

Collaborative Restoration Workshop

National Forest Foundation | April 2016

Future of Collaborative Stewardship | Plenary Session: Welcome to the Workshop & What We're Trying to Achieve

Speakers

- **Mary Mitsos**, Executive Vice President, National Forest Foundation
- **Daniel Jirón**, Regional Forester, Region 2, U.S. Forest Service
- **Tom Tidwell**, Chief, U.S. Forest Service
- **William J. Possiel**, President, National Forest Foundation

Overview

Mary Mitsos and Daniel Jirón welcomed attendees to the first-ever Collaborative Restoration Workshop on behalf of the National Forest Foundation and Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service, respectively. U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and National Forest Foundation President William J. Possiel provided keynote remarks.

Summary of Remarks - Tom Tidwell, Chief, U.S. Forest Service

- Ecological restoration is key to restoring the systems that our Forests, Grasslands, and communities need. Climate change drives the conditions of our lands, including drought and wildfire. We must remove biomass and steward resilient watersheds. We must also find ways to work across mixed ownerships.
- We've seen steady progress in acres treated, largely due to partnerships. Partners are key. None of us are in this alone.
- Greatest success comes when people learn together through partnerships and collaboration, and support shared restoration goals.
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) program has been a tremendous success, with many acres treated, wildfire risk reduced, new jobs, economic returns, and ecological benefits. This program has been successful because it requires a collaborative effort, allows us to look at large landscapes, and represents a long-term commitment. CFLR is a recipe for success, and something we need to continue and build upon.
- Congress is recognizing the successes stemming from collaboration by putting collaboration into legislation, such as the CFLR program.
- Collaboration is at the center of forest plan revision efforts under the 2012 Planning Rule.
- Collaboration isn't easy. Interests don't always align. Successful collaboration depends on hard work, but represents a solution that provides meaningful engagement in public lands management. Collaboration creates a greater sense of ownership and responsibility when it comes to management outcomes. Collaboration produces better decisions.
- Pleased to have this conversation about how we can expand what's working and fix what's not.
- Challenges participants to listen closely, learn as much as possible, and use that information to lead at home.



Explore more: nationalforests.org/crw

Summary of Remarks – NFF President Bill Possiel

- The fact that we are gathered together reflects a fundamental change in our country. We've seen this change in the Forest Service; the agency has adapted. The Forest Service now works closely with communities across the country, which has led to phenomenal opportunities to do great things on the land.
- We face threats from climate change, demographic shifts, and other challenges – all of which bring us back to collaboration around restoration.
- We have an obligation to fight against the discourse about getting rid of public lands.
- By bringing communities together, collaboration can help by building bridges.
- 100 years from now, public lands will be even more valuable in terms of ecological and economic significance for the nation. The people in this room represent the people from across the country who can come together to build dialogue about how we respect the value of these phenomenal assets.
- The National Forest Foundation's values are to unite, restore, engage, sustain, and add value.
- A big challenge is to connect urban communities to national forests. If communities understand and have pride in forests, we're more likely to achieve our restoration goals.
- Struck by recent remarks from international conservation leader, who stated, "Forestry is not rocket science – it's so much more complex." Today we can send a rocket into space, but we don't yet understand so much about the subtleties of species, landscapes, and the science of our home. We need a healthy planet, healthy communities, and healthy families.
- Personal experiences often create a sense of value within people for nature and public lands. We have to think about how to sustain that enthusiasm and respect for nature.
- Collaboration is by definition the act of creating something with others. We cannot address the threats facing us alone, as one entity or one group of people. This must be a group effort.
- Climate change is the defining issue of our time. As we work to ameliorate the effects of climate change, we know that forests play a critical role. So, all of the work is not only important to our local communities, but also to our global communities.

