

Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI)
July 21, 2022, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
RMRI Social License Subcommittee
Meeting Summary – FINAL

RMRI SOCIAL LICENSE SUBCOMMITTEE	
ATTENDANCE: Patt Dorsey, Cindy Dozier, Kate McIntire, Sonja Merryman, David Nikonow, Tara Umphries, Kirk Will	
ACTION ITEMS	
Kirk Will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share the results of the USFS’s facilitated learning analysis on escaped prescribed fires and any revisions made to national guidelines once finalized.
Patt Dorsey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise the Social License Subcommittee’s goals and strategies document to include the idea that RMRI messages should resonate emotionally with the public. Create a survey for Social License Subcommittee members to prioritize the identified strategies and propose potential actions.
Samuel Wallace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute the strategy prioritization survey to Social License Subcommittee members to fill out. Send out a Doodle to schedule the next meeting in September.
MEETING SUMMARY	
DISCUSSION TOPIC: Prescribed Fire	
<p>Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The US Forest Service (USFS) issued a 90-day pause on prescribed fires. The pause will end on September 1. They are conducting a facilitated learning analysis (FLA) to better understand how the prescribed fire escaped. The partners engaged in that effort will submit a final report to Region 2 soon. The Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) plans on managing prescribed burns this fall, including on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. Once all the prescribed fire reviews are compiled, the national guidance will likely be revised. The DFPC has not received strong pushback from the community where they are planning prescribed fires. There is a need for empathetic, compassionate, and thoughtful messaging for areas nearby escaped prescribed fires, such as Montrose. The Social License Subcommittee should wait until the updated national guidelines are released before they discuss messaging. The revised national guidelines could help the Social License Subcommittee develop messaging about how and why the national guidelines were revised. 	<p>Action Items/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kirk Will: Share the results of the USFS’s facilitated learning analysis on escaped prescribed fires and any revisions made to national guidelines once finalized.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the messaging on the USFS prescribed fire pause should focus on the idea that the USFS put a temporary pause on prescribed fire to strengthen their prescribed fire protocols to reduce the risk of escaped fires. • Upper Arkansas partners are looking for resources to connect with private landowners bordering planned prescribed fires on public lands. • At a future Social License Subcommittee meeting, partners should discuss prescribed fire messaging at the next meeting. 	
<p>DISCUSSION TOPIC: Social License Subcommittee 2022 Strategies</p>	
<p>Discussion Points on External-Focused Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Social License Subcommittee should consider how to better reach decision-makers, including congressional staff. There are congressional staff members on the RMRI partners contact list. It may be helpful to organize occasional briefings with congressional staff across the state. The Subcommittee should update congressional staffing contact information after the 2022 elections. • The Social License Subcommittee should work with the Communications Subcommittee to advance <i>shared</i> goals. There may be goals of each Subcommittee that they can tackle separately. The subcommittees should more clearly delineate their identified goals and tasks. For example, the Communications Subcommittee is more focused on developing mechanisms to deliver messages to the public. Subcommittee members should continue to consider merging those committees. • The document should capture the idea that messaging coming from RMRI should resonate emotionally with the public. • The Social License Subcommittee should develop messaging to connect the importance of forest health with water quality and quantity. 	<p>Action Items/Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patt Dorsey: Revise the Social License Subcommittee’s goals and strategies document to include the idea that RMRI messages should resonate emotionally with the public.
<p>DISCUSSION TOPIC: Partner Updates</p>	
<p>Discussion Points: Club 20 will meet in Rangely next week to discuss public lands and natural resources issues and opportunities. They will also be holding candidate debates on September 9 and 10.</p>	<p>Action Items/Decisions: None.</p>
<p>NEXT STEPS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patt Dorsey will create a survey for Social License Subcommittee members to prioritize the identified strategies and propose potential actions. Samuel Wallace will distribute the survey to Social License Subcommittee members to fill out. 	

- At the next meeting, the Social License Subcommittee will discuss the prioritized strategies and the actions to move those strategies forward. The next meeting will be at the beginning of September. Samuel Wallace will send out a Doodle to schedule the meeting.
- The next RMRI partners meeting will be in Durango from October 4 to 6. One agenda item will be report-outs from committees. The Social License and Communications Subcommittee should coordinate their report-outs to be complimentary.