Colorado Front Range Collaborative Restoration Initiative

PRESENTATION TO R2/R3 CFLRP WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 29, 2013
Overview

- Restore approx. 32,000 acres on NFS lands within the Roundtable’s consensus restoration zone
- Leverage and build on past restoration and fuels reduction treatments.
- Maximize utilization and job creation
- Monitor results and adapt management strategies
Restoration Objectives

- Establish complex **mosaic** of forest density, size and age
- Substantially decrease **density** of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir in lower montane, favoring ponderosa pine.
- Remove ladder **fuels** and reduce continuous tree canopy.
- Increase use and effectiveness of **prescribed fire**.
- Increase meadows, patchiness and **understory**.
- Protect and enhance **old growth** conditions.
- Strategically place treatments to maximize **size and effectiveness** on the landscape.
Collaboration

- **Front Range Roundtable**
  - Established in 2004 to increase pace and scale of management.
  - Identified 1.5 million acres in need of treatment.
  - Emphasis on restoration, community protection and economics and utilization.

- **Landscape Restoration Working Group**
  - Focus on CFLR implementation, monitoring and adaptive management.
  - Ongoing efforts on wildlife, understory vegetation, fire history reconstruction.
SUCCESSES

- On-the-Ground Accomplishments 2010-2013
  - 23,297 acres of fuels reduction in the WUI
  - 8,022 acres of wildlife habitat improved
  - 24,742 CCF of timber sold
  - 7,101 green tons of woody biomass for bio-energy
  - 113 miles of trail improved or maintained
  - 1,831 acres of invasive weed treatments
SUCCESSES

- Increased collaborative engagement
  - Field Trips
  - Transition from “fuels” to “restoration” / groupy-clumpy
  - Continuous improvement to monitoring plan
  - Development of adaptive management plan
SUCCESES

- Leveraged funding and partnerships
  - Denver Water
  - Hayman Restoration
    - NFF, Vail Resorts, CUSP, Gates, Lowe’s, Coca Cola, TNC, Aurora Water, Arbor Day Foundation
  - Colorado Springs Utilities
SUCCESES

- Upper Monument Creek Initiative
  - Collaborative recommendations for 67,000 acre landscape
  - Addressed both landscape and treatment scale
  - Informed adaptive management and adaptive NEPA
SUCCESES

- Front Range Long-Term Stewardship Contract
  - Consistent implementation partner
  - Generation of new markets for material
  - Long-term employment opportunities
  - Progress toward building a restoration economy
CHALLENGES

- Monitoring and Adaptive Management
- Limitations on Use of Fire
- Big Wildfires
- Funding not Additive
- Collaboration Fatigue
EMERGING ISSUES / OPPORTUNITIES

- Landscape planning on northern Front Range
- Proliferation of smaller collaboratives
- Incorporation of climate adaptation.
- Research
- Funding