



**WESTERN
FORESTRY
LEADERSHIP
COALITION**

Western Forestry Leadership Coalition

Forestry Roundtable Synthesis

May 2015

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Introduction

In May 2015, the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) hosted a Forestry Roundtable (Roundtable) in San Francisco, CA.

The Roundtable offered WFLC members and their staff the opportunity to engage in open dialogue about Western state forestry agency and USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) region partnerships seeking to accelerate forest management on National Forest System (NFS) lands. Dialogue throughout the day addressed a wide breadth of items including lessons learned, benefits and challenges of state/federal partnerships, opportunities for expanding and leveraging partnerships, and the collective work underway and/or completed by these partnerships to accelerate forest management on NFS lands.

The following pages of this document include the 2015 Roundtable agenda, summary minutes, participant list, and the briefing papers submitted by individual Western states and their respective Forest Service regions detailing their state/federal partnerships. The briefing papers were provided to WFLC staff to be distributed as prework prior to the Roundtable – this information was intended to frame the conversation. Not all 17 Western states were represented at the Roundtable nor did all states and their respective Forest Service regions submit briefing papers.

In conclusion, this WFLC document is meant to summarize the conversations entertained during the Roundtable, and to share the successes and lessons learned from state/federal partnerships across the West.

Roundtable Agenda

Western Forestry Leadership Coalition Forestry Roundtable

May 11, 2015 | San Francisco, CA | Westin St. Francis on Union Square

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Full Continental Breakfast
8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting Session
8:30 – 9:50 a.m.	State/Federal Partnership Roundtable – Part 1 State and federal member representatives co-present highlights from their forest management partnership briefing paper. Open discussion for questions, clarifications, and requests for more information about the state/region partnership presentations.
9:50 – 10:20 a.m.	Break
10:20 – 11:40 a.m.	State/Federal Partnership Roundtable – Part 2 State and federal member representatives co-present highlights from their forest management partnership briefing paper. Open discussion for questions, clarifications, and requests for more information about the state/region partnership presentations.
11:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Framing the Afternoon Session To expand and leverage existing state and federal forest management partnerships, meeting attendees will have the opportunity to explore key topics through a series of small group conversations, and then conclude the afternoon with identification of key themes and ideas for moving forward.
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (Provided)
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Opportunities for Expanding and Leveraging Partnerships Meeting attendees participate in three small group conversations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct investment in federal projects; involvement in collaborative groups• State engagement in planning processes and revisions• Farm Bill implementation including tools such as the Good Neighbor Authority – where we are, steps for success
2:15 – 3:00 p.m.	Reflection and Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report-out on key themes and ideas from the day

Roundtable Minutes

Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting Session: Cal Joyner (R3), Doug Decker (OR)

Doug Decker and Cal Joyner welcomed meeting participants to San Francisco and the first Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) Forestry Roundtable. Together they provided a brief overview of the WFLC, its structure, and WFLCs relationship to the Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF). Doug and Cal presented a brief overview of the day ahead before asking meeting attendees to participate in a round of introductions.

Upon completion of introductions, Cal introduced Debra Whitall, Social Scientist, USDA Forest Service Region 5, and facilitator for the WFLC Forestry Roundtable. Debra completed an overview of the agenda, purpose and goals of the meeting, and the organization of the day ahead.

The purpose of the Roundtable was to utilize the WFLC platform to offer WFLC members and their staff the opportunity to engage in open dialogue about the benefits, challenges, and lessons learned of state forestry agency and Forest Service Region partnerships to accelerate forest management on federal lands.

State/Federal Partnership Roundtable Part 1 & 2: Debra (facilitator) along with representatives from each state and region.

Representatives from each state and the respective USFS Region(s) presented 10-minute summaries of the status, progress, challenges, and successes of their state/region partnership. Among other items, representatives presented on:

- The reasons they established a state/region partnership
- How the partnership benefited the outputs and outcomes of project planning and implementation
- Lessons learned from these partnerships and associated federal forest management activities
- Suggestions for successful partnerships

For detailed information on each of the presentations, please link to the WFLC prework document that includes the state/region briefing papers: http://wflccenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/WFLC-Forestry-Roundtable_May-11.pdf.

Framing the Afternoon Session: Debra (facilitator)

For the afternoon session, meeting participants were divided into three groups. Each group rotated through a set of small group conversations, led by Forestry Roundtable Steering Committee members, to explore:

- Direct investment in federal projects; involvement in collaborative groups

- State engagement in planning processes and revisions
- Farm Bill implementation including tools such as the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) – where are we, steps for success

Opportunities for Expanding and Leveraging Partnerships: Roundtable Steering Committee members Chad Davis (OR), Maureen Bookwalter (MT), and Paula Short (MT)

All three groups enjoyed a robust dialogue during this session. The summary highlights captured by the Steering Committee members below include the main themes, questions, discussion items that were discussed.

Direct Investment in Federal Projects; Involvement in Collaborative Groups - led and summarized by Paula Short:

Direct Investment in Federal Projects:

- Collectively, all land management agencies/individuals/organizations need to continue to “blur the boundaries” of land ownership
 - Just as wildfire isn’t constrained by property lines, good forest management should not be constrained
 - Decisions should be based on landscapes, resource benefit, efficiency in implementation and cumulative benefits
- We must be strategic about where to invest
 - Projects that deliver a variety of benefits, lie within priority landscapes, and are achievable and based on sound science are most often the places to invest
- There’s a tension between the need to do on-the-ground work and the need for planning/analysis
 - States can and should invest in both, but in a combination that demonstrates desire to get work done on-the-ground
- Investment in federal projects involves expending some political capital
- For the states demonstrating willingness to invest, they have experienced significant returns
 - Potential for additional funds more often follows when state/federal/private/local partnerships are successful in implementing good projects
- Engage research entities in the consideration and development of management actions to ensure they are based on the best science.

Involvement in Collaborative Groups:

- We need new approaches to collaboratively develop projects
 - May consider project-based, landscape-based or issue-based collaborative processes
 - The key is being able to collaborate on a project and then support an action in a reasonable amount of time

- Around the West (and likely the nation), there is substantial “planning fatigue” that impedes efforts. Often, key strategic partners lack the resources (time and personnel) to engage in a protracted collaborative process. This lends additional credibility to a more agile approach to collaboration
- For collaboration on projects, there is a spectrum along which stakeholders can choose to participate
 - On one end, collaboration may simply be a letter of support or responding via the NEPA process
 - At the other end, it might include involvement in litigation processes
 - Determining the level of collaboration depends on the significance of the project for each stakeholder's interests and needs
- There is no “cookie cutter” approach to collaboration, nor should there be. The collaborative process should be agile, creative and forward-looking

State Engagement in Planning Processes and Revisions - led and summarized by Chad Davis:

Overall summary of group discussion:

- Dedicated engagement is critical - work smarter, not harder
- States need to provide one voice – this entails both of the project development and in the state comments/legal review
- We (state and federal WFLC members and staff) need to work together to reinvent the planning process - from data collection, through project analysis, and objections

Each group discussed major steps/components within the planning process and brainstormed ideas to ‘reinvent’ the process. Further, members discussed recent examples ‘in action’ that demonstrate reinventing the process. The planning components and ideas are synthesized below.

- Data Collection
 - Consider a new approach that may include state investments to collect data (ex: Lower Joe project in Oregon)
 - Instead of detailed survey work completed prior to the project, focus dollars on critical needs shift to use of post-decision surveys
 - This is being tested in a national forest in Idaho. Started with a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLRP) project
- Environmental Analysis
 - Consider completing by ‘shared’ employees - both state/federal and external non-governmental organization partners
 - Scale up analyses – there are large landscape analyses (larger than 100,000 acres) occurring in multiple states; these should be used as a model

- Administrative & Judicial Review
 - States have started to play a more active role in administrative and judicial review.
 - One example is the Colt Summit CFLRP project where the state filed an amicus brief on side of the Forest Service encouraging the project to be completed
 - Consider collaboratives having a seat at the objection table (Ex: Four Forest Restoration CFLRP Project, Regional Forester from Forest Service Region 3 had collaborative members participate at the objection table)
 - Currently, collaboratives (or others) can file as ‘interested party’ within five days if they have standing

- National Forest System (NFS) Forest Plan Revisions
 - In Alaska and Idaho during the two revision processes for forest plans state staff were embedded in the process.
 - Consider potential for having staff from the governors office to lead state engagement
 - Potential for a Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) chartered collaborative group to shape alternatives/plan development?
 - Seek methods to increase consideration and ties of forest plans to State Forest Action Plans

Farm Bill Implementation Including Tools such as the GNA: Where are we, Steps for Success - led and summarized by Mauren Bookwalter:

General Comments:

- The Farm Bill allows us to be more nimble, working at a landscape level
- It has brought focus on an area (designated landscapes) adding a spotlight and drawing support
- Farm Bill allows more state involvement adding some glue between the state and the Forest Service

Farm Bill Section 8206, Good Neighborhood Authority:

- Examples in UT and CO showed that using state crews and state contracting can add efficiencies - less expensive and more timely. Projects were accomplished at an economy of scale and created more interest by a broader audience
- A lot of interest in using the Farm Bill GNA. Wisconsin has completed a sand table exercise to create mutual understanding to move forward more quickly when the authorities become available. There is a combined demand to work on joint projects to demonstrate landscape level benefits
- Unlike stewardship, GNA does generate county payments. Further, money from the projects (program income generated) can be invested on the ground

Farm Bill Section 8204, Insect & Disease Infestation and the 3,000-acre Categorical Exclusion (CE):

- Positive about the new authorities and potential to get more done
- Caution was expressed – use the right tool at the right time in order to maintain the authorities
- Related to the CE- we need to show (tell the story) of early successes
- Consider or explore the benefits of establishing a FB coordinator to focus, teach, and show public and agency how to utilize the forestry provisions in the Farm Bill
- The Farm Bill is a nexus to bring a sharper focus on state/federal partnerships. Keep sharing across states to reach highest potential

Identified Barriers:

- Lack of appropriated – creativity necessary to plan and carryout projects. This indicates the need for more federal, state and private partnerships
- Capacity (state and federal) to use the authorities
- It is not a panacea; need to continue seeking forest management and state/federal partnership opportunities
- Integrating state contracts into federal standards

Solutions:

- Tell our story better!
- Be creative within bounds
- Work in partnership
- All of this could help leverage more funding for cross boundary projects

Participant List

First Name	Last Name	Organization
John	Maisch	Alaska Division of Forestry
Jeff	Whitney	Arizona State Forestry Division
Janet	Barentson	CAL FIRE
Caroline	Godkin	CAL FIRE
Ken	Pimlott	CAL FIRE
Duane	Shintaku	CAL FIRE
Lynne	Tolmachoff	CAL FIRE
Janet	Upton	CAL FIRE
Mike	Lester	Colorado State Forest Service
Paul	Orbuch	CWSF / USFS Contractor
Kelsey	Delaney	CWSF / WFLC
Sara	Goodwin	CWSF / WFLC
Caitlyn	Pollihan	CWSF / WFLC
Craig	Foss	Idaho Department of Lands
David	Groeschl	Idaho Department of Lands
Maureen	Bookwalter	Montana DNRC
Andy	Burgoyne	Montana DNRC
Devin	Healy	Montana DNRC
Hoyt	Richards	Montana DNRC
Robert	Harrington	Montana DNRC
Paula	Short	Montana DNRC
Scott	Josiah	Nebraska Forest Service
Eddie	Tudor	New Mexico State Forestry
Chad	Davis	Oregon Department of Forestry
Doug	Decker	Oregon Department of Forestry
Greg	Josten	South Dakota Resource Conservation & Forestry
Sheri S.	Mann	State of Hawaii Division of Forestry & Wildlife
Victoria	Christiansen	USDA Forest Service
Mike	Dudley	USDA Forest Service
Jim	Hubbard	USDA Forest Service
Calvin	Joyner	USDA Forest Service
Dan	Olsen	USDA Forest Service
Shawna	Legarza	USDA Forest Service
Keith	Lannom	USDA Forest Service
Bryan	Rice	USDA Forest Service

Participant List Continued

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Paula	Guenther	USDA Forest Service
David	Schmid	USDA Forest Service
Teresa	Raaf	USDA Forest Service
Steven	Koehn	USDA Forest Service
Tom	Harbour	USDA Forest Service
Heather	Degeest	USDA Forest Service
Robert	Johns	USDA Forest Service
Bill	Avery	USDA Forest Service
Carol	Boyd	USDA Forest Service
Rick	Cooksey	USDA Forest Service
Karl	Dalla Rosa	USDA Forest Service
Rebecca	Heath	USDA Forest Service
Patti	Hirami	USDA Forest Service
James	Pena	USDA Forest Service
David	Whittekiend	USDA Forest Service
Beth	Pendleton	USDA Forest Service
Christine	Dawe	USDA Forest Service
Sherry	Hazelhurst	USDA Forest Service
Alex	Friend	USDA Forest Service
Jane	Hayes	USDA Forest Service
Peter	Stine	USDA Forest Service
Ron	Graham	Wyoming State Forestry Division

State/Region Partnership Briefing Papers

USDA Forest Service Region 1, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

State of Montana Briefing Paper for WFLC Roundtable

What provided (or provides) the motivation for the state/region partnership on National Forest System (NFS) lands? What are the three enabling conditions/factors that create a foundation for your partnership?

The Forest Service is Montana's largest land management agency; managing more than sixty percent of the state's forested landscape. What happens on federal lands affects both forest health across ownerships and Montana's natural resource economy. In 2013 the Governor of Montana, the Regional Forester and State Forester came together around the shared vision of promoting healthy and resilient forests in Montana, developing strategies to achieve this common goal. With the right leadership in place, coupled with the ambition to try new tools, the state of Montana and Northern Region signed a [Master Stewardship Agreement](#) to implement projects of mutual interest. During the same time, Governor Bullock launched his [Forest in Focus Initiative](#) to increase forest restoration across ownerships, employing a variety of approaches to promote sustainable forest management on NFS lands. The passage of the 2014 Farm Bill and the ability for Governor and state agencies to play a more direct role in federal management provided another important tool in moving this state/federal partnership forward. Finally, the interest from Region 1 in sharing a liaison position with the state of Montana is helping the two agencies to more deliberately partner in project planning and implementation to meet the goals of the Governor's Initiative.

What are some unique features of the state/region partnership (i.e., shared staff, dedicated staff person, shared office space) and what are the relationship values of each?

The Montana DNRC recently hired a federal forest liaison to work in the USFS Regional Office, providing an important connection between the two agencies regarding national forest system management. This position works closely with forest supervisors, USFS leadership, collaborative groups, and DNRC to help develop projects to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration on national forest system lands. The USFS-DNRC Liaison's main duty station is the Regional office; however they maintain a state office as well. The position is supervised by the State Forester and reports directly to the Director of Renewable Resource Management for Region 1. This set-up has proven successful to date in meeting the goal of shared learning and building relationships across agencies.

How does the state/region partnership play a role in increasing other partners/collaboratives involvement in federal forest management projects?

In October 2014, Governor Bullock invited representatives of collaborative groups involved in federal forest management to discuss the Farm Bill, Forests in Focus Initiative, and the critical role collaborative processes play in determining the future of federal forest management in Montana. Those in attendance expressed the need to accelerate forest restoration on national forests in Montana, and expressed their commitment to seek collaborative solutions to meet that goal. The DNRC and USFS will continue to work with the Governor and collaborative groups to advance collaborative involvement in federal projects.

As a part of the state investment in federal projects, forest-based collaborative groups were given the opportunity to apply through their respective forest supervisor's office for state funding to support their efforts. The USFS-DNRC Liaison continues to meet with forest based collaboratives, county commissioners and other key groups to foster the partnerships essential to advance forest based restoration in Montana.

What federal forest management activities are being planned or already underway by the partnership? Provide a short synopsis of a project or projects you would like to share with meeting attendees.

Red Mountain Chessman Reservoir Project – Helena, Montana

Using an umbrella Master Stewardship Agreement (MSA) and a Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) with the U.S. Forest Service, the Montana DNRC and Helena National Forest are implementing the Red Mountain Flume/Chessman Reservoir Project which will reduce fuels and improve forest health in Helena's municipal watershed. The DNRC is administering the contract for harvest and forest work being conducted by RY-Timber. The project will continue through the spring and summer of 2015. Although the Stewardship authority was used for this project, the use of Good Neighbor Authority will also be explored for future partnership opportunities.

The DNRC, the Montana Attorney General's office, and the City of Helena filed an amicus brief in support of the project when legal challenges threatened to delay or permanently stop the project. DNRC involvement with the legal challenge was essential in the favorable court decision. The DNRC partnership on the Chessman Project was critical in bringing almost 1.5 million dollars of additional federal funds through the Two Chiefs' Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership to this region. A good portion of this funding was granted to private landowners for fuels reduction projects.

Since this was the first MSA and SPA for Montana and Region One, the learning process will continue through project completion. The USFS-DNRC Liaison is currently conducting a mid-term evaluation to help inform future projects and partnership opportunities. The MT DNRC is happy to share the findings of the report upon completion.

Farm Bill Implementation

The interest of the state of Montana in Farm Bill project implementation has encouraged the Region to take additional steps to realize Farm Bill success. Specifically, the Region has hired a Farm Bill coordinator, developed guidance to the Forests to assist in utilizing Farm Bill authorities, created a three year program of work and is in the process of hiring a new ID Team to work specifically on Farm Bill projects.

If a state has invested funding into the partnership, what is the value proposition to the state, the components and/or activities the state is funding (i.e., planning, pre-sale layout, treatments), and why the state chose to invest in the particular areas it has.

In April, 2014, Governor Bullock nominated nearly five million acres of national forest system lands for designation as priority landscapes under the 2014 Farm Bill. The DNRC is now investing one million dollars in USFS projects which meet key criteria outlined in the Forests in Focus Initiative. Specifically, projects occurring within designated Farm Bill priority landscapes, that are collaboratively developed, produce commercial forest products, improve watershed health and/or recreation opportunity have received priority for funding. Investment summary:

- Twenty projects were submitted from every National Forest in Montana; [14 projects were selected to date](#). Eleven Montana counties will be positively impacted by these investments.
- All of the projects are within or adjacent to the 2014 Farm Bill Priority Landscape designations; each has important restoration outcomes, collaborative involvement and commercial timber outputs.
- Several of the projects will likely utilize one of the Farm Bill authorities to expedite the planning process, ensuring quicker timelines.
- State investments will assist in accelerating many project timelines, allowing for earlier project implementation.
- Two collaborative groups will receive direct funding to work alongside of their USFS partner on specific projects selected for state funding.
- The DNRC is working with private partners to leverage state dollars for selected USFS projects.
- Activities being funded include: NEPA planning and sale preparation (specialist surveys, leave tree mark, unit layout, timber cruising), bridge construction, weed treatments, post-harvest activities such as burning, fireline construction in the WUI, tree planting, monitoring and collaborative training.

The state's investments will lead to healthier forests and lend support to the state's forest products industry and rural communities.

For more information please feel free to contact: Mo Bookwalter, USFS-DNRC Liaison, mbookwalter@mt.gov or Maureen.bookwalter@fs.fed.us

Exploring Federal Land Management Strategies in Idaho

Issue Statement:

Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is exploring options to facilitate management of federal timberlands under new Farm Bill Authorities. Over 1.7 million acres of National Forest lands in Idaho have been designated as part of an insect and disease treatment program through amendments to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). While three-quarters of Idaho's timberlands are in the national forest system, federal lands account for approximately 10 percent of timber harvests in the state. Benefits of this increased management would be the restoration and maintenance of resilient forests and communities within Idaho.

Background:

The enacted 2014 Farm Bill contains forestry provisions that promote restoration and management efforts on federal forest land. The new Farm Bill extends opportunities for Stewardship End Result Contracting (stewardship contracting) and Good Neighbor Authority, and includes an amendment to HFRA authorizing Governors to designate landscape-scale treatment areas on national forests within their state that are at high risk of insect and disease mortality.

At the direction of Governor Otter, IDL led the collaborative HFRA designation process for Idaho. Multiple agencies, organizations and citizens contributed to the identification and designation of 50 proposed HFRA project areas covering over 1.7 million acres of National Forest System lands in Idaho that are at high risk of insect and disease mortality.

Future Considerations:

- After extensive discussion with federal, state and private interests, as well as the Governor's office throughout the fall of 2014, IDL is considering formation of a non-profit partnership with a board of directors that allocates funding and resources to implement management projects on federal ownership through various authorities. The intent of these projects would be to create healthy, resilient landscapes and communities within Idaho. Local collaborative groups working with National Forests would design, prioritize and submit potential projects to this partnership. This group could utilize all possible authorities, be a clearinghouse for needed resources and utilize an array of funding sources. The partnership could enhance the collaborative process and show the value of standing together in a unified front to strengthen possible judicial review.

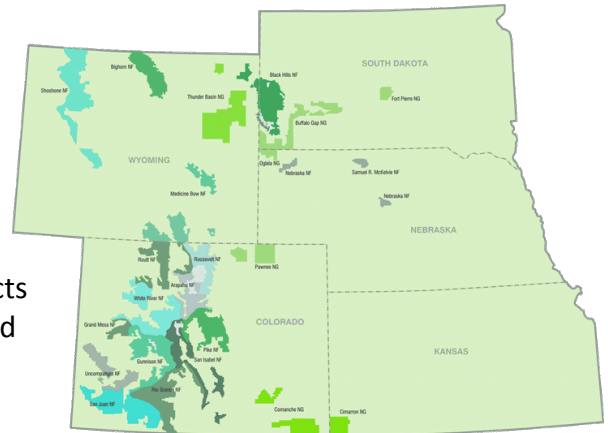
- On March 30, 2015, Governor Otter and the rest of Idaho’s Land Board wrote a letter to Idaho’s Congressional delegation requesting additional funding (\$1.7 million) for forest management per the 2014 Farm Bill provisions. This money would be used two ways; \$1.2 million would be utilized to fund two NEPA/Interdisciplinary teams focused on forest restoration projects within Idaho’s 50 proposed treatment areas. These dedicated mobile NEPA/ID teams could travel to the various National Forests in Idaho as needed. The remaining \$500,000 would be used for data collection needs, such as stand inventory and other data needs to support the NEPA analysis for these projects. This request stemmed from conversations with multiple Forest Supervisors in Idaho, both Regional Foresters, and Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, identifying the capacity limitations listed above as the primary limiting factors to increased management in Idaho.
- At the end of the 2015 Idaho Legislative session, Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 126 was passed seeking the assistance of Idaho's Congressional Delegation to improve the working relationship with land management agencies in the federal government in order to facilitate the findings and recommendations of the Final Report from the 2014 Idaho Legislative Interim Committee on Public Lands. In addition, this SCR seeks the assistance of Idaho's Congressional delegation in asking the federal government to develop a model to sustain and increase funding for management of federal lands within Idaho to adequately support current uses and the best interests of Idaho.

Finally, this SCR directs IDL to establish an internal working group to meet with federal land management agencies and identify specific parcels of federal lands suitable for use of the Good Neighbor Authority. IDL is also being directed to work on developing agreements with federal agencies based on the Good Neighbor Authority.

- The University of Idaho - Policy Analysis Group has been tasked with assisting the state by developing a report on increased federal land management in Idaho. The focus of this report is three provisions of the 2014 Farm Bill (HFRA designated landscape-scale treatment areas, Good Neighbor Authority and stewardship contracting) that could lead to increased cooperative management between the state of Idaho and the USFS to improve conditions on Idaho's national forests. This report, which analyzes the provisions through replies to a series of focus questions, was completed May 2015. (The Idaho Legislature created the Policy Analysis Group (or “PAG”) in 1989 as a way for the University of Idaho to provide timely, scientific and objective data and analysis, and analytical and information services, on resource and land use questions of general interest to the people of Idaho.)

The Rocky Mountain Region: Collaboration in Forest Management

The Rocky Mountain Region comprises five states (Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming) and 11 National Forests & Grasslands. Its 40 million acres of forest lands are home to a diversity of resources and cultures. Western and eastern forests meet here, and the mountains of Colorado and Wyoming serve as the headwaters of seven major river systems. In recent years, forest insects and diseases, wildfires, floods, urban development, and other factors have changed the landscape and created numerous opportunities to work in partnership to promote restoration and resiliency that benefits both ecosystems and communities.



What is motivating State/Regional forest management partnerships on National Forest System lands?

National Forests and Grasslands are interlaced with Tribal, State and private lands, and all lands are within landscapes and watersheds. The health of communities is in many ways inextricably linked to the health of the lands and water where we live. Working together across boundaries defines how we address restoration and resiliency. The drivers for partnership are:

- Forests across the Region have experienced the effects of environmental change, expanded development in wildland areas, and the need to accelerate management in order to increase their ability to absorb disturbances and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.
- The stress to our landscapes and watersheds is resulting in:
 - Increased number and severity of wildfires.
 - Potential catastrophic impacts to communities, municipal watersheds, and wildlife habitats.
 - More frequent and severe storms and flood events.
 - Increasingly dense and unhealthy forests.
 - Expansion of invasive species.
 - Damaging insects and disease outbreaks.
- Collaboration is needed across State, Federal, and private boundaries to be efficient and effective.

What factors created the foundation for these partnerships?

- A shared awareness that forest conditions are being affected, and that expanded and accelerated forest management is needed. Large-scale fires and bark beetle epidemics increased the concern about forest health.
- An acknowledgement that to be efficient and effective we needed to work across boundaries and at larger scales.
- A desire to work together in collaboration. Federal, State and local agencies, along with groups and businesses, have come together to share decision-making and work to accomplish outcomes on the ground.

What is in it for the State and other partners to make these investments?

- Leveraging programs as tools to achieve outcomes. Each partner is bringing resources, be it funding or expertise. We are getting more done collectively than separately.
- A focus on watersheds and landscapes has attracted participation by private sector firms, foundations, and non-profit organizations that share a mutual benefit.
- The establishment of collaborative groups has been key to establishing: 1) strong relationships and trust, 2) a common understanding of the issues facing our Forests and Grasslands, and 3) a collaborative approach to prioritizing on-the-ground projects.
- Formalizing our partnerships and setting mutual goals through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) – these MOUs have helped set the stage for larger and longer term investments, and have helped build upfront understanding and trust by all parties.

Examples of Collaboration in Forest Management

Colorado Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects

There are currently two CFLRP projects in the Region, the Colorado Front Range project on the Arapaho-Roosevelt and Pike National Forests and the Uncompahgre Project on the Uncompahgre National Forest.

CFLRP partnerships includes federal, state, and local agencies, utility providers, conservation groups, private business representatives, and other stakeholders committed to reducing wildfire hazards through sustained fuels treatments.

CFLRP restoration treatments are primarily implemented through stewardship contracts, commercial timber sale contract, and service work. The two regional CFLRP projects are in the sixth year of implementation. Completed vegetation management activities through 2014 include 69,000 ccf of forest products removed, 6,300 acres of reforestation, 23,000 acres of thinning, 51,000 acres of hazardous fuels reduction, and 5,200 acres of noxious weeds treatments.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has contributed salary for participation in collaborative meetings and monitoring efforts on the Colorado Front Range Project and funded OHV treatments on the Uncompahgre Project. Other partner contributions include funding of treatments by water providers such as Denver Water and Colorado Springs utilities, the Arbor Day Foundation, the National Forest Fund, Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Tri-State Electric, the Western Area Power Administration, Delta County, the Mule Deer Foundation, and volunteer contribution from a variety of organizations

Wyoming – Pole Mountain Landscape Fuels Treatment Partnership

The USFS, Rocky Mountain Region, Medicine Bow and Routt NFs and Thunder Basin NG, Laramie Ranger District and State of Wyoming, Wyoming State Forestry Division (WFSD) entered into a Partnership Agreement utilizing Wyden Amendment Authority.

The goal of the agreement is to cooperate on specific restoration, enhancement, or protection efforts across National Forest and State lands. The parties share an interest in improving or protecting the condition within the South Platte, Upper Lodgepole, and Crow watersheds. The agreement will allow the State of Wyoming to implement fuels reduction and landscape restoration treatments on the first 3 of ten phases across 2,676 acres (633 acres of state and 2043 acres of federal).

It will be a multi-phased approach for treatment including mechanical and prescribed fire applications on both federal and state managed lands.

The proposed treatments would improve range health and forage in the area, the diversity of wildlife habitat, and increase the resiliency of fire-adapted vegetation types on Pole Mountain. Treatments will focus on producing vegetation diversity, decreasing fuel loads, and reducing the risk of catastrophic fire across the matrix of State, private and Forest Service lands.

Colorado – Water Provider Partnerships

The Rocky Mountain Region has committed to establishing partnerships with municipal water providers and water-related corporations over the last five years, and is expanding our effort to include energy utilities as well. These public/private ventures are helping achieve accelerated forest and watershed restoration across the landscape.

Partnerships now include: Denver Water, Aurora Water, Colorado Springs Utilities, Northern Water Conservancy, Pueblo Board of Water Works, The Bureau of Reclamation, Vail Resorts, Miller-Coors, the Coca-Cola Company, and Xcel Energy. Water and energy utility partnerships have been developed and managed through direct agreements with the Region and/or individual Forests. Corporate partnerships have been developed and facilitated by The National Forest Foundation. There are also many local partnerships associated with each National Forest in the region that are leveraging funds and volunteer hours to implement a bold and exciting watershed and forest health projects.

Since 2009, the Region’s water & energy partners have contributed over \$28 million and planned investment of an additional approximately \$8 million by 2018 would bring a total investment of \$36 million. The USFS has contributed approximately \$29 million of federal funds to date bringing the total anticipated 10 year investment (2009-2018) to over \$65 million.

The results have been 26,500 acres of hazardous fuels treatments; 798,000 trees planted; 355 acres of wetlands and riparian areas restored; 80 miles of recreation trails and roads restored, constructed or decommissioned. This work was assisted by 2,730 volunteers.

USDA Forest Service Region 2, South Dakota Division of Conservation and Forestry

The driver behind the Participating Agreement between the State of South Dakota Resource Conservation & Forestry Division (RC&F) and the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) is the mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic. Although primarily affecting the National Forest, the latticework of private lands within the Forest boundary, and the close proximity of Custer State Park to the Black Elk Wilderness ensured the affect of the epidemic on state and private lands.

MPB suppression activities began in Custer State Park in 2006. In 2012, Governor Daugard began the Black Hills Initiative, which provided \$4 million over three years to assist private landowners in the Black Hills to suppress MPB. Private landowners soon realized the frustration of treating infested trees on their property, while unable to treat the infested trees across the fence on BHNF land.

In 2013, Black Hills area counties secured a \$2 million appropriation from the state legislature to further their MPB suppression efforts, which included treating dead and infested trees along county right-of-ways. Funding is administered by RC&F. Three counties also developed agreements with BHNF to cut and treat infested trees on site in certain areas of the National Forest, including within 300 feet of private lands whose owners participated in the state's MPB suppression program.

In 2014, the legislature appropriated \$1.95 million for an all-lands approach to MPB suppression to be administered by RC&F. Landscape scale priority areas including a mixture of federal, state, and private lands were identified via a collaborative process involving RC&F, BHNF Supervisor Office staff, District Rangers and their staff, county weed and pest officials, and industry representatives. A Participating Agreement was developed between BHNF and RC&F allowing RC&F to survey BHNF lands, mark infested trees and treat those trees on site. State marking crews also helped set up two small timber sales on two different districts, and staff have helped arrange a third small sale which is still being prepared.

The agreement was written with broad language to allow maximum flexibility within the constraints of what could be done given completed environmental analysis. Priority areas were selected based on an effort to treat the leading edge of the epidemic, juxtaposition of private and federal lands, completed NEPA analysis, and potential for harvest of infested trees. RC&F efforts focused on state and private lands, 100' to 300' buffers on BHNF lands, and other BHNF lands along the leading edge of the epidemic where NEPA analysis was complete. Analysis of digital aerial photography of the Black Hills indicated the expansion of the epidemic declined by about 50% from 2013 to 2014.

In 2015 the state legislature appropriated \$750,000 to continue the all lands approach during a tight budget year. Planning has already begun to determine how these funds will be targeted during the coming year.

The initiation, success, and continued funding of this all-lands approach can be attributed to the collaborative efforts of the Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group. This group is made up of BHNF, RC&F, county, and industry representatives working collectively to suppress the MPB epidemic. Due to the scope of the epidemic, the group realized it could not stop it so the focus has been on mitigating the impacts and reducing the beetle population in priority areas until natural forces cause the epidemic to crash.

Some critical components led to the success of this endeavor: 1) Social license (public support) to spend state funds on federal lands. 2) Adequate budget and a willing and supportive Governor and legislature. 3) A well organized collaborative group willing to advocate for continuing state funding. 4) A Forest that had the foundation for an aggressive MPB suppression program through its Land and Resource Management Plan and landscape scale Pine Beetle Response Plan. 5) National Forest staff that see the state investment as an asset rather than a liability.

In addition to the on-the-ground suppression activities, we are entering into our fourth year of a collaborative aerial photography project. The photography covers the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. Organized and contracted by RC&F, other agencies that contribute to the project include State of Wyoming (via Weston County Natural Resource District), Black Hills National Forest, and Bureau of Land Management. The workload for analyzing the photos to identify and heads up digitize faded MPB infested trees is shared by RC&F, WY State Forestry Division, Weston County Natural Resource District, BHNF, and Neiman Enterprises, Inc. Neiman Enterprises, Inc. compiled the data for planning future suppression action. These data are also used by USFS Forest Health Protection in place of their annual forest health aerial survey.

Southwestern Region, US Forest Service Arizona State Forestry Division

Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI): The largest landscape level collaborative partnership in the country that includes a range of stakeholders: US Forest Service, Arizona State Forestry (AZSF), other state and local agencies, key environmental organizations, local and county governments, and industry. The work has resulted in a very large Environmental Impact Statement that has unprecedented broad support. The project is accompanied by a contract for mechanical treatment of 300,000 acres over 10 years.

Flagstaff Watershed Protection Plan: The citizens of Flagstaff passed a \$10 million bond to fund additional work on state, federal, county, and municipal lands to reduce the threat of wildfire and protect the watershed that supplies the city. The land management agencies are using this bond to leverage their funding and significantly expand the amount of work supported by the generous contributions of these citizens.

Forest Products Utilization Efforts: Arizona State Forestry has a Wood Utilization Specialist that is supported by contributions from the Forest Service and the Forest Products Laboratory. His position is a resource that the industry counts on, that supplies valuable assistance to state agencies, county governments, and industry associations. He is a liaison between Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the forest products industry helping increase exports of wood products. He has helped get the Healthy Forest Enterprise incentive program passed by the Arizona Legislature, and has recently been awarded a Wood Innovations Grant to the State of Arizona that will finalize testing of treated round ponderosa pine poles as guardrails.

Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Projects (REPI): Within the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape, DOD has awarded Arizona Land and Water Trust \$5 million to purchase conservation easements around Fort Huachuca. With Forest Service funding, AZSF has organized the Southeast Arizona Natural Resource Conservation Council where more than 40 local, state, and federal partners are working together to discourage incompatible land development, preserve native grassland and working ranches, and ensure the availability of scarce groundwater resources for the entire region.

USFS/NRCS Joint Chief's Award - Prescott Basin Cross Boundary Project: Restoration activities on over 3,000 acres in the Prescott Basin will be completed. Partnerships include: USFS-R3, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Arizona State Forestry, Prescott Area Wildland Urban Interface Commission, Highlands Center for Natural History, and the City of Prescott. This project will leverage \$1.5 million from partners from a federal investment of \$2.2 million between the U.S. Forest Service and NRCS.

Verde River Re-vegetation Cooperative: Goals include completing invasive plant control on over 150 acres and re-vegetation of 24 acres along the Verde River corridor. The work will be completed by crews comprised of veterans, thus providing an employment opportunity for these honored citizens. The Verde River provides habitat for a number of threatened and endangered species. Along with existing work, these treatments will improve the habitat for these critical species. Partners include: Friends of the Verde River Greenway, Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition, Coconino National Forest, Prescott National Forest, Tonto National Forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northern Arizona University, Tamarisk Coalition, Arizona Conservation Corps, and Arizona State Parks. This effort will leverage \$324,000 from partners from a federal investment of \$300,000.

Northern Arizona Forest Foundation Projects: Managed by the National Forest Foundation (NFF), with primary funding provided by the Salt River Project (SRP), the Northern Arizona Forest Foundation (NAFF) has funded two projects on the Coconino National Forest in FY15. NAFF is reviewing proposals from the Prescott, Kaibab, Coconino, Apache-Sitgreaves, and Tonto National Forests for funding in FY16. The areas of interests are in the Salt and Verde River Basins.

Aerial Detection Survey/Forest Health Partnership: AZSF is partnering with the USFS Southwestern Regional Office to do aerial detection surveys of the entire forested area of Arizona. The region has lost some staff recently and the state has taken on additional survey work. AZSF will now fly approximately three million acres mapping forest health problems. The staff ground truth the results, put out pest alerts, and offer technical assistance to homeowners regarding forest pests, diseases, and invasive plants. The partnership includes USFS, AZSF, Arizona Conservation Districts, and NRCS.

Coordinated Wildfire Response: AZSF has approximately 282 intergovernmental agreements with fire departments and fire districts. When a wildfire starts, there are federal, state, and local resources that are ICS trained and NWCG qualified to respond. The state truly has interagency incident management teams. The work between the agencies is a solid demonstration of cohesive strategy. Last year, preparedness firefighting resources, including aircraft, fire engines, and command personnel were placed in readiness a month earlier than normal, initial fire reports were responded to with a significantly higher number of firefighting units, and prevention efforts and public outreach enlisting the Governor were implemented early. For the season the number of wildfires across all lands was 42% below the 10-year average and acreage burned was 50% below.

Joint Hazardous Fuel Mitigation Projects: The Arizona Legislature has provided \$1.35 million to do hazardous fuel reduction work on state and private lands. The agency is leveraging this funding with federal (WFHF) and municipal (FWPP) projects to greatly accelerate the rate of hazardous fuel reduction work within the state.

Southwestern Region, US Forest Service New Mexico State Forestry Division

New Mexico Executive Branch: Through the efforts of the Forestry Division, in June of 2014, the Governor’s Office announced allocating \$6.2 million for watershed restoration on public lands throughout New Mexico. Funding was designated into law as part of non-recurring “Capital Infrastructure” legislation. Treatment of approximately 7,700 acres on 14 high-priority areas, as identified in the New Mexico Forest Action Plan, began in the fall of 2014 and will continue through 2016. Inclusive in this allocation are funds coming to each National Forest in New Mexico for vegetation treatment. State Forestry, working with all five of the National Forests in the state, identified 8 projects for \$3.68 million (4,870 acres). A Memorandum of Agreement was established to enable this work to be performed. Good Neighbor Authority Directives had not been released at this time. State Forestry intends to pursue additional NEPA ready projects within their designated high-priority upper watersheds.

Private Initiative – Rio Grande Water Fund: Primarily championed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and supported by the New Mexico Forest Industry Association (NMFIA), the “Rio Grande Water Fund” is being pursued as a possible mechanism for *proactively increasing the pace and scale* for forest restoration in the most high-risk areas of the watershed. The Rio Grande Water Fund finds its origin in TNC’s July 2014 release of a “Comprehensive Plan for Wildfire and Water Source Protection” document. The Nature Conservancy states that the development and culmination of this plan was a collaborative partnership among more than 40 organizations and agencies and more than two years of research and planning that was guided by a diverse advisory board. The Comprehensive Plan suggests that 1% to 2% of fire-adapted forest landscapes be treated each year to change fire behavior within the State, which at the high end of this range corresponds to approximately 30,000 acres per year. The Rio Grande Water Fund would be established to sustain these treatments over the next 20 years for a total of 600,000 acres restored—a ten-fold increase in the current rate of forest and watershed restoration. TNC is in final stages of forming an Executive Committee for selecting project locations.

Private Initiative – Rio Grande Partnership: Since 2011, the USFS, Coca Cola Company, National Forest Foundation, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have collaborated on mutually beneficial projects that have been implemented across landscapes of interest. Coca-Cola has a goal of becoming “water neutral” by 2020. Coca-Cola foresees offsetting its water demand for products by supporting high-priority restoration activities that will “return” water to natural hydrologic systems. Coca Cola has provided approximately \$200 thousand annually to be used nationally. Recently, the Carson National Forest was a recipient of a \$30 thousand award.

Aerial Detection Survey/Forest Health Partnership: The USFS, Forest Health Protection Zones, for both Arizona and New Mexico, work closely with State Forestry forest health coordinators on annual Aerial Detection Surveys (ADS). These surveys monitor insect and pathogen activity across federal, state, and private forest lands. In New Mexico, the 2014 surveys encompassed 11.2 million acres of forest and woodlands, including 2.8 million acres of state and private lands. New Mexico gathers additional information through technical assistance to landowners, field verification of aerial data, and ongoing research. Annual Condition Reports are compiled for both private and federal lands with the jointly acquired data.

Large Forest Landscape Partnership

What provided (or provides) the motivation for the state/region partnership on National Forest System (NFS) lands?

CAL FIRE has monitored the growing decline in forest health after four years of drought in California. Millions of acres of California forests are weakened and predisposed to insect attack, wide scale disease, and large, intense wildfires that burn across California landscapes without regard for political jurisdictions, property lines, or land management goals. Forestland in California, as well as many of the other Western States, often consist of intermingled ownerships between federal, private (industrial and non-industrial) and State lands. CAL FIRE and the USFS recognize that no single landowner or land manager can tackle the growing forest management problems by themselves; state, private and public landowners must work together closely to implement effective solutions.

What are the three enabling conditions/factors that create a foundation for your partnership?

The three primary enabling factors that have led to a successful partnership is **strong collaborative leadership at the highest levels**; both Regional Forester, Randy Moore and CAL FIRE Director, Ken Pimlott are fully dedicated to formulating collaborative strategies in addressing the problem. Beginning in 2014, CAL FIRE was allocated monies from the State's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, funded by California's Cap and Trade program¹, to issue **grants to treat large forested landscapes**, with the aim of improving forest carbon sequestration. The emphasis on targeting large geographic areas for treatment allows for leveraging opportunities where state, private and USFS lands can be treated as one unified project. Last year, the federal Farm Bill (Section 8204 of the Agricultural Act) allowed for designation of USFS landscape-scale insect and disease areas (per Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003). Even though the Farm Bill addressed USFS lands, CAL FIRE and Region 5 Forest Service recognized the intermix of state, county, private and federal lands, and the need for these lands to be treated together. One such area in California included lands both north and south of Interstate 50 on the Eldorado National Forest in the South Fork of the American River watershed. Since the **Farm Bill includes a NEPA categorical exclusion provision**, state and federal partnership and leveraging opportunities were initiated.

What are some unique features of the state/region partnership (i.e., shared staff, dedicated staff person, shared office space) and what are the relationship values of each?

¹ The cap & trade program is a way of putting a price on carbon emissions, which are considered contributors to global warming. California employs a cap-and-trade system by imposing a limit on the amount of CO2 released by industry and then issuing a finite number of permits for emissions. Those permits are then

CAL FIRE and the USFS have had a very close working relationship on both fire and forestry issues for many years. In the aftermath of the 98,000 acre King Fire (Sept., 2014), CAL FIRE's Amador El Dorado Unit Chief, Mike Kaslin, and USFS, El Dorado National Forest Supervisor, Laurence Crabtree focused their attention on planning and implementing field projects that promoted both CAL FIRE's 2012 Strategic Plan and the USFS National Cohesive Strategy. They both recognized how their respective policy documents addressed many of the same goals, so partnership opportunities were acted upon in short order.

Both the Cohesive Strategy and CAL FIRE Strategic Plan:

- Support an all-Lands approach to create fire resilient and fire- adapted communities along the Highway 50 corridor,
- Use existing fuel breaks and forest treatments to create larger, more fire resistant fuel breaks, and
- Protect communities, infrastructure, and forest resources within the most heavily developed part of the watershed.

Early in the planning stages, CAL FIRE and USFS GIS staff collaborated and produced key planning maps for internal use and communication to local stakeholders. A field trip was also organized to illuminate project objectives to Forest Service, County and State leadership. Communications staff from both agencies coined the project area as "Fire Adapted 50", and a common moniker was adopted to assist in promoting the partnership and assist in increasing public awareness of the forest stewardship and fire prevention goals being promoted.



How does the state/region partnership play a role in increasing other partners/collaboratives involvement in federal forest management projects?

Using the *Fire Adapted 50* project as an example, CAL FIRE and the USFS have been able to secure the interest of, and partnership with, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and the local Resource Conservation District (RCD). The RCD has agreed to liaison with local private industrial and nonindustrial landowners who might be interested in signing on to the large landscape project. To date, the RCD has been able to secure right of way and participation agreements with over thirty private landowners in the area. The largest timber company in the area has also offered to pay for a consulting registered professional forester to assist the RCD in the technical aspects of the project.

From the outset, CAL FIRE and USFS Region 5 leadership have discussed applying the large landscape approach in other areas of the state affected by drought, insect, disease, and are currently at risk from the next catastrophic wildfire. Two other areas that will similarly benefit

from the 2014 Farm Bill NEPA categorical exclusion have been identified in northern California, McCloud/Pit River watershed, and in southern California, Santa Ana River watershed. In each case the appropriate CAL FIRE Administrative Unit will be able to collaborate with the National Forest Supervisor to institute a similar partnership model as the *Fire Adapted 50* project.

CAL FIRE and the USFS are both partners in a team effort led by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, competing for grant funds under the National Disaster Resiliency Competition. Our application formulated the Community and Watershed Resilience Program, an integrated and sustainable program for watershed and forest management that supports the interdependent relationship of communities and forest ecosystems. The program integrates rural communities, economies, and forests to create a sustainable template for resilient forests in the aftermath of the 2013 Rim Fire. Similar in concept to the *Fire Adapted 50* project, the program relies heavily on cooperation between private timberland owners, federal agencies and the State. Other characteristics of the program include building a strong economic base in rural communities that can provide trained operators and infrastructure to utilize harvested wood. Key aspects of ecological resilience include fuel reduction and widely spaced larger trees that can resist wildfire. The program was designed as a template to be widely applicable throughout California and the western states.

What federal forest management activities are being planned or already underway by the partnership?

-*Fire Adapted 50* is currently divided into 5 major projects:

1) Sly Park VMP (vegetation management plan) - Work in this area has been going on for 27 years. We will expand the established shaded fuel break to connect to Highway 50 and Forest Service land along Sly Park Road.

2) Camino / Pollock Pines / Pony Express Shaded Fuel Break – Work in this area will be from Slab Creek Dam to Pony Express Trail along the rim of the canyon. This will improve and reinforce existing fuel breaks developed during the King Fire, and will tie into the existing Independence Fuel Break.

3) Highway 50 Roadside Fuel Reduction Zone – Work in this area will be roadside reduction for 300 feet on the north (uphill) side of Highway 50 from Pollock Pines to Strawberry. This will tie into the Roadrunner wildland-urban interface project, which extends from Strawberry to Twin Bridges.

4) Icehouse / Cleveland Plantation Thinning – Work in this area will be ridge top shaded fuel breaks and thinning the pine plantations planted after the 1959 USFS Icehouse Fire and the 1992 USFS Cleveland Fire. These plantations have become dense and stressed by drought and insect kill creating a large, hazardous fuel load. Treating these landscapes will directly benefit adjacent industrial timberlands.

5) Pilliken Plantation Thinning – Work in this area will be thinning the pine plantations planted after the 1973 USFS Pilliken Fire. These plantations have also become dense and stressed by drought and bug kill creating a large hazardous fuel load.

PARTNERSHIP SUMMARY

1) What provides the motivation for the State/Region partnership on National Forest System Lands?

A shared sense of urgency

- The PNW Region recognizes that the stand conditions fire-dependent forests on NFS lands were ecologically “out-of-whack” and that the recent level of management was not sufficient. Based on aerial survey data and analyses, the State recognizes there are also growing concerns on private lands as well. Without an increased pace and scale of active management, very large landscapes are at risk of losing important ecological functions.
- A primary driver for the State, and shared concern of the USFS, is the minimum threshold of mill infrastructure and contractor capacity. Further loss of viable markets will impact local economies and management options for private landowners. In turn, these will increase pressure on the State’s landmark land use program.

A desire to innovate and improve how we get our work accomplished

- The PNW Region and State believe achieving ecological and community resiliency requires cooperation at all levels. We are working together, both at the community level by building on local collaborative efforts and by integrating our agencies at all levels of our organizations, in a strategic and focused way to leverage financial, process and human resources.

2) What are the three enabling conditions/factors that create a foundation for your partnership?

Successful record of collaboration and support

- Over the last five years the critical alignment of agreements at the local level, focus at the statewide level through our Federal Forest Working Group², and committed leadership across interest groups, county leaders, as well as our own federal and state leadership provided ripe conditions to advance this new approach. Three National Forests in Oregon are entering their 8th year without litigation on vegetation management projects and Oregon is home to three out of five CFLR projects in the PNW Region, which were awarded through a national competition. In addition, the Region has supported collaboration through RAC funding, use of stewardship contracting, and the CCLS grant program (more below) for over a decade.

² <http://orsolutions.org/osproject/federal-forestlands>

Large landscape strategy and targeted focus

- The PNW Region implemented its Accelerated Restoration Strategy³ to focus its investments in capacity and pilot a strategic approach to increase pace and scale of restoration. In particular, an Eastside Coordinator was charged to hire a dedicated NEPA team to plan projects at scale (>100K acres) and test new data collection and NEPA approaches. This team has been pushing on new partnership opportunities for implementation with the State and community-based organizations.

Strong alignment and commitment

- In response to the initial state investment, PNW Region and State leaders made a case for strong alignment and articulated a shared sense of priorities to the field. This alignment continues regarding the pursuing of innovative public-public partnerships and the quick use of Farm Bill authorities.
- Ensuring continuity of commitments through leadership transitions both in the PNW Region and at the State (including Governor's Office and ODF) has been a high priority and is paying off. We expect leadership transition and recognize that with the long-term nature of landscape scale restoration is something that we will continually face. Both the PNW Region and the State have put a priority on maintaining and expanding past commitments and agreements through changing leadership.

3) What are some unique features of the State/Region partnership (i.e. shared staff, dedicated staff person, shared office space) and what are the relationship values of each?

Shared risk

- The Accelerated Restoration Strategy is designed to push the envelope on large-scale planning. The PNW Region took a significant risk to focus "off the top" funds into a specific subregion in NE Oregon. This investment, coupled with the commitment of State funds, allowed the PNW Region to capture additional funds from the Washington Office to be deployed in the same geography. The dedicated NEPA team is working with partners and universities for analysis products. The State is filling data collection gaps and funding riskier, more innovative NEPA approaches.
 - The State is funding collaboratives to help deliver agreement on these much larger project areas and time-condensed analysis products.
 - The State is using Federal IDIQs to most efficiently contract work under Federal specifications. In order to avoid conflicts with the State legislature, the RO committed to covering all administration costs so that State funds are used exclusively to reimburse contractors.
 - On other state-issued contracts, USFS personnel serve as contract administrators in the field, essentially accepting work performed under a State contract.

³ <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5423597>

Visible and coordinated support for each other's programs and agency missions

- The Regional Forester has participated in describing the benefits of State involvement in the USFS' ability to meet goals for social, economic and ecological resiliency, both internally and externally.
- The State Forester has participated in the PNW Region Leadership Team meetings and the Regional Forester has participated in ODF Executive Team meetings.
- The State has a designated position on the PNW Region's Eastside Accelerated Restoration Board of Directors.

With the State Legislature:

- The Regional Forester volunteered to testify in support of ODFs budget request.
- Co-hosted a field tour on the Deschutes National Forest for key Legislative members.

To enhance communication and efficiency:

- Recently appointed USFS State Liaison has an office at ODF headquarters.
- The Regional Partnership Coordinator triangulates needs between the field and the RO Grants & Agreements shop and links the PNW Region and State's collaborative capacity building grant programs
- ODF program lead on the State's Federal Forest Health Program has desk space in the Regional Office

Strategic implementation and leveraging financial and human resources

- Through increased focus on our partnership we have been able to; a) expand our planning areas to larger landscapes ensuring more ecological impact, b) implement national strategies and program that allow to work across all ownerships, c) increase our capacity to get work done in priority areas that exemplify the principles of Cohesive Strategy and 'All Lands, All Hands' approach to landscape management.

4) What federal forest management activities are being planned or already underway by the partnership? Provide a short summary or synopsis of a project or projects you would like to share with meeting attendees.

- See additional handout for details.

5) What management tools are you utilizing (i.e. Stewardship Agreement, CFLRP, Farm Bill Insect & Disease Provision, Cooperative Agreements, etc.) or examining for future use (i.e. GNA)?

- The initial partnership has laid the groundwork for implementing the Good Neighbor Agreement which we expect to be a natural progression from the working relationships and understanding of procurement gained in the initial phase. The PNW Region and the State intend to utilize the next round of State dollars to aggressively test various roles of engagement for the State. Projects within Insect & Disease Designation Areas may be folded into the larger GNA work depending upon the appetite of collaborators.

6) If a State has invested funding into the partnership, a) What is the value proposition to the State Legislature? b) What components and/or activities is the state funding (i.e. planning, pre-sale layout, treatments)? c) Why did the State choose to invest in the particular areas it has?

State expects almost 6:1 return on investment

- A 2012 report⁴ made the business case for State investment concluding the State would experience a return of \$5.7 for every \$1 invested; and that \$1.45 would be saved in fire suppression. This report was commissioned by the Legislature and co-funded by members of the FFWG. Oregon legislators stepped in during a time of stagnant Federal funding and an inability to advance policy solutions.

Barrier is completed NEPA and cost of analysis

- Based on our work with collaboratives, the State and the PNW Region acknowledge that the amount of completed NEPA is our largest barrier to increased pace & scale; and that the status quo will not deliver even with modest increases in funding. Both State and Federal investments have primarily targeted new business practices relative to data collection and NEPA. Under GNA, the State and PNW Region will explore staffing arrangements between the agencies that will facilitate the most efficient completion of NEPA analysis and pre-sale activities.

Do it differently

- The driving questions for State investment are ‘What are we doing differently?’ and ‘Does this have the potential to change the way we do business in a positive way?’ Both the PNW Region and the State have held each other accountable to ask this question. Examples to date include: LiDAR acquisition and heritage survey protocol.

7) How does the State/Region partnership play a role in increasing other partner/collaboratives involvement in federal land management?

Both PNW Region and State fund local collaboratives

- The PNW Region’s Community Capacity and Land Stewardship Grants (CCLS) fund up to \$24,000 per year to build collaborative capacity, including forest-based collaboratives. The PNW Region has funded the CCLS program from 2011-2014, awarding 48 grants totaling \$883,310.
- The State dedicated roughly 20% of the initial \$2.88 million package to “project development” grants directly to local collaborative groups. The State is proposing both base capacity and project development components in its subsequent program, maintaining the rough 20% allotment.

⁴ http://orsolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/OR_Forest_Restoration_Econ_Assessment_Nov_20121.pdf

8) Additional recent benefits and outcomes include:

- Success and innovation are attracting additional support and visibility for this partnership and provide a platform to attract and leverage additional federal investment.
- State funding and expertise sparks innovation and changes how work on federal lands is accomplished.
- Developing a highly experienced interagency pre-sale crew will allow us to prepare and administer more stewardship contracts and timber sales.
- USFS planning costs and processes are benefiting from State funding that has been strategically focused on leveraging innovative approaches to collecting and using data.
- Up-dated and expanded data collection and the use of LiDAR data will allow us to apply this information to emerging projects through the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy pilot in eastern Oregon.

State/Federal Implementation Partnership (SFIP)

The SFIP component of the PNW Region/Oregon program in 2013-2015 centers on a 2-tier investment strategy. This component is intended to: pilot a new Federal-State partnership that increases the pace and scale of federal forest restoration within the Blue Mountains region of the State (including the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, Ochoco and Malheur National Forests). Focus is on testing innovative approaches to achieving holistic restoration needs, timber supply, and efficiencies in planning, implementation, and administration. State funds are being employed via a combination of contracts and state workforce for this component of the work. The placement of these investments is strongly coordinated with Forest Service input to leverage federal investments and maximize strategic opportunities to evaluate cost and time efficiencies within project-level planning.

Tier 1: Pre-sale early implementation activities

Pre-sale investments are intended to deliver short-term results on projects for which collaboration and NEPA analysis is complete or significantly advanced, and are lagging in implementation due to federal funding and/or federal staff capacity. A specific objective is to evaluate the time and cost effectiveness of approaches compared to the status quo practice; and to identify any administrative policy changes needed to increase implementation efficiencies (defined both in terms of cost and/or time).

Purpose: To increase pace of timber sales, stewardship contracts or service contract activities either into contracting phase or into actual implementation. For example, move a contract offering up to Spring from Fall.

Example activities of these short-term investments include:

- Property boundary surveying
- Unit layout
- Timber marking and cruising (including designation-by-prescription)
- Post-implementation check cruising

Tier 2: Pre-NEPA data collection and/or analyses

Pre-NEPA investments represent the most significant opportunities to “get ahead” at scale and are considered longer-term investments due to the planning timeframe for federal projects. While short-term investments are critical to implement collaborative agreements and maintain infrastructure and contracting workforce, pre-NEPA investments are imperative to increase the overall restoration effort in the Blue Mountains. In particular, the identification of cost and planning efficiencies are an important characteristic of longer-term investments. These investments will tie closely to the Blue Mountains Restoration Strategy, and offer some support to Forest-level NEPA teams that are evaluating particular cost and time planning efficiencies alongside their place-based collaborative group.

Purpose: To increase quality and availability of data to adequately ensure robust environmental analysis of large-scale restoration projects across the Blues Region. To identify and evaluate cost and time efficiencies within project-level planning.

Example activities of these long-term investments include:

- LiDAR imagery, data and analysis to increase the scale and quality of stand-level data available to project planners. LiDAR data will be housed at DOGAMI for additional state benefits.
- Blues-wide and/or Forest-level wildlife/vegetation analyses. In particular, analyses that can inform the regional perspective of project specifics (i.e. snag abundance, migratory/wildlife corridors, etc.)
- Heritage surveys, botany surveys, stream surveys, etc. needed for project-level planning

Implementation Plan for 2015-2017 Biennium

The increased scope of State funds (proposed at \$6.05 million) addresses:

1. Statewide implementation. The 2013-2015 Program was limited to “dry-side forests”, including a targeted investment in the Blue Mountains region. The 2015-2017 Program will be expanded statewide. Oregon is home to 25 collaborative groups and federal timber supply is a key driver in many rural economies.
2. Act on new Good Neighbor authority. The 2014 Farm Bill authorized Good Neighbor Agreements (GNA) which allows the USFS and the BLM to delegate authority to the State Forester to implement actions on federal forests. With our initial work in 2013-2015 biennium, ODF is poised to spring forward to a larger active role and the 2015-2017 Program includes position authority in the field to coordinate ODF’s increased scope of work under GNA.

Collaborative Support – \$2.1 million

Provide \$2.1 million to support a collaborative approach to increase social agreement, including:

- Triple the 2013-2015 investment to increase social agreement by awarding grants to local forest collaboratives. Considering two grant programs: 1) base capacity, and 2)

project development. In 2013-2015, the program only funded grants for project development.

- Maintain the 2013-2015 investment to increase the scale of collaborative impact by contracting Technical Assistance and Science Support services.

State/Federal Implementation Partnership – \$3.4 million

Program funds will be used to implement a Good Neighbor Agreement, including:

- \$1.2 million to increase the pace of project implementation by funding a combination of ODF permanent (3 FTE) and extension of seasonal fire positions
- \$2.2 million to test innovative business practices by contracting work on a strategic portfolio of Planning Efficiencies, Pre-Sale Layout, and Project Implementation

Program Administration – \$550,000

Program funds will supplement ODF's capacity to develop agreements and administer contracts, provide capacity at the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to administer the grants component, and contract program-level monitoring to measure the impact of State investments.

Chugach/Tongass National Forest and State of Alaska Partnership

Drivers and motives for establishing a state/region partnership

On the Chugach the partnership has been driven by the decades long spruce bark beetle outbreak in the 1990s and the resulting changes to the Kenai Peninsula ecosystem with regard to wildland fire risk. This is truly an area in Alaska that would benefit from landscape scale restoration activities to restore forest cover and resilience to the peninsula ecosystem. While wildland fire is not a rare occurrence in this region, the changing fuel types and the dramatically increased wildland urban interface has greatly increased overall risk to communities. The Funny River Fire and Caribou Hills Fire are both examples of large scale project fires in the past decade with the former incident demonstrating the usefulness of an aggressive landscape scale fuels program to help protect communities. (See below briefing paper).

This interagency effort resulted in the first “all hands, all lands” approach to dealing with wildland fire in Alaska. Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Firewise education played a key role in this process. As the Chugach Forest Plan revision continues over the next year, opportunities to build on this approach should be identified and the interagency community should propose a project for funding under the National Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program.

Another key driver supporting a strong federal/State partnership is collaboration to address two key insect and disease areas proposed by the Governor of Alaska and endorsed by the Chief of the Forest Service in May 2014. As resources increase, the State, FS and partners are making progress in addressing both Yellow-cedar decline in Southeast Alaska and spruce bark beetle issues on the Kenai. (See below briefing paper).

Most recently, the State (DNR, Alaska Mental Health Trust, AK University Lands), USFS, and Sealaska Native Corporation (significant landowner in Southeast Alaska) have formed an “All Landowners Group” in Southeast Alaska. The purpose of the group is to coordinate operations, share infrastructure, and find efficiencies among the major landowners in Southeast Alaska in order to support resource management activities, while preserving the inherent property rights of the parties and carrying out their separate missions. The group will look for opportunities for collaboration in order to support individual landowner’s interests while maintaining viable communities affected by their forest management operations.

More than 80% of Southeast Alaska is comprised of the 17-million-acre Tongass National Forest. In this geographically isolated temperate rainforest, a key driver is the strongly held and shared federal and State value to better support communities and residents with diverse economic opportunities in the natural resources sectors, including: timber, fishing, recreation and tourism, and mining. Traditionally, the timber industry has been a key community anchor

for jobs and economic activity, supporting nearly 4000 jobs at the height of the industry. Although the region has seen sweeping changes toward a more diverse economy, the timber industry today provides fewer than 400 jobs.

The State and U.S. Forest Service came together to help stabilize the current industry, while the 2008 Forest Plan for the Tongass was amended, and then over the past seven years have worked together to implement the Forest Plan to provide economic timber sales and more actively manage young growth stands.

With the recent decision to amend the 2008 Forest Plan, the two agencies are working to accomplish this goal, while laying the groundwork for the transition from primarily old growth to young growth timber management.

A key component of the Forest Plan implementation is based on the need for an adequate supply of economic timber. The State of Alaska's liaison Forester with the U. S. Forest Service assists the agency in producing economic timber sales on the Tongass National Forest.

Models of current partnerships and future adaptations under Good Neighbor Authority

The liaison is responsible for working with the Forest Service planners in preparing and producing timber sales, reviewing NEPA documents, training Forest Service staff, and preparing joint forestry projects between the Forest Service and the Division of Forestry. Developing and maintaining a thorough knowledge of the NEPA process and other procedural requirements for Forest Service timber sale planning is necessary. The liaison serves on one or more of the USFS Inter Disciplinary Teams (IDTs) that plan and prepare timber sales on the Tongass National Forest ensuring that the IDTs consider and plan for economics during timber sale design. This includes selecting timber harvest units from the available unit pool, designing road access, and adjusting harvest unit boundaries as needed. The liaison also assists the IDTs in developing a timber harvest alternative that is most economic, while considering the other IDT concerns and following the necessary standards and guidelines.

Outcomes related to project planning and implementation of state/region partnerships

The liaison represents the Division of Forestry in interagency processes addressing resource management in Southeast Alaska. Examples may include the Tongass Land Management Plan review team and interagency technical teams. The liaison provides guidance and assistance to one or all of the 10 District Rangers so that they can meet the needs of the local timber industry.

Accomplishments:

- The creation of Gate 1 and Gate 3 Committees made up of State, USFS and industry to discuss conceptual projects (Gate 1) and implementation (Gate 3).
- The consolidation of State agency comments into State comments, the “One Voice” concept, as this process came to be known.
- The implementation MOUs for the Forest Plan.
- Although working with the U.S. Forest Service Interdisciplinary Teams (IDTs) did not increase the quantity of timber available for industry; it did improve the quality of timber sale projects coming out of the NEPA process and the economics; Tongass sales are now realizing \$100/MBF in stumpage. The Big Thorne multi-year stewardship contract (approximately a 100 MMBF sawlog and utility) will realize returns to the USFS of over 7.5 million in either work or retained receipts. Before State involvement, NEPA projects included large volumes of timber that was unsalable due to economics or poor quality of wood; since State involvement the U.S. Forest Service has sold all of the volume NEPA cleared.
- With State support, the first stewardship contracts are becoming more commonplace with the Forest Service, and this new contracting technique is gaining acceptance as both the agency and bidders learn how to work with this new management tool.

Lessons learned, best practices, and suggestions for successful partnerships

The liaison must: share knowledge with the FS planners and field personnel concerning logging costs and timber values; provide expertise in logging methods and logging road design; and work with Forest Service field personnel in the initial field layout.

State agencies that had become accustomed to commenting directly to the Forest Service on project level documents had to adjust to internal coordination of comments to speak with “one voice” to the agency. The public and some NGOs have expressed concern that this filters or stifles the frank exchange of information between agencies, but from both the State and Forest Service perspectives, it has enhanced communications and coordination efforts significantly, resulting in critical economic timber sales and stewardship contracts that are strengthening local economies.