



## Full Partnership Meeting

**Where:** Our Lady Guadalupe Parish Hall, Antonito, Colorado

**When:** September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### IN ATTENDANCE (per sign in sheets):

1. Micheal Roberts, New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute
2. Tracy Stephens, National Wildlife Federation
3. Angie Mestas, Colorado State University Extension and Conejos County Conservation District
4. Emily Wolf, American Rivers
5. Dagmar Llewellyn, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition
6. Maya MacHamer, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition
7. Hannah Nikonow, Intermountain West Joint Venture
8. Nicole Langley, Transforma R+D
9. Dwayne Lefthand, Rocky Mountain Youth Corp
10. Paul Lisko, Jemez Mountains Firewise Association
11. Sarah Smith, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
12. Codi Backen, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
13. Sarah Wentzel Fisher, Thornburg Foundation
14. Rodney King, Conejos County Office of Environmental Management
15. Daniel Boyes, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project
16. Connor Born, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project
17. Karen Menetrey, Rio Grande Return
18. Paul Formisano, Salazar Center Alamosa State University
19. Grace Powell, Taos Soil and Water Conservation District
20. Jocelyn Catterson, Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust
21. Jan-Willem Jansens, Ecotone Landscape Planning LLC
22. Bill Trimarco, Wildfire Adapted Partnership
23. Anna Lee Vargas, San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
24. Gabe Kohler, Renew Forest Works LLC
25. Jeremy Marshall, Community Member
26. Elizabeth Hill, Community Member
27. Breckyn Abeyta, Community Member
28. Mayson Allen, Community Member
29. Regan Velasquez, Community Member
30. Shawn Puleal, Community Member

31. Anne J. Sar, Community Member
32. Lorea Duran Jara, Community Member
33. Frankie Allen, Community Member
34. Glen Miller, Community Member
35. Nathaniel Lujan, Community Member
36. Antonya Mason, Community Member
37. Aaron Abeyta, Community Member
38. Micaela Casillas, Community Member
39. Valentina Duran Jara, Community Member
40. Santiago Ortega, Community Member
41. William Foster, New Mexico State Forestry
42. Adam Moore, Colorado State Forest Service
43. Damon Lange, Colorado State Forest Service
44. Max Muller, Colorado State Forest Service
45. Sage Dunn, Bureau of Land Management Taos Field Office
46. Sandra Dingman, USFS Rio Chama CFLRP
47. Apple Snider, USFS Rio Chama CFLRP
48. Zach Parsons, USFS Rio Chama CFLRP
49. Sarah Otero, USFS Rio Chama CFLRP
50. Kileen Mitchell, Santa Fe National Forest
51. Adam Tlachac, San Juan National Forest
52. Jordan Martinez, Carson National Forest
53. Angie Krall, Carson National Forest
54. Emma Lynch, Carson National Forest
55. Laslie Hay, Carson National Forest
56. Nessa Rasmussen, Carson National Forest
57. Andrea Jones, Rio Grande National Forest
58. Stephen Perrine, Rio Grande National Forest
59. Daryl Kohut, Rio Grande National Forest
60. Jani Larsen, Rio Grande National Forest
61. Michael Tooley, Rio Grande National Forest
62. Alex Handloff, Mountain Studies Institute
63. Julia Ledford, Mountain Studies Institute
64. Anthony Culpepper, Mountain Studies Institute
65. Colin Tucker, Mountain Studies Institute
66. Megan Rangel-Lynch, Forest Stewards Guild
67. Andreas Wion, Forest Stewards Guild
68. Luz Salinas, Forest Stewards Guild
69. Eytan Krasilovsky, Forest Stewards Guild
70. Cody Dems, Forest Stewards Guild

**IN ATTENDANCE (via Zoom):**

71. Frederick Marks, Wright Ingraham Institute
72. John Ussery, Community Member
73. Lily Bruce, Forest Stewards Guild

## **MEETING NOTES**

### **Welcome and introductions**

#### Meeting goals

1. Reflect on and strengthen how we tell the story of the 2-3-2 and our collective impact.
2. Explore conflict resolution, public relations, addressing challenges head on.
3. Empower partners to share in telling the story of the 2-3-2 landscape, the story of all of us.

#### Centering us in Antonito, *Aaron Abeyta - local poet, teacher, and storyteller*

- Aaron discussed the significance of storytelling in relation to place and personal history, emphasizing that every story has four 'homes' or chambers that resonate within the human heart.
  - A story must tell our history – our local history, our family history, and how we fit into the bigger picture.
  - A story needs to be magic. It needs mythology and legend. This makes a story become something more than history. It includes things that can't be true but must be, because we believe them.
  - A story has archetypes and oppositional nature. It must have some kind of quarrel, which can be within oneself. It is important to address those that disagree with us, and we must redeem them. It's not always good vs. evil, it's good and evil. In a story, good and evil can nurture each other.
  - A story must also protect our actual home. A place isn't a place until it has a poet. A place isn't a place until it has a hydrologist to protect its water, a biologist to protect its wildlife, a forester to restore its forests.
- He highlighted the importance of honoring nature and local stories, such as those of sheep herders and towns like Antonito, which he describes as a forgotten town.
- Abeyta emphasized the importance of retelling and mythologizing stories and figures like Reyes Tijerina to sustain legends and keep the stories alive across generations. He also explored themes of archetypal homes representing good versus evil, the role of storytelling in protecting and maintaining our current homes, and the importance of poetry, ecology, and other roles in this cultural continuity. Ultimately, he emphasized that the story remains constant, passed down by future generations.

**STUMP Talk**, *Christi Bode – Forest Stewards Guild and independent filmmaker, Hannah Nikonow – Intermountain West Joint Venture, Apple Snider – Rio Chama CFLRP*

#### Introductions

- **Apple Snider** – Rio Chama CFLRP Communications Specialist. A scientist by training. Loves pinyon-juniper woodlands.
- **Hannah Nikonow**– Background in journalism. Asks herself- How do we connect in this world?
- **Christi Bode** – Media specialist. Values connection as a way to open your mind to see different ways of viewing the world.

How do all of us play a role in storytelling, even if we aren't a communications specialist?

- **Hannah**- The editing process is a great way to bring in other perspectives. The audience may know more than we give them credit for. Value each perspective. Tell someone when there is a story to be told and others can help you amplify it.
- **Apple**- Bring in subject matter experts whenever you can. Looking to engage longer format, written words, and genuinely engage deeper with storytelling
- **Christi**- Gaining inspiration by being in the field. Jot down notes whenever an idea pops into your head – try to capture the inspiration before it's gone. Stories can come in many different forms.

How do you connect smaller projects to your broader goal of communication?

- **Hannah**- While it is difficult to communicate to a broad audience, Hannah focuses on communicating complex nuances about local landscapes that folks may never see with their own eyes. Bring in perspectives from people in the field. It is important to share stories about local collaborative meetings. People want to hear about their community more than you think.
- **Christi**- Bring the story back to the community. Get people in a room to consume local media and out of the dumpster fire of the everyday news cycle.

What's the best story you've told?

- **Hannah**- Reflected on an article for a hunting magazine about mental health, hunters, our connection to the woods, and the world. A first-person story for work. Focusing on emotional connection was a challenge, but worth it.
- **Christi**- What motherhood means to me, writing herself into the story, showcasing vulnerability.
- **Apple**- Being a vessel for others' stories, Story of Smokey Bear sonnet.

How do we use storytelling to make change?

- **Apple**- Facts don't change minds. 85-95% of decisions are made based on emotion. Reports do not get us there; storytelling and narrative do and will lead to engagement and action.
- **Hannah**- Storytelling provides context to data, revealing the stories behind the figures and going beyond mere numbers.
- **Christi**- Data cannot tell you how you feel. Find a trusted person in the community to help tell the story. Find voices that don't usually tell the stories.
- **Apple**-It is essential to choose our language carefully – avoid jargon, make your message as clear and simple as possible.

What are the best stories to get young people involved?

- **Hannah** – Omitting use of jargon and creating polarizing language, using plain speak.
- **Apple** -Speak clearly and continue to refine language.
- **Christi** – Reflecting on Colorado education, talking to youth and kids, and giving them the confidence that their perspective. Telling youth that they can make a difference. Show up for them.

## The Recipe of Storytelling: an Elevator Pitch Workshop

Why tell a story?

- Share an idea you want support, funding, engagement, awareness or some other form of action around.
- Storytelling recipe: audience + problem/solution + people = success/failure
  - With each of these aspects, you can weave a compelling story that can motivate an action.
- Audience: identify an audience first. With the people or group in mind, you tailor all other aspects of your story to reach them.
- Problem/solution: highlight the problem, but spend time on the positive. Concrete “solutions” can be difficult to define and near impossible to achieve in a single lifetime. Consider the tangible and intangible.
- People: people connect to people at a molecular level through storytelling. Facts and figures rarely change minds, but how people make you feel can change us.

This exercise is an iterative process that can give you the building blocks for many future conversations and a way to achieve success with storytelling.

## The Story of the 2-3-2: What the MSI/Guild team has done up until now

Alex is going to guide French women around the United States. His position as Collaborative Communications Manager will not be filled due to changing funding priorities.

What we have done:

- A podcast, called [The Dirt and Dust](#)
- [The History of the 2-3-2](#) story map
- [2-3-2 newsletters](#)
- Christi’s film about the 2-3-2
- And more!

While the 2-3-2’s capacity for communications projects like these is diminished, we must continue to connect our individual projects to the broader landscape. We can each play a role in connecting our individual stories to the bigger story.

## Land Stewardship Funding Libraries

New Mexico and Colorado Funding Databases, *Megan Rangel-Lynch – Forest Stewards Guild*

- How it started
  - Common needs:
    - Capacity-building
    - Place-based
    - Consolidated
    - Industry/project-specific
  - Existing databases:
    - Community Navigator Funding Library - Coalitions and Collaboratives
      - Comprehensive across federal, state, private, and nonprofit funding opportunities
      - Some entries are missing information in sortable fields
      - Funds include nationwide opportunities
    - Natural Resources Grants Database - Colorado State Forest Service
      - State-specific
      - Broader natural resources focus
      - Limited in the number of opportunities published
  - Database needs:
    - Focused - state-specific and concentrated by sector
    - Ongoing updates
    - Comprehensive across state, federal, private and local funding opportunities
- [New Mexico Fire Adapted Funding Library](#)
  - Fields include:
    - Program/Opportunity name
    - Funding description
    - Deadline
    - Award timing
    - Funding source
    - Funding entity
    - Link
    - Match requirement
    - Eligible applicants
    - Contact

The Rio Grande Aquatic Navigator Network Hub, *Sarah Smith – Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership*

- The [Rio Grande Aquatic Navigator Network](#), an initiative by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, delivers timely funding updates and resources to advance aquatic restoration in the Upper Rio Grande Basin.
- Network services
  - Monthly updates the network offers monthly briefings and a newsletter to keep partners up to date on funding changes, opportunities, and strategies for impact.

- Resources: public funding database, directories for project support and other navigator resources and information about the Network project pipeline.
- Assistance: request assistance with navigating public funding opportunities and troubleshooting challenges related to public funding.

### **Morning close-out**

The Forest Stewards Guild is [hiring a Partnership Coordinator](#).

### **Field Tour: Notch Vegetation Management, Rio Grande National Forest – an open discussion about learning from our mistakes**

Micheal Tooley and Vincent Dupont, Rio Grande National Forest, spoke about insect and disease impacts on mixed conifer forests and the value of forest thinning for disrupting insect lifecycles to reduce insect impacts on remaining vegetation.

Andrea Jones, District Ranger, spoke about the Notch Vegetation decision making process and the importance of speaking with concerned parties directly, to understand each other's concerns and areas of agreement. Andrea encouraged partners to always reach out to decision makers to have honest conversations.

Cody Dems, Forest Stewards Guild, reflected on communicating about the role of fire in our landscape and the importance of learning from messages that don't sit right with everyone while being unafraid to communicate about our work.