DECEMBER 9, 2022



RIO-CHAMA CFLRP FY22-ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 18-SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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FOREST SERVICE
Santa Fe National Forest

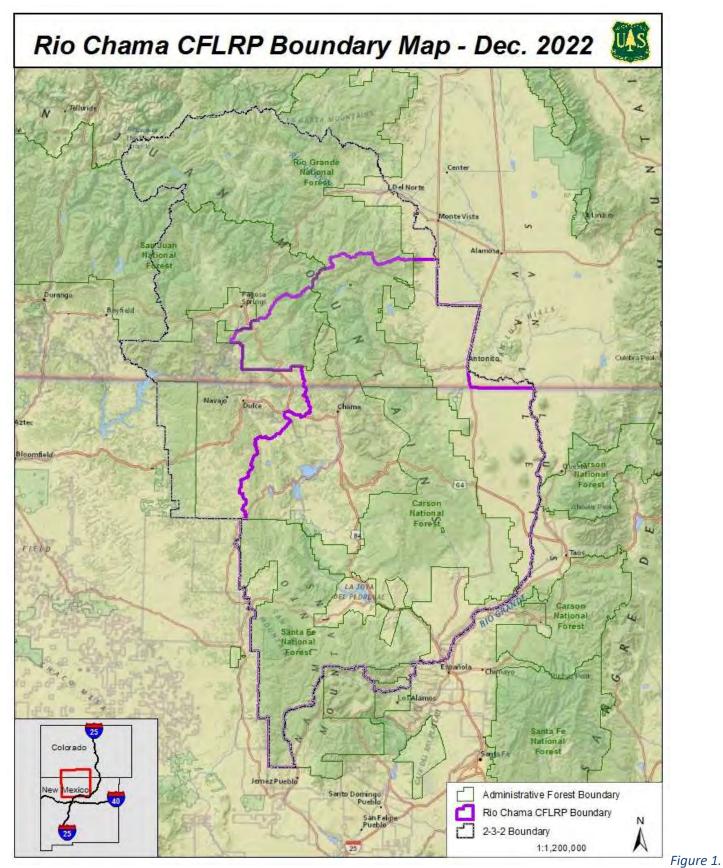
Rio Chama CFLRP (CFLR025)

National Forest(s): Santa Fe National Forest, Carson National Forest, Rio Grande National Forest, San Juan National Forest

1. Executive Summary

Since our April 18th 2022 formal onboarding the Rio Chama CFLRP has:

- Established a 5 Year Challenge Cost Share Agreement with Forest Stewards Guild and Mountain Studies Institute for Collaborative Management and Monitoring; 600K obligated
- Fully staffed Rio Chama Positions (two permanent and two detailed positions)
- Proposed minor boundary adjustment to include the Santa Clara Pueblo TFPA project area and align hydrologic unit boundaries on the Rio Grande NF
- Attended TFPA and watershed field tour with WO, BIA, partners and Tribal leadership at Santa Clara Pueblo
- Developed a joint Ten-Year Treatment Plan that integrates the planned program of work across the four National Forest and includes known and reasonably anticipated partner projects
- 9,023 acres of fuels treatments completed, 393 acres of watershed improvement and 38,288 ccf reported timber volume sold
- Burned cooperatively; All Hands All Lands Burn Team completed 2 private land burns and supported Santa Fe NF and Carson NF burns
- Developed a draft Monitoring Plan
- Developed collaborative working spaces in Pinyon and AGOL that can be utilized by partners and internally
- Refined desired conditions for the Rio Chama CFLRP landscape
- Established and maintained collaborative work groups to achieve shared goals
- Identified shared priorities for forest restoration treatments
- · Identified and tracked potential, in-progress, and completed CFLRP projects on non-NFS lands
- Facilitated cross-boundary CFLRP treatment planning
- Provided technical assistance to landowners for forest restoration treatment design and implementation
- Hosted multiple meetings and field trips with the 2-3-2, USFS, public, and Tribal communities and invested stakeholders
- Aligns with mission foci on regional vitality and national prosperity to support specific objectives and outcomes in the Southwest Region Strategic Plan.
- Total CFLN funds expended=\$2.2M. Match BLIs=\$2.6M; therefore exceeding 1:1 federal budget match



Map of Rio Chama CFLRP which spans 3.8M acres 2 FS Regions, 4 National Forests and 9 Ranger Districts in two states in addition to state, Tribal, private, and other non-FS Federal lands

2. Funding

CFLRP and Forest Service Match Expenditures

Fund Source: CFLN and/or CFIX Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2022
CFLN22	\$2,222,243.36
TOTAL	\$2,222,243.36

This amount should match the amount of CFLN/CFIX dollars spent in the FMMI CFLRP expenditure report. Include prior year CFLN dollars expended in this Fiscal Year. CFLN funds can only be spent on NFS lands.

Fund Source: Forest Service Salary and Expense Match Expended	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2022
NSCF2522	\$303,385
WSCF2522	\$42,513
TOTAL	\$345,898*

^{*\$154,335} were captured in FMMI

Fund Source: Forest Service Discretionary Matching Funds	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2022
HFDS	\$650,809.80
CFHF	<u>\$</u> 847,879.99
NFRW	\$212,204.00
NFTM	\$233,805.52
NFVW	\$166,566.00
CMTL	\$78,954.56
NFSE	\$154,334.78
NFLM	\$40,000.00
NIRX	\$29,995.82
TOTAL	\$2,684,550.20*

^{*\$2,260,216} were captured in FMMI.

Partner Match Contributions¹

Fund Source: Partner Match	In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?	Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY22	Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity	Where activity/item is located or impacted area
Forest Health Initiative (FHI) investments in the landscape	In-kind contribution	\$5,150	FHI invested in a 22,000 acre forest management plan on private land in the landscape that enables additional NM Forestry Division and NRCS implementation funds to be used.	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Private land with cost share from NM State

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¹ Addresses <u>Core Monitoring Question #13</u>

Fund Source: Partner Match	In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?	Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY22	Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity	Where activity/item is located or impacted area
Forest Stewards Youth Corps Coyote RD Crew	In-kind contribution	\$35,000	State funding for wages for the Coyote RD crew to work on forestry, fuels, range, and trail projects in the landscape.	National Forest System Lands
Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) - Pagosa district coordination agreement	In-kind contribution	\$50,000	Coordination and education	National Forest System Lands and Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Private, non-NFS public (town, county), Tribal
MSI - San Juan Headwaters donations	In-kind contribution	\$18,000	Coordination and education	National Forest System Lands, Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Private, non-NFS public (town, county), Tribal
MSI – Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) Grant	In-kind contribution	\$25,000	Hazardous fuel reduction	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Private
MSI – Best Management Practices Water Quality (CSFS)	In-kind contribution	\$21,000	Water quality monitoring	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Private
MSI – Colorado CAFA-Stevens Hazardous Fuels (CSFS grant)	In-kind contribution	\$18,000	Hazardous fuels reduction	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Private

Fund Source: Partner Match	In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?	Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY22	Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity	Where activity/item is located or impacted area
MSI – Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership	In-kind contribution	\$65,000	Watershed planning	National Forest System Lands, Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Private, non-NFS public (town, county), Tribal
Guild's All Hands All Lands Burn Team (AHAL) investments	In-kind contribution	\$30,000	Private land burns (in-kind) in the landscape to reduce hazardous fuels.	National Forest System Lands, Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Chama Peak Land Alliance (CPLA) — Rio Grande Water Fund	In-kind contribution	\$250,000	Hazardous fuel reduction	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Private
CPLA - Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart	In-kind contribution	\$65,000	Watershed partnership coordination	National Forest System Lands
CPLA – The Nature Conservancy	In-kind contribution	\$45,000	Watershed partnership coordination	National Forest System Lands
New Mexico State Forestry Division – Canjillon Capital Improvement	In-kind contribution	\$255,356	Hazardous fuel reduction	National Forest System Lands
Santa Clara Pueblo - USFWS/WINTI	In-kind contribution	\$50,000	Stream restoration	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Tribal
Santa Clara Pueblo - NRCS BPA HIP (Habitat Improvement Program)	In-kind contribution	\$200,000	Stream restoration	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Tribal

Fund Source: Partner Match	In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?	Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY22	Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity	Where activity/item is located or impacted area
Santa Clara Pueblo – National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) Southwest Headwaters Program	In-kind contribution	\$115,000	Stream restoration	National Forest System Lands, Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Tribal
Santa Clara Pueblo – Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission (SWTFC)	In-kind contribution	\$10,000	Stream restoration	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Tribal
Santa Clara Pueblo – The Nature Conservancy	In-kind contribution	\$180,000	Planting	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Tribal
Santa Clara Pueblo— New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Act (FAWRA) project	In-kind contribution	\$70,000	Hazardous fuel reduction	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Tribal
Santa Clara Pueblo - FAWRA	In-kind contribution	\$65,000	Riparian fencing	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Tribal
Santa Clara Pueblo - USFS/Tribal Boundary fence repair	In-kind contribution	\$400,000	Fencing	National Forest System Lands, Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Tribal
Santa Clara Pueblo- Largo Canyon, Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP)	In-kind contribution	\$115,000	Hazardous fuels reduction	National Forest System Lands
Santa Clara Pueblo - erosion control, EPA 319 non-point source pollution	In-kind contribution	\$89,000	Erosion control	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Tribal
Santa Clara Pueblo - roadway maintenance following monsoons	In-kind contribution	\$10,000	Roadway maintenance	National Forest System Lands

Fund Source: Partner Match	In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?	Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY22	Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity	Where activity/item is located or impacted area
Santa Clara Pueblo – FEMA Ready, Set, Go!	In-kind contribution	\$25,000	Hazardous fuels reduction	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Tribal
TOTALS	Total In-Kind Contributions: \$2,211,506 Total Funding: \$0			

Total partner in-kind contributions for implementation and monitoring of a CFLR project across all lands within the CFLRP landscape.

Goods for Services Match:

We didn't have any relevant projects in FY22.

"Revised non-monetary credit limit" should be the amount in the "Progress Report for Stewardship Credits, Integrated Resources Contracts or Agreements" as of September 30. Additional information on the Progress Reports available in CFLR Annual Report Instructions. "Revenue generated from GNA" should only be reported for CFLRP match if the funds are intended to be spent within the CFLRP project area for work in line with the CFLRP proposal and work plan.

3. Activities on the Ground

FY 2022 Agency Performance Measure Accomplishments² - Units accomplished should match the accomplishments recorded in the Databases of Record. Please note any discrepancies. Items in red are also reflected in Figure 2.

NFS Non-NFS Total **Core Restoration Treatments** Agency Performance Measure Acres Acres Acres 7.122 Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) in the FP-FUELS-WUI (reported in FACTS)³ 175 7297 (4392.2 Wildland Urban Interface* captured in gPAS) Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) in the FP-FUELS-WUI-CMPLT (reported in 3,734 3909 175 Wildland Urban Interface - COMPLETED FACTS)4 FP-FUELS-NON-WUI (reported in 6703 Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) 765 7,468 outside the Wildland Urban Interface* FACTS)³ Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) FP-FUELS-NON-WUI-CMPLT (reported 5,289 765 6054 outside the Wildland Urban Interface in FACTS)⁴ **COMPLETED** Prescribed Fire (acres)* Activity component of FP-FUELS-20,529 30 20,559 ALL (reported in FACTS)

² This question helps track progress towards the CFLRP projects lifetime goals outlined in your CFLRP Proposal & Work Plan. Adapt table as needed.

³ For service contracts, the date accomplished is the date of contract award. For Force Account, the date accomplished is the date the work is completed

⁴ New Agency measure reported in FACTS when completed

Core Restoration Treatments	Agency Performance Measure	NFS Acres	Non-NFS Acres	Total Acres
Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - Acres treated to mitigate wildfire risk	FP-FUELS-ALL-MIT-NFS (reported in FACTS)	0	0	0
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Noxious weeds and invasive plants	INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC (reported in FACTS) ³	664	0	664
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Noxious weeds and invasive plants - COMPLETED	INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC-CMPLT (reported in FACTS) ⁴	635	0	635
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Terrestrial and aquatic species	INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC (reported in FACTS) ³⁵	0	0	0
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Terrestrial and aquatic species - COMPLETED	INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC- CMPLT (reported in FACTS) ⁴⁶	0	0	0
Road Decommissioning (Unauthorized Road) (miles)	RD-DECOM-NON-SYS (Roads reporting)	0	0	0
Road Decommissioning (National Forest System Road) (miles)	RD-DECOM-SYS (Roads reporting)	0	0	0
Road Improvement (High Clearance) (miles)	RD-HC-IMP-MI (Roads reporting)	0	0	0
Road Improvement (Passenger Car System) (miles)	RD-PC-IMP-MI (Roads reporting)	0	0	0
Road Maintenance (High Clearance) (miles)	RD-HC-MAINT-MI (Roads reporting)	11	0	11
Road Maintenance (Passenger Car System) (miles)	RD-PC-MAINT-MI (Roads reporting)	71	0	71
Trail Improvement (miles)	TL-IMP-STD (Trails reporting)	2	0	2
Trail Maintenance (miles)	TL-MAINT-STD (Trails reporting)	216	0	216
Wildlife Habitat Restoration (acres)*	HBT-ENH-TERR (reported in WIT)	1573	200	1,773
Stream Crossings Mitigated (i.e. AOPs) (number)*	STRM-CROS-MITG-STD (reported in WIT)	0	0	0
Stream Habitat Enhanced (miles)*	HBT-ENH-STRM (reported in WIT)	1	0	1
Lake Habitat Enhanced (acres)	HBT-ENH-LAK (reported in WIT)	0	0	0
Water or Soil Resources Protected, Maintained, or Improved (acres)*	S&W-RSRC-IMP (reported in WIT)	393	0	393
Stand Improvement (acres)	FOR-VEG-IMP (reported in FACTS)	5256	0	5256
Reforestation and revegetation (acres)	FOR-VEG-EST (reported in FACTS)	62	0	62
Timber volume sold (ccf)	TMBR-VOL-SLD (reported in TIM)	38,288	0	38,288

³ For service contracts, the date accomplished is the date of contract award. For Force Account, the date accomplished is the date the work is completed

⁴ New Agency measure reported in FACTS when completed

Core Restoration Treatments	Agency Performance Measure	NFS Acres	Non-NFS Acres	Total Acres
Rangeland Vegetation Improvement (acres)	RG-VEG-IMP (reported in FACTS)	6610	0	6610

Is there any background or context you would like to provide regarding the information reported in the table above?

The numbers above were gathered from the final gPAS Accomplishment Report generated after October 31, 2022 using databases COMPUTED, FACTS, ROADS, TIM, TRAILS, WIT AND WORKPLAN.

The non-NFS column was collected through the socioeconomic reporting process and in direct communication with partners as there is currently no operational database for all other non-FS jurisdictions (though it is expected that the New Mexico Shared Stewardship Portal will eventually serve this purpose). The partners are working to refine this data gathering for future years and to consider creative ways to incorporate and communicate both qualitative and quantitative all lands information. Only those performance measures marked with an (*) can include partner accomplishments.

As this project spans four forests, the first few years of work on NFS lands is focused on the existing NEPA shelf stock of projects that align with the intent of the proposal. We are working with our partners to prioritize outyear treatments using various models and collaborative input which will allow us to use a variety of tools to complete the right kinds of work in key locations, increasing the pace and scale of restoration. There have been some challenges with reporting consistently across four forests and multiple databases. Some treatments were completed but were either inaccurately reported or inadvertently not tagged as associated with the CFLRP, this is especially true for performance measures reported in WIT, roads, and trails reporting systems which are managed by staff less involved in the CFLRP effort. There were also different approaches used by the forests in the way product plans were set up in TIM, which allowed fuelwood permits to be counted or not in the final gPAS report.

There were also irregularities in reporting "accomplished" vs "completed" acres between the regions, forests and districts. In general, these numbers should be assumed to be on the low side of what was actually accomplished.

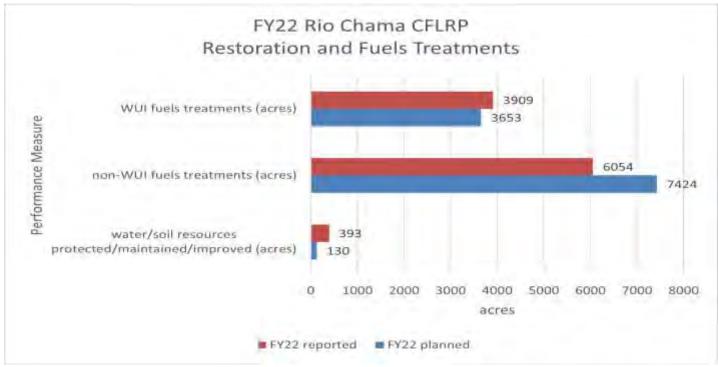


Figure 2.WUI and non-WUI fuels acres and watershed improvement acres treated including those completed by partners. Note that the fuels accomplishments were reduced due to the 90-day pause on prescribed fire activities across the agency. Planned numbers are from the 10-year Rio Chama Treatment Plan.

Rock Creek Integrated Resource Timber Contract

Santa Fe NF

- Contract was awarded in 2022, 17,000 ccf sold
- Project will be harvested over the next several years, creating a sustained flow of timber products to area mills and processing facilities
- Includes a Wood for Life component under agreement with National Forest Foundation to supply fuelwood to Tribal communities
- Hosted a partnership field trip in July to review the project



Reflecting on treatments implemented in FY22, if/how has your CFLRP project aligned with other efforts to accomplish work at landscape scales?

Southwest Colorado and Northern New Mexico have a number of active cross-boundary initiatives including adjacent Rio Chama and Southwest Colorado CFLRPs, which boarder one another on the Pagosa Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest. The Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative, geographically to the north-west of the Rio Chama CFLR

landscape, is also a key cross-boundary effort in the area. Additionally, the Carson NF is experiencing both challenges and opportunities associated with having two priority landscapes on the forest, Enchanted Circle and Rio Chama. Sharing and leveraging of resources and targeted planning with adjacent cross-boundary, landscape-scale efforts will be important for opening up all-lands opportunities in the Rio Chama landscape, and for successful planning, implementation, and monitoring. Multiple watershed projects have been implemented in FY22 on the Carson and Santa Fe NF's utilizing the Northern New Mexico Riparian, Aquatic, and Wetland Restoration Project. These restoration projects are expected to increase in terms of pace, scale, and integration with upland projects over the life of the CFLRP, while continuing to leverage non-CFLN funding. Many place-based collaboratives, in addition to the 2-3-2 Partnership, which networks existing collaboratives and forms new partnerships at scale, play a key role in collaborative landscape planning, project implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management in the region. Partners and Agency staff are still working out the best systems for sharing information across these efforts and grounding them in the needs of communities and the landscape. Much of our additional work has focused on collaboration and planning efforts. A collaborative focal area planning effort supported identification and communication of values across the 2-3-2 and Rio Chama CFLRP landscape in 2021 and 2022 and has set the stage for co-development of projects across boundaries. We are working to develop adequate systems to store and collect potential, in-progress, and completed projects on non-NFS lands in the Rio Chama CFLRP boundary and in the 2-3-2 Landscape. One tool we are likely to use is the New Mexico Shared Stewardship Portal. The maps below depict cross-boundary initiatives and priority landscapes that exist adjacent to the Rio Chama landscape.

Rio Grande Noxious Weeds Inventory Contract

Rio Grande NF

- The project includes inventory for invasive plant species on 10,000 acres within areas where mechanical and prescribed burning treatments are authorized under the Trail Gulch Vegetation Management Project Decision.
- Due to the late award date in September of 2022, inventory will begin in the spring of 2023 to target treatments in FY2023 prior to ground disturbing activities associated with forest restoration activities
- Weed management is a cross-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary issue affecting forest restoration efforts, grazing, and farming interests in the San Luis Valley



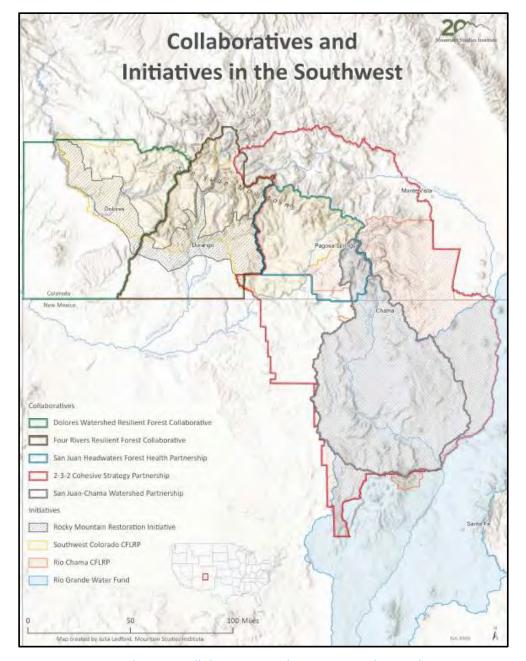


Figure 3. Map showing Collaboratives and Initiatives in the Southwest

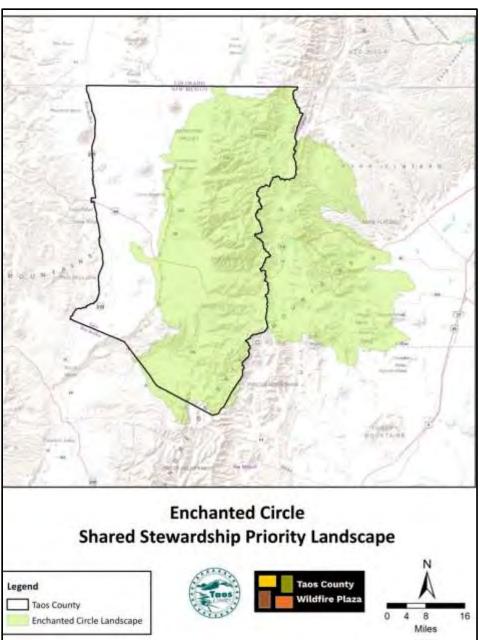


Figure 4. Enchanted Circle Shared Stewardship Priority Landscape

The following activities exemplify the ways in which the Rio Chama CFLRP aligns with, compliments, and may drive cross-boundary, landscape-scale efforts in the future:

- FSG and MSI collected information from non-NFS land management partners to identify planned watershed, forestry, and fuels treatments in the Rio Chama CFLRP and 2-3-2 Boundaries. This information was used to anticipate partner projects and opportunities for co-development of future projects in the Rio Chama CFLRP onboarding documents. This process is ongoing and expected to evolve throughout and beyond the life of the CFLRP project.
- The 2-3-2 Partnership developed focal areas within the project landscape to support treatment coordination between project partners at a finer spatial scale. The Focal Area planning process may continue or be reworked in the future based on effectiveness and need.
- The 2-3-2 Partnership Biomass committee continues to have ongoing conversations to problem solve the differing haul weight limits across the CO-NM State Line.
- 2-3-2 Partners supported planning of and attended a meeting with the CO and NM State foresters and state
 forestry staff to discuss project coordination and planning, geodatabase sharing, and implementation of projects
 across or on the state line.
- Within the 2-3-2 Partnership, stakeholders are working to bring land managers, timber sale administrators on
 public land, and forest management planners for private land together with contractors and industry partners to
 better understand capacity, wood utilization capabilities, profitability, effective communication strategies, and
 relevant timing. These conversations and planning activities are ongoing and ever evolving.
- Other efforts such as the <u>Bighorn State Line prescribed burn</u> were accomplished slightly before the Rio Chama CFLR was awarded, however additional efforts to expand burns such as this and field trips to look at these areas area underway. Successful cross-boundary implementation efforts like this one have set the stage for ongoing planning and implementation in the landscape
- Partners are taking active steps to reconvene after Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon and consider ways to plan and implement prescribed fire in the current social and climate environment. In the fall of 2022, partners conducted a field tour along with the Chama Peak Land Alliance of two private ranches that border other jurisdictions (USFS, NM Game and Fish) on the CO-NM border, and a prescribed burning plan capacity call is being planned for early 2023. The Edward Sargent Wildlife Management Area, managed by the NM Department of Game and Fish has a late 2021 burn plan, funded by The Nature Conservancy, in the Rio Chama footprint that partners will work towards implementing as well.

Current partnerships and relationships exist with non-NFS land managers and owners including, but not limited to:

- Archuleta County
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Chama Peak Land Alliance
- Colorado State Forest Service
- National Resource Conservation Service
- New Mexico State Forestry
- · Private landowners
- Rio Arriba County
- Santa Clara Pueblo

- Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- Taos County
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Trout Unlimited
- Upper Chama Soil and Water Conservancy District
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Wildfire Adapted Partnership

4. Restoring Fire-Adapted Landscapes and Reducing Hazardous Fuels

Narrative Overview of Treatments Completed in FY22 to restore fire-adapted landscapes and reduce hazardous fuels, including data on whether your project has expanded the pace and/or scale of treatments over time, and if so, how you've accomplished that – what were the key enabling factors?

Eight Mile Mesa Fuels Reduction Project

San Juan NF



- Masticated 938 acres of understory shrubs and small diameter trees to reduce hazardous fuels, improve wildlife habitat, and improved stand structure.
- A buffer was created along existing roads to aid in fire suppression in the event of a wildfire
- About 80% of the project fell within the WUI, aiding in the protection of the Loma Linda and Lower Blanco communities near the Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado.
- The project was completed using CFLN funding and was accomplished at a cost of \$343/acre by a local contractor from South Fork, Colorado in nearby Rio Grande County, thus keeping the funding within the local area.

In addition to the treatments and planning efforts discussed above, our 10-year program of work focuses on increasing the pace of hazardous fuels reduction and forest restoration, particularly in high priority landscapes (see New Mexico Forest Action Plan). In response to recent events, including the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire and the unpredictability of burning windows, our near-term strategy has shifted toward mechanical fuel reduction and depends less on prescribed fire to achieve desired outcomes and targets. We are also focusing on achieving more acres in the Hazardous Fuel Reduction in WUI, Hazardous Fuel Reduction in non-WUI and Wildfire Risk Mitigation performance measures. Other treatments such as road work, trail work, and invasive species work, are planned to facilitate fuel and forest treatments. Spatial treatment optimization work with our partners will further refine this approach for outyears, so for the near years we are focused on increasing the pace of treatments already planned through existing NEPA decisions while concurrently working with our partners on treatment optimization for outyear investments.

All Hands All Lands RX Burn Team

Forest Stewards Guild



- All Hands All Lands Burn Team completed 2 private land burns and supported Santa Fe NF and Carson NF burns
- Additional support from the Forest Stewards Guild that supports Forest Service burns when requested and leads burns on non-NFS lands when they are able.
- This effort has supported several thousand acres of prescribed fire in the Rio Chama landscape to date on private, Tribal, state trust, BLM, and Forest Service managed lands.
- The All Lands Burn Team is currently funded into 2022

While these processes move forward, we will work with our partners to consider when and where to plan and use prescribed and managed fire strategically in the mid and long term of the project and beyond. Our project plans to use prescribed and managed fire for resource benefit building on the work Region 3 has been doing for many years which Region 2 has now adopted in our project area. Despite challenges and setbacks, the four forests have a long history of successfully managing wildfire for resource benefit. Much of the project area is fairly remote, has limited potential impacts to communities and is NEPA ready which making large portions of it, like the Rio Tusas area of the Carson NF, good potential candidates for managed wildfire. The capacity for some Rx burning exists as the forests have a great Region 3 Tri-Forest (Carson, Santa Fe, Cibola NFs) prescribed fire organization built for such work across the landscape, however it is anticipated that additional capacity will be needed in the future. The Forest Stewards Guild brings additional capacity, having maintained a prescribed fire initiative called the All Hands All Lands (AHAL) Burn Team which supports Forest Service burns when requested and leads burns on non-NFS lands when they are able. This effort has supported several thousand acres of prescribed fire in the Rio Chama landscape to date on private, Tribal, state trust, BLM, and Forest Service managed lands. The All Lands Burn Team is currently funded into 2024.

Members of the 2-3-2 Partnership are working to secure funding to increase the pace and scale of fuels and forest treatments on non-NFS lands in alignment with the Partnership's cross-boundary initiatives. Securing and applying funds will involve modeling and ongoing collaborative input that builds upon the focal area process completed in 2021-2022 in which stakeholders in four geographic areas of the 2-3-2 Partnership geography held a series of place-based meetings to identify and articulate focal areas, or areas of high importance. The focal area effort has undergone its first cycle, and the Partnership is evaluating the ongoing usefulness of this structure and methods of prioritization.

The new Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program created in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) quickly established itself as a watershed opportunity to fund the fire adapted community and landscape treatment pillars of the National Cohesive Wildland Strategy on all lands. Tribal, state, and NGO partners worked in a coordinated fashion in the summer and fall of 2022 attending webinars, convening strategy meetings, and developing applications to the CWDG that culminated in more than \$17 million in proposed funding for the landscape. The CWDG proposal review is occurring at an accelerated pace and partners should know what is funded early in 2023. This funding could be key to completing all lands work in the Rio Chama landscape. Once funding is secured, partners will use Focal Area information, inputs from the PROMOTe tool, and other sources to target priority areas for treatments.

Midnight Fire: a case study of where a wildfire interacted with a previously treated area within the CFLRP boundary

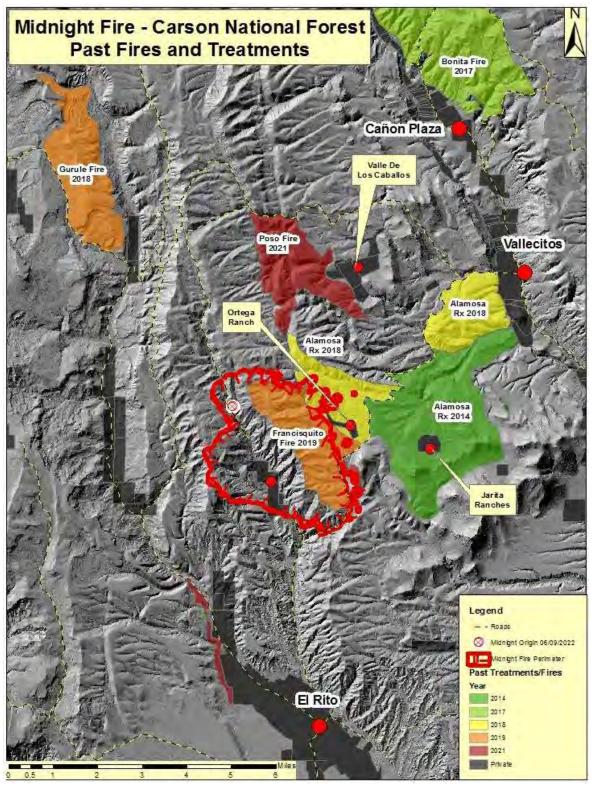


Figure 5. Map showing Midnight Fire interactions with past fires and treatments

From FTEM (can be copied/summarized): Did the wildfire behavior change after the fire entered the treatment? Yes, wildfire behavior changed immediately after hitting the 2019 Francisiquito managed fire.

From FTEM (can be copied/summarized): Did the treatment contribute to the control and/or management of the wildfire? Yes, the prior Rx treatments and managed fire areas were the main contributor to stopping forward progression of the Midnight Fire

From FTEM (can be copied/summarized): Was the treatment strategically located to affect the behavior of a future wildfire? Yes, FMOs planned these Rx treatments strategically using the catchers mitt approach on the landscape starting in 2018 with the Alamosa Rx and the subsequent Gurule and Francisquito managed fires for resource benefit.

Please describe if/how partners or community members engaged in the planning or implementation of the relevant fuels treatment. Did treatments include coordinated efforts on other federal, tribal, state, private, etc. lands? The Midnight Fire interacted with recent wildfires managed for resource benefit in 2019 and a prescribed burn from 2018. Management of the Francisquito and Rincon Fires in 2019 was partially enabled by the 2018 Alamosa Rx prescribed burn. Roughly 40-50% of the Alamosa Rx was staffed by the Forest Stewards Guild AHAL burn team. The team provided resources at multiple levels and loaned HEPA filters to community members in Vallecitos and Canon Plaza impacted by smoke. The AHAL team on the Alamosa Rx was comprised of Guild staff, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps members, Tesuque Pueblo staff, City of Santa Fe wildland division, Nature Conservancy partners, and other non-federal resources. AHAL is funded through agreements with The Nature Conservancy of New Mexico. Continuing all-hands efforts like this will greatly help with implementation prescribed burns in the Rio Chama landscape.

What resource values were you and your partners concerned with protecting or enhancing? Did the treatments help to address these value concerns? Given the extreme conditions in spring and early summer of 2022, containment of the Midnight Fire was of upmost importance to keep the forest overstory intact and to protect associated watershed, forest health, rangeland, wildlife habitat, and community fuelwood resource values. Local communities rely heavily on forest products for fuelwood and traditional building materials like vigas and latillas. The potential for the Midnight Fire to grow was high, which would have put these resources at risk.

How are planned treatments affected by the fire over the rest of the project? Was there any resource benefit from the fire that was accomplished within the CFLRP footprint or is complementary to planned activities? Planned treatments were not affected by the Midnight Fire. There were many resource benefits to this fire as referenced in the FTEM report and the area had NEPA coverage so we claimed 1,662 acres as resource benefit from the 4889-acre Midnight Fire.

What is your key takeaway from this event – what would you have done differently? What elements will you continue to apply in the future? Looking back at the Midnight Fire, the highest fire intensity was unfortunately on the untreated private inholdings and impacted a small group of landowners. Going forward the team will look at all the tools in the toolbox for including non-federal lands in treatment planning and implementation such as using the Wyden Authority and working with partners to implement treatments. The Midnight Fire also reinforced how important it was to have implemented the Alamosa Rx and then how important it was to have managed subsequent natural ignitions. Work like this, where different colored hard hats gather and work together, needs to expand in our landscape.

FY22 Wildfire/Hazardous Fuels Expenditures

Category	Expenditure	
FY22 Wildfire Preparedness*	\$133,500	
FY22 Wildfire Suppression**	\$130,000	
FY22 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (CFLN, CFIX)	\$379,000	
FY22 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (other BLIs)	\$386,885	

^{*} Include base salaries, training, and resource costs borne by the unit(s) that sponsors the CFLRP project. If costs are directly applicable to the project landscape, describe full costs. If costs are borne at the unit level(s), describe what proportions of the costs apply to the project

landscape. This may be as simple as Total Costs X (Landscape Acres/Unit Acres).** Include emergency fire suppression and BAER within the project landscape.

How may the treatments that were implemented contribute to reducing fire costs? If you have seen a reduction in fire suppression costs over time, please include that here. (If not relevant for this year, note "N/A")

Almost all of the treatments implemented in our project area in FY22 will reduce wildfire suppression costs because they are fuels treatments. From timber sales and mastication to road work that may assist in wildfire response, these efforts will be helpful for increasing decision space and decreasing costs if a wildfire is in the project area. This was evidenced in 2022 as the Cerro Pelado fire came across SW Jemez CFLRP treatments and the Midnight Fire in the project footprint on the Carson NF hit prior years thinning, Rx, and managed fire units. In each of these cases, forward progress was slowed, thus reducing wildfire costs.

5. Additional Ecological Goals

Narrative Overview of Treatments Completed in FY22 to achieve ecological goals outlined in your CFLRP proposal and work plan. This may include, and isn't limited to, activities related to habitat enhancement, invasives, and watershed condition.

Rio Chama leadership and the 2-3-2 Partnership engaged in a process of revisiting Rio Chama CFLRP objectives to set the stage for collaborative forest restoration activities based on realistic, yet rigorous expectations and proposed the following refinements that were approved in the onboarding package in early October 2022:

Original from 2019 Tier II Proposal

Project goals and objectives are also consistent with the valid Community Wildfire Protections Plans in the project area and include:

- Reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire;
- Restoring natural fire regimes;
- Increasing forest diversity and old growth characteristics;
- Improving fish and wildlife habitat and connectivity;
- Conserving critical habitat to help recover threatened and endangered species;
- Improving water quality and watershed function;
- Mitigating climate change impacts.

Enhance economic sustainability by:

- Maintaining or increasing the number of youth, minority group representatives, or people from low-income communities hired to work on the project and the type of work they are conducting.
- Maintaining or increasing the acceptance of frequent, low-intensity wildfire or prescribed fire.

Improve quality of life by:

- Maintaining or increasing the availability and/or access to medicinal, food, heating, or building materials as well as recreation and wellness activities
- Maintaining or increasing the number of acres protected from fire through the creation of defensible space, fuel breaks, and other fuels reduction projects.

Build on existing partnerships and collaboration by:

- Maintaining or increasing the quality and timeliness of communication among all project partners
- Maintaining or increasing the partner contributions (in-kind time and funding) committed to shared project goals

CFLRP Annual Report: 2022

Refinement to Goal Statement

The Rio Chama CFLRP Forest Restoration Project brings together four National Forests and place-based collaboratives within the 2-3-2 Partnership in cooperation with the Forest Stewards Guild and Mountain Studies Institute to work at landscape scale to implement Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Forest Plans. The goals of this work are to:

- Manage fuel loads to reduce the risk of uncharacteristically severe fire in target areas;
- Strive to restore natural fire regimes using prescribed and managed fire for multiple resource benefit;
- Restore or maintain desired forest diversity, structure, and/or old growth characteristics consistent with Forest Plans;
- Maintain or improve fish and wildlife habitat quality and connectivity for native and desired non-native fish and wildlife species;
- Conserve or restore important habitat to help recover threatened and endangered species;
- Improve or maintain water quality and watershed function;
- Implement climate change adaptation strategies.

Enhance economic sustainability by:

- Maintaining or increasing the number of people from underserved and distressed communities who are directly or
 indirectly employed in forest and watershed restoration in the project vicinity.
- Maintaining or increasing the public acceptance of forest and watershed restoration activities including frequent, low-intensity wildfire or prescribed fire.
- Encouraging market availability and product utilization to provide a long-term economic relationship between forest restoration products/by-products and local markets.

Improve quality of life by:

- Maintaining or increasing the availability and/or access to medicinal, food, heating, or building materials and pursue opportunities to integrate outcomes that may also facilitate public access.
- Maintaining or increasing the number of acres treated to reduce fire hazard, expand wildfire response decision space, improve wildfire outcomes, and increase protection of homes and infrastructure.

Build on existing partnerships and collaboration by:

• This concept is built into the text that precedes the bulleted list of goals

Rio Chama leadership, Agency participants, 2-3-2 leadership and the Technology, Research, Assessment and Monitoring (TRAM) committee of the 2-3-2 have also worked extensively on the development of a 2-3-2 Partnership multiparty monitoring plan (MPM) to serve the Rio Chama CFLRP and the Partnership beyond the life of the project. The purpose of the MPM is to guide a collaborative monitoring process. The 2-3-2 Partnership is committed to MPM because "without adequate monitoring, the ability to understand the impacts of restoration activities on ecosystem integrity and sustainability is severely limited" (Schultz, Coehlo, and Beam 2014). Additional ecological goals identified in the MPM include capturing change on non-FS lands (~ 1.7 million acres) within the boundary, identifying cohesive metrics that can be collected on and informative to various land management agencies, and applying adaptive management lessons across boundaries. In addition to the WO common monitoring questions, the Regions and the 2-3-2 Partnership are interested in:

- Reducing wildfire risk to communities, water, and habitat;
- Supporting forest diversity and old growth characteristics;
- Reducing effects of forest pests and disease;
- Maintaining large trees and snags;
- Understanding population trends for species of collaborative concern;
- Tracking carbon carrying capacity; and
- Promoting forest resilience.

Development of the draft MPM has involved many targeted stakeholder meetings with resource specialists, experts, and research scientists that live, work, and study in the project area. Additionally, draft desired conditions to guide MPM activities were developed based on the forest plans of the Santa Fe, Carson, Rio Grande, and San Juan National Forests along with 2-3-2 stakeholder input. 2-3-2 partners were given the opportunity to review and provide feedback on these draft desired conditions in the fall of 2022. Internal review of draft desired conditions and the draft MPM by Agency partners, the Guild, MSI, and the TRAM committee are ongoing. Efforts to develop these key guiding documents has been largely led by 2-3-2 leadership staff and volunteers on the TRAM committee of the Partnership.

Significant planning and relationship building work has also been done this year to address the reduction of wildfire risk to communities, water, and habitat, specifically in the area of watershed resilience. At its August 2022 meeting, the 2-3-2 Partnership field tour highlighted the San Juan Chama Project (SJCP) watershed above the Oso Diversion in southern Colorado and led partners in a discussion of cross-boundary opportunities for planning, treatment, research and investment in this critical upper watershed. After this tour, private lands (CPLA), federal (BOR) and non-profit (TNC, the Guild, MSI) have worked to generate funding for a coordinated planning effort in the SJCP watershed area that will address pre-fire mitigation, coordinated disturbance response, and post-disturbance recovery. In addition to this planning work, partners have built and strengthened relationships with SJCP water contractors who are now considering mechanisms for ongoing and increased investment to target pre-disturbance treatments and planning for post-disturbance response. in While still in process This work is in alignment with 2-3-2 Partnership guiding values, the Rio Chama proposal, and communicated values of partners and communities in the landscape.

Other watershed resilience planning efforts in FY22 have included ongoing support for restoration activities in Santa Clara Canyon in the form of letters of support for grant funds and the expansion of the CFLR boundary to include the Santa Clara TFPA project units in the priority landscape. Members of the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership, a place-based collaborative in the landscape, also completed a project ranking activity with community members in the Pagosa Springs area this year, adding value-based and feasibility information to watershed management action planning in the landscape. At this time the Upper San Juan WEP is in the process of identifying projects and processes to develop an integrated water management plan for multiple water uses in the upper San Juan River Basin.

6. Socioeconomic Goals

Narrative overview of activities completed in FY22 to achieve socioeconomic goals outlined in your CFLRP proposal and work plan.

Rio Chama CFLRP partners completed collaboration and coordination work during FFY 21-22 to support future achievement of socioeconomic goals. Key planning and accomplishments included:

Partner Deliverable	Accomplishment
Establish and maintain collaborative work groups to achieve shared goals	 Active committees of the 2-3-2 Partnership currently include: Executive Technology Research Assessment and Monitoring (TRAM) Biomass Innovation and Utilization While currently inactive, the following committees of the 2-3-2 are part of the available governance structure of the partnership and are likely to be reactivated in the next quarter: Communications, Education, and Outreach Fire Planning and Management The Focal Area planning effort has supported identification and communication of values across the 2-3-2 and Rio Chama CFLRP landscape to set the stage for co-development of projects across boundaries. The Focal Area planning process may continue or be reworked in the future based on effectiveness and need.
Establish and maintain effective communication channels for stakeholder engagement and public information	Revised and relaunched the 2-3-2 website Added 85 individuals to the email list, reviewed and refined the email list Maintained consistent communications with the 2-3-2 Full Partnership contact list Initiated creation of a communications strategy MSI hired staff with communications experience to build and enhance storytelling and communications at appropriate scales and through appropriate channels in the 2-3-2 and Rio Chama landscapes.
Support reporting on project processes and outcomes	The Guild and MSI worked collaboratively with the Rio Chama Working Group and Rio Chama CFLRP staff to compose the narrative and update materials for the Rio Chama CFLRP onboarding package, submitted to Region 3 and the Washington Office in October 2022. The Guild and MSI also prepared for the upcoming CFLR annual reporting season by attending webinars and communicating with CFRI and others for socioeconomic monitoring.
Support place-based values and efforts at forest restoration	The Guild initiated conversations with John Waconda from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) about incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into the monitoring plan. The 2-3-2 Partnership relies on several place-based collaborative groups that plan and prioritize work on the ground and monitoring activities based on local values, knowledge, and science. Desired conditions and values defined by these groups have been communicated and incorporated into ongoing prioritization processes within the 2-3-2 landscape. The two primary place-based collaboratives in the landscape are the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP) and the San Juan Chama Watershed Partnership (SJ-CWP).

Partner Deliverable	Accomplishment
Facilitate and coordinate among current and future partners	Meetings held: • 4 TRAM meetings • 5 Executive Committee meetings • 2 SWERI meetings (27 total attendees) • 2 2-3-2 full partnership meetings and tours (110 total attendees) Partner events attended: • 1 SJCP Contractors Meeting Sept 16, 2022 • 4 northern New Mexico Fuelwood Working Group meetings (2nd Thursday of each month) • 2 SJCP fireshed meetings hosted by BOR • 5 SJHFHP monthly meetings and tours • 6 SJ-CWP Planning meetings • 1 tour of Rock Creek project area on SFNF • 1 tour of Trail Gulch project area on RGNF • 1 tour of TFPA units and watershed treatments at Santa Clara Pueblo Internal planning and work sessions: • 15 Guild/MSI collaborative coordination planning meetings • 18 Guild/MSI monitoring strategy development meetings • Rio Chama CFLRP Board of Forest Supervisors meetings (monthly) • Rio Chama CFLRP Working Group meetings (bi monthly) Email, telephone, and in person communications between Guild and MSI Staff and stakeholders continued during this reporting period. These less formally documented communications often play a critical role in developing and maintaining trusting partnerships and create conditions for successful
Manage public information	MSI created and/or updated the following items to support this objective: Rio Chama CFLRP one page overview document Rio Chama CFLRP and 2-3-2 map handout Collaborative initiatives in the Southwest one-page overview Tour brief from August 2022 Partnership meeting Distributed two bi-monthly 2-3-2 Partnership newsletters MSI has hired a collaborative communications coordinator to help further support this objective and to work closely with US Forest Service counterparts on public messaging and engagement related to 2-3-2 Partnership and Rio Chama CFLRP planning, activities, and monitoring. The Guild spoke with journalists about prescribed fire and stacked treatments that created decision space and management opportunities in the Midnight Fire event: Albuquerque Journal Article Circle of Blue Article

Partner Deliverable	Accomplishment		
Facilitate Executive	Organized and facilitated 5 monthly Executive Committee meetings		
Committee	Completed and distributed final notes and next steps to executive committee		
	members		
	Generated, filed, distributed, and adjusted documents to reflect and advance		
	executive committee initiatives		
Organize Collaborative	Attended the Midnight Fire tour on behalf of the 2-3-2 Partnership		
Workshop(s) and/or tours	Attended local landowner Midnight Fire Tour hosted by NM Forestry Division		
	Helped organize and attended the Plumtaw Fire tour for the SJHFHP		
	Gave a presentation and participated in the field tour for the SJCP Contractors		
	Association Alliance		
	Organized a tour of the SJC diversion, Banded Peak Ranches, and Price Lakes as		
	part of the 2-3-2 Partnership quarterly meeting		
	Participated in the Rock Creek field meeting on the SFNF		
	Participated in Trail Gulch field planning meeting on Rio Grande NF to prepare		
	for full 2-3-2 Partnership meeting		



2-3-2 Partners gather for a group photo during a tour of the Banded Peak Ranches in Southwest Colorado on August 10, 2022, where they discussed cross-boundary project opportunities upstream of the Oso Diversion, which delivers critical water supply to Albuquerque, Santa Fe and many rural communities in northern New Mexico (Photo: Alec McKeand).



TRAM Committee Members hard at work considering critical aspects of the 2-3-2/Rio Chama Monitoring Plan on August 11, 2022 (Photo: Dana Guinn)

The 2-3-2 Partnership is the identified landscape collaborative for the Rio Chama CFLRP and has continued to grow and develop in service to communities, the landscape, and the project in FY22. The 2-3-2 is landscape- scale Cohesive Strategy Partnership whose geography includes, but is not limited to, the Rio Chama CFLRP landscape. Communicating to 2-3-2 partners about the Rio Chama CFLRP has been the focal subject of numerous full-partnership and subcommittee meetings over the last year as shown in the table above. 2-3-2 subcommittees have played a critical role in developing the multi-party monitoring plan, particularly the Technology, Research, and Monitoring (TRAM) Committee, the Executive Committee, and members of the Biomass Utilization Committee.

Rio Chama and 2-3-2 Leadership also proposed minor changes to the project boundary to include the full Santa Clara Pueblo Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) project area and upper Santa Clara Canyon on the south end of the Rio Chama CFLR geography. Additionally, small adjustments have been made on the northern end of the project area to match with HUC 12 watershed delineations, rather than administrative boundaries. These changes were discussed and approved by the USFS Working Group, Board of Forest Supervisors for the Santa Fe, Carson, Rio Grande, and San Juan National Forests, and the 2-3-2 Partnership Executive Committee and approved in the fall of 2022.



Rio Chama CFLRP project staff and 2-3-2 Partners as well as staff from the Southwest Regional Office and Washington Office met with the Santa Clara Pueblo in October 2022 for a field visit and to discuss partnership opportunities with the inclusion of the Santa Clara Tribal Forest Protection Act project area within the larger Rio Chama CLFRP.

Rio Chama CFLRP partners also provided socioeconomic expertise in support of collaborative coordination, monitoring plan development, and coordinated planning and implementation of restoration treatments on non-NFS lands:

Partner Deliverable	Socioeconomic Accomplishments		
Lead industry	Worked with Timber Management Assistants from the Santa Fe, Rio Grande, San		
engagement	Juan, and Carson National Forests to develop a list of contractors in the project		
	ndscape. Identified 59 contractors that have expressed interest in timber sales in		
	the project boundary in recent years.		
Monitor Socioeconomic	Developed draft monitoring plan		
Indicators	Created a survey of wood processing, restoration, and monitoring contractors that received year 1 funding in the project landscape		
	Generated a contact list of wood producers and contractors as a beginning step to relationship building for effective data collection		
	Working with social scientists to develop and refine annual 2-3-2 Partnership survey that meets the needs of partnership members, staff, and the CFLRP Common Monitoring Strategy		
	Completed mapping and list of counties associated with potential economic impacts of Rio Chama CFLRP		
	Worked with partners at USFS R2 and R3 to conduct and environmental justice analysis of counties identified as potentially impacted by the CFLRP		
Identify and track	Completed informational interviews with key informants from the 2-3-2's wood		
emerging technologies	processing and utilization committee, including a professor and biomass		
and markets for forest restoration products	representative from Northern New Mexico College, and a key informant from Wildfire Adapted Partners.		
Identify and address challenges to cross-	The 2-3-2 Partnership developed focal areas within the project landscape to support treatment coordination between project partners at a finer spatial scale.		
boundary harvesting	The 2-3-2 Partnership Biomass committee continues to have ongoing conversations to problem solve the differing haul weight limits across the CO-NM State Line.		
	Within the 2-3-2 Partnership, stakeholders are working to bring land managers, timber sale administrators on public land, and forest management planners for private land together with contractors and industry partners to better understand capacity, wood utilization capabilities, profitability, effective communication strategies, and relevant timing. These conversations and planning activities are ongoing and ever evolving.		
Identify opportunities	Partners are exploring opportunities to expand community science bird monitoring		
for citizen science	programming successfully conducted by Weminuche Audubon on the San Juan		
engagement including	National Forest to other portions of the 2-3-2 and Rio Chama landscape. Additionally,		
youth engagement	photo point monitoring design and public participation capabilities are being		
	considered as part of the monitoring strategy for the Rio Chama CFLRP project.		

The collaborative governance survey with partnership specific questions that Rio Chama partners and leadership worked to develop with social scientists at the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes was officially distributed to 2-3-2 partners for response beginning November 10, 2022 and will remain open for 5 weeks. Collaborative leadership and partners look forward to learning from these surveys and considering ways to increase engagement of diverse stakeholders in the landscape, maintain collaborative health and build collaborative resilience.

Additional engagement with the public on the Rio Grande helped build social license for fuels and watershed treatments as well as fire within a priority project area of the Rio Chama CFLRP through various meetings and public engagements.

The Rio Grande NF met with private landowners to provide more information and answer questions in response to their initial objection to the project through the 219 regulations. As a result of the meeting the family had improved understanding of and confidence in the project and they withdrew their objection. In cooperation with one of the 2-3-2 Partners (CO State Forestry), three RGNF employees also hosted a fire preparedness community meeting in the Trail Gulch Project area (within the Rio Chama CFLRP footprint) to discuss the recent wildfire, the Trail Gulch project, and emergency preparedness and Conejos Peak District Ranger Andrea Jones spoke at the Bear Creek Landowners Association annual meeting on the Trail Gulch project and wildfire preparedness. Overall, these engagements reached 176 members of the public.

Environmental Justice Analysis

An environmental justice baseline analysis was completed in FY22 to provide a point of comparison for socioeconomic monitoring and to better inform treatment design so that the Rio Chama CFLRP Project can specifically target economic benefits to EJ communities and help avoid negative impacts to those communities. The data suggest that suggests that eight out of the ten Colorado counties and five out of the nine New Mexico counties in the Rio Chama study area contain potential environmental justice communities. Future analyses should assess these counties at a smaller geographic scale to better identify precise locations of EJ communities. Efforts should be made to ensure meaningful involvement by residents of these communities, and future Rio Chama project activities should be designed to ensure fair treatment by not imposing a greater burden of environmental harms and risks on minority and low-income communities than the general population. Conversely, Rio Chama implementation should also avoid concentrating project benefits like wildfire risk reduction and economic development opportunities solely in wealthy or predominantly Caucasian communities. Additional info and the full Environmental Justice Analysis can be found in Appendix B Environmental Justice Analysis

Wood Processing and Logging Industry – Exploratory Analysis

Development of a sustainable forest products industry is a key socioeconomic goal of the RC CFLRP (sawmills, commercial wood cutters, furniture making, biomass and biochar). To better understand existing capacity within the project landscape and to develop an engagement strategy with industry partners, we conducted an exploratory analysis of the logging and wood processing firms operating within the RC CFLRP landscape.

Logging Contractors

We worked with USFS Timber Management Assistants (TMAs) from the Santa Fe, Rio Grande, San Juan, and Carson National Forests to compile a list of contractors in the project landscape. Through this process, we identified 59 contractors that have expressed interest in timber sales across the project boundary. Of these 59 contractors, 34 of them are located in Northern New Mexico and the remaining 25 are located within Southern Colorado. These contact lists are an important starting point for future outreach and engagement to industry partners and data collection from contractors.

To account for logging and wood processing partners working on non-federal lands, we completed informational interviews with key informants from the 2-3-2's wood processing and utilization committee, including a professor and

biomass representative from Northern New Mexico College, a key informant from Wildfire Adapted Partners, and a wood utilization and marketing specialist for Colorado State Forest Service. These interviews helped us identify additional data sources and refine our understanding of the logging and wood processing firms working in the project landscape. In addition, a survey was created for wood processing, restoration, and monitoring contractors that received year-1 funding in the project landscape.

We completed interviews with 2 logging contractors working in the project landscape to capture information from these key informants about their workforce issues, capital investments, and awareness of the RC CFLRP. One contractor reported having invested close to 1 million dollars in a timber harvester, a forwarder, and two additional personnel to streamline operations in anticipation of additional work through the RC CFLRP. The other contractor stated that they had invested "500,000 in equipment to meet the demand of promised project work." This equipment included a feller buncher, delimber, stroke delimber, 525 cat skidder, 527 crawler skid cat, and 2 log trucks (t-800 and t-600).

Wood Processing

Supporting new and existing wood processing businesses remains a key goal of the RC CFLRP. There are opportunities for sustainable growth in forest products industries (sawmills, commercial wood cutters, furniture making, biomass and biochar) by adapting modern technologies and diversification to a traditional industry sector and by encouraging private capital investment. For example, the Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit (VFSYU) on the El Rito Ranger District of the Carson National Forest has never met its potential as a model for community forestry. The Rio Chama CFLRP could potentially provide the needed restructuring of the unit to make it work for the local communities as originally intended. In order to evaluate the development of new wood processing facilities throughout the life of the project, we relied on the 2016 Timber Harvest and Forest Products report from the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) to establish a baseline of existing processing capacity. The data shows that in 2016 there were 35 wood processing facilities of various types across the 19 counties within our project landscape.

Wood Processing Infrastructure by Type

Table 1: Number and type of wood processing facilities across New Mexico counties within the RC CFLRP area of interest. Based on 2016 timber harvest data from University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

County	Lumber	Vigas and Latillas	Other	Total
Rio Arriba	2	0	0	2
Taos	1	1	0	2
Sandoval	2	0	0	2
Santa Fe	2	1	0	3
Los Alamos	0	0	0	0
Bernalillo	0	1	1	2
Mora	1	0	0	1
San Miguel	3	1	0	4
San Juan	0	0	0	0
Total				16

New Mexico wood processing facilities included 4 businesses (28%) that focused on the production of vigas and latillas. Vigas are rough-cut beams that are used in the traditional architecture of the American Southwest, especially New Mexico. These vigas are typically peeled logs with minimal woodworking. Latillas, which are hewn boards or simply peeled branches in more rustic applications, are laid across the main beams of the structure to form the ceiling.

Together these wood products represent a potential market development opportunity for small-diameter wood from the RC CFLRP.

Table 2: Number and type of wood processing facilities across Colorado counties within the RC CFLRP area of interest. Based on 2016 timber harvest data from University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

County	Lumber	Logs and Homes	Other	Total
Archuleta	2	0	0	2
Conejos	2	0	0	2
La Plata	1	2	0	3
Rio Grande	1	0	1	2
Costilla	0	0	0	0
Alamosa	0	0	1	1
Montezuma	3	0	2	5
Dolores	0	0	0	0
Montrose	2	2	0	0
Saguache	1	1	0	2
Total				21

In Colorado, there were 5 (23%) wood processing businesses focused on rustic logs and home building materials. With the popularity of log cabin architecture and other rustic furniture applications, there may be opportunities for expanding these processing facilities to provide markets for small-diameter wood coming off the RC CFLRP.

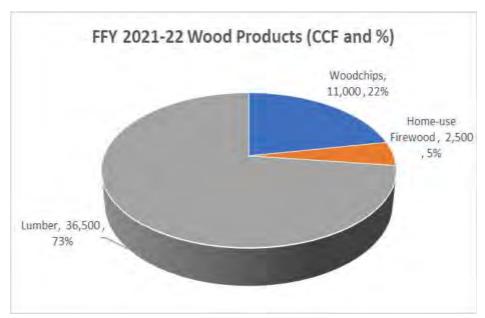


Figure 6. FFY 21-22 Product Distribution of the Blanca Sawmill

To get a better idea of the types of products created by wood coming off the National forestland within the RC CFLRP project footprint, we interviewed representatives from the Blanca mill (see figure 7). The Blanca mill is a key wood processing business within the project landscape that employs over 90 personnel and processes 50,000 CCF a year. Of the 50,000 CCF that the Blanca Mill processes, over 73% of that volume is used to produce dimensional lumber, 22% is used to create woodchips, and the remaining 5% is used for home-use firewood.

We continue to invest in, and work to expand, access to forest products to support cultural practices and subsistence needs in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. For example, the National Forest Foundation's (NFF) Wood for Life (WFL) project provides fuelwood to Tribal communities in the region. WFL programming is currently expanding into southern Colorado as NFF and the San Juan National Forest establish new agreements. Additionally, the Northwest New Mexico Fuelwood Working Group, a task team born from 2-3-2 Partnership discussions, aims to provide a hub for connecting local communities in need of fuelwood with available wood, facilitate and encourage solutions-based communication between communities and land management agencies to develop long-term solutions for sustainable fuelwood supply and harvest, and identify challenges and develop solutions for sustainable fuelwood access. The project also aims to support the Mayordomo – Leñero model for managed woodlands near rural communities. The Rio de las Trampas Forest Council has plans to host a workshop to foster the development of a mayordomo – leñero program in the landscape soon. Some of the anticipated forest products also have unique markets such as those for latillas and vigas. Working with 2-3-2 Partnership committees and local partners, we will continue to grow these cultural opportunities.

In general, firewood production for both home and commercial use continues to be an important component of the wood processing capacity in the project landscape, particularly in New Mexico where more than 6.7% of homes are heated entirely with wood fuel. To capture the amount of wood pulled off the national forestland within our project boundary in the form of home-use wood permits, we used the Forest Service's TIM database. Our analysis identified that over 16,763 CCF of home-use firewood was collected from ranger districts within the RC CFLRP boundary. This represents 24% of the total wood volume processed from national forestland in the RC CFLRP footprint.

Results from the Treatment for Restoration Economic Analysis Toolkit (TREAT).

The percent of funding that stayed within the local impact area: 93%

Contract Funding Distributions Table ("Full Project Details" Tab)

Description	Project Percent
Equipment intensive work	19
Labor-intensive work	33
Material-intensive work	24
Technical services	0
Professional services	16
Contracted Monitoring	9
TOTALS:	100%

Modelled Jobs Supported/Maintained (CFLRP and matching funding):

Jobs Supported/Maintained in FY	Direct Jobs (Full	Total Jobs (Full &	Direct Labor	Total Labor
2022	& Part-Time)	Part-Time)	Income	Income
Timber harvesting component	20	300	725,000	15,524,449
Forest and watershed restoration	45	73	1,796,815	2,988,141
component	45	/3	1,790,615	2,988,141
Mill processing component	90	281	3,416,400	9,424,039
Implementation and monitoring	5	6	171,588	188,874
Other Project Activities	4	17	464,575	629,795
TOTALS:	164	677	\$6,574,578	\$28,755,298

Were there any assumptions you needed to make in your TREAT data entry you would like to note here? To what extent do the TREAT results align with your observations or other monitoring on the ground?

Assumptions for Data Entry

Project partners determined the socioeconomic Area of Interest (AOI) for the RC CFLRP. This AOI is important for TREAT modelling and for analysis based on definitions of "local." Local contractors and organizations were defined as those with business addresses in the 19-county area that surrounds the RC CFLRP -- Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Sandoval, Los Alamos, San Miguel, Bernalillo, Mora, and San Juan Counties in New Mexico and Conejos, Archuleta, La Plata, Rio Grande, Costilla, Alamosa, Montezuma, Dolores, Montrose, and Saguache Counties in Colorado. This same 19-county area was used in the environmental justice analysis. This delineation was chosen based on local knowledge of these counties economic dependance on national forestland within the RC CFLRP boundary for employment opportunities or biomass for wood processing facilities located in adjacent counties. This list of counties reflects the areas where the workforce for the RC CFLRP lives and where they will ultimately spend their wages. Leakage of benefits out of the local area will be quantified based on three tiers: leakage to businesses in adjacent counties, leakage to businesses in other parts of New Mexico or Colorado, and leakage to businesses in other states (McIver 2016).

During TREAT data entry contracts awarded to out-of-state firms that hired their workforce within our Area of Interest were documented as a percentage of the expenses that were spent locally (workforce) and the percentage of expenses that were leaked (admin, etc.).

For home-use firewood permits tracked in TIM we divided the total amount of volume from each ranger district by the area of that ranger district that falls within the RC CFLRP project boundary. For example, if 40% of the Coyote Ranger District's area is within the RC CFLRP boundary, then we divided the total volume of home-use firewood by 40% to try to account for the proportion of that wood that is coming off of the project boundary.

Observations and Monitoring

TREAT outputs are consistent with observed economic effects from the 4FRI CFLRP, which is of a comparable size to the RC CFLRP. To support calibration of the TREAT model, the Guild provided monitoring data of employment and wages from the Blanca Sawmill, which is the largest sawmill in the project landscape. The observed data received from the Blanca Sawmill is consistent with the estimates generated by the TREAT model. Based on TREAT estimates, the Blanca Sawmill supports roughly a third of the modelled employment in the mill processing sector. This seems like a reasonable estimate based on local knowledge and conversations about the important role that the Blanca sawmill plays for wood processing in the project landscape.

Please provide a brief description of the local businesses that benefited from CFLRP related contracts and agreements, including characteristics such as tribally-owned firms, veteran-owned firms, women-owned firms, minority-owned firms, and business size. For resources, see materials here (external Box folder)

There is currently a broad spectrum of timber operators from mid-size to small fuelwood operators across the project area. There is a large timber mill in Blanca, Colorado that currently services timber from the Carson and Rio Grande National Forests. The Blanca mill also has the potential to serve the San Juan NF portion of this proposal. Additionally, Montrose Forest Products, located to the west, has purchased lumber from the Navajo river watershed on the San Juan NF in the past. Just south of the project area is the Walatowa pellet and structural timber mill which could serve the

⁷ Addresses Core Monitoring Question #8

Santa Fe portion of this project. Additionally, a compressed log manufacturing facility is planned in the Pagosa Springs area. Overall, we feel we have the infrastructure to meet the needs of the proposal, given realistic timber volume estimates. That said, workforce capacity is a key risk factor, especially when it comes to heavy equipment operators and truck drivers. High costs of living and other economic drivers will require all stakeholders to commit to engaging with local communities for workforce development solutions. Changing wood markets and operational costs including fuel could also pose a risk to realization of the proposal. In order to mitigate these risks, the Agency and 2-3-2 Partnership can consider projects of various sizes that offer a diversity of wood products while staying up to date on wood and other industrial markets to anticipate when and where operators might need support.

Although the Rio Chama CFLRP is in its first year, we have worked with Timber Management Assistants from the Santa Fe, Rio Grande, San Juan, and Carson National Forests to develop a list of contractors in the project landscape and have identified 59 contractors that have expressed interest in timber sales in the project boundary in recent years. The Rio Chama CFLRP also has plans to work with other program leads across the landscape to capture all-lands contractors and those working cross-jurisdictionally and on non-Forest Service lands and will continue to refine this list.

7. Wood Products Utilization

Timber & Biomass Volume Table⁸

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished
Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST	CCF	0
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	38,288 ⁹
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bioenergy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	38,946

Reviewing the data above, do you have additional data sources or description to add in terms of wood product utilization (for example, work on non-National Forest System lands not included in the table)?

See footnote regarding underreporting of timber harvested, especially the fuelwood component. Additionally, there is more info in the 6. Socioeconomic Goals.

8. Collaboration

Please include an up-to-date list of the core members of your collaborative <u>if</u> it has changed from your proposal/work plan (if it has not changed, note below).¹⁰ For detailed guidance and resources, see materials <u>here</u>. Please document changes using the <u>template</u> from the CFLRP proposal and upload to <u>Box</u>. Briefly summarize and describe changes below.

As mentioned above, we were successful in establishing a comprehensive agreement with The Forest Stewards Guild and Mountain Studies Institute to steward the many collaboratives and special interest organizations within the Rio

⁸ Addresses Core Monitoring Question #10

⁹ This is the number captured in TIM, the official database of record. However, the actual volume sold is 54,069 ccf, which includes this additional volume within the Rio Chama CFLRP that was actually sold but not reported as such in TIM: 7622 ccf for the Mariposa Timber Sale and 337 ccf in personal use fuelwood permits on the San Juan National Forest; 230 ccf in commercial fuelwood and 7288 ccf in personal use fuelwood permits on the Santa Fe National Forest; and 304 ccf in convertible timber products on the Carson NF.

¹⁰ Addresses Core Monitoring Question #11

Chama CFLRP landscape. This agreement allows us to transfer funding from the Forest Service to our Collaborators to achieve the goals of this ambitious project. It also outlines specific deliverables, including the Multi-party Monitoring Plan, that are being accomplished under the leadership of our partners.

The organizations represented in Appendix D of the Tier II proposal have remained largely unchanged, although the individuals that represent those organizations have changed some. In addition to the updates in Appendix D, it is important to note that Agency partners have worked proactively with the Forest Stewards Guild and the Mountain Studies Institute to develop and operationalize an agreement that supports collaboration and monitoring functions for the Rio Chama CFLR and 2-3-2 Partnership.

9. Monitoring Process

Briefly describe your current status in terms of developing, refining, implementing, and/or reevaluating your CFLRP monitoring plan and multiparty monitoring process.

The 2-3-2 Partnership and Rio Chama CFLRP has drafted a Monitoring Plan framework applicable to all-lands that addresses the CFLRP Common Monitoring Strategy. We plan to finalize and implement the Monitoring Plan in the first half of 2023. A documented adaptive management plan has been uploaded here.

As discussed above in section 5, the Rio Chama Rio Chama has worked extensively on the development of a 2-3-2 Partnership multiparty monitoring plan (MPM) to serve the Rio Chama CFLRP and the Partnership beyond the life of the project. To develop the draft MPM, FSG and MSI held 26 individual meetings with 32 subject matters experts, including experts on snowtography, pollinators, understory vegetation, fuels, wildlife, songbirds, adaptive management, aquatic species, tribal engagement, data storage and modeling, to identify and understand model options and identify species of Partnership interest. In addition to these individual meetings, 4 TRAM meetings were held during this time to discuss the monitoring plan development and a variety of opportunities for TRAM committee members to contribute to and comment on draft versions of the monitoring plan were presented. The first draft monitoring plan was shared with Rio Chama CFLRP leadership on August 15. Edits were then incorporated into a second draft that was then shared back to TRAM and with the 2-3-2 Executive Committee.

The monitoring plan is being compiled by the Forest Stewards Guild and Mountain Studies Institute, with significant input from 2-3-2 Partners and Regional USFS leaders. We reviewed monitoring plans from past CFLRPs for guidance but recognize the need to develop a monitoring program specific to the landscape and partners of southern Colorado and northern New Mexico.

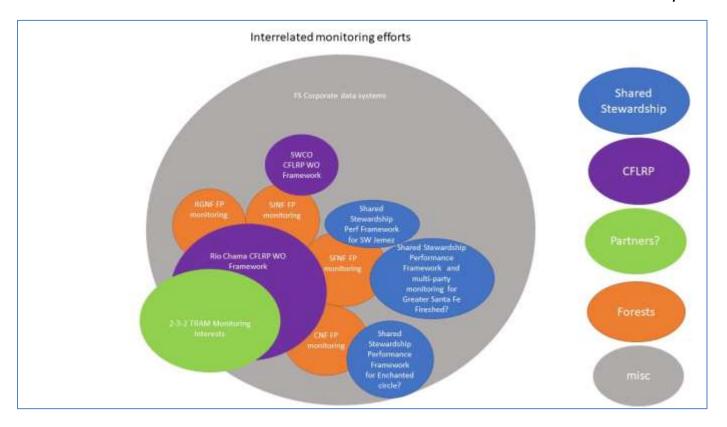


Figure 7. Graphic showing where Rio Chama CFLRP monitoring fits in with interrelated and geographically overlapping monitoring efforts in the same or adjacent landscapes

We are exploring monitoring approaches and opportunities through meetings with subject matter experts in Colorado, New Mexico, and surrounding states as well as piloting potential monitoring tools. The monitoring plan associates the 13 core monitoring questions with Rio Chama CFLRP project goals, incorporates the Region 2 step-down (R3 is still being developed), and includes stakeholder questions where collaborative interest and resources allow. The plan aims to monitor ecological and socio-economic changes at the landscape and project scales as well as across all land ownerships. The monitoring plan is currently being reviewed, revised, and revisited to establish a foundational monitoring program with room to adjust as new technology, information, resources, and personnel become available.

Next steps include finalizing monitoring protocols and their associated data management plans, refining desired forest conditions for all lands in the project area, determining personnel to lead specific model runs, incorporating Tribal interests into the monitoring plan, prioritizing monitoring locations across the 3.8 million acre project, piloting aspects of the monitoring plan in 2023, and exploring funding options for monitoring expansion. These efforts will help create a collaborative monitoring plan that integrates with project treatments and forms a strong base for monitoring over the next 15 years.

Our monitoring plan development and implementation would benefit from additional support in terms of data management and landscape model selection. The Forest Stewards Guild and Mountain Studies Institute are exploring options for data storage that is secure, accessible by individuals of multiple partner organizations, low-cost, and expected to exist beyond the lifespan of the CFLRP. Additional support in understanding the available options, and their pros and cons, would be helpful. Similarly, 2-3-2 Partners, USFS Region 2, and USFS Region 3 are exploring multiple landscape models to address the Washington Office Core Strategy. There are numerous models available to use and each has specific pros and cons. It would be helpful to have a decision matrix for selecting an appropriate landscape

model for each given indicator, and a central infographic describing what inputs are needed to run each model. Refinement and implementation of our monitoring plan would also be more robust with additional support from socioeconomic experts and with additional input from communities and partners who can help with the incorporation of TEK knowledge, practices, and values. We anticipate needing additional support to successfully implement adaptive management practices during and after evaluation, communication, and partnership discussion of monitoring data annually.

10. Conclusion

Describe any reasons that the FY 2022 annual report does not reflect your proposal or work plan. Are there expected changes to your FY 2023 plans you would like to highlight?

The Rio Chama CFLRP was faced with challenges in FY 2022 such as delayed funding (awarded April 2022 with funding received in June 2022) as well as capacity challenges with personnel being heavily utilized during the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon fire on the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests. Despite these challenges, the Rio Chama CFLRP accomplished quality work on the ground and gained traction on norms and processes despite complexities of applying processes such as budget and accomplishment reporting across 2 regions, 4 forests, 9 ranger districts and various Tribal, state, private and other non-FS federal lands.

Optional Prompts

FY 2022 Additional Accomplishment Narrative and/or Lessons Learned Highlights

The Rio Chama is a high complexity groundbreaking project in terms of players and USFS boundaries/processes. A lot has changed since the 2019 proposal. The Infrastructure Bill has resulted in national ramp up in restoration and the Rio Chama is contributing to this effort. In the original 2019 proposal CFLR funds were viewed as seed money for other investments however, the changes brought on by budget modernization has reduced our funding by \$1M from our original \$4M request, therefore, the vital work our well-established partners are doing to leverage this relatively small funding stream to identify and bring in other funds for work on all lands is very important. This work is also crucially important and timely as witnessed by the Cerro Pelado and Midnight fires in 2022 that hit prior CFLRP/CFRP thinning and Rx treatments and reduced fire intensity and protected communities and vital watersheds.

The Rio Chama CFLR Project was awarded in late 2020 and funding was not approved until April of 2022. The Working Group had frontloaded contracts and agreements prior to funding and that served us well in our ability to quickly obligate funds. The dedication, patience, and continued support by our partners under the 2-3-2 Collaborative umbrella over that two-year period show the strong relationships of those involved in the Rio Chama CFLR and the 2-3-2 in general.

Media Recap

- https://www.abqjournal.com/2533079/under-control-midnight-fire-was-manageable-thanks-to-prescribed-burns.html
- https://www.circleofblue.org/2022/world/in-new-mexico-partners-collaborate-to-end-siege-from-megafires/
- USFS Press Release
- 2-3-2 Partnership Press Release

Visuals

Please paste here or upload visuals if available, including before/after photos, maps, monitoring graphics, etc.













Rio Chama CFLRP poster.pdf

Rio Chama CFLRP 20220419 Rio RioChamaCFLRP_O 20220302 Rio 232_LandscapeOver 8x11 handout.pdf Chama CFLRP Fact SnePager_10242022.pChama CFLRP Projecview_Map_20221019

Infographics are used extensively in the Rio Chama CLFRP communications to help parties make sense of the complexities inherent in this project. Two examples are provided here in Figures 8 and 9.

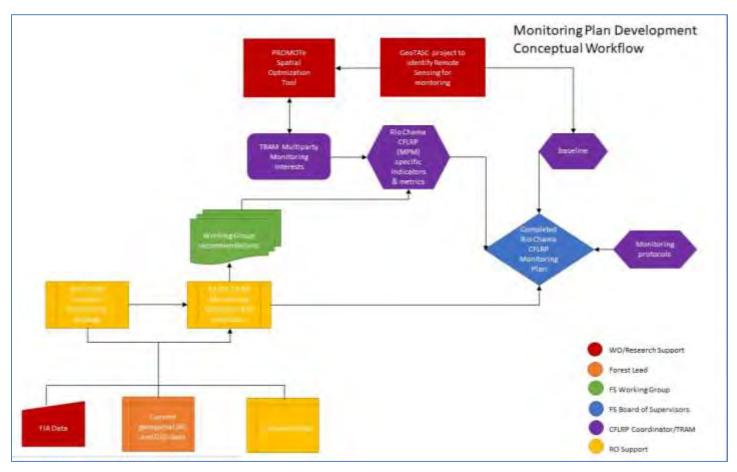


Figure 8. Monitoring Plan development conceptual workflow integrating multi-party monitoring interests and the Forest Service's CFLRP Common Monitoring Strategy

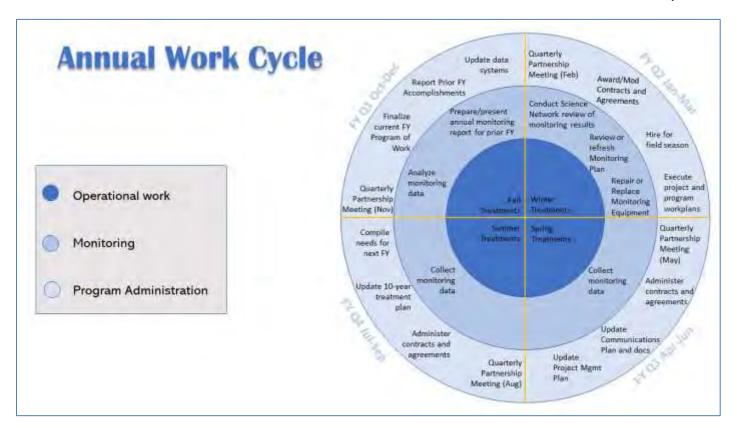


Figure 9. Annual work cycle for the Rio Chama CFLRP Program showing major operational work, monitoring tasks and program administration by federal fiscal year quarter

Alignment with the Southwest Region Strategic Plan

Work within the Rio Chama CFLRP in FY22 also directly supported these Mission Objectives and Outcomes (in italics) identified in the Southwest Region Strategic Plan (March 2022 version):

Mission Focus on Regional Vitality: The Region supports rural and urban communities and economies. Objective I.1: Ecosystem structure and composition fosters disturbance processes that play their ecological role. Outcome A: Forest structure in priority firesheds is such that fire behavior is within its desired regime. The Rio Chama CFLRP FY22 program of work invested heavily in mechanical fuel treatments across all four forests, in addition to the prescribed fire work conducted by each forest.

Mission Focus on National Prosperity: The Region's resources contribute to the Nation's quality of life. Objective II.2. The Region's wood supply is an established choice in the marketplace. Outcome B: The Region's wood products advance emerging markets for underutilized material. The Rio Chama CFLRP FY22 program of work included getting the Rock Creek Stewardship Timber Contract awarded and included investments in agreements and actions designed to promote additional commercial harvest opportunities in outyears. For example, the Wood for Life agreement with the National Forest Foundation is designed to be expanded to take advantage of the opportunity to provide fuelwood to communities in need. In addition, the investments in road improvements on the Rio Grande and the San Juan National Forests and in treatment design work on the Santa Fe National Forest are to facilitate future timber harvest and/or fuel reduction activities in outyears. The timeliness of these investments is important to the sustained flow of both timber and fuelwood needed to sustain regional economies, particularly for underserved communities.

Signatures

Recommended by (Project Coordinator(s)): /s/Jeremy Marshall, Coordinator
Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s)): /s/ James D. Duran, Acting Santa Fe National Forest Supervisor
Draft reviewed by (collaborative representative): /s/Dana Guinn, Mountain Studies Institute. /s/ Esmé Cadiente,
Forest Stewards Guild

Attachment: CFLRP Common Monitoring Strategy Core Questions

The 2021 cohort will complete the common monitoring strategy questions in FY22. CFLRP projects awarded in 2022 (2012 extensions and new projects) will be required to respond to these questions starting in FY23.

Appendix A Reference Overview of CFLRP and Eligibility Criteria



Appendix B Environmental Justice Analysis

