

Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI)
September 1, 2021, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Virtual Meeting
Meeting Summary - FINAL

ATTENDANCE

Participants: Brian Achziger, Rob Addington, Samantha Albert, Bill Baker, Brian Banks, Ian Barrett, Frank Beum, Sylvia Bierman, Alan Bittner, Angela Boag, Thomas Brice, Jimbo Buickerood, Kara Chadwick, Clyde Church, Paulette Church, Connie Clementson, Jamie Connell, Anthony Culpepper, Lisa Dawson, Kelsey Delaney, Patt Dorsey, Ashley Downing, Cindy Dozier, Allen Gallamore, Aaron Green, Kevin Heiner, John Ide, Vaughn Jones, Aaron Kimple, Luke Kline, Tim Kylo, Damon Lange, Jason Lawhon, Tim Leishman, Paige Lewis, Steve Lohr, Susan Lohr, Danny Margoles, Max Neumeyer, Emily Olsen, Kyle O'Neill, Derek Padilla, Molly Pitts, Tim Reader, Michael Remke, Kelle Reynolds, Lauren Ris, Rebecca Robbins, Ellen Roberts, Cody Robertson, Duncan Rose, Shannon Schaller, Scott Segerstrom, Diana Selby, Melissa Simmons, Mark Shea, Travis Smith, Derek Sokoloski, Chris Sturm, Diana Trujillo, Tara Umphries, Nathan Van Schaik, Amanda West Fordham, Stephanie Weber, Chris West, Cindy Williams, Lo Williams, Laura Wolf, Scott Woods, and Chris Yuan-Farrell

Facilitation: Heather Bergman and Samuel Wallace

ACTION ITEMS

RMRI Support Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporate the partner feedback on accomplishment reporting into the accomplishment reporting roadmap.• Reach out to the landscapes to initiate the accomplishment reporting process and organize an accomplishment reporting workshop.
--------------------------	---

OPENING REMARKS

Frank Beum, US Forest Service (USFS), and Patt Dorsey, National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), provided opening remarks to the meeting. Their comments are summarized below.

- RMRI is a group where partners come together under Shared Stewardship and a common vision to promote healthy forests to protect Colorado's people, water, wildlife, and outdoor lifestyle. The central idea of RMRI is that partners can do more together than apart.
- As a group, RMRI agreed on four values, several cross-cutting issues, and the landscapes to increase pace and scale.
- The USFS remains committed to the work of RMRI. RMRI is a pilot for the agency on how Shared Stewardship can be applied at the broader landscape level. It is imperative to move beyond "random acts of conservation" to address bigger needs across ownerships.
- The Congressional infrastructure and reconciliation bills are going through the legislative process. There will potentially be funding from those bills for wildfire risk mitigation and finished work.

PARTNER UPDATES

Members of the RMRI Leadership Team and RMRI partners provided updates. Their comments are summarized below.

Club 20

There will be a session on forest health issues at the Club 20 conference. The Colorado Forest and Water Alliance continues to advocate for forest health and watershed resiliency.

Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)

DFPC received support from the legislator and governor during this legislative session. They are hiring new staff, and they are working with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) to develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to allocate new funding. DFPC emphasized a holistic approach for mitigation and suppression based on the three legs of the cohesive strategy and will continue to emphasize this approach during the next legislative session.

Colorado State Forest Service

- CSFS went through a successful Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) grant cycle. Some of the funding supported work in the three priority landscapes. Some projects in the landscapes were not funded, but CSFS continues to work with those projects to apply for funding during the next grant cycle.
- CSFS continues to work with the USFS and DNR on Shared Stewardship.
- A hiring search committee is actively working on hiring a new official state forester. They have completed the first round of interviews and continuing to narrow the field. They will be conducting a second round of interviews in late September.

Colorado Timber Industry Association (CTIA)

CTIA is helping conduct best management practices (BMP) monitoring on state and private sales for non-point source pollution. CTIA will be traveling to different parts of the state to look at sales. Those implementing the work are meeting BMP standards with little to no permanent or temporary impacts. They will be releasing a report on their findings.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

- There is a new request for proposals for the Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Resources and Environment (RESTORE) grants. Proposals are due in October. There is more funding for specific forestry-related projects in this cycle.
- The Chaffee County RESTORE project from 2021 (Railroad Bridge) just went through contracting with a handful of good bids. The NFF and USFS selected a contractor and expect to begin work this winter and next spring.

National Wild Turkey Federation

- NWTF, USFS, and DNR presented at the Colorado Water Congress conference on Shared Stewardship and how federal, state, local, and private partners will have to work together to protect communities and watersheds.
- In congressional meetings, NWTF has challenged legislators to pursue a bipartisan approach to funding forest health projects in the West.
- NWTF has conducted several interviews for an NWTF RMRI coordinator. They hope to make an announcement soon on who will serve in the NWTF RMRI coordinator position.

Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA)

The CYCA plans to announce a brand new AmeriCorps program with Governor Polis. It is a \$1.7M, 250-member strong "Colorado Climate Corps" program executing fire mitigation, climate change

planning, and public outreach. Southwest Conservation Corps is a participant, so it will support work in the RMRI landscapes.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Tres Rios

BLM Tres Rios has been busy completing a variety of projects within the RMRI partnership area. They are implementing several small timber sales around subdivisions on BLM in and around the greater Durango area. They have a prescribed burn project planned for Animas City Mountain for next spring. They will be hosting an Open House in early October in Durango at the Community Center. The Edgemont highlands thinning project is still on track for fall.

DNR LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Angela Boag, DNR, and Kelly Romero-Heaney, DNR, presented legislative updates. Their presentation is summarized below.

Healthy Forest Legislation

- Resilient communities, healthy forests and watersheds, wildlife, and recreation continue to be top priorities for DNR. DNR also values Shared Stewardship as a means of scaling up the conservation of critical landscapes in the Rocky Mountains.
- DNR sent out a Colorado Shared Stewardship survey to collect input on Shared Stewardship in the state. The survey included a draft Shared Stewardship map of the state, which builds on Colorado's Forest Action Plan and the Shared Stewardship MOU. The survey is defined to collect feedback on Shared Stewardship as an approach in Colorado and the maps to inform the efforts.
- There is a Colorado Natural and Working Lands Strategic Plan Listening Session on Forests on September 14. The topic is focused on sequestering carbon on natural and working lands.
- During the legislative session, the FRWRM grant program received additional funding allocations. Senate Bill 54 (SB21-054) allocated an additional one-time \$6 million to the program. The CSFS received over 80 eligible proposals, totaling over \$13 million in funding requests for equipment purchases and treatments on over 11,000 acres. The CSFS allocated \$6.4 million to 42 applicants in 25 counties.
- In SB21-205, the legislator allocated \$8 million per year to the FRWRM grant program. This bill creates more stable funding for the FRWRM program so that it is no longer dependent on severance taxes.
- SB21-258, the Wildfire Mitigation Stimulus Bill, included several forestry-related components.
 - The bill specified that FRWRM projects can now include federal lands and that 25% of FRWRM funds can be for capacity building (e.g., equipment purchasing, staff capacity, project planning, and outreach and engagement). The FRWRM technical review committee is creating criteria for evaluating capacity-building proposals.
 - The bill also allocated \$2.5 million to the Forest Business Loan Program and \$5 million for the Healthy Forests, Vibrant Communities fund, which includes opportunities for hiring technical support staff for Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) development.
 - The bill allocated \$17.5 million to DNR through the Wildfire Mitigation Capacity Development Fund. The funding allocation will be guided by an MOU between DNR, CSFS, and the Department of Public Safety (DPS)/DFPC. The MOU is nearly finalized. DNR hired two staff members for implementation. The Wildfire Mitigation Capacity Fund requires a statewide strategic analysis with USFS partners to determine how

to allocate funding. The analysis is underway and will bring together existing assessments. The bill also required an organizational assessment of state wildfire mitigation programs, which will begin later in September.

- Of the \$17.5 million, \$7.4 million will go to the Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) and Department of Corrections State Wildland Inmate Fire Teams (SWIFT) to expand crew sizes and develop the workforce. The other \$8.85 million is for project planning and implementation of landscape-scale wildfire mitigation projects. They are still determining how the funding will be allocated, and they are looking at ways to commit to supporting RMRI landscapes. The bill specified that DNR "shall prioritize these projects with the greatest potential to protect life, property, and infrastructure." The funds need to be obligated by June 30, 2023.
- HB23-237 moved the Forest Health Advisory Council from the CSFS to DNR. DNR released an application for positions on the new Council. They will be making appointments soon.
- HB21-1008 created a new mechanism for forest health project financing. The mechanism allows special or local improvement districts to form for forest health. The Colorado Water Resources Power and Development Authority (CWRPDA) can also issue bonds to fund watershed protection projects.
- HB21-1180 gives the CSFS the ability to grant up to \$2.5 million for biomass utilization projects demonstrating wildfire risk reduction, renewable energy production, or biochar production. There is no dedicated funding source for these projects as of now.

Water Legislation

- SB21-054 allocated \$4 million to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Watershed Restoration Grant for post-fire watershed restoration projects for post-fire recovery.
- SB21-240 established a \$30 million for the CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant to protect watersheds from the impact of wildfires and conduct a statewide water analysis on the risk of wildfire to infrastructure and water supplied, to be completed by 2022. A total of \$12.6 million has already been allocated with this funding source, primarily to post-fire recovery efforts in northern Colorado. CWB staff has pulled together a team to conduct the analysis. The remaining funding can go to projects through the CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant program (e.g., implementation, planning, engineering projects, etc.).
- HB21-1260 allocated \$15 million to the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program and \$5 million to the Water Supply Reserve Fund for the basin roundtables.
- The CWCB is updating the Colorado Water Plan (CWP), which should be finalized in December 2022. The scoping phase for the update began at the end of 2020, and CWCB is currently in the drafting phase. They began engaging the public in early spring. The CWP update has four focus areas: robust agriculture, resilient planning, thriving watersheds, and vibrant communities. There are many cross-cutting themes in the CWP, including funding, water supply, equity, climate change, land use planning, storage, efficiency, education, recreation, and healthy forests.

Wildlife and Recreation Legislation

- Governor Polis signed an executive order to establish the Outdoor Regional Partnership. The Outdoor Regional Partnership has the goal of balancing conservation and recreation in Colorado. The partners in the group operate at the regional and landscape levels. The partners will create plans on the local level that will roll up into a statewide plan. The plan will be incorporated into the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, which will

increase access to conservation funding. The seven partners in the Outdoor Regional Partnership are:

- Envision Recreation in Balance Partnership
- Metro Denver Nature Alliance
- Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance
- Routt Recreation Roundtable
- San Luis Valley Great Outdoors
- NoCo PLACES 2050
- Ouray Recreation and Conservation Alliance
- SB21-49 created a new pass that will provide access to Colorado's 42 state parks and recreation areas. The new pass is meant to address the challenges and impacts of outdoor recreation. The pass will be included with vehicle registration and lower costs for the pass overall. There will be an opt-out option for the pass. The goals of the pass are to:
 - Build new state parks in partnership with local agencies
 - Increase capacity for outdoor recreation
 - Increase funds for trail stewardship and other projects
 - Dedicate resources for the State Wildlife Action Plan
 - Focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion
 - Support regional planning projects

RMRI GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE ON ADVOCACY

Tara Umphries, USFS, provided an update on the RMRI Governance Subcommittee's proposal for advocacy in RMRI. Her presentation is summarized below.

- On December 14, the RMRI Leadership Team identified the need to determine whether RMRI should advocate for policy and, if so, define a process for advocacy. The RMRI Stakeholder Group confirmed this need at their meeting on January 12. The RMRI Governance Subcommittee went into action to develop a proposal.
- Through the RMRI Governance Subcommittee discussions, subcommittee members defined three types of requests: requesting support from landscape and/or subcommittees, requesting support from the RMRI Stakeholder Group, requesting support for policy or legislation.
- For requesting support from landscapes or subcommittees, the Governance Subcommittee proposes that the landscapes and subcommittees have the discretion on whether to support projects. The only request is that the landscapes or subcommittees track letters of support they write for projects and share that with the RMRI Stakeholder Group. Any signed letters should also be signed on behalf of the landscape or subcommittee versus the RMRI stakeholders.
- For requesting support from the full RMRI Stakeholder Group, the Governance Subcommittee would first review the request. They would then send the request to the RMRI Leadership Team for potential approval.
- For requesting policy support, all legislative/policy support will be reviewed by the RMRI Stakeholder Group. All RMRI stakeholders would have the option to support or abstain on an individual basis.
- The goal of this proposal was not to create an arduous process for requesting support.

Group Feedback

Meeting participants provided feedback on the RMRI Governance Subcommittee's proposal for requesting support. Their comments are summarized below.

- Regarding the policy track, local groups frequently get asked for their input and support at the local county level. There should be a process for requesting support for local policies. The RMRI Governance Subcommittee will meet to clarify the process for requesting support for local policies.

Polling Results

Meeting participants were polled on whether they were comfortable with the RMRI Governance Subcommittee's proposal for requesting support from RMRI. The polling results are below.

On a scale from one to five, how comfortable are you with the Governance Subcommittee proposal?

<i>Response</i>	<i>Number of Responses</i>	<i>Percentage of Responses</i>
Five – Extremely Comfortable	7	16%
Four	28	62%
Three	9	20%
Two	1	2%
One – Extremely Uncomfortable	0	0%

Next Steps

As a reminder, the RMRI Stakeholder Group is the group that approves this type of proposal. A majority of RMRI Stakeholders supported the RMRI Governance Subcommittee proposal. The RMRI Governance Subcommittee will reconvene to develop a process for local policy. Depending on the outcome of the RMRI Governance Subcommittee, the RMRI Stakeholder Group will be asked to approve the proposal via email or at the next partners meeting.

SOUTHWEST COLORADO UPDATE

Mark Loveall, CSFS, provided an update on the Southwest Colorado landscape. His presentation is summarized below.

- Southwest Colorado partners have been building a project in the Millwood area. The Millwood Area is southeast of McPhee Reservoir and to the north of the Millwood State parcel.
- There are multiple landownerships in the area. The State of Colorado, Bureau of Land Management, and the San Juan National Forest manage lands in the area. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) operates the state land. There is also Ute Mountain Ute land to the west of the area and private land. The area has important water and recreation infrastructure. There are also communities in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).
- In the summer of 2020, DFPC, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and CSFS began hand-thinning to treat the understory and remove unhealthy lower and mid-canopy trees on the Millwood State parcel. This project involved removing pinon and juniper ladder fuels. DFPC used these treatments as an opportunity for saw training.
- In 2020, the San Juan National Forest began mechanical treatments on forest service land adjacent to the Millwood State parcel and WUI communities. They are removing oak and juniper ladder fuels to fortify fire breaks and aid fire suppression efforts.
- The CSFS has been working with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Adams Ranch to remove unhealthy ponderosa and reduce overall canopy density on 123 acres. This project is to the east of the Millwood State Parcel.
- Wildfire Adapted Partnership has been working under several funding agreements to conduct treatments on private property in the area. Their work has focused on home ignition zones and treating small and large parcels.

- All these projects add up to a landscape impact. Partners expect treatments in the area to grow, and they plan to bring in new partners from Montezuma County to expand treatments.
- Southwest Colorado partners also have other ongoing projects on the larger Southwest Colorado landscape, including treatments around Durango.

UPPER ARKANSAS UPDATE

Cindy Williams, Envision Chaffee County, provided an update on the Upper Arkansas landscape. Her presentation is summarized below.

- The planning commission approved the Chaffee County Outdoor Recreation Management Plan in June. The development of the Outdoor Recreation Management Plan involved participation from all land management agencies and the communities.
- The Outdoor Recreation Management Plan involved a 29-month planning process. Over 80 organizations were involved, and over 3,800 citizens were engaged. The planning process involved gathering data to outline strategies and objectives.
- Outdoor Recreation Management Plan is focused on keeping recreation opportunities clean, fun, wild, and ongoing for this generation and the next. Partners are preparing to enter into the implementation plan.
- The "keep it clean" goal has two primary strategies. The first strategy is to manage camping for high-quality, low-impact. There are over 3,000 dispersed campgrounds in Chaffee County, and at least one-third of those campgrounds have a half-gallon of trash. They developed an all-lands camping plan that looks at a variety of solutions, including affordable housing options. The other strategy is to construct the right infrastructure (e.g., restrooms and trash facilities) and make it accessible to the public. The plan involves \$15 million in infrastructure improvement over five years.
- The "keep it fun" goal is focused on creating exceptional experiences for the community. The plan outlines community concentration zones, where investing in recreational assets will have the most "bang for the buck" for businesses and communities. The goal is also focused on encouraging recreation ethics using education, enforcement, and engineering. The USFS and BLM recently launched the recreation rangers program to clean up dispersed camping sites, install fencing, and educate participants. CPW and Chaffee Common Ground fund the recreation rangers program. The recreation rangers recently participated in a huge cleanup effort on a conservation easement in Salida. The partners also have their campsite collector app, which is a tool that allows volunteers to collect data on campsites. They have provided data on over 1,700 campsites in the first month of the program.
- The "keep it wild" goal is focused on sustaining wildlife and protecting rural agriculture landscapes. Recreation is putting pressure on wildlife. The community participated in a geospatial modeling exercise to identify the county's most important, undisturbed habitat. They also identified the places with less wildlife impact where additional recreational development can occur. The wildlife tool is transferrable. Partners are working with the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) about connecting wildlife modeling with forest treatment planning.
- The "keep it going" goals are related to funding management and maintenance in the long term. Partners are working with the Chaffee Common Ground and the Colorado Outdoor Partnership to discuss long-term maintenance. They also launched the Chaffee Rec Fund for citizens to donate to long-term maintenance. They are looking for opportunities through the Great American Outdoors Act to receive funding for projects over the next five years.

UPPER SOUTH PLATTE UPDATE

Brian Banks, USFS, and Allen Gallamore, CSFS, provided an update on the Upper South Platte landscape. Their presentation is summarized below.

- In their RMRI proposal, the Upper South Platte laid out their goals of treating 150,000 acres in total, with 75,000 acres on public lands and 75,000 acres on private lands. The Upper South Platte produces 80% of the drinking water for Denver and contains high-volume recreation use and critical wildlife habitat. Their goals also included creating fire-adapted communities and ensuring safe and effective wildfire responses.
- Given the high-use recreation and the high concentration of infrastructure in various counties and municipalities, it is important to be strategic about resources. The Upper South Platte Partnership (USPP) has treated in various areas and continues to plan treatments. Denver Water has also established zones of concern in the Upper South Platte.
- There are several treatments taking place on federal lands. There are also several large USPP cross-boundary projects planned, including:
 - Deer Creek (private and state lands with a USFS Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreement)
 - Staunton State Park (state park land with a USFS GNA under current and expanded NEPA)
 - McArthur Gulch (state lands with a USFS GNA under new NEPA)
 - Brooke Forest (private lands with a USFS GNA under updated NEPA)
 - Upper Bear Creek (private and state lands)
- There are additional smaller cross-boundary projects in communities. These projects involve a mixture of landowners.
- The Deer Creek GNA is the first GNA to occur on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands (PSICC) in many years. The GNA involves 299 acres of mechanical treatment and builds upon 250 acres of completed and planned treatment. The goal is to capture the attention of landowners to encourage treatment on private properties. The treatment will produce fuelwood for the public on the north end. The project's goals are to protect water resources, communities, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities.
- The South Platte Ranger District has 11,224 acres planned for prescribed fire implementation work. Of those acres, they have 1,192 acres ready for prescribed fire this fall. Partners will be prepared when there are windows of opportunity to burn based on weather conditions. The goal is to build public trust and social license in prescribed fire by conducting small-scale burns. A Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) crew helped prepare 200 acres for prescribed fire and have been a tremendous asset in the watershed.
- A collaborative group was formed to conduct a landscape assessment on 100,000 acres of federal land in the Upper South Platte Watershed as part of a new NEPA planning effort. The collaborative group is evaluating a variety of tools to help prepare the watershed for 97 percentile fires.
- The USPP has identified funding to support a USPP watershed coordinator position for one year. Denver Water and TNC are providing a 25% in-kind match to support the position. CSFS will hire and house the position. The workplan for the coordinator is tied within the USPP to improve reporting project tracking, increase coordination with the USFS, RMRI, and local counties. The USPP is exploring additional funding sources to support the position for a second year through the local congressional district.
- Douglas County is forming the Douglas County Fire Collaborative. This collaborative opens up new opportunities in the watershed.

- Aurora Water has provided funding for the Deer Creek cross-boundary project and Peak Facilitation services to support the USPP functional groups.
- The FRWRM grant program provided ten grants totaling close to \$2 million to support wildfire mitigation and community protection projects on the Upper South Platte. There were six additional unfunded grants for a total of \$1.3 million.
- DFPC is having conversations about increasing the pace and scale of prescribed fire on the landscape. Partners have strategically built burn pans in varying landscapes with different slopes and aspects. Having planning areas in various environmental conditions helps ensure that one area will have the appropriate conditions at any given time.

Clarifying Questions

Meeting participants asked clarifying questions about the Upper South Platte update. Questions are indicated in italics with corresponding answers in plain text.

Are the burn scars in the Upper South Platte needing retreatment, or are they still serving to reduce wildfire risk/severity?

- The previous NEPA did not cover the burn scars. The USFS wants to analyze the burn areas to begin to conduct prescribed fires in the fire footprints. Partners have planted over a million trees in the burn scars, so they do not want to burn the reforestation efforts, but there is an opportunity to get the areas into a prescribed fire cycle. The burn scars are potential anchors points for managing and fighting wildfire in the future.
- Wildfires do not burn consistently. Some places are not as impacted as heavily. There is an opportunity to maintain areas adjacent to the burn scars to maintain a larger footprint on the landscape.

EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENT ON WILDFIRE BEHAVIOR DISCUSSION

Meeting participants discussed the effectiveness of treatments on changing wildfire behavior in response to a question on whether treatments are effective at slowing catastrophic wildfires. Their comments are summarized below.

- A recent [news article](#) asked whether resources should be focused on hardening structures rather than conducting forest treatments. This article focuses on one value in particular: protecting communities and preventing home loss. It does not account for the impacts of fires on watersheds. Even with limited resources, it is important to both implement forest treatments and harden structures. In addition to federal funding, community funding will help support efforts to harden homes and protect communities.
- CFRI is researching the northern fires in Colorado to analyze treatment impacts on wildfire behavior. They have preliminary results, which indicate that treatments were ineffective at limiting landscape-scale impacts, but treatments did impact wildfire behavior at the stand level. There are many lessons learned from the northern fires, and researchers and managers continue to learn about the best ways to strategize around treatments.
- Past and current studies also show fuels treatments (and scale) can positively affect fire behavior and spared. Other past studies have shown that treatments may not prevent the spread of "mega-fires" (100 percentile), but the treatments may prevent some of the most adverse impacts.
- The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) has resources on how the Cameron Peak responded to treatments in northern Colorado.
- When analyzing the effectiveness of treatments, it is important to consider what counts as "treated." There are various levels of treatments. Areas that have been treated with

prescribed fire will impact wildfire behavior differently than areas that have been treated mechanically.

- The national news affects social license and should be something the Social License Subcommittee considers. Simple one-pagers, maps, and visuals can help distill complex, nuanced information into simpler, digestible content.

RMRI LANDSCAPE STORYTELLING PRESENTATION

Tara Umphries, USFS, presented an approach to telling the RMRI story through accomplishments and outcomes. Her presentation is summarized below.

- Shared Stewardship is a collaborative approach to forest management and is a way of doing business. RMRI is an example of Shared Stewardship. Shared Stewardship allows partners to come together to address challenges, integrate tools and science into management, and commit to doing the right work in the right places at the right scale.
- RMRI is a partner-driven effort that was meant to be replicated and expanded. It is important to document accomplishments and challenges to learn from and build on the ongoing landscape efforts.
- As RMRI enters into its third year, there are questions on where RMRI is currently and where RMRI needs to go. A common theme among partners is the need for clearer and more transparent communications. There is also a desire to celebrate share accomplishments beyond the facts and figures internally and externally.
- RMRI should tell its story and explain the why of RMRI. Stories allow partners to share information, build public buy-in, mobilize support, and inspire and catalyze projects in the landscapes and other parts of Colorado and the West.
- Accomplishment reporting will help tell the story of RMRI and the landscapes. The goal is for accomplishment reporting to be as easy as possible while providing enough information to tell stories.
- The first component of accomplishment reporting is tied to the vision of the landscapes outlined in their original RMRI proposals. Each landscape had a vision, and reflecting on those visions and the progress made towards them is a good starting point for accomplishment reporting.
- The second component of accomplishment reporting is the maps of the landscapes. Maps and geospatial data tell an important story. Aggregating geospatial data can be burdensome, so any maps created do not have to be detailed.
- The third component of accomplishment reporting is quantifiable information. These measurables include acres treated, miles of trail developed and maintained, numbers, percentages, etc. A table has been created for partners to use to help illustrate the number of acres treated on federal and non-federal lands related to the four RMRI values. The quantifiable data should not overburden the accomplishment reporting process.
- The fourth component of accomplishment reporting is identifying the partner connections, joint prioritization efforts, cross-boundary strategies, and shared values among partners. This component of accomplishment reporting is about sharing anecdotes, success stories, new relationships informed, and cross-boundary strategies. These accomplishments are not quantifiable but very important.
- The fifth component of accomplishment reporting is evaluating the status of outcomes. In the original RMRI proposals, the landscapes identified desired outcomes. This part of accomplishment reporting would involve describing the status of those original outcomes and the progress made towards those outcomes.

- The last component of accomplishment reporting involves landscapes and RMRI partners providing feedback and solutions to address barriers, enhance capacity, and increase opportunities for success.
- RMRI partners should consider the best approach to accomplishment reporting to support landscapes and subcommittees in their future planning and implementation efforts. A potential approach could be to host workshops in each of the landscapes to roll up accomplishments.

Polling Results

Meeting participants were polled on how close the accomplishment reporting proposal is to the information they would like to see reported. The polling results are below.

How close is this to what you'd like to see reported?

<i>Response</i>	<i>Number of Responses</i>	<i>Percentage of Responses</i>
Exactly it!	3	8%
Close enough	20	54%
Pretty good	11	30%
Not quite there	3	8%
Not even a little close	0	0%

Group Discussion

Meeting participants discussed the RMRI accomplishment reporting approach and any other information they would like to see in the accomplishment reports. Their comments are summarized below.

- A science and monitoring component is missing from the accomplishment reporting. Acreage is an important number to track, but it is also important to track how treatments affect values on the landscape for the adaptive management feedback loop. It would be helpful to learn how the different landscapes are approaching monitoring. CFRI may have insight into monitoring efforts.
- The accomplishment reporting should track the value-added from RMRI in increasing the pace and scale of treatments. It is important to monitor whether an increase in pace and scale is occurring. One way to do this may be to gather data on the accomplishments before RMRI and compare that to recent accomplishments. It is also important to account for the increased attention and funding that may have occurred anyway due to increased fire impacts.
- It is unclear whether monitoring is occurring on projects that reference RMRI. It is important to fiscally support monitoring efforts to determine whether treatments are moving partners towards goals. Monitoring efforts are occurring on the landscapes to determine whether treatments are meeting objectives, but RMRI is not necessarily funding those monitoring efforts. Where RMRI has contributed funding, those projects include a landscape monitoring component. There is not a separate source of funding for monitoring exclusively.
- It may be helpful to track what funding has been brought to the landscapes as a result of RMRI. USFS has provided additional funding from the national office as a result of RMRI.
- Monitoring efforts should account for how community attitudes and feelings of relative safety have changed due to projects.

NEXT STEPS

- The RMRI Support Team will incorporate the partner feedback on accomplishment reporting into the accomplishment reporting roadmap. They will reach out to the landscapes to initiate the accomplishment reporting process and organize an accomplishment reporting workshop.
- The next partners meeting will be at the beginning of December. The meeting agenda items will include accomplishment rollups and assessing the work of RMRI.

BRANDING AND LOGO "AFTER PARTY"

Following the RMRI partners meeting, some partners stayed on to hear a presentation from the marketing and branding company The Truth. The Truth presented on the RMRI logo and how to use it. A recording of the presentation can be found on the RMRI website at [this link](#).