25. Shauna Miller, Markit Forestry Management
26. Mark Brehl, Markit Forestry Management

27. Bryan Zebrowski, Markit Forestry Management
28. Garrett Hanks, Trout Unlimited
29. Claire Catlett, Trout Unlimited
30. Aaron Kimple, Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes
31. Tyler Beeton, Colorado Forest Restoration Institute
32. Kathy McKim, Pheasants Forever
33. Alan Hook, City of Santa Fe Water Division
34. Emma Metcalf, Bureau of Reclamation
35. John Ussery, Northern New Mexico College El Rito
36. Matt Piccarello, The Nature Conservancy
37. Jeremy Hanlon, Forest Fitness
38. Nick Nunley, Forrester and Associates
39. Lily Calfee, Colorado State University
40. Erin Minks, Senator Michael Bennet
41. Bill Trimarco, Wildfire Adapted Partnership

## MEETING NOTES

### **Welcome and introductions**

- Meeting objectives
  - Introduce partners to new collaborative survey including assembly, purpose, and timelines and allow time for survey completion
  - Recruit partners for involvement in TRAM activities
  - Introduce partners to the Trail Gulch Project area on the Rio Grande National Forest
  - Provide an opportunity for 2-3-2 membership to discuss the Trail Gulch project area before implementation
  - Relate project discussions to draft desired conditions
  - Consider cross-boundary opportunities that exist in the Trail Gulch project area
  - Discuss project development across resource areas within the USFS and in collaboration with partners
  - Test drive draft 2-3-2 landscape desired conditions
- 2-3-2 engagement and consensus
  - Collaboration
    - We will use consensus-based decision making to ensure that any decision the group comes to is actively supported, or at least a decision everyone can live with.
    - Show respect for the personal integrity and values of all participants, in and outside of meeting.
    - Be hard on issues, but not on people; offer critique of ideas, not humans.
    - We can't address issues if we aren't aware of them. The 2-3-2 Partnership will provide multiple avenues (communication channels) for issues to be raised.
    - Regard disagreements as problems to be solved, rather than as battles to be won.
    - Stay solution-oriented: follow statements of disagreement with suggested alternatives.
    - Commit to search for opportunities and alternatives: the creativity of the group will often lead to the best solution.

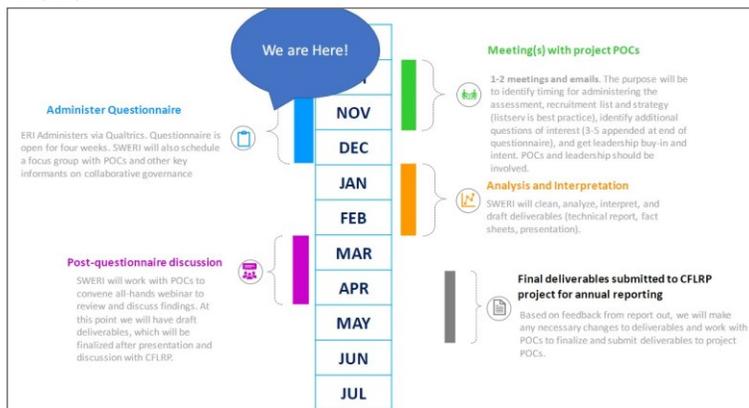
- Listen with an open mind.
- Reflect: consider how our ideas may impact others.
- When considering blocking decisions, to discern if the resulting actions would be something that can be lived with despite some aspects being disagreeable and to also only block when very foundational principles for the Collaborative's work would be compromised.
- When it comes to meetings, we will
  - Abide by the Basic Rules of Collaboration.
  - Come to meetings prepared and on time.
  - Refrain from conversations during the meeting.
  - Voice your concerns during meetings and take the time to resolve those concerns.
  - Monitor your participation and limit or expand your contributions as appropriate; no lectures.
  - Seek consensus by seeking solutions that meet the needs of all participants, and recognize it may not always be possible.
  - Respect the role of the facilitator or coordinator and their commitment to a fair, effective process, which will include: encouraging compliance with ground rules, serving as a confidential channel of communication for members and observers, and remaining neutral with respect to the outcome of the deliberations.
- Together we are:
  - Developing a strategy for identifying values and prioritizing projects across ownerships.
  - Establishing processes for co-management of public lands bridging 4 Forests in 2 Regions across 2 States.
  - Engaging communities in project identification and treatment strategy development.
  - Advancing monitoring programs across values and ownerships.
  - Advancing treatment programs in key watersheds and around communities.
  - Drawing national attention to collaborative, landscape-scale partnerships.
  - Navigating the opportunities and challenges of securing the Rio Chama CFLRP at \$3 million/year for 10 years.
- Without you there is no 2-3-2!

#### **Collaborative survey**

- Context and overview:
  - CFLRP Collaborative Governance Assessment: 2-3-2 Partnership and Rio Chama CFLRP
    - Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes (SWERIs)
      - Established by Congress in 2004
      - CFRI is based at Colorado State University and ERI at Northern Arizona University
      - Generate and apply locally relevant actionable knowledge to inform forest management strategies
      - Work collaboratively and act as a bridge between researchers, managers and stakeholders
      - Selected program focus areas:
        - Wildfire risk assessment and decision support

- Post-fire restoration
  - Socioeconomic and ecological monitoring
  - Collaborative governance, readiness and resilience
- Objectives for today
  - CFLRP Common Monitoring Strategy
  - Collaborative governance assessment
    - Purpose
    - Approach – Standardized assessment
    - Questions addressed
    - What is in it for 2-3-2 Partnership – Products and deliverables
    - Timelines
  - Fill out survey
- Background and context of the CFLRP common monitoring strategy
  - 2021 – USFS led a collaborative process to develop national common monitoring strategy
  - Core set of social, ecological, and economic indicators
  - Required of all newly authorized and extension projects
  - Meant to:
    - Supplement but not replace local multi-party monitoring
    - Provide standardization across projects
- National Monitoring Strategy – Collaboration Purpose
  - Question: How well is CFLRP encouraging an effective and meaningful collaborative approach?
  - Indicator: Indicator questions include collaborative health, function, and resilience as well as perceived outcomes of collaborative work
  - Capacity needed: Instrument has been developed nationally. Results will be provided at project-level. Regional support for providing the “so what?” of the instrument responses encouraged.
  - Reporting mechanism/tool: Instrument administered to CFLRP collaboratives to complete
  - Frequency of reporting: every 2-3 years
- CFLRP Collaboration Assessment – Approach
  - Survey – includes ~20 mostly close-ended questions that take ~20 minutes to answer
  - Qualtrics, online survey platform
  - Administered to all Partnership members
  - Will be open for a few weeks to maximize representation from diverse perspectives
  - Results inform:
    - Program-wide evaluation
    - Project-level progress and performance
- Framework for collaborative governance:
  - Collaboration dynamics – i.e., health, function, and resilience
    - Getting the right people involved, shared understanding
    - Trust, relationships, commitment
    - Leadership, resources, decision-making processes
  - Perceived impacts/outcomes

- Process
- Socio-economic
- Ecological
- Disruptions that affect collaborative performance and durability
  - Turnover
  - Disruptive members – conflict
  - Industry capacity
  - Legal or policy changes
- Some key points to consider
  - Required monitoring – serves as CFLRP common monitoring strategy indicator for collaboration
  - SWERI doing heavy lifting on administration, analysis, reporting
  - Grounded in first 10 years of CFLRP lessons learned
  - Standardized assessment
    - Plus 3-5 project-specific questions of interest
  - Longitudinal – needs and priorities change
  - Confidential
- Products and deliverables
  - Inform project level progress and performance – identify process and performance capacities and needs to inform strategic investments and action through life of project
  - Presentation and discussion of key findings
  - Fact sheet of findings
  - Longer report if desired
  - Multiple opportunities for peer-learning and knowledge exchange among CFLRP community of practice
- Timeline



- The 2-3-2 partnership is excited to have the support of the SWERIs in the process of gathering information on the effectiveness and success of the collaborative.
  - The information gathered from this survey will allow the 2-3-2 to measure how they are doing compared to the collaborative groups working with other CFLRPs across the country.

- This survey is also locally relevant and will be useful for the 2-3-2 beyond the Rio Chama CFLRP.
  - Questions can be added to the survey in later installments.
  - Questions are meant to capture participation in the many place-based collaboratives within the 2-3-2 landscape.
  - In this installment of the survey, questions were added about the perceptions of forest treatments across the landscape. The 2-3-2 is interested in the level of acceptance for thinning, prescribed fire and managed wildland fire and how that might change through time.
- Having the social science capacity to collect and analyze this data on a regular interval is hugely important and useful.
- Gabe Kohler and Dana Guinn will likely come up with a shorter, more open-ended list of questions for the next full partnership meeting to understand how Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) and the Forest Stewards Guild (Guild) are doing with the coordination of the 2-3-2. Questions will revolve around:
  - Facilitating the collaborative
  - Sharing information
  - Other granular information that won't be captured in this survey

### Modeling and TRAM Committee Engagement

- Introduction to the PROMOTE model and mapping
  - What is PROMOTE?
    - PROMOTE is a landscape model that has been selected for the Rio Chama CFLR and 2-3-2 landscapes. It integrates climate data and metrics from the 10 Pillars of Resilience:
      - Air quality
      - Water security
      - Wetland integrity
      - Biodiversity conservation
      - Forest resilience
      - Carbon sequestration
      - Fire dynamics
      - Fire adapted communities
      - Economic diversity
      - Social and cultural wellbeing
    - Pillars can be weighted
    - Assesses landscape conditions
      - Gives an impact score, from -1 to 1
      - Shows which areas fall outside of desired conditions, and which areas can be treated to bring back to desired conditions.
    - Assesses management strategies
      - Generally recommends 1 of 4 approaches:
        - **Adapt:** departed from target conditions now, within target future conditions
        - **Monitor:** within target now, within target future
        - **Transform:** departed now, departed future
        - **Protect:** within target now, departed future



- Identifies priority areas by ranking landscape units by their impact score
    - Assesses operability
      - Shows areas that are suitable for specific treatments, including mechanical, hand thinning and prescribed fire.
  - Example: Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI)
    - 2.4 million acre landscape
    - For TCSI, 6 of the 10 pillars were incorporated:
      - Forest resilience
      - Fire dynamics
      - Fire-adapted communities
      - Biodiversity conservation
      - Carbon
      - Economic diversity
    - Used HUC-12s as landscape units for their unit prioritization
  - Requirements for input data:
    - Quantitative
    - Has a spatial component
    - Can be reasonably accessed/collected at regular intervals throughout the Rio Chama CFLRP
- The TRAM Committee has thoroughly weighed the options of various treatment optimization tools and selected PROMOTE because of the model's flexibility and the available support from the developers of the model.
  - PROMOTE comes out of the Pacific Southwest Research Station of the USFS.
    - Leveraging a professional product to the 2-3-2 landscape
    - Continued support from USFS researchers and experts who developed the model
    - Economically accessible to the Rio Chama CFLR
  - The TRAM Committee will determine which of the 10 pillars to use.
    - Values identified by stakeholders have an impact on the inputs and outputs of the model.
    - Subregion prioritization within the 2-3-2 will help inform priorities and values.
  - The model will help inform management for the "out-years" of the Rio Chama CFLRP, which have yet to be planned.
    - It will also inform monitoring over time.
    - After treatment, the new data will be fed back into the model, which promotes adaptive management.
    - The model will help identify areas that can be leveraged between Forest Service lands and non-Forest Service lands.
  - The model will be applied across the whole landscape, although data might be more refined within Forest Service lands because they have baseline data that can help train the remote sensing.
  - Data needs:
    - Assessment for accuracy and quality
    - Completeness
      - This is a challenge because the landscape spans two states
  - The scale of treatments is swamped by the environmental factors across a landscape of this size.

- For example, there will likely be more acres burned by wildland fire than prescribed fire.
  - The PROMOTE model accounts for natural events and conditions to paint a full picture of the landscape.
- TRAM Committee meeting: November 15, 2022 (virtual)
  - Dive into the specifics of the PROMOTE model
  - Further discuss the Pillars of Resilience
    - Metrics
    - Data sources
    - Data collection
  - Multiparty monitoring plan
  - Will discuss wildlife, watersheds, fire and other values of concern

#### Partner and Committee updates

- Gila WoodNet Timber Cooperative Request for Information
  - Gordon West is President/CEO, contact for more information  
gordon.west@rtnewmexico.com
  - Established in 1998 as a 501c3, GWN has served as a regional hub for a variety of economic development activities from research/development to on the ground implementation around agroforestry and wood product innovation. There has been a recent focus on producing scalable energy generation and biochar production
  - Launching a cooperative membership to consist of local collaborative entities adopting some or all the GWN model with a larger goal of reducing wildfire risk and fossil fueled energy.
    - Members to capitalize the co-op with initial buy in, annual fees, check-offs and/or carbon credits
    - Need = aggregate and coordinate efforts of local and regional entities working to use forest products to generate income while bolstering local economies
    - Plan is to establish a cooperative to organize and support a network of businesses based on GWN community scaled model
- The Northern New Mexico College El Rito campus biochar trial project has been stalled
  - Carbon credits and soil health
  - Kit Carson electric co-op opportunities: can electricity be generated to back up the co-op?
    - Kit Carson bought out tri-state.
  - Taos Ski Valley is a large electrical load, especially at night
  - Trying to pull together a wood innovations proposal
- Forest Stewards Guild met with Tim Reeder from Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS)
  - CSFS wants to continue to engage in biomass utilization and ensuring connectivity with contractors
  - Colorado CoWood program and grants
  - Forest Health Products in Pagosa, long term stewardship contracts and working on company restructure
  - Influx of EQUIP money for private lands
- Rio Chama CFLRP
  - The Washington Office (WO) accepted the new boundary proposal for the project area to include TFFPA (37,000 acres) and some watershed adjustments on the northern boundary.

- The Executive Committee of the 2-3-2 will vote to approve an adjustment to the 2-3-2 boundary to align with the changes to the CFLR footprint at their meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>.
    - The proposal was well received from the Washington Office, although they were left with a few questions. These may be used as lessons learned for other CFLRPs.
  - Visit to Santa Clara Pueblo to look at TFPA and watershed work with BIA, Santa Clara and WO
    - The WO gave \$400k to Santa Clara for watershed restoration.
      - Can this be applied to the HP/CC area?
    - Thank you to Ruben Montes for coordinating this visit!
      - This visit is part of the 2-3-2's growing engagement with Tribal partners
  - Forest Stewards Guild youth corps
    - The Coyote District crew finished work in early August. They prepped units for thinning.
      - This crew was made up of local youth working on conservation projects
    - A fall crew is working out of Espanola, with some projects in the 2-3-2 landscape, and some projects outside the landscape.
    - There is only one youth corps initiative in the 2-3-2 landscape.
      - Southwest Conservation Corps is a similar workforce in the landscape.
      - Watch job recruitment within these organizations over the life of the Rio Chama CFLR.
  - Rio Grande Water Fund
    - Signatories meeting will be hosted in person in the spring
    - Webinar on November 16<sup>th</sup> – Steve Bassett from TNC will present fire modeling
      - Updated look at the whole landscape

### Trail Gulch project

- Overview
  - Implementation is just beginning on the Trail Gulch Vegetation Management project on the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF).
    - The decision was signed a few weeks ago.
    - RGNF is excited to show the 2-3-2 what the plans are for this landscape.
    - Project area: 53,000 acres
      - Treating about 13,000 strategic acres
      - Hoping natural fire can do more work
      - Treating on the southwest side of private lands first because prevailing winds will push a fire from that direction.
      - Low value, low volume timber
    - Most of the efforts will be focused on the eastern side of the project area, where the afternoon field tour will take place.
  - Overall goal: reintroduce natural fire to the landscape without unintended consequences.
  - Context
    - Issues and concerns in the project area:
      - Forest health
      - Watershed concern
      - Fuels on the ground
      - Roadless
    - There are about 12 separate communities within the project area

- Several WUI areas have been mapped out
  - There are several communities surrounded by roadless areas, which makes treatment nearly impossible
- Conejos river follows HWY 17
  - Headwaters for the Rio Grande
  - Rio Chama headwaters to the east of the project area
  - Critical watersheds for millions of people downstream
- History of management:
  - 1879: fire on Osier mountain
    - Assumed to come from the railroad
    - Burned across the state line, about 25,000 acres on each side
  - 1960s: identified as major watershed concern
    - Check dams, contour furrowing
    - Planted plantations
      - Some at higher elevation, some down in the valley
    - Took douglas fir, left white fir
    - Douglas fir, white fir and juniper plant communities
      - Some white fir stands can be healthy, but not in this location
  - Area has been accessible to local communities for decades
  - Timber sales in the past decades that supported local communities
- Roadless
  - Some of the roadless is also very steep, inaccessible terrain
  - RGNF didn't work with any collaboratives or environmental groups to find out if people were open to the idea of doing treatment in roadless
  - Fire modelling indicated that these areas weren't of high concern
- High quality lynx habitat in one corner of the project area
  - Reduced the number of acres available to treat in the project area
  - In hindsight, the lynx habitat should have been excluded from the project area so more acres could be treated.
- 98% of mature spruce on the RGNF are dead
  - Salvage
  - Overall question of merchantability
  - Might do some sanitation treatments
  - Push the plant community towards non-host species for western spruce budworm
- Community
  - CSFS and WUI
    - Conejos Canyon is considered one of the most dense WUI concerns in the area
    - Some homes have enough space to do their own defensible space work, others need to work together, some communities have common land
    - CSFS has been heavily involved in the planning of this project
      - A few state inholdings in the area
      - Firewise communities
  - ID team

- Tried to get collaborative input on the project, but only got about 5 people
    - Different ways to approach integrated ID teams in the future
    - Questions about integrated ID teams and FACA concerns
    - There would be a lot of interest if these opportunities were given at the state level
  - RGNF has more social license than the Forest Service does in most places.
    - Made an effort to go door-to-door to talk to local people and get them involved and informed about the project.
  - Social license
    - More than a lot of places do
    - Make an effort to go door-to-door to talk to people and get them involved and informed
- Rito Hondo subdivision/WUI
  - The Rito Hondo subdivision is a private inholding of 640 acres, divided into 23 parcels.
    - Only one house has been built so far, so RGNF is trying to get some work done around the subdivision before more houses are built.
    - RGNF is hoping to work with the State on a cross-boundary project before houses are built.
  - Forest health concerns continue across the fence from the National Forest to the private land.
    - Dense ladder fuels
    - Hazardous fuels on the ground
    - Distressed forest
    - White fir component is not resistant to fire
  - Proposed treatment around the subdivision:
    - Primarily hand treatments in a buffer (~400 feet) around the private boundary
      - Lop and scatter up to 3" diameter
      - Pile and burn material greater than 3"
    - Mastication beyond the buffer
    - Push species composition toward aspen, ponderosa, groups and clumps
- Sanitation treatment for Western Spruce Budworm
  - Working to set up a 170-acre sanitation salvage sale in mixed-conifer, called the Trail Gulch Sale.
  - Context:
    - White fir in terrible condition because of Western Spruce Budworm
    - Juniper on the ground can choke out the understory
  - Proposed treatment:
    - Reduce basal area to 40-60 square feet/acre
    - In addition to reducing stand density, reduce competition to address Western Spruce Budworm
    - Keep aspen in the stand and promote regeneration
      - Sudden Aspen Decline (SAD) is often a result of multiple pressures. Aspen regeneration has been successful in this area as long as there isn't too much pressure.
      - In general, the goal is to increase regeneration sites across the landscape to spread out pressures.

- Fire was successful in stimulating aspen regeneration in the Bighorn State Line project area.
    - Push stand composition toward Douglas Fir
      - Douglas Fir is more resistant to the Western Spruce Budworm in the overstory than White Fir
      - Retain some character of the stand
      - Fairly uniform distribution across the stand
    - Follow up with mastication of material less than 8-9"
      - This size of tree is a host for the Western Spruce Budworm
      - Also masticate some of the juniper – knock it back but don't totally wipe it out
  - A Goshawk nest was found in the treatment area and the nest site was roped off to avoid having to put timing restrictions on the treatment.
- Management of a non-native lodgepole pine stand
  - Between 1963 and 1973, when the Forest Service was doing watershed restoration work in this area, they planted several plantations of trees, including a stand of non-native lodgepole pine.
    - There was a shortage of seeds for on-site species like Engelmann Spruce and Douglas Fir, so they planted lodgepole instead.
    - This lodgepole plantation is very healthy.
      - 800 acres
      - Trees are 6 feet apart, can look straight down the rows
    - Lodgepole is not a host species for the Western Spruce Budworm.
  - Lodgepole is native to the Rio Grande National Forest, but the closest native stand is 60 miles north of this location.
  - Today, RGNF can't track down the seed source. This prevents the Rio Grande from being able to do any research on the Lodgepole plantation.
    - Typically, lodgepole is known for its serotiny, requiring fire to release seeds from the cones.
    - It is assumed that the seed source came from the Rio Grande National Forest, because the trees seem to share the same non-serotinous characteristics as other lodgepole on the Rio Grande.
      - Plantation trees are encroaching into open meadows without fire.
  - Management
    - For now, the plantation will be managed to keep it healthy as an off-site stand.
      - Row thinning would be the most cost-effective management action
        - Remove every third row and make the stand look for natural
        - Provide protection for wildlife
    - In the future, it might become a suitable species for this area.