CFLRP Workshop, USFS Region 2-3

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**Workshop Objectives**

- *In-person networking opportunities with the Forest Service and 5 collaboratives working across USFS Region 2 and 3*
- *Structured peer learning and exchange among Forest Service and collaborative partners*
- *Technical presentations and problem solving on common issues*
- *Identifying emergent themes that may need future attention.*

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**Opening Session**

Region 2 Deputy Forester, Brian Ferebee, praised a few of the CFLRP’s nationwide achievements to date: 400 jobs created, $9M in economic output, accelerated growth of collaborative and citizen science and long-term investments in restoration-based forest industry. In a slowly declining USFS funding environment the recipient pool is increasingly competitive and depends, now and into the future, on strong matching support to design increasingly profitable markets for traditionally low-value forest by-products. To succeed, an “all-lands-approach” is required, which will continue to challenge the USFS and other agencies to evolve new ways of planning and implementing projects on multi-jurisdiction forests at the landscape scale. A committed, informed and adaptive citizenry is also a prerequisite to success.

*Five Collaboratives gave joint presentations (Forest Service and Stakeholder representatives) on their successes, challenges and emerging issues:*

**SW Jemez Mountains** (Kent Reid & Phyllis Ashmead) The 210,000 acre project area is predominantly (93%) forested National Forest System lands that are managed under two distinct land management jurisdictions: the US Forest Service-Santa Fe National Forest (52%) and Valles Caldera Trust-Valles Caldera National Preserve (41%). **Successes:** regular and well-attended field tours; annual monitoring meeting of 150 people, reviewing data and lessons learned; local jobs training for small wood-industry with Jemez Pueblo; event, “Living with Fire in Northern NM”. **Challenges:** a multi-jurisdictional landscape of Valles Caldera and Santa Fe NF, with differences in how the NEPA process is conducted; mixed forest ecology--Ponderosa pine and Piñon Juniper forests; Las Conchas fire (150K acres) forced a second EIS; significant agency turnover; a new, smaller collaborative has formed within the same landscape, raising questions about if/how to aggregate capacity. **Emerging issues:** many expect another
big fire to burn within the project area next fire season—there is a feeling that forest treatments can’t get done fast enough!

**Zuni Mountain Landscape** (Eytan Krasilovsky) A 210,000 acre single watershed project on one national forest/ranger district bridging the Continental Divide. **Successes:** Wood Industries Network (WIN) established under CFRP (prior to CFLRP); CFRP has also provided numerous grants that were leveraged towards planning/industry/NGO support; outside facilitation of the collaborative. **Challenges:** 18-20% of the 2 local counties population are below the poverty line (median family incomes of $13,000/year); no formal structure or governance in the collaborative; industry partner lacking on the West side, and only one on the East side; small overall size of the project. **Emerging issues:** treatment costs/acre are high (over $700)—goal is $350; newly listed endangered fish, Zuni Blue-Headed Sucker raises a host of new planning issues.

**Four Forest Restoration Initiative** (Steve Gatewood & Katharine Sanchez Meador) 2.4M acre project with 2 EIS areas across four National Forests in Arizona. **Successes:** strong guiding documents (e.g. Charter with decision rules, Path Forward, Large Tree Retention Strategy); agreement from USFS to include Monitoring and Adaptive Management plan in final EIS; unprecedentedly large NEPA (1st EIS ~ 1M acres). **Challenges:** parallel NEPA and contracting timelines; large project size; USFS does not yet have sufficient monitoring capacity; conflict within the Stakeholder Group; delays with original contractor; coordination among the 4 Forests with respect to implementation timing and funding. **Emerging issues:** in the Fall of 2013 the contract was transferred to a new entity, Good Earth Power; working with USFS to resolve conflicts around the Large Tree Retention Strategy; Monitoring & Adaptive Management Plan being finalized for incorporation into final EIS.

**Uncompahgre Plateau Collaborative Restoration:** (Tammy Randall Parker & Pam Motley) 1M acre landscape spanning 5 counties on Colorado’s West Slope. **Successes:** no appeals or litigation and strong collaborative-USFS relationships; potential conflicts resolved through the EA (“Restoration Principles” document); independent facilitator; lots of time together in the field; NFF monitoring grant. **Challenges:** agency capacity for implementation (designation by description/prescription); collaborative “burn – out”; environmental NGO’s have had reduced capacity since 2008 (recession); lack of biomass markets. **Emerging issues:** there is a need for economic incentives to make small-diameter woody biomass utilization competitive; incorporating standard timber contracts in addition to stewardship contracts; effects of climate change on adaptive management.

**Colorado Front Range Landscape Restoration Initiative:** (Sara Mayben & Paige Lewis) A member of the meta-collaborative (the Front Range Roundtable, est. 2004) targeting 800,000 acre landscape on Colorado’s Front Range focused primarily on WUI. **Successes:** strong independent research support from institutions (e.g. CFRI, RMRS, CSU); leveraged funding/partnerships through WUI focus (e.g. Denver Water and Colorado Springs Utilities); strong industry support through the Front Range Long-Term Stewardship Contract. **Challenges:** monitoring and adaptive management plan is still a work in progress; limitations on use of fire (smoke & air quality issues in the WUI); USFS funding (though CFLRP) has not been as “additive” as advertised; significantly different issues in northern vs. southern portions of the
Emerging issues: proliferation of smaller collaboratives within the “Roundtable” requires coordinated and complementary planning.

CFLR National Indicators – Development and description

Presenters: Mary Mitsos (NFF), and Amy Waltz (NAU & ERI)

The CFLR National Indicators are a suite of five indicators that directly correlate to the intent of the CFLR Act. The indicators are intended to provide similar information from the 23 funded CFLRPs for a congressional and USDA Forest Service Leadership audience. The indicators are Fire Costs, Jobs/Economics, Leveraged Funds, Collaboration and Ecological. The Fire costs indicator is being completed by a standardized modeling tool by Rocky Mountain Research Station researchers (Stockman et al.) on a 2 – 4 year time cycle. The next two indicators are currently included in the annual report. The Collaboration Indicator is required to be done by external partners; currently the CFLR Coalition conducts a survey every year to include with that annual report. The ecological indicator was developed to utilize national databases and Forest Service reporting tools, but also be the most flexible to capture the desired conditions of each CFLRP project.

Four metrics of ecological restoration were identified:
- fire regime restoration (not the same as fire risk, that’s the R-CAT)
- fish and wildlife habitat condition
- watershed condition
- invasive species severity

Three take-home points were identified:
1. Of the five national indicators, the ecological indicator remains a framework. CFLRP sites are working to incorporate these ecological indicator metrics into their developing monitoring plans.

2. The expectation is that all 23 sites will report out on this indicator for the 2014 report.

3. Work is still needed to tier CFLRP monitoring plans to the ecological indicators, but may be addressed by the NFF Peer Learning Sessions and the National CFLRP Monitoring Network, webinars found at http://www.nationalforests.org/conserve/peer/collaborative-forest-landscape-restoration-program

Additional Notes:
- Development of a national framework
  - Indicators should be simple, affordable, responsive to the direction in the act, supported by existing sources of data, maximize project autonomy, and minimize additional requirements of the groups
• Ecological indicator
  o Desired conditions and metrics for each project at two scales – landscape and project

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Landscape scale monitoring approached and questions

Presenters: Dan Binkley (Colorado State University) and Leigh Robertson (Uncompahgre Plateau)

The Uncompahgre Partnership used two different approaches to come up with desired conditions for our landscape and lessons learned.

• For Nonnative Invasive Species Severity, the group developed an invasibility index based on vegetation cover, slope, elevation, aspect, roads and trails to identify areas of high risk to invasive species. This allowed the group to focus-in on undesirable conditions related to areas of high risk, such as:
  o Low elevations are more susceptible
  o Population centers - concentration of severity - are related to road density.

• For Fire Regime Restoration, it seemed more valuable to look at un-desired conditions as this variable utilized modeling which while useful, may not always predict exactly what will be observed on the landscape. The stakeholders felt it much easier to agree on what was not desired. This approach also keeps us from believing that the future of a complex forest is predictable and controllable. NEXUS was the fire model. Benefits to this kind of thinking – easier to get consensus on what you don’t want, instead of what you do want.

• Lessons learned: remember the big picture, make sure you have people with different skill sets on your team. For this project, it was helpful to have an analytical person on each team.

• Questions to ask: what’s best for the whole, what’s true, what’s possible?

Presenter: Jenny Briggs, USGS, (Front Range Roundtable)

The Front Range CFLR project has been doing a lot of work and making real progress as a CFLR collaborative, both in the arena of monitoring and in the arena of clarifying the adaptive management process. The project has catalyzed at least 10 separate lines of work since 2011 that involve monitoring (ecological and socio-economic), scientific assessments, adaptive management, etc. This presentation described each of these briefly in turn. Key challenges included: the collaborative group has still not agreed on specific “desired conditions” for their landscape, beyond the broadly worded objectives in our proposal; the need to translate our monitoring data into the quantitative national indicator assessments. Several valid reasons exist for these 2 challenges: our landscape is large and varied; our
collaborative is varied and includes members representing both forest science and social science fields; our viewpoints range from site-specific perspectives to ecoregional perspectives; and the variables we have been interested in measuring before and after CFLR treatments do not readily translate into the national indicator variables which focus on broader spatial and temporal scales. However we are optimistic we can meet those challenges.

The outline and key points of the presentation are as follows:

- To begin to answer monitoring questions (how and what, historical, current, and future conditions), 10 lines of work were developed:

  1. Monitoring plan completed by June 2011 – 2 tiers of variables that are important to track through the project.
  2. Common Stand Exam (CSE) monitoring of forest structure – USFS 2011-2013. Data analyzed by CFRI.
  3. Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) -funded monitoring – Tier 2 variables added to CSE on a subset of plots.
  4. Socioeconomic monitoring – led by Kathie Mattor (CFRI/CSU)
  5. Stand reconstruction study – 2012-13. Developing a picture of what the historic condition was.
  6. GTR – scientific basis and guidelines. USFS publication, led by Rob Addington (CFRI). Currently in draft phase, next step is stakeholder input.
  7. Upper Monument Creek Landscape Restoration Initiative – Adaptive NEPA process for a project in Pike NF
  9. Spatial heterogeneity assessments – what is the change in patch structure?
  10. Wildlife monitoring team

- Challenges
  1. Tiering monitoring to the National Indicators
  2. Diverse landscape
  3. Scientific information in the past was possibly mixed or minimal
  4. Social and forest scientists sometimes in conflict!
  5. What scale? Sites or landscape.
  6. Mixed roles of stakeholders
  7. Focal variables don’t fit into National Indicators
  8. The adaptive management process was only recently formalized
Lessons Learned From National CFLRP Site Visits

Lauren Marshall – USFS

The USFS Washington Office has visited close to half of the awarded CFLR Projects and shared some lessons learned from those visits. There are 23 funded CFLRPs (10 from 2010 and 13 from 2012) that currently have budget requests up to $55 million a year, although only up to $40 million a year can be allocated. Issues they’ve identified at more than one project include:

- **Line officer engagement:** Robust collaboratives that were doing well all had line officer involvement (district rangers or forest supervisors); high engagement resulted in collaborative members that felt very involved. When minimal line office engagement; collaborative members felt disenfranchised and reported feeling used as the project moved from proposal to implementation.

- **Trust the money:** A barrier has been that the money comes late – very common problem and it can be hard to get contracts out the door when you don’t know if you’ll have the funding.
  
  o **Recommendation** – Trust the money and “spend it like you’ve got it” (the USFS is strongly committed to this funding)

- **NEPA**
  
  o **Problem 1** – CFLR funding is actually not additive funding
    
    ▪ Lack of USFS Region support because of need to fund regular programs
    
    ▪ Recommend CFLR sites are priority projects and should be funded additively

  o **Problem 2** – Capacity and lack of planning dollars for CFLRP allocated funds
    
    ▪ The lack of planning money can create a bottleneck in NEPA planning
    
    ▪ Suggested using categorical exclusions for NEPA efficiently (but size limitation)
    
    ▪ USFS Washington Office looking to assimilate opportunities to appropriately scale up NEPA

- **Biomass:** Written into the act as a way to pay for some of the restoration, but a barrier identified across the projects, with few exceptions, to meet biomass utilization goals originally proposed.
  
  o Regional and Washington offices will be working on these problems and also working to support the developing markets

- **Consultation with state agencies**—communications with Federal and State Fish and Wildlife agencies can be a sticking point for progress in the NEPA process
Recommendation – make sure regional representatives are sharing understandings with their state counterparts

- Tribal collaboration: Native Tribal Groups feel that they are missing out on opportunities
  - Recommendation – getting agreements between the USFS and tribes to get work done
  - Recommendation – Tribal Forest Protection Act implementation (tribes can do work on USFS lands if the work they’re doing on the lands has impact on tribal lands, do not need to be directly adjacent)
    - USFS Washington Office developing a template for tribes to propose this type of work

- Monitoring: All groups are at very different stages in this process

- Research as a base for collaboration: Starting with the science as a way to be successful

- Outreach to other members of the community
  - Helping those outside the collaborative understand what’s happening

Collaborative Engagement – Emerging issues in post-planning

The NEPA Road Map is an Adobe document and/or tool built to help stakeholders and collaborators working on federal landscapes. It was developed by a small group including non-federal and US Forest Service partners to clarify how to engage throughout the NEPA process. The tool addresses NEPA myths and is useful to federal agencies and their external stakeholders at all different states of a collaborative project.

- Included in the Road Map:
  - Includes and defines the NEPA triangle, with links specific to each stage of planning.
  - While not specifically focused on initiating a collaborative, it is intended for those already collaborating
  - Includes suggestions on how to deal with common issues during the NEPA process for both the agency and collaborative members
o Includes the “Toolbox” – a glossary of tools specific to NEPA, which are hyperlinked throughout the document

o Worksheet – to help start conversations and work through stages

• The road map is intended for easy online use with hyperlinks to lead to additional information. The worksheet is for offline use and fillable if helpful for a collaborative process.

• The NEPA Roadmap is located on the NFF website: http://www.nationalforests.org/conserve/learning/collaboration-and-nepa%20

Specific CFLRP Projects with Emerging Issues or Innovative Strategies

Eytan Krasilovsky, Zuni Mountain Project

The Zuni Mountain Project was awarded a CFLR in 2012; however the collaborative has been in place for about 8 years and funded by the NM Collaborative Forest Restoration Program. The goals of the Partnership include stabilizing fledgling restoration businesses. There was a significant post-planning adjustment that was made with all partners in response to a change in contractor.

• The Issue: CFLRP funding was being used for on-the-shelf NEPA done with the partnership prior to CFLR award. While the NEPA specified what you could leave on the ground, following the closure of one local restoration business, a new implementation partner was not able to do the work as described in the NEPA document because they did not have the machinery/infrastructure.

• The fix: The prescription was changed by the line officer to leave more material on site. Ranger and forest agreed to the decision, and material was left on the ground as slash. To get to the final desired condition, the Forest Service worked pragmatically with the community:
  o Local community needed fuel wood
  o Locals are removing 1-2 cords per acre
  o Permitting was adjusted so that they can track it by district (which more closely related to NEPA outcomes)

• The line officer provided a letter stating that the change in methods made no difference in output—NEPA wasn’t actually changed, but can achieve the same results through a different sequence.
On the ground results are the same as the original intention, but just accomplished in a different manner. The project is about a year into this approach, and so far it’s working.

**Russ Winn, Lessons Learned from the 4FRI 1st Analysis Area (1 million acres)**

The 4FRI was awarded a CFLR Project in 2010. While there are many successes in the last 3 years, we are taking the time to share the emerging issues and lessons learned from our large landscape analysis area.

- **Issue 1:** Size. Bigger isn’t necessarily better
  - Large landscapes lead to a large stakeholder group, and it’s hard to get together. There are geographical barriers, resulting in long travel times to get to meetings, but meeting in person is best and helps to build understanding.
  - Larger project area makes a long-term commitment more difficult. How do you predict what you’ll want over 10 years in an area? This makes it difficult to get long-term commitment from a diverse set of stakeholders. Stakeholders may tend to fall back into a cautionary stance and perhaps harden their positions because of uncertainty.
  - USFS organizational structure can make decision making difficult. A project as large as 4FRI kicks the decisions up the tree; sometimes agency staff involved with the collaborative have different decision rules than staff further up the chain of command. Collaborative expectations and understandings are challenged at higher authority levels.
  - There are also large time-lags for planning within the agency to work on projects at this scale. Stakeholder developed documents need a 12-month lead-time for full incorporation into final documents. This can be frustrating.

- **Issue 2:** Difficulty in developing a shared understanding on some issues. Sometimes where there seems to be agreement, there isn’t actually as much agreement as some collaborative members thought. Everything is a work in progress.

- **Question from the 4FRI team:** How does adaptive NEPA work? When we have assigned “treatments” to polygons, can we still build a NEPA document that has flexibility.

**Kent Reid, SW Jemez Mountain Project Emerging Issues**

- **Issue 1:** A developing issue is smoke. A lot of burning is planned for the project, which is just west of a major metropolitan area (Santa Fe).

- **Issue 2:** There is also an issue with new partners becoming part of the group, ones who feel they were “late to the party”. How are the CFLRPs going to handle new stakeholders or collaborative groups to honor “open collaboration” and still address potential priority changes? The project
developed a strategy with a core group of people that have access to funds. Stakeholders who are not part of that initial group can find it difficult to get in on that strategy and any of the cost-share/leverage funds.

- Issue 3: FACA interpretations vary from region to region and can go from misinterpretation of the Act to very strict interpretation or to little or no concern for FACA violations. The Jemez Mountain Project’s quarterly meetings were stopped because of concern that FACA was being violated. Formalization of USFS involvement in collaboratives varies from region to region for the same reason.

- Questions from Jemez Mountain Partnership:
  - Have FS members been able to sign on to a collaborative?
  - FS should be able to sign on. Full membership is needed if they ever want to get to a real “we”.

**Greg Aplet, Emerging Issues & Responses, Front Range Landscape Restoration Initiative**

- Issue 1: Moving past planning to implement collaboratively? This was new territory.

- Response to Issue 1: Monitoring and Adaptive Management. In the process of planning for monitoring it was clear that monitoring was a process that informs a larger process – adaptive management cycle. Stakeholder group worked to identify critical parts of the adaptive management cycle:
  - Defining goals – where is it that we’re trying to get to? Different perspectives can inform that. This is KEY to collaboration; if Stakeholders don’t agree then we’re in negotiation, not collaboration. Characterization in general terms of what we want the future to look like, or, defining desired conditions.
  - Where do we want to engage? And, in general terms, what does that engagement look like?
  - After these steps are defined, then it is appropriate to develop a monitoring plan that is appropriate to what you are trying to accomplish.
  - Treatment preparation process – landscape scale NEPA is accomplished through smaller scale prescriptions.
• Issue 2: Who does/pays for the monitoring? While a fair amount of the data needed was provided by the USFS FS through common stand exam (CSE), the Stakeholders have had to raise funds for some of the additional data collection not incorporated in the CSE.

Panel Discussion on Emerging Issues

Question: Common theme: each collaborative has had to create this stuff from scratch. If the act had included instructions to the USFS (“thou shalt have a collaborative”) would that have been better?

- In retrospect: it was a lot to put on the collaboratives to create the monitoring plan and a little more guidance and standardization would have been beneficial.

- Most attendees agreed, though, that it was outstanding that there is money with little direction.

- Figuring out a collaborative process individually by project is a benefit because of the heterogeneity in stakeholder composition and project goals

Question: Decisions are still being made at the line-officer level. What do we do if they’re not engaged in collaboration?

- Forest Service bureaucracy needs to be flattened more, the decision authority is often still two steps away.

- Contracting is a closed door process

Question: CFLRA is a directive to learn from the ground up. This is a collision between new and old thinking within the federal agencies

- Clashing of horizontal and vertical management within agencies

- Stakeholders are grappling with the issues of accountability and expectations

Question: What are you mechanisms for adjusting NEPA?

- Supplemental Information Report: use this to shorten up the feedback loop
  - Usually used because of changed conditions.

- Response: We struggle with understanding of NEPA. Not everyone understands that process. How do we get people to understand these things?

Question: Why aren’t agreements sticking?

- Easy to talk about things in the abstract, harder to actually do them.
Personnel change is always a challenge, both within agencies and stakeholders

You don’t necessarily have to have a formal group to have a “we”

**Question:** It’s challenging to monitor the things that we think may lead to a trigger of a change. How are other groups tackling scaling up?

- Does monitoring go into a black box? We have not established how to deal with citizen monitoring program. Where does the info go? We can’t leave this to the academics—it’s too important!

- Accountability is why we do monitoring. 80% can be done by photographs. Maybe it’s easier than we think

### Implementation Issues

**Panelists:** Eytan Krasilovsky (Zuni Mountain), Clay Speas & Matt Tutten (Uncompahgre Plateau), Marie Rodriguez & Jeremy Marshall (SW Jemez), Henry Provencio, Dick Fleischmann, Pascal Berlioux (4FRI), Paige Lewis, Mark Martin, Sara Mayben (Colorado Front Range Restoration Initiative)

**Question:** Are you implementing?

- **Front Range:** Have used up all non-collaboratively generated “shelf stock” NEPA projects on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests; now working on Upper Monument Creek collaborative NEPA

- **4FRI:** Implementing on (1) “shelf stock” from White Mountain Stewardship Contract, (2) 6,600 acre timber sale, (3) ~25,000 acres of wildlife habitat improvement and (4) several hundred miles of road maintenance. For 4FRI NEPA implementation schedule see the following USFS web link: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/4fri/home/?cid=stelprdb5438777&width=full](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/4fri/home/?cid=stelprdb5438777&width=full)

- **SW Jemez:** implementing with “shelf stock” NEPA and riparian restoration projects. Prescribed burning on 73,000 acres last year. Thinned 3,000 acres and managed wildland fire on 5,000 acres. Full project planning schedule will be released in April, 2014.

- **Uncompahgre:** Implementing thinning, fuels reduction and commercial harvest on 2,300 acres of “shelf stock” NEPA. Escalante (136,000 acre restoration project) will be initiated in
2014. In addition, they decommissioned 100 miles of roads, improved riparian/stream habitat for cutthroat trout, thinned around powerlines and treated noxious weeds.

- **Zuni Mountain**: implementation (all Ponderosa Pine) has been slow; stewardship contract to mechanically treat 2,000 acres/year and another 3,000 acres for prescribed fire. Fifty miles of roads have been improved and local youth have repaired fences and restored riparian areas.

**Question:** In terms of the CFLRP proposal and the ten year time-frame, how do you feel about the pace of implementation currently?

- **Uncompahgre**: acceptable “burn windows” prove to be a challenge—they are taking a year by year approach and had to revise initial expectations about acres that would be burned.

- **4FRI**: (stakeholder perspective) the problem has been delays, but that needs to be framed against two issues. First, issues with NEPA planning, record of decision, and so on. Second, that due to timber wars of the 80’s the entire utilization network has been whipped out in Arizona. The speed of 4FRI implementation is first and foremost constrained by the speed of ramping up industry.

- **SW Jemez**: rate of implementation and monitoring has been more than satisfactory, especially given the two large fires that have burned on the landscape.

**Question:** For those who feel that implementation is on schedule, what are the factors working in your favor?

- **Zuni**: They built a project that matched capacity, both on the agency and on the wood utilization harvesting side. What is still concerning is that burning has fallen behind schedule, since smoke from the Cibola tends to go to Albuquerque, restricting upwind burn windows.

- **Uncompahgre**: The Collaborative has been very cohesive, committed and willing to compromise in order to get work done that, while at times not ideal, has been perceived as far superior to inaction.

- **Colorado Front Range Roundtable**: having an existing Collaborative and stewardship contract in place when they started was very helpful. Lots of “shelf stock” NEPA didn’t hurt either.

**Question:** What defines success for the coming year? And how is that affected by the “spend it like you got it” mandate from the Washington Office?

- **4FRI**: there are two sources of money that matter, federal (USFS and CFLR) and private. From an execution perspective, success depends on big investments. There will be approximately
300,000 tons of green biomass a year to dispose of. Investment for rebuilding infrastructure ranges from $200-400 million investment. Good Earth Power, the new 4FRI contractor, plans to ramp up a network of small-scale wood utilization plants and one large scale biomass power generation facility in the next 18-24 months. Success means beginning to implement at a landscape scale with parallel industry development.

- **Colorado Front Range Roundtable:** Success this year will be defined as: (1) progress on the Upper Monument Creek NEPA for the Pike side, (2) testing designation by description vs. prescription on the Arapahoe-Roosevelt and (3) seeing the adaptive management diagram become operational.

- **Southwest Jemez:** success looks like a signed EIS and a 5 year implementation plan; a programmatic agreement with the National Historic Preservation Act (HPA); Endangered Species Act compliance to move forward at a more rapid pace; drafting a stewardship agreement and workforce training to initiate cost-share work with local communities.

- **Uncompahgre:** translating their 10-year implementation map into one year of work accomplished, while finding creative ways to attract more funds through their existing contract.

- **Zuni:** Begin lowering the treatment costs per acre (goal is ~ 40% lower over the lifespan of the contract) while growing a fledgling restoration industry, involving hand crews; and closing the feedback loop by initiating monitoring.

**Discussion points:**

- **Smoke Management** challenges could be solved by bringing EPA officials into the collaborative dialogue; use public affairs officers to convey the message that the impacts from smoke will diminish with time as more of the forest is treated; targeting burn windows that are not at the height of fire season when resources are often fully allocated; utilizing all presently available USFS fire policies and prescriptions and getting line officers to support that utilization; involving state fire councils and relying on local expertise.

- **Paying for monitoring staff** starts with hiring a monitoring coordinator(s), utilizing CFLR funds, and involving the Stakeholder Group in monitoring or using their matching dollars to hire monitoring staff; creating cost-share agreements with Universities (and others). It may also be worthwhile to consider students, permanent partnerships, non CFLR funding sources, and district staff as key resources.

**Reducing implementation costs** by the USFS might be achieved by moving toward designation by prescription (estimated 25% cost reduction) and generating payments through stewardship contracting.
This reduces total USFS prep costs to ~ $100/acre. Cost of archeological surveys can sometimes be offset by using partners to perform work at a lower rate.

**Breakout Session: monitoring**

*Does your CFLRP have Desired Future Conditions (DFC’s)? What are some of the highlights of your monitoring plan?*

**SW Jemez Mountains:** Yes, and our DFC’s break out across different ecosystem types—but a unifying theme was to move forests towards old growth conditions. The monitoring plan was scaled up from the existing framework for Valles Caldera. The Plan has 4 primary components: Fire, Vegetation, Perennial Streams and Wildlife. Some monitoring is done by VC staff, some by collaborative, some by citizens and some via contract by outside groups. Strong history of grant-driven monitoring, but 8.9% of monitoring budget is from CFLR funds, which were not used for RFP contracts. LIDAR flights are being done every 5 years. Las Conchas Fire has required adaptive management (e.g. promoting aspen recruitment over elk browse) and lots of standing dead trees raise the question, “what to monitor?” Long-term goal is to prioritize indicators, reduce the number of indicators that need to be monitored, and only monitor conditions on the ground once every 2-3 years.

**Uncompahgre Plateau:** Yes, DFC’s are guiding monitoring. The four main categories of the monitoring plan are: Fire, Invasives, Watersheds and Wildlife. Fire is a threat to Sage Grouse. High School students used for weed monitoring. They are also pursuing LIDAR utilization. Funding for monitoring is still unclear, but will likely be taken “off the top” from CFLR funds.

**Zuni Mountain:** DFC’s are only loosely defined. Monitoring plan is very much a work in progress and is a relatively small program (~8% of CFRP funds). Zuni is drawing heavily on Bob Parmenter’s “All-Hands-Approach”. Middle school and high school students perform some of the monitoring via leveraged funds (e.g. Common Stand Exams). The Zuni Blue-Headed Sucker (newly listed) has created a new need for monitoring across the project’s boundary.

**4FRI:** Approximately 30 DC’s, drawn from a crosswalk of the Stakeholder Group’s Landscape Assessment and the DEIS DC’s and ranked by importance, are the heart of the ecological monitoring and adaptive management plan. A socioeconomic component is also included in the plan, and an initial focus group study has already been conducted, under an NFF grant. The plan has been jointly developed by
the Stakeholder Group and the USFS, under the verbal agreement that it will be included (verbatim) in the final EIS. The majority of funding will come primarily from total CFLR appropriated funds (~10%), and the USFS (region 3) has recently hired a monitoring coordinator, whose primary responsibility will be to the 4FRI. The collaborative is currently forming a Multi-party Monitoring Board that will administer monitoring (primarily through RFP contracts) and will develop adaptive management recommendations for the Stakeholder Group.

Socio-Economic Monitoring Approaches and Results

Tony Cheng, Eytan Krasilovsky & Ann Mottek Lucas (4FRI)

Building and increasing public and political support for the CFLRP projects is in part tied to the ability of the projects to produce social and economic benefits. Jobs and economic activity in communities within and adjacent to projects can be especially important outcomes to demonstrate. In preparation for this session, Tony Cheng and Kathie Mattor (Colorado Forest Restoration Institute at Colorado State University; Colorado Front Range and Uncompahgre Plateau CFLRP projects), and Eytan Krasilovsky (Forest Guild; SW Jemez Mountains and Zuni CFLRP projects) compiled socio-economic monitoring approaches and results across the five projects. A summary matrix was developed and distributed at the workshop (see appendix I).

The matrix was organized around 10 framing questions:
1) Who is doing the socio-economics monitoring?
2) What is being measured and how?
3) Does the current monitoring differ from the original CFLRP proposal?
4) What are the annual expenditures for socio-economic monitoring?
5) What are the top 3 challenges?
6) What interesting initial results?
7) Have outside researchers conducted any social or economic research?
8) What is being done with the data?
9) Who is the constituency for the results?
10) How can socio-economic information be used more effectively?

Question: What socio-economic information is missing?

- 4FRI: 1) Tracking investments by the new contractor in the local communities – hiring, training, infrastructure, etc.; 2) a survey of the Chamber of Commerce; 3) acquire National Visitor Use survey results to track any changes in visitor use.

- Colorado Front Range: 1) Identify types and location of vendors that receive wood to gauge secondary employment and economic effects; 2) document cycles of uncertainty and
the economic impact of an unsteady supply; 3) development and effects of public education on the value of water and the link to forest restoration; 4) economic value of restoration to utilities in general, such as power and natural gas lines.

- **SW Jemez Mountains and Zuni**: Find non-CFLRP projects to track socio-economic impacts as a comparison to CFLRP projects.

- **Uncompahgre Plateau**: Measurement of and distinction between “avoided” costs and ecosystem service benefits.

**Question:** How do you monitor the collaborative process?

- **All**: There is definitely a need to self-check, which is why there is high value to having external researchers participate. But researchers need to make sure the CFLRP projects hear the results. An especially notable issue is turnover – understanding why participants leave and resulting impacts of turnover.

- **4FRI**: In general, the Stakeholder group believes there is good self-checking and monitoring.

- **SW Jemez Mountains and Zuni**: It would be beneficial to have an outside group provide monitoring and assessment of collaboration.

- **Uncompahgre Plateau**: Need to track how the composition as changed and impacts of this change.

**Question:** Who are constituencies for socio-economic results that have been reached or need to be reached?

- **Colorado Front Range**: Have been reached: oral presentations and written reports distributed to elected officials and community wildfire mitigation specialists.

- **Uncompahgre Plateau**: Need to be reached: city governments, ranchers, and general public.

**Washington Office Perspective**

- Don’t want to impose monitoring approaches on the groups – each CFLRP know better than the Washington Office what they should be monitoring.

- One thing to be cautious of is the Paperwork Reduction Act regulations, especially concerning surveys and questionnaires. Socio-economic monitoring in particular can trigger this. May be able to do a “generic clearance” if there are common questions. If approved, any team may be able to get approval for a survey within weeks.
Moving Forward and Potential Next Steps

Karen DiBari and Amy Waltz

- R2/R3 Collaboratives are interested in developing a web-based and/or conference call communication hub to share evolving monitoring plans, problems, solutions, and help each other learn, especially regionally. Possibly a quarterly check-in.

- Convene a 1-2 day workshop every couple years to share progress, tools, challenges (R2/R3 scale)

- There is a need for a similar workshop where foresters, timber industry and contractors could get together to discuss what has worked and hasn’t worked – the type of people who don’t typically come to conferences – this could provide an operational reality check for the rest of us. Perhaps convene this group the day before/after the next R2/R3 Workshop?

- R2/R3 Collaboratives would benefit from a webinar on innovative NEPA strategies (nationwide), including collaboration during and post NEPA
  - Bring in CEQ on this
  - 4FRI is a CEQ pilot – involved in a series of webinars. Siuslaw in Oregon is also doing that.

- R2/R3 Collaboratives would like to develop informal mentoring relationships on specific topics (i.e. collaborative structure) – USFS could facilitate at National or Regional level

- FACA questions remain a nagging issue – someone should coalesce problem-solving resources on this topic, to be shared via a peer learning session or other venue.
  - The FACA Easy Button Guide exists as a starting point
Appendix I

Workshop Program

October 28 – 30, 2013
Holiday Inn Express, Montrose, CO

THEME: Mid-CFLRP: The Role of Partner Engagement

CFLRPs: Uncompahgre Plateau Collaborative Restoration Project; Colorado Front Range Landscape Restoration Initiative; Southwest Jemez Mountains Collaborative; Zuni Mountain Collaborative; Four Forest Restoration Initiative

AGENDA

October 28, Monday Evening

4:30 Registration Pick-up at Holiday Inn Express

4:45 Meet in hotel lobby to carpool to the Welcome Reception

5:00 Depart for Welcome Reception (a 30 min. drive from Montrose)

Address for Reception
Bill Heddles Recreation Center
530 Gunnison River Drive, Delta, CO

5:30–7:30 Welcome Reception in Delta, CO

Enjoy appetizers, locally brewed beer and wine while getting to know members of other collaboratives, regional Forest Service staff, and local and state politicians. We will be joining attendees of the Forest Summit— a meeting of Colorado forest collaboratives. There will also be brief presentations on the benefits that collaboratives provide to local economies and an award announcement.

October 29, Tuesday

7:00 Registration Pickup

7:20 Meet in Lobby for Field Trips with Colorado “Super Collaborative Summit” Holiday Inn Express Lobby

Field trip options:
• (Leave at 7:30 am) Trip to Uncompahgre Plateau to view and learn lessons from forest restoration treatments
• (Leave at 7:45 am) Trip to Montrose Forest Products (Lumber Mill) and the Seed Warehouse in Delta, CO
Box Lunch provided for field trip attendees (who signed up for one at registration)

**Holiday Inn Express Conference Room**

1:00  Welcoming Statements  
1:00  Mary Mitsos (Big picture welcome, and intros for next speakers/ facilitator for the welcome)  
1:10  Brian Ferebee, R2 Deputy Forester Welcome and Forest Service perspective  
1:25  Pam Motley, West Range Reclamation, Uncompahgre Partnership Welcome

1:40  Workshop goals – Karen DiBari and Amy Waltz

1:50  Region 2 and Region 3 CFLR Project Updates (Paige Lewis) What have been your successes, challenges, emerging issues?  
•  Stakeholder and Forest Service Joint Presentations:  
  o  Southwest Jemez Mountain  
  o  Zuni Mountain Landscape  
  o  Four Forest Restoration Initiative  
  o  Uncompahgre Plateau Collaborative Restoration  
  o  Colorado Front Range Landscape Restoration Initiative

3:00  Break with snacks

3:20  National Monitoring Indicators and Desired Conditions – Bridging Monitoring Gaps (Kent Reid)  
•  Overview of national indicators & presentation of ecological indicator – Mary Mitsos and Amy Waltz  
•  Landscape scale monitoring approaches/questions  
  o  Uncompahgre – Dan Binkley and Leigh Robertson  
  o  Front Range – Jenny Briggs  
•  Discussion/ Brainstorming on emerging issues, questions and potential solutions.

4:30  Lessons Learned from National CFLRP site visits – Lauren Marshall, USFS Washington Office

4:45  Presentation of topics from survey – Karen DiBari  
Breakout process for additional topics and prioritization

5:15  Dinner on your own – Enjoy Montrose! (Back by 7 pm for evening program!)

7:00  CFLRP Researchers Round Robin: 5-minute introductions from each research group, followed by the opportunity to talk with researchers.  
This is an Interactive Opportunity to find out about the studies occurring on our collaborative project, who wants to interview us, and why.

8:00  Social and Dance with music by *Alternate Route* with dessert and cash bar!
October 30, Wednesday

8:30 Opening and Agenda review

8:40 Collaborative Engagement – Emerging issues in post-planning (Amy Waltz)
   • NEPA Road Map – Karen DiBari
   • CFLRP examples and on-going questions of current processes, decision processes, monitoring
     coordination, adaptive management and/or communication with decision makers:
     o Zuni Mountain Landscape – Eytan Krasilovsky
     o Four Forest Restoration Initiative – Russ Winn & 4FRI Stakeholders
     o Southwest Jemez Mountain – Kent Reid
     o Colorado Front Range Landscape Restoration Initiative – Greg Aplet
   • Discussion and brainstorming on emerging issues, questions and potential solutions

10:15 Break with snacks

10:30 Implementation Issues (Karen DiBari)
   • Round Robin from all 5 CFLRP sites, 5 - 10 minutes. Please address:
     o Are you implementing?
     o Was the NEPA process collaborative or are you working with “shelf stock”?
     o Still working on planning/ NEPA?
     o What defines success for the coming year with regards to implementation?
   • Discussion and brainstorming on emerging issues, questions and potential solutions

12:00 LUNCH (provided)

1:00 Breakouts / Open space on additional session topics from Tuesday brainstorming

2:15 Socio-economic monitoring approaches and results: who cares and how might results be used? Tony
Cheng and Eytan Krasilovsky (a 5-10 min. break is worked into this session).

A compilation of current strategies, measures, and methods across all 5 CFLR projects distributed in
the form of a summary matrix will initiate the discussion. We want to use the workshop time to
explore not just the technical tools, but who is interested in socio- economics and how might SE info
be used to inform and advance the CFLR projects.

4:00 Moving forward – Karen DiBari
   • Do people want to stay in touch across the region?
   • What kind of help do people need/want?

4:45 Adjourn. Please stay Wednesday evening in Montrose to maximize networking, and safe travels
home!
Thank you to our planning committee:

Karen DiBari, NFF
Amy Waltz, ERI
Leigh Robertson, UP
Tony Cheng, CFRI
Emily Struss, NFF
Kent Reid, NMFWRI
Eytan Krasilovsky, Forest Guild
Jacque Buchanan, USFS
Paige Lewis, TNC
Dennis Dwyer, USFS
Anne Bradley, TNC
Claudia Regan, USFS
Laura McCarthy, TNC
Lauren Marshall, USFS
Mary Mitsos, NFF

Thank you to our sponsors:
National Forest Foundation
Ecological Restoration Institute, NAU
Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, CSU
The Nature Conservancy in Colorado
Uncompahgre Partnership
## Socio-Economic Monitoring Approaches and Results

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SE Monitoring question</th>
<th>Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1. Who is doing the Jobs/ Socio-economic monitoring?</strong></td>
<td><strong>AZ – Four Forest Restoration Initiative</strong>&lt;br&gt;Forest Guild, working closely with the Santa Fe NF; primarily Eytan Krasilovsky</td>
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<td><strong>Economic</strong></td>
<td>The 4FRI Landscape Assessment and Monitoring (LAM) working group, primarily Anne Mottek Lucas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic: A contractor reporting form will be used and refined as needed (with the new contractor). It will: 1) Collect detailed employment information for both milling and logging operations; 2) Calculate logging and milling operational costs; and 3) Identify the milling products produced (i.e. type, amount, value).</td>
<td>Economic: 1) Track restoration costs over time through communication with USFS and VCNP staff annually; 2) Identify direct and indirect benefits to local economies through discussions with project partners, wood utilizing, and USFS and VCNP staff; 3) Identify the effects of the project on recreation use through annual check-in conversations with recreation user groups and USFS and VCNP recreation staff.</td>
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<td>Social: 1) Phase I monitoring assessed general public perceptions using two focus groups in two</td>
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<td>Wood utilization: Assess wood utilization through</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social</strong>: 1) Track changes in the diversity and activity of stakeholders, and collaborative process; 2) Document training and education efforts through annual check-in conversations with partners and USFS and VCNP staff.</td>
<td><strong>Social</strong> – 1) Determine the effects of CFLRP on businesses through interviews; 2) Identify the benefits of restoration to ranching community and economy through interviews; 3) Calculate the number of training and outreach opportunities associated with CFLRP through document review and interviews.</td>
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### 4. What are the annual costs for the jobs/socio-economic monitoring for this CFLRP?

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<td>4) What are the annual costs for the jobs/socio-economic monitoring for this CFLRP?</td>
<td>Approximately $20,000 (For the development of the SE monitoring protocol and implementation of the first phase)</td>
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### 5. What are the top three challenges to conducting the jobs/socio-economic monitoring?

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<td>5) What are the top three challenges to conducting the jobs/socio-economic monitoring?</td>
<td>1) Funding – the 4FRI collaborative has not received funding for monitoring other than the NFF SE project. 2) Change in contractor 3) Lack of capacity and possibly interest in SE monitoring</td>
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### 6. Interesting initial results?

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<td>6) Interesting initial results?</td>
<td>Public participants: Participants’ emphasized the need for further public education for improving forest ecosystem health, the necessity of Rx fires, etc. There is a sense of urgency to treat the</td>
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forest from communities.
USFS: “To get the work done on the ground, social equipment. There is labor that is company employees reside within Colorado and are able to commute

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<td>concerns need to be considered and we need to focus just as much on communication, education and outreach as we do on the mechanisms of removing timber from the forest. There’s no plan to integrate the information at this point. Hopeful the stakeholder group will play a role in this.”</td>
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7. Have outside academics/researchers done any research on your CFLRP?

<p>| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Courtney Schultz, CSU; Erik Nielsen, NAU and Tony Cheng, CSU; Marci DuPraw, Nova Southeastern University; Will Butler Florida State University, Sarah McCaffrey USFS Northern Research | Courtney Schultz, CSU; Marci DuPraw, Nova Southeastern University; Will Butler Florida State University, Sarah McCaffrey USFS Northern Research Station, Ashley Monroe FSU; Melanie Colavito | University of Arizona, University of Michigan, Virginia Tech. | Courtney Schultz, CSU; Marci DuPraw, Nova Southeastern University; Will Butler Florida State University, Sarah McCaffrey USFS Northern Research Station, Ashley Monroe FSU; Melanie Colavito UA.. | Courtney Schultz, CSU; Marci DuPraw, Nova Southeastern University; Will Butler Florida State University, Sarah McCaffrey USFS Northern Research Station, Ashley Monroe FSU; Melanie Colavito UA. Also Biomass |</p>
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<td>NM - Zuni Mountain</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO – Colorado Front Range</td>
<td>CO – Uncompahgre Plateau</td>
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<td><strong>8. What is being done with the data collected?</strong></td>
<td>The Socioeconomic Monitoring Report is posted on the website. A repository for the data and reporting has not been finalized.</td>
<td>It is very early in the socioeconomic effort of the SW Jemez CFLR. It is anticipated the Forest Guild will store the data and share the analysis annually for agency reporting (December) and at the spring “All-Hands” monitoring meeting with partners.</td>
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<td>CFRI stores the data; CFRI and FRR provide website links to related final reports</td>
<td>CFRI stores the data &amp; provides website links to related final reports</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9. Who is the constituency for this information?</strong></td>
<td>The USFS, the stakeholder group and is being used by the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP).</td>
<td>Data are being used for reporting, sharing with the collaborative group. It is used to determine if implementation is on the right track compared to the proposal goals (and any targets that were part of the proposal).</td>
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<td>10. <strong>How can the information being collected and analyzed be used more effectively?</strong></td>
<td>Establishing baseline information and gauging public perceptions and economic impacts throughout the life of the project.</td>
<td>If a project is only using TREAT outputs there is value in communicating the details of the project by talking with people involved and affected by it. It is important to ask additional jobs questions since there is so much valuable ancillary information.</td>
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# Appendix III

## Workshop registrants contact list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>e-Mail</th>
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