

**Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI)  
 August 2, 2021, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
 RMRI Social License Subcommittee  
 Meeting Summary – FINAL**

**RMRI SOCIAL LICENSE SUBCOMMITTEE**

**ATTENDANCE:** Rob Addington, Anthony Culpepper, Cindy Dozier, Tim Kylo, Danny Margoles, Tara Umphries, Samuel Wallace

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Tim Kylo and Danny Margoles</b>	Discuss opportunities to have timber industry representatives attend community meetings for upcoming treatments.
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**MEETING SUMMARY**

**DISCUSSION TOPIC:** Local Landscape Social License Overview

<p><b>Discussion Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In past meetings, the Social License Subcommittee has discussed opportunities to support social license efforts for the Salter Vegetation Management Project. Danny Margoles, Dolores Watershed Resilient Forests Collaborative, and Anthony Culpepper, Four Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative, joined the call to discuss ways the Social License Subcommittee could support local landscapes.</li> <li>• The Salter Vegetation Management Project is a large treatment project that captures various landscapes, from the backcountry to areas adjacent to the wildland-urban interface (WUI). There are also many heavily used trails. The Town of Dolores has expressed support for the project as a whole and concerns around truck traffic and recreation impacts. There are a variety of stakeholders and interests providing input on the project. Generally, community members are supportive of the project but have concerns around project components – with some exceptions who oppose the project entirely.</li> <li>• People are less concerned about the presence of logging trucks in Dolores and more so about the routes that the trucks are taking. The US Forest Service (USFS) is working with the Town of Dolores to discuss alternative options for mountain bikes.</li> <li>• Outside of the Salter Vegetation Management project, various social dynamics are occurring on the landscape. La Plata County is developing rapidly in terms of structures in the WUI. The people moving to La Plata County have their perceptions around forests and treatments. Local collaborative groups are sharing information on how forest treatments and logging benefit the local economy and the environmental well-being of the forest.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Decisions/Action Items:</b> None.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need to build social license around prescribed fire at the local level.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>DISCUSSION TOPIC:</b> RMRI Potential to Support Local Landscapes</p>	
<p><b>Discussion Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mechanism for how the larger RMRI collaborative can support the individual landscapes in applying messages is unclear. The Social License Subcommittee has developed broader messages; now, the question is how to tailor those messages to fit the landscape. Local landscapes are figuring out how other major initiatives (e.g., Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program and the Southwest Wildfire Impact Fund) connect with RMRI. The goal of RMRI is to support the landscapes; RMRI wants to make sure they are not creating more obstacles and barriers for the local landscapes.</li> <li>• Local collaboratives have a vision for conducting outreach, but they do not always have the capacity to do so. Developing materials for outreach events and marketing can be helpful if there is an acknowledgment of the local geography and stakeholders. RMRI and the local collaboratives should develop materials in partnership. There are also opportunities for other technical support, like website support.</li> <li>• The RMRI Social License Subcommittee members have a wide range of expertise and resources. The Social License Subcommittee could provide technical expertise on broader topics, like prescribed fire and smoke, while the local collaboratives consider how to hone in on specific project work. An important message to emphasize for prescribed fire is that there is much planning and preparation before anyone starts to burn. For smoke management, it is important to notify the community of upcoming smoke from prescribed fire, especially vulnerable populations.</li> <li>• Having professional truck drivers that are courteous and safe can help address concerns around truck driving. In other places, community members have emailed industry representatives to express their support for the professionalism of the truck drivers. They operate in other small communities, too, like Lake City. When determining the routes for trucks and treatment sizes, there are economic considerations to make treatments economically feasible for industry. Building relationships is important for social license and collaboration. Truckers are a part of the community, and it would be helpful to have community members meet the drivers. Connecting members of the Social License Subcommittee and RMRI</li> </ul>	<p><b>Decisions/Action Items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tim Kylo and Danny Margoles:</b> Discuss opportunities to have timber industry representatives attend community meetings.</li> </ul>

with industry expertise, such as Tim Kylo and Molly Pitts, with communities could help build relationships. Tim Kylo and Danny Margoles will discuss opportunities to have timber industry representatives attend community meetings.

- DWRP has outreach material to use for community meetings. However, building social license is not always about selling people on projects. Instead, it is about involving community members in the planning process. For more general topics, like prescribed fire, handouts could be helpful.
- RMRI expertise on how to engage with the recreation community and user base would help the local landscapes. There is an opportunity to look at wildlife interests from the habitat and hunting standpoint.
- One role for RMRI could be to better help local landscapes understand who is moving to the area. Local collaboratives understand the local community but not perfectly. RMRI has provided funding to hire forest ambassadors to interact with visitors on the ground. There are local community members that use the forests, and there is a broader user base across the Four Corners region. Understanding the goals of outreach would be beneficial as well.
- Diameter caps can be a topic for which it is difficult to build social license. There has been an attempt to distinguish between age and size in past efforts, understanding that not all big trees are old trees. Diameter caps should be context-dependent, both on the forestry type and the project objectives.
- There is a concern among some local stakeholders that industry has an outsized influence in RMRI. A message for those concerned about industry is that the value of the forest is not about the individual tree; it is about the forest as a whole to filter water, provide recreational opportunities, and serve as wildlife habitat. Industry is a tool to achieve desirable outcomes on the landscape.
- Healthy critique is important in project planning. There should be room for health critique in a collaborative process.

#### NEXT STEPS

The Social License Subcommittee should continue to think about and discuss how to apply broader messages to the local landscapes and how the subcommittee can best support building social license on the landscapes.