2-3-2 COHESIVE STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP

Full Partnership Meeting

Where: Taos County Commissioner Chambers, Taos, NM
When: Wednesday, February 8, 2023
Time: 8:45 am – 4:00 pm

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In attendance (in Taos):

1. Eytan Krasilovsky, Forest Stewards Guild
2. Gabe Kohler, Forest Stewards Guild
3. Cody Dems, Forest Stewards Guild
4. Esme Cadiente, Forest Stewards Guild
5. Sam Berry, Forest Stewards Guild
6. Dana Guinn, Mountain Studies Institute
7. Laura Hanna, Mountain Studies Institute
8. Julia Ledford, Mountain Studies Institute
9. Alex Handloff, Mountain Studies Institute
10. Bill Trimarco, Wildfire Adapted Partnership
11. Kristin Hulls, Rocky Mountain Research Station
12. Claire Catlett, Trout Unlimited
13. Toner Mitchell, Trout Unlimited
14. Garrett Hanks, Trout Unlimited
15. Renee Romero, Taos Pueblo
16. Reid Whittlesey, Rio Grande Return
17. Charels Curtin, Sangre de Cristo Initiative
18. Ganga Little, New Mexico Highlands University
19. Sage Dunn, Bureau of Land Management
20. Shinya Burck, Bureau of Land Management
21. Ed Mackerrow, Chama Peak Land Alliance
22. Caleb Stotts, Chama Peak Land Alliance
23. Alyssa Richmond, Animas Environmental Services

24. Kathy McKim, Pheasants Forever
25. Darien Fernandez, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
26. J.R. Logan, Taos County
27. Erin Minks, Senator Michael Bennet's office
28. John Ussery, Northern New Mexico College El inRito
29. Adam Moore, Colorado State Forest Service
30. John Waconda, The Nature Conservancy
31. Ian Hopkins, National Wild Turkey Federation/NRCS
32. Alaina Osimowicz, New Mexico State Forestry
33. Mary Steuver, New Mexico State Forestry
34. Morris Harrell, New Mexico State Forestry
35. Peggy De'Scoville, New Mexico Highlands University
36. Morris Harrell, New Mexico Forestry Division, Cimarron District
37. Steven Fry, Amigos Bravos
38. Bonifacio Vasquez, Santa Barbara Land Grant
39. Kay Matthews, Rio de Las Trampas Forest Council
40. Alex Lopez, Rio de las Trampas Forest Council
41. David Arguello, Cerro Negro Forest Council
42. Mannie Lopez, National Forest Foundation
43. Keith Moser, Rocky Mountain Research Station
44. Rita Daniels, San Juan National Forest
45. Lo Williams, San Juan National Forest
46. Brandy Richardson, San Juan National Forest
47. Michael Tooley, Rio Grande National Forest
48. Zach Behrens, Carson National Forest
49. Greg Miller, Carson National Forest
50. Peter Rich, Carson National Forest
51. Chris Furr, Carson National Forest
52. Jamie Long, Carson National Forest
53. Chris Griffith, Carson National Forest
54. Josh Hall, Santa Fe National Forest
55. Steve Romero, Santa Fe National Forest
56. Sandee Dingman, Santa Fe National Forest
57. Jeremy Marshall, Santa Fe National Forest
58. Steve del Favero, Santa Fe National Forest
59. Donna Sharrock, USFS
60. Martha Montoya, USFS
61. Lisa Archuleta, USFS
62. Bryce Esh, USFS Washington Office

In attendance (online):

1. Mike Remke, Fort Lewis College
2. Isabel Trujillo
3. Olivia Carril, bee scientist
4. Nick Olson, National Forest Foundation
5. Katrina Gutierrez, New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute
6. Linsey Quam, New Mexico State Forestry
7. Alan Hook, City of Santa Fe Water Division

8. Chas Robles, Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps
9. Danny Margoles, Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest Collaborative
10. Cecil Rich, Rio Grande Return
11. James Dietrich, Montezuma County Natural Resources
12. Wade Tinkham, Rocky Mountain Research Station
13. Mike Battaglia, Rocky Mountain Research Station
14. Emma Metcalf, Bureau of Reclamation
15. Kyle O'Neill, NRCS
16. Lt. Governor Naranjo, Santa Clara Pueblo
17. Garrett Altmann, Santa Clara Pueblo
18. T. Gardiner
19. Matt Picarello, The Nature Conservancy
20. Ben Irey, University of Montana
21. Erin McElroy, Ecotone Landscape Planning
22. Chelsea Pennick, University of Montana
23. Jan-Willem Jansens, Ecotone Landscape Planning
24. Jose Arnaldo Lopez, Las Trampas Land Grant Board
25. Rachel Bean, Forest Stewards Guild
26. Helen Katich, Senator Hickenlooper's office
27. Rita O'Connell, Senator Heinrich's office
28. Eric Chavez, Senator Lujan's office
29. Matt Miller, Congresswoman Fernandez's office
30. Jennifer Sanchez, Congresswoman Fernandez's office
31. Adam Tlachac, San Juan National Forest
32. Emma Reinemann, San Juan National Forest
33. Sara Brinton, San Juan National Forest
34. Jason Lawhon, San Juan National Forest
35. Andrea Jones, Rio Grande National Forest
36. Reuben Montes, Santa Fe National Forest
37. Pam Baltimore, Santa Fe National Forest
38. Matt Tuten, USFS
39. Jack Triepke, USFS
40. Brian Ratcliffe, USFS

MEETING NOTES

Welcome and introductions

- Meeting goals
    - Review Multiparty Monitoring Plan (MPM) development process
    - Understand the current status of the MPM including key aspects and next steps
    - Highlight unique aspects of the MPM
    - Collaboratively identify "watch outs" associated with project goals and monitoring questions in specific categories
    - Learn about the cyclical relationship between the PROMOTe modeling tool and the MPM
    - Engage in a landscape learning exchange with community members, experts, and practitioners in the Taos area to understand community forestry and watershed management practices and to build a community of practice
    - Share 2-3-2, Rio Chama CFLRP and partner updates

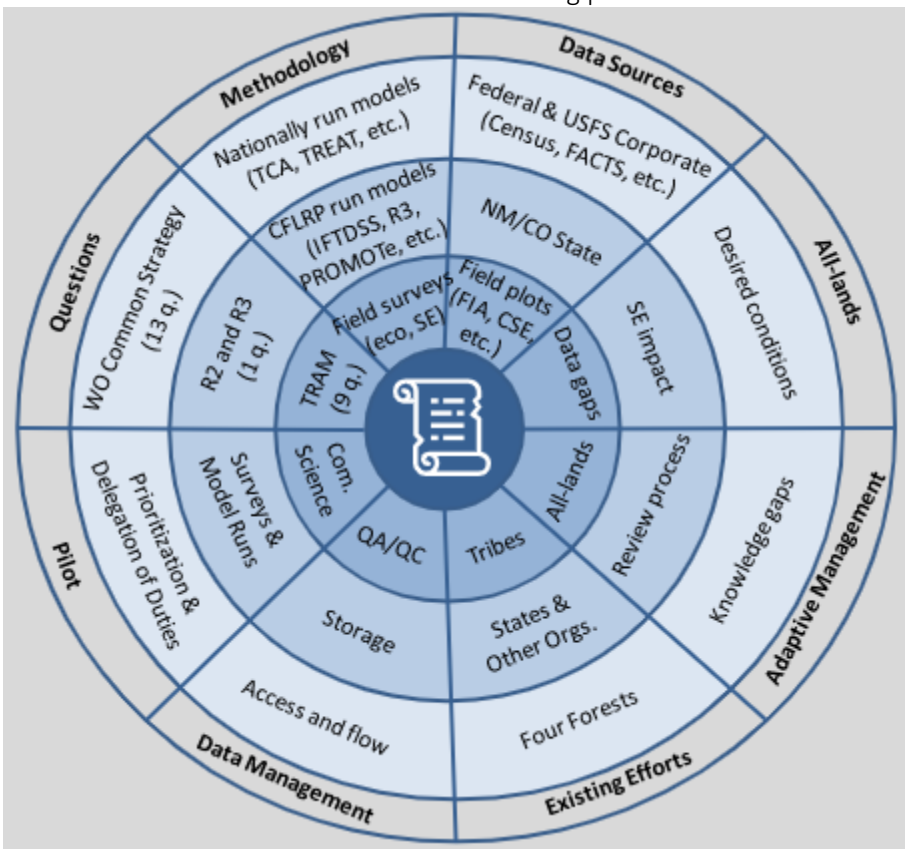
- Collaboration
    - We will use consensus-based decision making to ensure that any decision the group comes to is actively supported, or at least a decision everyone can live with.
    - Show respect for the personal integrity and values of all participants, in and outside of meetings
    - Be hard 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 (above).
    - Come to meetings prepared and on time.
    - Refrain from side 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.
- What are we all doing here together?
    - *See map at the end of the document.*
    - We are living in a complex and interwoven landscape and working across the landscape at this scale is new.
        - Additionally, these are unprecedented times:
            - Climate change is here.
            - New Mexico and Colorado have relatively new Forest Action Plans.
            - Influx of federal funding – money is no longer the limiting factor.
                - There are several aligned funding initiatives and programs for forest and watershed restoration.
        - We have the opportunity to implement science-based management at scale using the power of collaboration.
    - In order for us to be successful in our landscape-scale initiatives, it is important to reach beyond and see what our neighbors are doing.
        - We have ambitious goals and there is no recipe to follow.

- The 2-3-2 has nearly completed development of a Multiparty Monitoring Plan that will serve the Rio Chama CFLRP.
    - We need to be competent with tools and approaches, and we need to be humble.
    - Monitoring efforts provide information that forms a structure/framework that allows us to learn from the work we are doing across the landscape.
    - Be bold, act, reflect and make changes as needed.
    - We acknowledge that not everyone lives within a CFLRP landscape.
        -
        - Multiparty Monitoring is the mechanism used to learn and adapt within the CFLRP.
        - However, these monitoring efforts come from a common set of interests and priorities across the broader landscape.

- **UPDATE:** on February 9th, the Carson National Forest will conduct their first prescribed burn since the federal pause on prescribed burning in the summer of 2022.
    - 500 acres of piles near Tres Piedras.

History and overview of Multiparty Monitoring Plan (MPM)

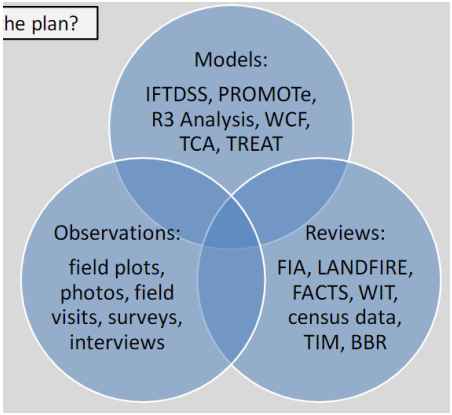
- MPM development process, timeline
    - Many contributors from across the landscape, as well as the folks from the Guild, Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) and the TRAM Committee.
    - The collaborative has built the web of interacting parts:



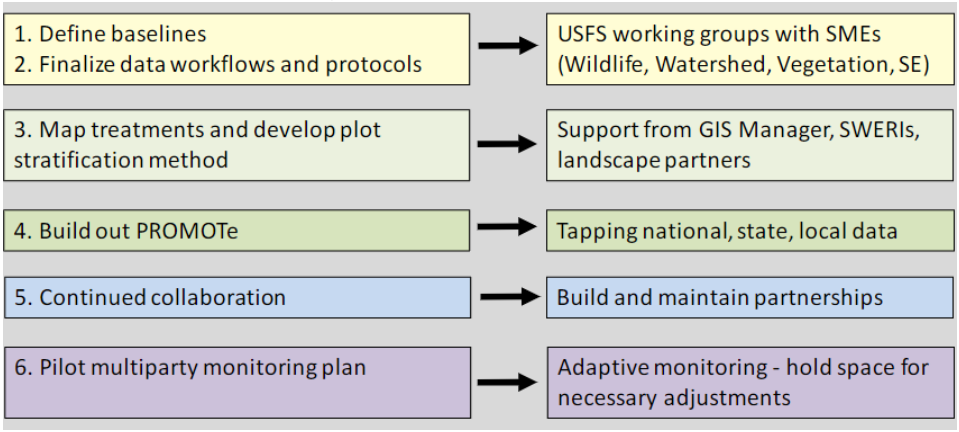
    - Timeline:
        - June 2021: funding from four Forests

        - December 2021: TRAM worked through an exercise to uncover additional monitoring interests across the landscape
        - 2022: MPM development began
        - June 2022: the Rio Chama CFLRP was funded and partners began gathering input from subject matter experts
        - April 2022: USFS reviewed draft
        - October 2022: USFS and 2-3-2 reviewed draft
        - November 2022: collaborative governance survey, socioeconomic interviews, data management, TREAT (model economic impacts)
        - 2023: continued input from subject matter experts, USFS convened working groups to help understand ongoing monitoring efforts that can help inform the MPM
        - Next steps:
            - The MPM will be presented to USFS working groups, the Board of Forest Supervisors, and the Executive Committee of the 2-3-2.
            - A final draft will be shared out to the Partnership next week.
            - The MPM will be implemented this year.
- Structure and function of MPM
    - 23 questions
        - Fire regimes
            - Fuel hazard
            - Crown fire probability
            - Departure
        - Forest characteristics
            - Invasive species
            - Old forest characteristics
            - Pest and disease
            - Carbon carrying capacity
        - Wildlife
            - Habitat change
        - Water resources
            - Status of watershed conditions
        - Economic sustainability
            - Partner investments
            - Treatment acceptance
            - Wood product diversity
            - Use of by-products
            - Fuel wood programs
            - Jobs and income
            - Youth and minority support
            - Geographic distribution
        - Forests and communities
            - Support traditional uses
            - Fire risk to communities and water resources
        - Collaboration
            - Who is involved?
            - Effective and meaningful?

- Combines models, observations and reviews:



  - Example: triangulation in socioeconomic monitoring
    - Interviews and site visits with key wood processing partners (e.g. Blanca sawmill) to gather **observed data**.
      - Qualitative information
      - Quantitative information: number of people employed, commute, etc.
    - **Modelled data** of jobs and labor from TREAT (treatment restoration economic analysis tool), which models economies at the county level.
    - Database review of University of Montana's Mill Capacity Analysis
    - Triangulation:
      - Modelled and observed data are complementary.
      - Provides multiple angles to look at the same focal point.
      - Supports both qualitative and quantitative data collection.
    - Interested in:
      - Jobs and labor income
      - Growing wood processing capacity
      - Collaborative representation and effectiveness
- Status of MPM and next steps



Monitoring plan snapshots

- Socioeconomic monitoring
  - Environmental justice analysis and next steps
    - Brian Ratcliffe, Socioeconomics Program Lead USFS
    - **Environmental justice (EJ):**

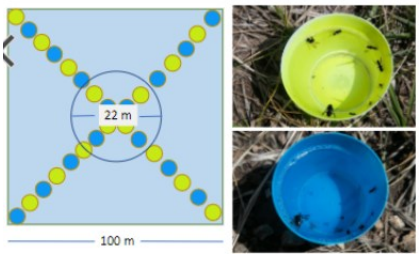
- "environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies." -U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- "The state (or condition) which all populations are provided the opportunity to comment before decisions are rendered on, are allowed to share in the benefits of, are not excluded from, and are not affected in a disproportionately high and adverse manner by government programs and activities affecting human health or the environment (SDA Regulation 5600-2 and CEQ Guidance)." -Forest Service NEPA Handbook

- Achieving Environmental Justice (fair treatment and meaningful involvement) first requires knowing where people are.
- Census data were used to identify local counties that had "meaningfully greater proportions" of low-income and/or minority populations than CO or NM overall.
- Data were summarized using tools from Headwaters Economics.
- Results: 13 counties in the Rio Chama project area potentially contain EJ populations (not all highlighted for the same reason – some because of poverty, others because there are high populations of underrepresented communities)
  - Colorado:
    - Alamosa
    - Archuleta
    - Conejos
    - Costilla
    - La Plata
    - Montezuma
    - Rio Grande
    - Saguache
  - New Mexico:
    - Mora
    - Rio Arriba
    - San Juan
    - San Miguel
    - Taos
- Coming soon: high-resolution EJ mapping

- Wood industry and mill capacity analysis
  - Chelsea Pennick and Ben Irey, University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research
  - Objective of capacity studies:
    - Use timber flow data to identify a region's timber-processing area.
    - Characterize TPA by number, type and size of mills.
    - Quantify capacity to process timber of various sizes.
    - Characterize spatial distribution of capacity by timber size class.
    - Quantify unused capacity and how it is distributed spatially.
  - Capability to process timber:
    - Place matters
    - Size matters

        - The University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research has done several studies on timber use, processing capacity and capability, including several studies in the Rocky Mountain Region of the USFS.
- Pollinator monitoring: monitoring for bees across large landscapes
    - Olivia Carril, PhD
    - Dispelling misconceptions:
        - Most people think that honeybees are the quintessential bee representative.
        - There are 20,000-30,000 bee species worldwide.
            - ~3,500-4,000 species in the US and Canada
            - ~1,000 species in New Mexico
                - Deserts have the most diversity of bee species.
        - New Mexico's bees are:
            - Solitary (no hives or colonies)
            - Mostly ground-nesters
            - Essential pollinators of native plants
            - Emerge at different times throughout the season (often connected to the plants that are in season)
            - Very mobile – will move if their habitat is not suitable
            - Similar to flowering plant communities:
                - Patchy
                - Short-lived
                - Who (and how many) changes from year to year
    - **Bee community:** a community of bee species that co-occurs in an area (habitat, landscape patch, bee house, etc.). Some component may change over time or over the season.
        - Number of species in an area
        - Number of individuals of each species
        - Changes over time and space
    - Bees are an ideal subject for monitoring
        - They track habitat changes quickly:
            - Fire
            - Thinning
            - Restoration
            - Grazing
        - They are easy to sample
        - Monitoring here ties into broader monitoring programs:
            - There are existing monitoring efforts across BLM lands in the U.S.
            - Developing a protocol for bee monitoring as part of a long term strategy.
            - Long term monitoring plans exist for the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, where extensive sampling can feed into future monitoring efforts.
        - Cross-boundary cross-pollination
    - Monitoring can be scaled to time and effort.
        - **Pantraps** are brightly colored cups that are set up in an x-shape that is about 1 hectare in size.

- Bees are captured, preserved and identified.



    - Can be repeated at any frequency and is easy to scale up or down.
  - Bee community health is an essential component of forest resilience.
    - Bees return quickly after disturbance.
    - Link habitat mosaics at different ages and structures
    - Relatively low cost
- Vegetation monitoring and landscape-scale modeling: using and growing existing frameworks
  - Jack Triepke, Ecologist with southwestern region of the USFS
  - R3 analysis framework:
    - Origins in Forest Plan revision assessments
    - White papers + publications
    - R3 analysis team support for assessment, Plan, EIS development
    - Forest Plan implementation

	Upland systems	Riparian systems	Aquatic systems
Process	Disturbance regime: fire regime (frequency and severity), insect and disease	Fire regime	Diversions density
		Flood regime	
Connectivity	Patch size	Riparian corridor connectivity	Floodplain hydrologic connectivity and channel dynamics
Composition	Ecological status/functional group diversity	Ecological status/functional group diversity/riparian vegetation percent of potential	Stream sediment balance
		Exotic woody species cover	Stream bank cover
			Habitat diversity, instream (pool runs), substrate
Structure	Seral state diversity	Seral state diversity	Road crossings
	Ground cover/bare ground	Ground cover/bare ground	Channel elevation stability, incision

	Coarse woody debris	Coarse woody debris	Stream cover of vegetation, overhanging
	Snag density		Large woody debris
	Large trees		
Structure-process	Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC)		
Drought-climate	Water balance deficit	Water balance deficit	Water balance deficit
	Ecosystem services, outdoor recreation	Ecosystem services, outdoor recreation	Ecosystem services, outdoor recreation
	Carbon stocks		Stream changes, flow and temperature
	Forest extent indicator		

- Model roles
  - FVS:
    - Simulates dynamics of individual trees and groups of trees into the future.
    - Stand-level succession characteristics.
  - STSim:
    - Simulate dynamics of entire landscapes (100s/1000s of stands) into the future.
    - Augment assessment of some ecosystem characteristics:
      - Seral state diversity, coarse woody debris, snag density, carbon stocks, patch size
  - PROMOTe:
    - Estimates optimal solutions for the objectives under constraints of time, AOI, resources, and other sideboards.
    - Estimates benefits of the optimization and incidental benefits to secondary objectives.
    - Informs prioritization of activities across space and time.
- Bringing it all together:
  - The 2-3-2 requirements, analysis framework and R2-R3 CFLRP monitoring guidance will work together in the Rio Chama CFLR monitoring plan and optimization modeling.
- Benefits of systems approach:
  - Links and feedbacks among Forest Plans, CFLRP goals, data sources and monitoring plans
  - Published science
  - Consistency
  - Scaleable
  - Tied to on-the-ground conditions
  - Available capacity

- Watershed monitoring: focal watersheds and precision

- Common Monitoring Strategy direction:
  - Q4: "what is the status and trend of watershed conditions in the CFLRP area, with a focus on the physical and biological conditions that support key soil, hydrologic and aquatic processes?"
  - Intent:
    - The Watershed Condition Framework (WCF) provides a consistent way to evaluate watershed condition at both the national and forest levels.
    - It consists of reconnaissance-level assessments by individual national forests, implementation of integrated improvement activities within priority watersheds, and validation and monitoring of watershed condition class changes.
- But what if forest priority watersheds are not in the Rio Chama CFLRP? Or if planned treatments are not in priority watersheds?
  - The Rio Chama CFLRP doesn't have any identified priority watersheds.
  - Working with the Forests to identify the priority watersheds across the landscape, either in officially designated watersheds or in areas where there is a lot of planned treatment.
  - All together, there are about 300,000 acres of priority/focal watersheds, including:
    - Bighorn Creek
    - Canada Tio Grande-Rio San Antonio
    - Headwaters El Rito
    - Headwaters Rio Cebolla
    - Headwaters Rio de las Vacas
    - Headwaters Rio de los Pinos
    - Montoya Canyon-Canjilon Creek
    - Outlet Rio Cebolla
    - Outlet Rio de las Vacas
    - Rito Penas Negras
    - Sheep Creek-Conejos River
    - Toltec Creek-Rio de Los Pinos
- What does this all mean?
  - We can focus treatments in the focal watersheds to maximize effectiveness and leverage the expertise of partners
    - Example: Trout Unlimited Agreement for watershed restoration work at Rio San Antonio and Chihuahuenos Creek
  - We can use treatment monitoring requirements outside of the common monitoring strategy to inform our monitoring efforts
    - Example: data collected for 404 permit requirements for treatment implementation can be used in the watershed condition indicators
  - We can leverage these focal watersheds for other monitoring efforts as well
    - Example: Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout and Beaver habitat monitoring
  - We can use the HUC12 designations to measure cumulative treatment effects at a quantifiable scale across multiple indicators and monitoring questions
- What about non-NFS land watershed monitoring?
  - Metric: change in number of streams meeting state standards
  - Data source: data reported by state agencies in Colorado and New Mexico

Adaptive management and defining "watch outs"

- Adaptive management strategy
    - **Adaptive management:** "manage natural resources in the face of uncertainty" (Rist et al. 2013)

    - **Success** = a strict adherence to the cyclical adaptive management process **and/or** a strategy's ability to reduce uncertainty (and support a broader management framework)
    - **Trigger points**: "pre-negotiated commitments made by an agency…specificying what actions will be taken if monitoring information shows x or y" (Schultz and Nie, 2012)
        - Rio Chama CFLRP encompasses lands and waters managed by diverse agencies, tribes, and private citizens who have differing abilities to implement and adjust treatment activities.
        - A collaborative project of this size and scale relies on multiple individuals whose roles and duties will change throughout the life of the project, and therefor the social support of pre-defined triggers may wane.
        - Define spatially-relevant triggers is challenging as treatment effects may differ at the project and landscape levels.
        - Scientific research will continue to advance and trigger-appropriateness may change.
        - Defining trigger points in a 15-year monitoring plan will inherently miscalculate stochastic environmental and social changes (insect/disease, climate change, flooding, wildfires) that will interact with forest treatments.
- Introduction to "watch outs"
    - A collaborative approach that incorporates ecosystem and social dynamics into an adaptive management framework.
    - Designed to fit into the bounds of what can and will be measured to focus on data trends in treatment areas and at the landscape scale.
    - Watch out example: how is exercise affecting my health?
        - Watch outs should be measurable and able to inform decisions
        - If this watch out is met, it could mean:
            - Nothing is wrong (i.e., I pushed myself harder today than last week)
            - There are larger forces at play (i.e., I have asthma)
            - My monitoring method is incorrect (i.e., heart rate is a better indicator of my health)
            - Other

Modeling and the MPM

- PROMOTe

- PROMOTe is a landscape-scale model that integrates climate data and the 10 Pillars of Resilience:
    - Social and cultural well-being
    - Air quality
    - Water security
    - Wetland integrity
    - Biodiversity conservation
    - Forest resilience
    - Carbon sequestration
    - Fire dynamics
    - Fire adapted communities
    - Economic diversity
- Conditions and recommendations
    - Adapt: departed now, within target future
    - Monitor: within target now, within target future
    - Transform: departed now, departed future
    - Protect: within target now, departed future
- Impact score
    - Score from -1 to 1
    - Indicates which areas
        - Fall outside of our desired conditions and
        - Can be treated to meet desired conditions
- Unit prioritization
    - Ranks assigned by impact score
    - TCSI used HUC-12s
    - Could use any boundaries
- Example: Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI)
    - 2.4 million acres
    - Used 6 out of 10 pillars
    - Check out the TCSI PROMOTe map
- Cyclical monitoring

    - PROMOTe
        - Existing spatial data informs model impacts scores, conditions, and recommendations

        - Rx planning/prioritization
            - PROMOTe outputs and recommendations are factored into future treatment planning and prioritization
        - Treatments
            - Land managers conduct treatments
        - Monitoring
            - Monitoring occurs across landscape, prioritizing recently treated and soon-to-be-treated land
        - Spatial data
            - Monitoring data outputs are prepped to be input into PROMOTe
        - Back to the beginning

Landscape learning exchange

- Introduction to learning exchange
    - Norms
        - Act and engage in kindness
        - Assume positive intent
        - Ask questions instead of telling
        - Listen to each other
        - Respect one another
        - Speak from your own perspective
        - Take responsibility to learn
        - Focus questions and discussion on the central topics of community centered forestry and watershed work
    - We are learning about, discussing, planning, carrying out and monitoring work in ecologically, topographically, culturally, socially, and historically diverse landscapes.
        - Consider how to find compromise and shared values that lead to successes as we define them.
        - Identify and highlight windows of opportunity to work together in real time.
        - Where can we agree on why, how and when to take action and on the kinds of action to take to do good.
        - Learn from one another and establish ongoing conversations. Looking outside landscape-scale initiatives so we can be more successful at them.
- Panel 1: Community-centered forestry and watershed management
    - Moderator: JR Logan
    - Panelists:
        - David Arguello, Cerro Negro Forest Council
            - Community members used to share common areas before they were managed by the USFS.
                - USFS management of the land has restricted use and prevented timber harvest by the Land Grant
            - The Forest Council developed a Leñero program using the Mayordomo concept that is based on the distribution of water under a traditional authority structure.
                - This authority is not to be challenged and is very respected in the community with rare cases of violation.

        - Leñeros harvest one acre of wood and can keep the wood for personal use or sell it.
        - Historically, this has been a successful mitigation technique.
    - Alex Lopez, President of the Rio de las Trampas Forest Council and President of the Las Trampas Land Grant
        - Rio de las Trampas Forest Council also has a Mayordomo-based Leñero program
            - Train Leñeros, loan them PPE, receive $300 stipend for one acre of work.
            - Seeing progress with the patchwork of one-acre treatments.
        - Have NEPA in their watershed and are concerned about fire.
    - Kay Matthews, Rio de las Trampas Forest Council
        - The Leñero program has been a concept for a long time and people are very interested in it.
            - Years ago, the Camino Real ranger district of the Carson National Forest had a program set up where an acre was flagged and marked for Leñeros to cut wood and sell or keep the wood.
            - The program was discontinued after a new District Ranger took over.
    - Bonifacio Vasquez, President of the Santa Barbara Land Grant
        - Working hard to provide firewood for the community.
            - Last summer, the Carson National Forest was closed to the public and the community couldn't access this critical resource.
            - Processing and transporting wood is a daunting task.
        - The Santa Barbara Land Grant community feels neglected by the Carson National Forest after they have consistently drawn attention to the forest and watershed issues in their area and haven't gotten a response.
            - Worried about a fire creating devastating impacts in their watershed.
            - The Carson has denied their traditional use of the forest.
            - The community feels like the USFS would rather see the watershed burn and deal with the fallout than take a proactive approach.
- Introduction
    - The east side of the Rio Grande shares a lot of the same challenges and motivations as we do on the west side.
    - This is a unique time because money is not an issue for forest and watershed restoration with the influx of federal dollars.
    - It is important not to lose sight of the folks that are most impacted by this work. The folks that live in these geographies have relied on these natural resources for hundreds, if not thousands of years.
    - New Mexico has a prickly patchwork of cultures and histories.
- Funding
    - Taos County takes on a lot of funding from the Forest Service using the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) or other mechanisms.
        - Then, the County can create government to government agreements with Land Grants to distribute the funds.

    - Leñeros pride
        - Leñeros feel camaraderie with their accomplishments.
        - Leñeros are quick to sign up for projects and complete work.
        - Take pride in cleaning up their forests and watersheds.
    - Challenges
        - Turnover within the agencies, especially the Forest Service
        - Santa Barbara Land Grant doesn't have the opportunity to do any work on their own land, they have to go to neighboring communities.
        - Concerned that these programs are easy to parade around like a dog and pony show.
            - This is a trojan horse for a program that works to serve the communities that rely on the forests and watersheds the most.
            - There are many entanglements within this program and it is not easy work.
            - It is critically important that we engage with the land grant and acequia communities in the 2-3-2 landscape and build meaningful relationships that go beyond minimum requirements from funding sources.
            - Lean into uncomfortable situations.
        - When it comes to communication, the Forest Service is a moving target.
            - Seems like they are just picking the easy jobs.
            - There are institutionalizes, bureaucratic notions within the Forest Service that they are the experts.
            - Takes a long time to get anything done.
    - Would the Leñeros program work on the West Zone of the Carson (in the 2-3-2 landscape)?
        - It takes people with pride to want to do this kind of work.
            - Doesn't pay much, if anything.
            - Learn valuable skills.
        - Cautionary tale
            - Experienced some pushback from folks that don't think prescribed fire and thinning is appropriate.
            - You can't move forward with a bunch of negative attitudes, you have to find folks with positive attitudes that care about the forest.
    - How have you addressed the challenges of bringing younger generations into this work?
        - The Cerro Negro project included students from local middle schools, high schools, NMHU and New Mexico State.
            - Many of these students are considering careers in forestry or land management.
            - Provided education and training for the students.
        - Las Trampas Forest Council is also involved with NMHU.
            - Provides scholarships.
    - Conservation corps are potential partners
        - Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, Chas Robles
- Panel 2: planning and completing watershed work in Northern New Mexico
    - Moderator: Rita Daniels
        - Forester on the San Juan National Forest
    - Panelists:

        - Garrett Hanks, Project Manager with Trout Unlimited (TU)
            - TU cares about a lot more than just fish
            - National organization, work on many things around the nexus of wild and native trout and salmon
                - Watershed group
                - National policy issues
                - Grassroots with chapters made up of volunteers
            - Trying to do this place and communities justice
        - Greg Miller, Watershed Program Manager on the Carson National Forest
            - Carson National Forest manages about 2.5 million acres of land.
            - Their role is to manage lands in a wise and sustainable manner to provide for water production, sustainable flow of resources.
            - This area has a long history of culture and tradition, deep connections to the land, and unique needs and expectations.
        - Steven Fry, Amigos Bravos
            - Amigos Bravos is a statewide water policy organization based in Taos.
            - Focus on surface water quality, discharge, holding polluters accountable, restoration of wetlands and riparian corridors.
            - Prioritization occurs with stakeholder input.
            - Has worked closely with Greg on the Carson, now looking to the Santa Fe.
    - Introduction:
        - 2-3-2: 2 states, 3 rivers, 2 watersheds
            - Rio Grande, Rio Chama San Juan
            - Upper Colorado River Basin, Rio Grande Basin
        - Rio Chama CFLRP is 3.88 million acres, about 50% of that is USFS land.
    - Northern New Mexico Riparian, Aquatic and Watershed Restoration Project
        - NEPA analysis that the Carson took on a few years ago
        - Intent was to provide a NEPA analysis and associated decision that would allow the Carson to treat riparian areas, wetlands and aquatic habitats.
            - Have enough information that they can just do one big NEPA decision and prevent hold ups when additional projects come along in the future.
        - Increase the pace at which they are able to work together with existing partners like Trout Unlimited.
    - How is Trout Unlimited contributing?
        - TU is unique because they approach these issues from multiple levels: grassroots, agencies and policy.
        - TU has a national agreement with the Forest Service
            - Newly funded agreement is bringing significant funding to Regions 2 and 3.
            - Starting to accelerate the pace and scale of work.
    - Amigos Bravos
        - Wetland Jewels project
            - St. Mary's University of Minnesota has a program that specializes in wetland mapping.
            - The State of New Mexico hired the University to update the National Wetland Inventory for New Mexico.

            - The mapping product includes many different characteristics of wetlands.
            - Gathered input from communities using a stakeholder survey outreach program and used the information to prioritize areas for protection and restoration.
            - NEPA on the Carson has accelerated the pace at which they are able to do the work they have prioritized.
        - Surface water quality
            - New Mexico doesn't have a robust surface water quality monitoring program.
            - Amigos Bravos has started a program where they monitor all of the rivers in Taos County ever three year.
            - Working with TU to expand this effort to citizen science.
    - What are some of the challenges with implementing watershed projects, and what are the potential solutions?
        - Low-impact design is susceptible to erosion from natural events.
            - How can forest management be done in conjunction with watershed management to reach some of the same goals?
            - What size structures are we going to need downstream in case there is a fire that wipes out the structure?
        - Wilderness is a challenge, but it is not insurmountable.
        - Red tape is the biggest challenge:
            - The NEPA has facilitated a lot of work.
            - Funding is no longer a limiting factor.
            - Still doesn't feel like we have dramatically increased the pace of the work that we are all seeking.
        - "Yellow tape": agency turnover
        - Capacity is a challenge on all fronts
    - What are the next steps for identifying and planning work?
        - The Wetland Jewels project is expanding to new watersheds, including the San Juan.
        - New Mexico doesn't have a surface water permitting program, so they rely on the EPA for permitting.
            - Amigos Bravos wants New Mexico to take ownership over their watersheds, and have local experts identify where and when work needs to be done.
            - Want to see a surface water permitting program at the state level.
        - We are so far behind the times that we are ahead of the times.
            - A lot of the work is based in traditional knowledge and is very effective and practical.
            - Want to see traditional knowledge being used at higher levels.
            - There are traditional knowledge practices used in forestry, but equivalent processes aren't being utilized or recognized on the watershed side.
        - There is a lot to learn from the pueblos and other communities in New Mexico.
        - Recruit young people and foster an interest in resource management and resource production.

        - "Us vs. them" mentalities don't work.
        - We need to change our vocabulary and start recognizing that this is an increasingly arid climate. Drought isn't appropriate terminology anymore.
    - How do we tie forest and watershed work together?
        - An exercise in coordination.
        - We are behind the curve.
        - Use forest byproducts for riparian restoration.
            - For example, beaver habitat restoration acts as a fuel break.
    - What have been the most beneficial tips and tricks for building meaningful relationships?
        - Time and conversations like these, conversations in the field are invaluable.
        - It usually doesn't take much convincing that these are battles worth fighting.
        - This place is unique and people want to work together, if you open up that door and are genuine, the conversation tends to flow pretty easily.
        - No one is going to get everything they want, but everyone should get something.
            - Shouldn't give up an opportunity because it isn't 100% agreeable from every perspective. Can get a long way with 60%.
    - What can we do to set the stage for big disturbances to make the outcomes less bad?
        - There's nothing you can do to prepare for post-fire flooding, and you also don't want to prevent that process from happening.
            - The natural process is to allow that sediment to flow through the system.
        - Watersheds and rivers are resilient and they will come back.
            - It becomes more complicated when you add in the human infrastructure component.
        - There are ongoing efforts to repopulate now-fishless streams with native fish after the watersheds have been given sufficient time to recover following the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon fire.
            - It is possible that non-native fish have been eliminated from these streams!
        - Look at new and innovative ways to bring grazing back to landscapes.
            - Virtual/invisible fencing is one tool.
        - Fire is a natural part of the landscape, and many of these cherished landscapes were created by fire.
            - Look at potential for landscape-scale water storage in a post-fire scenario.
    - Climate change
        - We have to be advantageous every step of the way.
        - We don't know everything, so refer back to what we know best:
            - Imitate nature
            - What we love
            - Water storage

Updates

- Legislation
    - Senator Hickenlooper's office, Colorado
        - Bureau of Reclamation receiving approximately $80 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

        - Tracking competitive grant opportunities from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA):
            - January 24th: BOR published a funding opportunity through Water Smart, supporting water management and conservation.
            - Senator Hickenlooper's office is happy to provide letters of support for competitive federal funding to make sure we get as much funding on the ground for forest health work as possible.
        - Farm Bill
            - Hickenlooper's office has been conducting small listening sessions to gather priorities for the year:
                - 3.5 weeks left to get involved.
                - Reach out to Helen Katich to participate in a listening session.
            - Hickenlooper will be focusing on capacity.
                - Thinking a lot about workforce challenges that they have heard from folks all over Colorado, specifically in forestry.
                - Workforce training, development, sustainability of roles.
    - Senator Michael Bennet's office, Colorado
        - Hickenlooper and Bennet's offices work closely together.
        - Trying to solidify and reconnect with New Mexico staffers.
        - CFLRP is poised for reauthorization through the Farm Bill.
            - There is a title on the Farm Bill called Forestry.
            - Senator Michael Bennet has an outsized role in this conversation because he sits on several committees.
        - Reintroducing a bill that was first introduced about 3 years ago, before the BIL and IIJA passed.
            - Restoration fund for partnership projects.
            - Re-opening the conversation to understand how useful a fund for cross-boundary work would be.
    - Contact your legislator:
        - Jennifer Sanchez, Field Representation with Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (NM-03)
            - (505) 570-7558
- Rio Chama CFLRP
    - A logo has been approved and finalized by the 2-3-2 Executive Committee.

      RIO CHAMA
      Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project
    - Next steps:
        - Getting the MPM through the final phases and operationalized in the spring.
        - FY 23 funding is live so contracts and agreements can be pushed through the system.
        - May have additional funds coming to add to the mix to take on more initiatives.
- 2-3-2 Partnership
    - Biomass Committee

        - There have been a lot of transitions within the Committee, and the CFLR is a new project.
        - Need more folks on the Committee.
        - Contact Bill Trimarco If you are interested in participating.
    - The next 2-3-2 meeting will be on May 10th.
        - Likely to be in the southwest portion of the landscape.
        - 2-3-2 meetings are an open forum, please forward meeting invites as needed.
- Partner updates and events:
    - Wood Innovations and Community Wood Grant Programs are currently available.
        - Applications close March 23rd.
    - Rio Chama Congreso on February 25th at the Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu.
    - Cross-Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop May 2-4 in Fort Collins.