



## RWEACT Board Meeting Agenda

August 31, 2017 – Windsor Hotel in Del Norte

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Call-In 1-800-511-7983

Access Code 6254628

Opening Comments, Chairman Travis Smith  
Introductions

ACTION ITEM Approve minutes from previous RWEACT Board meeting (July 2017)

### On-Going Business

- Executive Director's Report
- Discussion and Review: Financial Procedures and Protocol REVISION 3 (included in packet)
- Stewardship Agreement activities / MOU update
- Radar update
- Grants Path update
- Forest Plan Revision Process update

### New Business

- Forest Health Advisory Council HB 16-1255 and RWEACT's role

### Financial Update

- Discussion and Update: Second Quarter 2017 Financials

### Committee Reports

Emergency Managers; Economic Recovery; Communication; Hydrology; Natural Resources

### Other Business

- Set dates for next three meetings?

### Adjourn



## RWEACT Board Meeting Summary July 25, 2017 – TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Present: Travis Smith, Commissioner Karla Shriver, Commissioner Darius Allen, Commissioner Ramona Weber, Commissioner Susan Thompson, Heather Dutton, Kristie Borchers

Travis Smith welcomed the group and thanked directors for taking the time to participate.

Commissioner Shriver made the motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Thompson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Allen made the motion to approve the June 2017 minutes; Commissioner Weber seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Allen made the motion to approve the letter of support for the increased use of prescribed fire on the Pagosa Ranger District; Commissioner Weber seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Allen made the motion to approve the USDA Forest Service Rio Grande National Forest and RWEACT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); Commissioner Weber seconded; motion passed unanimously. This document has been approved by Grants and Agreements and will now be provided to the Rio Grande National Forest. This is a non-binding agreement that does not include a financial agreement. This is a pre-cursor to a Stewardship Agreement.

Commissioner Shriver made the motion to approve the San Luis Valley Radar Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); Commissioner Thompson seconded; motion passed unanimously. This is a non-binding agreement intended to continue to move the project forward. The Colorado Water Conservation Board has approved a portion of the purchase in the projects bill; Colorado Department of Transportation is submitting a capital grant request with hearings to be held in October. A draft budget was included in the packet, along with coverage maps. The San Luis Valley Commissioners Association, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, Rio Grande Water Users Association, Mineral County, and the San Luis Valley Irrigation District have passed this MOU. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District directed staff to work towards an Intergovernmental Agreement (with authorities and financial agreements). The Conejos Water Conservancy District has this as an agenda item tonight (July 25); San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District has this as an agenda item Thursday (July 27); Rio Grande County and Hinsdale County both have this as an agenda item Wednesday (July 26). Saguache County and Alamosa County will have this as an upcoming agenda item. Borchers will follow up with Conejos and Costilla counties.

Commissioner Shriver made the motion to approve the final proposal with Colorado State Forest Service; Commissioner Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously. Borchers will continue to work with Adam Moore (CSFS) and the contracted grant-writer to firm-up the match and identified projects. Electronic application is due August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Borchers led discussion the Energy Impact grant #8056 which was received by Rio Grande County for consulting work with the Forest Plan Revision and capacity building efforts towards a Stewardship Agreement. Further research will be done into the next step (project planning for appropriate stewardship activities and additional needs for outreach assistance with the Forest Plan Revision). This will be further discussed at our next meeting.

Borchers led discussion about Resource Advisory Council (RAC) funds. These funds have traditionally been provided directly to Counties. RACs were then set up to create a more citizen-driven process. Secure and Rural Schools funding has been reduced to Counties. The best role for RWEACT may be to support applications from the Counties. Borchers will meet with the Saguache District Ranger and Commissioner Anderson on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Divide Ranger District has provided prioritized projects. While funds do not have to be spent within a specific county's boundaries, County Commissioners prefer to see this occur. With the combined Upper Rio Grande – Saguache RAC, Conejos County is listed with \$141,843; Hinsdale at \$69,877; Mineral with \$0; Rio Grande with \$35,861; Saguache with \$282,690. Additional discussion centered around RWEACT receiving (or not) an administrative fee, RWEACT's ability (or not) to front these projects with the reimburseable rules; previous projects; Road & Bridge Departments providing portions of the projects; and limited Borchers time on these applications. Further discussions will occur with Hinsdale, Rio Grande, Saguache, and Conejos counties. Electronic applications are due August 11<sup>th</sup>.

The board discussed a savings in the Administrative Assistant Line Item in Task Order #9. We propose to request these funds go towards a coffee table book (a public relations piece together with a final report), four interpretive signs, revamping of the website to be viewed on all devices, and communications training for Public Information Officers. These projects have been discussed and proposed at various times over the past several years, with RWEACT's board, committees, and from members of the public. Chairman Travis Smith directed Borchers to take the next step to finalize this request with CWCB.

The board reviewed the Project Managers report. Additional items included partial attendance of the Zeedyk workshop by Borchers; the financial snapshot will be updated since CWCB attributed one of the RFR's to a different Task Order than requested; and a mention of recent work at Alberta Lake dam per Emergency Manager Terry Wetherill's email updates.

Heather Dutton provided an update that the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment will be completed by the end of the year.

Next RWEACT meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on August 31<sup>st</sup> (LOCATION PENDING: the Windsor is checking availability).

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine M. Borchers  
7/25/2017

To: RWEACT Board of Directors  
Fr: Kristine Borchers  
Da: August 31, 2017  
Re: July / August 2017 Update

#### Radar

- MOU approved by RWEACT, SLV Commissioner Assc, Mineral, Hinsdale, Rio Grande, Conejos Water Conservancy, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, SLV Irrigation District, Rio Grande Water Users,
- Still to be approved by Conejos, Costilla, Saguache, SLV Water Conservancy, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, Conejos Water Users
- Check in with CDOT for application (October hearings)

#### Task Order News

- Final Task Order #6 request attributed by CWCB to Task Order #9 payment
- Task Order #8 – email / discussions to spend through funds
- Task Order #9
  - RFR #1 for Task Order #9 submitted by Hinsdale County
  - Requested change in Scope for administrative assistant line item (book, signs, website, training)
- Task Order #10 – received (no expenditures yet)
- Second Quarter Financial snapshot (to be distributed)

#### Energy Impact Grant Update

- Forest Plan Revision consultant piece completed
- Remainder of funds are to go towards “Development of a Stewardship Agreement with FS”
  - MOU with Forest Service completed
  - Need to plan Stewardship Planning process
  - Grant expires in December 2017 so we can request an extension October or so
  - Asked FS if they have additional needs for consultant related to Forest Plan Revision

#### Submitted Grants

- Grants update included in packet, including additional sources identified

#### New Grants

- Resource Advisory Council (RAC) projects – meeting with Saguache to determine projects; attended RAC meeting; meetings with Divide Ranger District about potential proposals
- Meeting with Phil Seligman scheduled for August 31, 2017

#### Other Items

- 2-3-2 discussion attended remotely (July notes in packet, September meeting)
- Willow Creek request for funds
- Zeedyk Stream Restoration Workshop (three invoices to be paid); Steve, Emma, Kevin, Heather
- After the Fire video / meet with Bev Chapman, provide information, shoot footage

Respectfully submitted,  
kmb  
8/31/17



# 2-3-2 Cohesive Strategy Partnership

## Group Protocols

July 18, 2017 Meeting Notes of the Organization Committee

In attendance:

Aaron Kimple, Project Coordinator, MSI  
Kristi Borchers, Admin Assistance, REACT  
Anthony Madrid, SJNF  
Bill Trimarco, FireWise  
Matt Edrich, MSI  
Page Buono, MSI  
Ellen Roberts,  
Mary Stuever, NM State Forestry  
Andra Thaden, GIS tech for CO State Forest Service  
Tim Reeder, CO State Forest Service, Region 2 biomass coordinator

\*Note: this meeting was guided by “Group Protocols” document (text from the document in italics) provided by Peak Facilitation Group.

10:30 – 11:00

Review of previous meeting & introduction of 2-3-2 cohesive strategy group protocols

Review of Future Goals

Primary question: “How do we build a team of teams”?

Goals for today: “Where are we in 10 years”?

- Have an understanding of who we are, and who we aren’t
- Name recognition
- Healthier forests, healthy watersheds
- Not being stuck by administrative & bureaucratic barriers
- Adequate funding
- Fire adapted communities
- Introduction of fire across the landscape
- Maintenance mode that is geared for industries involved
- Leverage and accepting change on a landscape scale

- Broader, more regional effort
- Comradery and partnership component
- Defining a region and creating participation driven by prestige/success and validity
- Involvement offers for funding applications, instead of involvement because of funding

### ***1. What is this group called?***

#### ~~2 States – 3 Rivers – 2 Regions Cohesive Strategy Partnership~~

- Recommendation of 2 mountain ranges – 3 rivers – 2 states
  - Reasoning: this name remains geographic and landscape based
  - The two mountain ranges would refer to the San Juan Mountains CO and the San Juan Mountains NM

#### Discussion

- Challenge of explaining the name 2-3-2 (with or without added elements)
- 2-3-2 was returned to, agree that it should be tied geographically
- Why is 2-3-2 good?
  - Unique and easily identifiable
  - Describes complexity
  - Neutral
- Why is 2-3-2 a problem?
  - What does it mean?
  - Is it an inner-circle level of knowledge or available for broader outreach?
  - Obvious alternatives (San Juan something) already laden with other connotations
  - Struggle for people who are intimately involved

#### Motion to change it to 2 mountain ranges – 3 rivers – 2 states passes

- Recommendation to create an elevator pitch (Mary Stuever has material started) and associated briefing paper

### ***2. What is the purpose of the group, and what will its authority be?***

The 2 mountain ranges – 3 rivers – 2 states Cohesive Strategy Partnership (2-3-2) strives to work together to protect and preserve the forest health, water quality, wildlife habitat and communities within the San Juan, Chama and Rio Grande Watershed Landscapes. We implement a cohesive approach that supports a coordinated, landscape-scale effort that emphasizes public and private partnerships, bridges geographic boundaries and addresses agency management constraints to deliver integrated results that cannot be accomplished when working separately.

### **3. Stakeholders**

#### Agencies

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Colorado State Forest Service  
Chama Peak Lands Alliance  
FireWise of Southwest Colorado  
Colorado Forest Restoration Institute  
Mountain Studies Institute  
New Mexico State Forestry Division  
The Nature Conservancy Colorado  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
New Mexico Forest and Watershed Health Institute  
Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team  
Rio Grande Water Fund  
San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership  
San Juan-Chama Watershed Partnership  
Soil & Water Conservation  
Trout Unlimited

#### Districts

Carson National Forest  
San Juan National Forest  
Rio Grande National Forest  
Conservation Districts (?)

#### Offices

Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office  
Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office

#### Groups To Follow Up With:

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Jicarilla Apache  
Trout Unlimited  
Private landowners - reach out to Banded Peak Ranch  
Fire Districts,

- continue conversation about “is it okay to have your name on the list”
- include logos on outreach materials
- ongoing question of who are we missing & who can we include?

Stakeholders vs. memberships

- Should we have a Voting Board to distinguish levels of involvement?

#### ***4. Representation (void or articulate) \*assess later whether it is redundant or not?***

Questions:

- a. Will group members keep their professional “hats” on? Will they represent their organization in group discussions?
- b. Or will group members take their “hats” off, instead taking a “big picture” perspective on the issue at hand, using their professional and personal knowledge and expertise to inform the discussion?

Discussion:

Yes (to both) – we are who we are (i.e. ‘wearing our hats’) but come here for the greater good. We are motivated by recognizing that the landscape is about more than recognizing and individual piece of it. We are collectively investing our time and thinking of the bigger picture.

- We’re wearing our hats and putting them on the table (they’re still in the room, but we’re committed to stepping outside of our specific roles/agendas for the greater objective)
- One of this group’s great strengths is the fact that we are coming together for a shared purpose.

#### ***5. Subcommittees***

Comments from last meeting

- We broke out the committees at the same time, and many people are interested in being involved in multiple committees. There is an issue with having them meet at the same time.
- Post-meeting reporting and a dedicated website with pages for each committee will be crucial moving forward.

The group has formed subcommittees to address:

1. Fire Management
  - suppression
  - fuels management
  - fire-adapted communities
  - prescribed fires
  - fire issues
  - coordinating treks

- current fire
- 2. Biomass and Markets
- 3. FUN-ding and Support – an administrative sub-committee that looks at things like funding, support, agreements, and provides organizational development of agreements
  - Possible Real Names:
    - Administration & Agreements
    - Capacity Committee) (
- 4. Wildlife Connectivity (placeholder)
- 5. Education & Outreach (external)
- 6. Research & Lessons Learned (internal)
  - GIS monitoring
  - assessment
  - research, technology
  - Possibly AKA: TRAM (Technology, Research, Assessment, Monitoring)

Do we need a steering committee? (\*Please see attached organizational structure proposal)

Discussion:

- General support for steering committee at previous meetings.
- The organizational committee is exploring a steering committee group of approximately 9 to 12 people that would be composed of group members that have secured financial support, 2 at large members, the program coordinator, and a revolving chair.
- Sub-committee chairs need to be on the steering committee
- Size: probably closer to a couple hundred stakeholders
- Instead of starting with 9-12, start with “who needs to be there” and create a smaller, ‘Executive Committee’ if needed
  - Executive Committee of 3-5 people?
  - Reports to steering committee (small & nimble for deadline decision making)

What qualifies as “secured financial support”?

What is the relationship between funding and roles?

- If you bring money are you on the steering committee?

How is having money to spend a conflict?

Define role of coordinator:

- paid or unpaid?
- what remains constant? –
  - Aaron will build a work plan for the coordinator position

Goal of securing funding going forward for a paid coordinator

It was determined that the questions below (with the exception of question #11, #13 & #14 where the group held brief, non-conclusive discussions) were premature for the organization committee and would be best addressed by the steering committee and the appropriate subcommittees.

## **6. Decision Making**

- a. What will the impacts of group decisions be? Will the group's decisions be implemented by key organizations or agencies? Or will they be presented as recommendations?
- b. Will decisions be made following discussion on a given topic at that same meeting? Or will preliminary decisions be made with the expectation that participants will confer with their colleagues/constituents/agencies before the next meeting, with final decisions being made at the subsequent meeting?
- c. How many members must be present for decision making?
- d. If using consensus for decision-making, what will the definition of consensus be (e.g., "all members can 'live with' a proposal")?
- e. If using majoritarian voting, what constitutes a quorum and what constitutes a majority (e.g., 50%+1, 2/3, 75%)?
- f. How will participants register dissent? How will dissenting views be recorded?
- g. What will the group's approach be if consensus cannot be reached? What will the conditions be for using this approach? If using consensus with majoritarian voting as a back-up, what can/will trigger voting?
- h. Will members need to be present to participate in decisions? Will proxies be allowed to make decisions if a member cannot be present?
- i. What will be required to reopen past decisions?

## **7. Agency Roles**

## **8. Public Meetings –territory of the Education & Outreach Committee?**

- a. What is sufficient notice when publicizing the time and place of a public meeting?
- b. What is the best way to publicize this information (e.g., email, websites, flyers, local newspapers)? Is there enough lead time to publicize a meeting in this way?
- c. Will the timing of the public notice allow for an agenda to be distributed prior to the meeting?
- d. Whose responsibility is it to ensure sufficient public notice?

## **9. Public Participation**

- a. Will public participation be allowed at meetings?
- b. If allowed, how will public participation be achieved? Will there be a specified time on the agenda? How many minutes overall will be allowed and/or how many per speaker? If not specified in protocols, what/who will determine how much time will be devoted to public participation?
- c. Will the public be able to engage with members and/or guest speakers or panelists during meetings?
- d. Will the public be asked to sign in and will names be included in meeting summaries?
- e. How should public participation be captured in meeting summaries?

#### **10. Documentation -**

- a. Who will document the meetings? What detail is expected in documentation? Does the group prefer action minutes, an abbreviated summary, or a detailed summary?
- b. What will be the process for reviewing, revising, and finalizing changes to the documentation?
- c. Will meeting notes, summaries, or other documentation be shared with the public? If so, how?

#### **11. Meetings**

- a. How often will the group meet?  
Three times – September, January, May, with additional meetings as needed.
- b. How long should meetings be?  
3 to 6 hours
- c. Where should meetings occur? Should meetings be held in the same place all the time or in different places?  
Meetings will circulate throughout the 2-3-2 landscape. One on the northwest, one on northeast, and one in south

#### **12. Media Interaction**

- a. Can group members speak to the media?
- b. What can group members speak to the media about?

#### **13. Interaction with Other Entities**

Where do we draw the line with interactions between 2-3-2 and affiliated individuals/organizations?

Discussion:

- ‘Every affiliate is a puzzle piece, 2-3-2 is trying to complete the puzzle’
- What about issues where there is disagreement? How do we deal with dissent that may migrate outside of 2-3-2 into opposition groups?
  - “What happens in the group, stays in the group” is counterintuitive to the philosophies

of 2-3-2

- Trust is critical for group success
- The group should not be afraid of differing ideas
- **creation of a safe space for dissenting voices** will hopefully reduce the desire for those dissenting to take their issues outside of 2-3-2
- The group promotes open discussion with the potential for dissention; we want to provide support for, **but not direct**, stakeholder activity
- This group wants to support proposals, but we need to think more about how grant-writers include the 'branding' of 2-3-2 upon any proposed endorsement/sponsorship

- a. Will group members be permitted to work outside the group to influence outcomes?
- b. Will group members be permitted to coordinate or collaborate with other groups or efforts on related topics?

#### ***14. Interaction with Other Entities***

- a. How will this group identify funding?

The Fundraising Committee has developed a tracking sheet for the 2-3-2 to maintain a priority list, what funding sources have been secured, how and where they will be implemented.

- b. How will the group determine application efforts? Who will administer? How will it apply to 2-3-2 efforts?



## Bill Zeedyk Stream and Road Restoration Workshop Schedule of Events

### Day 1: Tuesday, August 29th

Creede, Colorado – Creede Mining Museum Conference Room

1. 8 to 8:30 am: Check In
2. 8:30: Introduction of Participants
3. 8:45 to 11: Bill Zeedyk will present an Overview of work and types of structures
4. 11 to 11:45 am: Early lunch (catered by Kip's Grill – Fajita Buffet)

Road to Regan Lake, Rio Grande National Forest, CO

1. 12 to 1pm: Travel to Regan Lake, carpool from Wilderness Ranch upper parking lot to workshop site.
2. 1 to 5pm: Discussion about reading the landscape and determining appropriate restoration techniques. On site discussion of different road and stream restoration techniques
  - a. One rock dams
  - b. Zuni bowls
  - c. Media lunas
  - d. Rock Rundowns
  - e. Roll and Dips
  - f. Low water crossings

### Day 2: Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>

Road to Regan Lake, Rio Grande National Forest, CO Carpool from Wilderness Ranch upper parking lot

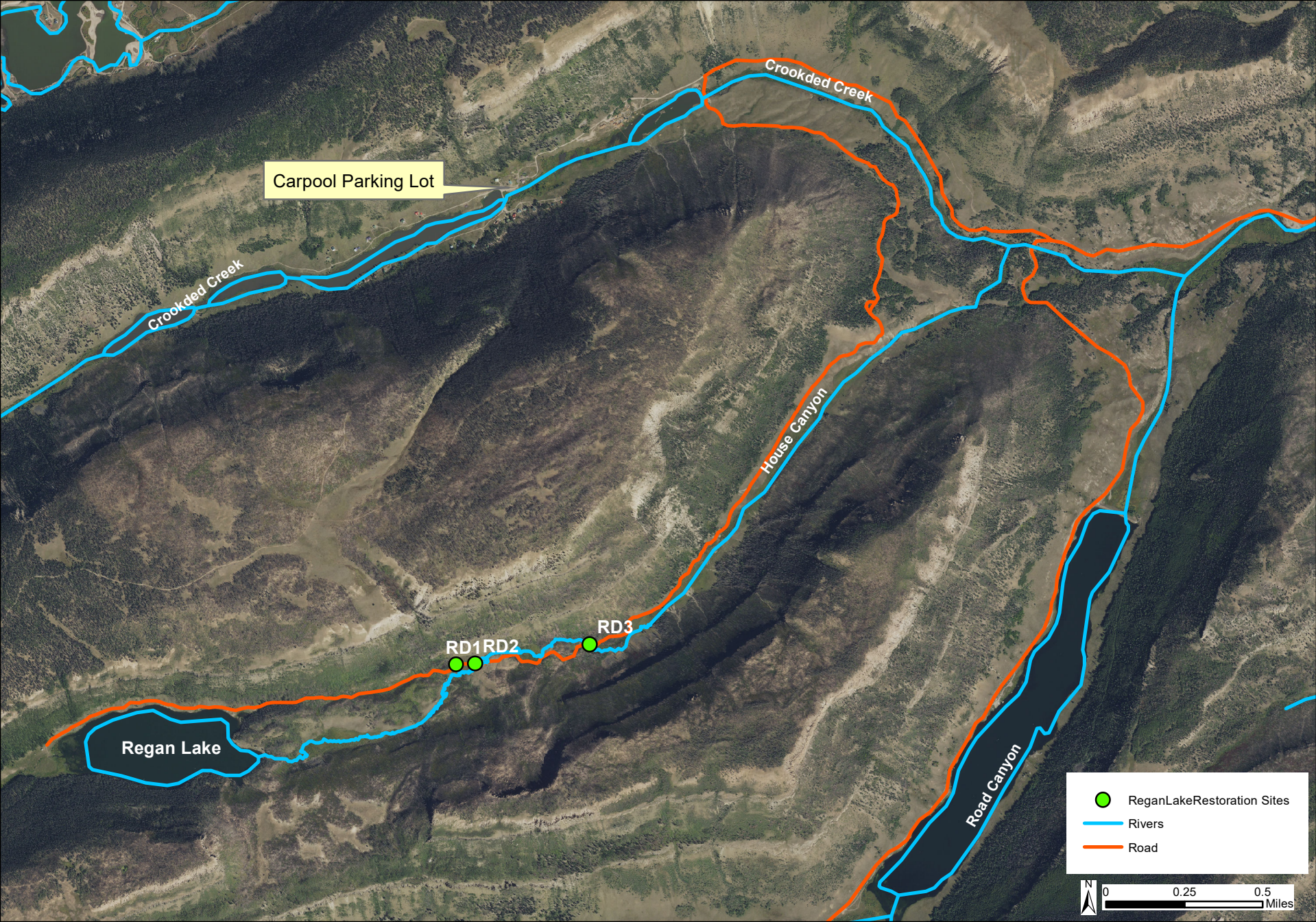
1. 8 to 12 pm:
  - a. Discussion on how to best restore the creek in relation to the road and the landscape at RD1 and RD2
  - b. Create low water crossing and Roll and Dip at RD1 and RD2 (USFS crew will demonstrate with heavy equipment)
  - c. Hands on creation of one rock dams, media luna, and rock rundown at RD1 and RD2
  - d. Cattle trailing and creating drift fences discussion
  - e. Sediment traps in burn area
2. 12pm – 1pm: Lunch (catered by Smokin' Johnny's BBQ – pulled pork sandwich and sides)
3. 1 to 5pm: Continued work on RD1 and RD2 with heavy equipment and hands on work

### Day 3: Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>

Road to Regan Lake, Rio Grande National Forest, CO Carpool from Wilderness Ranch upper parking lot

1. 8 to 12pm: Discussion on how to and where to do Roll and Dips
  - a. Roll and Dips between RD2 and RD3
  - b. Roll and Dip at RD3
2. 12 to 1pm: Lunch (catered by Arps - Wraps and chips)
3. 1 to 3pm: Discussion of Roll and Dip from cattle grate to meadow
4. 3 to 3:30pm: Workshop Wrap-up





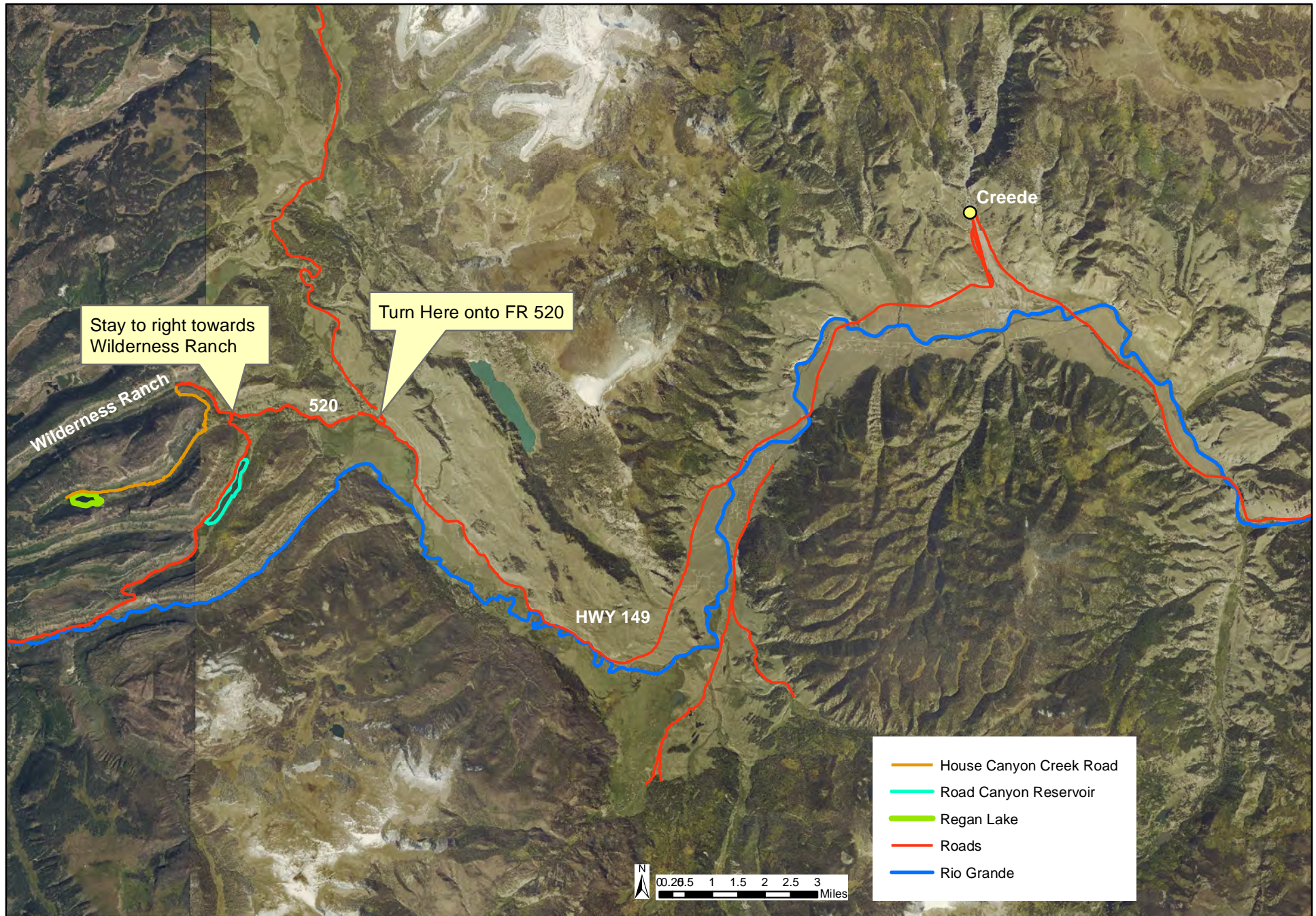




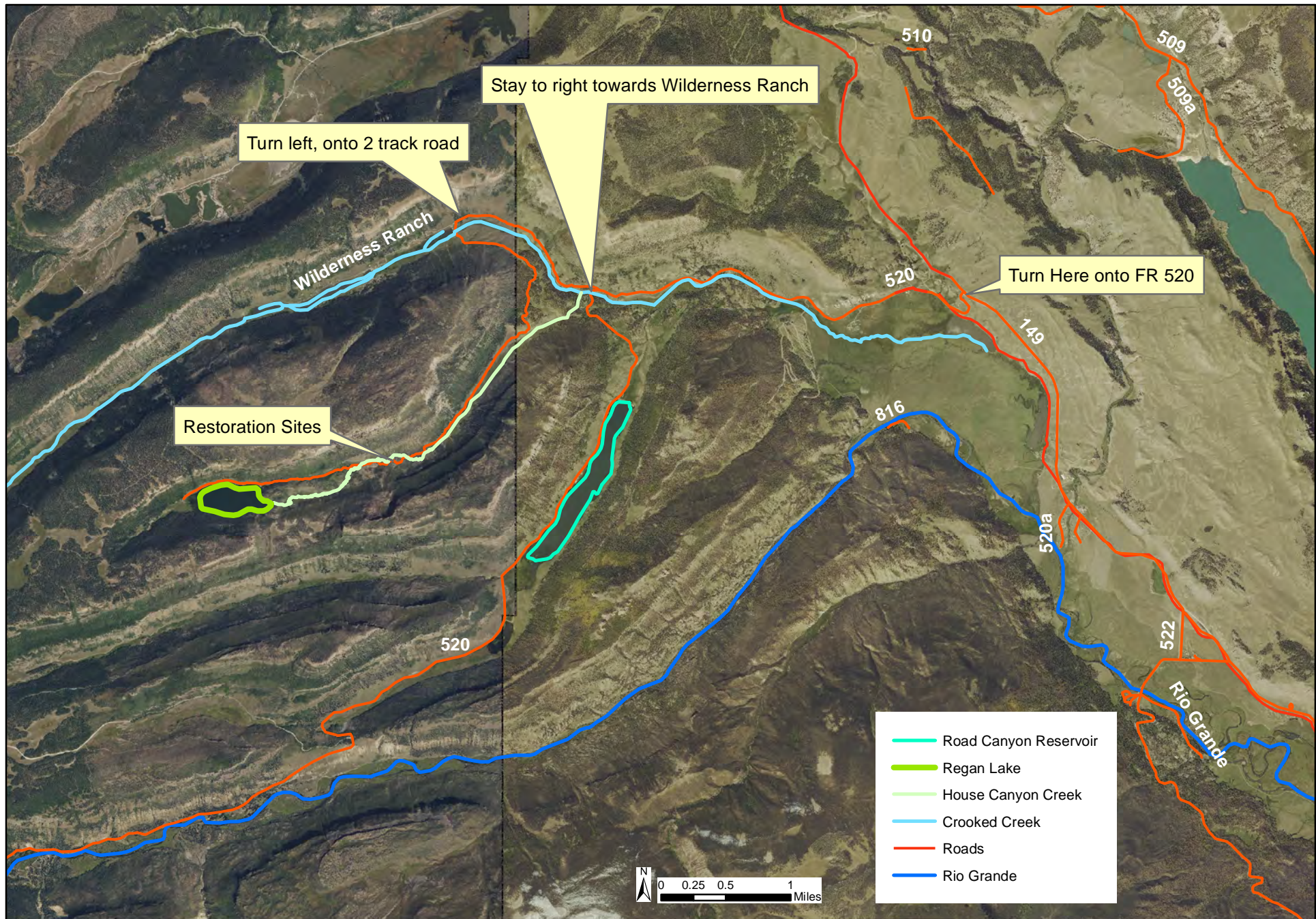












## Camping and Lodging around Rio Grande Reservoir in the Rio Grande National forest and Creede, CO

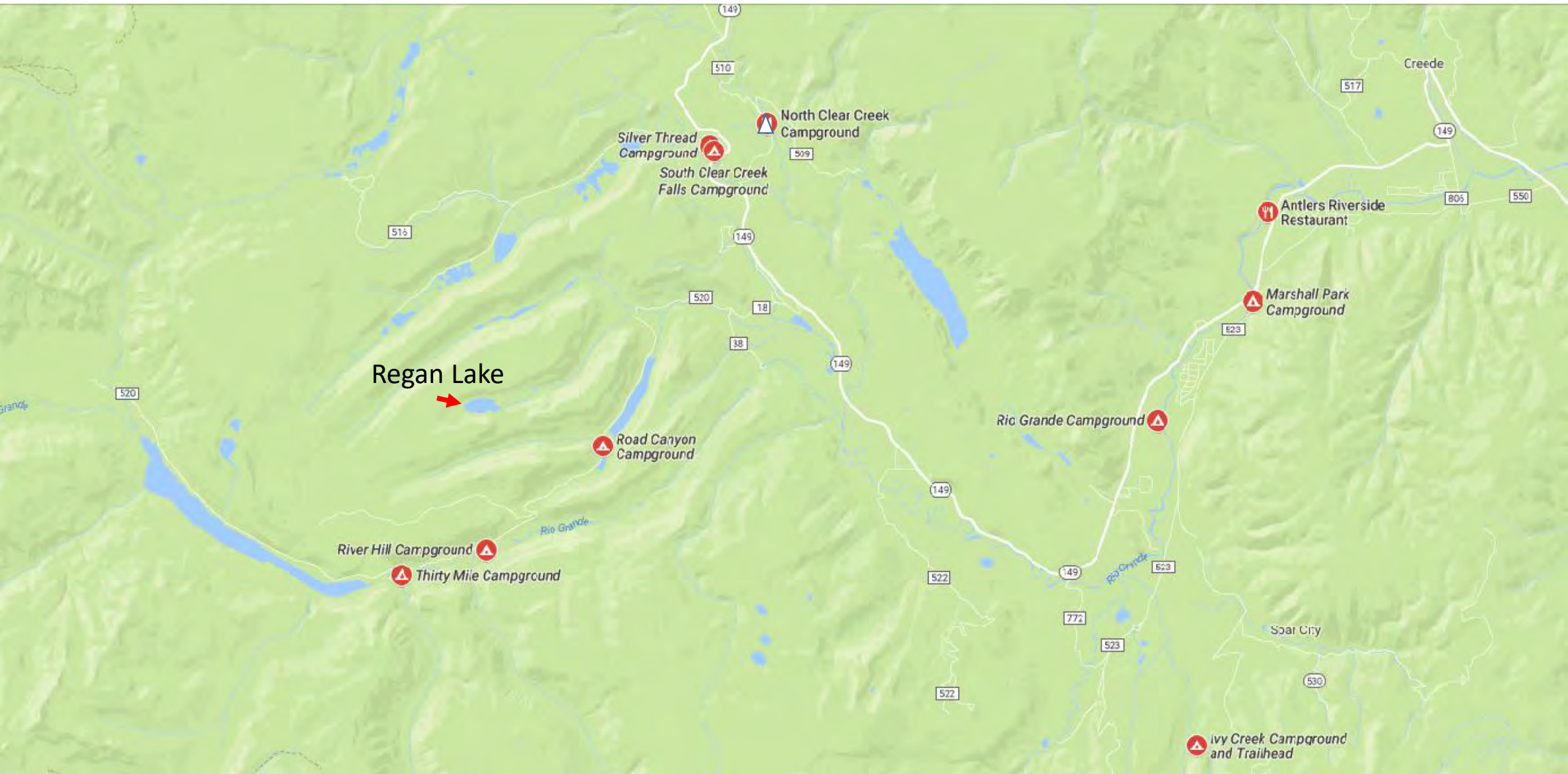
1. Road Canyon Campground – no amenities
2. Silver Thread Campground:
  - Camp host with 10 campsites, no reservations
  - tent and trailer camping;
  - picnic tables;
  - toilets;
  - drinking water
  - \$18 fee/night
3. North clear creek campground
  - Camp host with 21 campsites, no reservations
  - tent and trailer camping;
  - picnic tables;
  - toilets;
  - drinking water from a well
  - \$16 fee/night
4. River Hill campground
  - Camp hosts with 20 sites
  - Reserve spot at least 4 days prior online [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by toll free phone call to **1 877-444-6777**
  - Boat ramp
  - Picnic table and fireplace ring
  - Toilets
  - Drinking water from two well hand pumps
  - \$20 fee/night
5. Thirty Mile campground
  - Camp host with 29 campsites
  - Reserve spot at least 4 days prior online [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by toll free phone call to **1 877-444-6777**
  - tent and trailer camping;
  - picnic tables;
  - toilets;
  - drinking water
  - \$20 fee/night
6. Lost Trail campground
  - 7 campsites, no reservations
  - tent and trailer camping;
  - picnic tables;
  - toilet;
  - No fees
  - No trash services



## Lodging

1. Creede Hotel and Restaurant
  - 120 N. Main St, P.O. Box 10, Creede, CO 81130
  - 719-658-2608
  - \$105/night
2. Creede Snowshoe Lodge & Bed and Breakfast
  - 202 E. 8<sup>th</sup> (Hwy 149), Creede, CO 81130
  - 719-658-2315
  - [lovesnowshoelodge@yahoo.com](mailto:lovesnowshoelodge@yahoo.com)
  - Laundry
  - Free Internet
  - \$108/night (includes tax and breakfast)
3. Rio Grande Motel/Antler Lodge Restaurant
  - 26222 Highway 149, Creede, CO 81130
  - 719-658-2423
  - <http://www.antlerslodge.com/>
  - \$149/night
4. Freemon's Ranch to the list of hotels:
  - <http://freemonsranch.com/>
  - 719-658-2454
  - 39284 Hwy 149  
Creede, CO 81130
  - Rates vary from \$82-\$119/night
  - No credit cards accepted (checks, cash, traveler's checks accepted)
5. RC Guest Ranch
  - <http://www.rcguestranch.com/>
  - 37531 Hwy 149, P. O. Box 186
  - Creede, Colorado 81130
  - Phone: 719.658.2253 ~ Phone/Fax: 719.658.2317
  - [info@rcguestranch.com](mailto:info@rcguestranch.com)
  - Cabin rental rates vary from \$65-\$125/night





## SFA-WUI FY 2018 Narrative DRAFT Upper Rio Grande Basin CWPP and Treatments

---

**Box 1:****CSFS District Contact Information (name, title, email, phone, address):**

Adam Moore, Alamosa District Forester

[AdamMoore@colostate.edu](mailto:AdamMoore@colostate.edu)

719-587-0915

P.O. Box 1137

Alamosa, CO 81101-1137

**Cooperator Contact Information (name, title, email, phone, address):**

RWEACT Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team

Kristine Borchers, Program Manager

[kristineborchers@yahoo.com](mailto:kristineborchers@yahoo.com)

970-596-9071

PO Box 721

Lake City, CO 81235

---

**Box 2:**

**Project title:** Upper Rio Grande Basin CWPP and Treatments

**Names of affected communities (towns and or names of subdivisions):**

Rio Grande Reservoir area, Santa Maria Reservoir area, Pearl Lakes, Black Mountain, Spar City, Big River/Blue Creek Lodge, South Fork, Beaver Creek, Jasper, Rocky Mountain Estates, Bonanza, and Urraca.

**Counties:** Hinsdale, Mineral, Rio Grande, Conejos, Saguache, Alamosa

**Congressional Districts:** 3rd

---

**Box 3 – Budget Template**

Attached

---

**Box 4 - Budget Narrative** - Provide specific details for the **expenses** included in the Excel Budget Template. Do not describe matching funds. These will be described in Box 9. Be specific about each cost and which partner will incur each expense. **1700 characters**

Project activities will focus on the National Themes of Conserve, Protect, and Enhance through the creation of new Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), homeowner education and outreach, and hazard fuel treatment on private land and around critical reservoirs. This project will create a CWPP in areas where one does not exist and enhance CWPP in areas that are currently covered by broad county wide plans to identify and implement cross boundary treatments which can include adjacent lands. The project will also treat 120 acres on private land of hazardous fuels in the WUI and reduce the risk of uncharacteristically large wildfires. Treatment areas are within the Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team's (RWEACT, a 6-county non-profit collaborative).

**Use of funds:**

**PERSONNEL/LABOR:** \$31,746 for Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) project managers' and implementers' salaries. CSFS staff will also conduct education, risk evaluation, CWPP development, and plan treatments.

**FRINGE BENEFITS:** \$8,762 for CSFS employees dedicated to managing the grant and project implementation.

**TRAVEL:** \$3,143 for CSFS staff travel related to project coordination, design and set-up.

**CONTRACTUAL:** \$245,000 of grant funds will be used by RWEACT for:

>\$60,000 for RWEACT staff to perform coordinate, plan and implement the project, conduct outreach and education, and facilitate public meetings..

-\$130,000 to hire contractors to treat 120 acres in the 13 communities and fuel-breaks at two reservoirs (Santa Maria and Rio Grande)

-\$9,800 for RWEACT staff travel for project.

-\$6,000 to produce education materials, distribution, and printing

-\$34,300 for equipment rental (large-capacity brush chippers and masticators, primarily).

-\$4,900 for signage, flagging and marking and presentation materials.

**INDIRECT** - \$11,349 negotiated rate with cognizant federal agency.

**Box 5 - Project Area Description and Challenges** - Give an overview of the project, describe the hazards, describe why the project area was chosen (why it is different, unique, important), and clearly show the need for work in this area. If applying for a fuels reduction project, describe the vegetation types. It is important to define the problems and challenges so when you get to Box 7 you are clearly stating how the funding will be used to address the challenges. Describe the project benefits to land and people – direct and indirect. **1700 characters**

The Upper Rio Grande Basin is located in South Central Colorado and contains roughly 8k square miles, all of which is more than 7.5k feet high. With 7-8 inches of precipitation annually, the San Luis Valley is an agricultural area and depends heavily on irrigation to produce crops. Mountainous forestlands,

managed by the US Forest Service, surround this high mountain valley. Healthy watersheds contribute to consistent and timely flows of the Rio Grande. The economy is driven by tourism and seasonal residents engaging in outdoor activities, yet the Valley has high poverty rates.

Forest types include fuel models (FM): FM9-hardwood/aspen stands along rivers and moist areas, FM6-stands of pinyon/juniper with grass understory at lower elevations, and FM10-mixed conifer stands with dead down woody fuels. These FMs are represented in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities. Significant fires affecting the WUI in the SLV include the 2002 Million fire at 9k acres. 2006 Mato Vega fire at 14k acres, 2013 West Fork Complex at 110k acres. Suppression efforts could be complicated with high potential for loss to the homes and structures. The West Fork Complex Fire raised awareness of the need for forestry restoration and wildfire risk reduction work.

CHALLENGES - WUI development extends from the valley floor to the high forests with a range of fuel types and a patchwork of public and private ownership, with many second homeowners and seasonal residents. The area is also affected by spruce beetle and drought. The communities are not all in a Fire Protection District and all (except for Saguache and South Fork) are a great distance from a fire station.

**Box 6 - Relation to Forest Action Plan | CWPP** - Clearly describe how the project fits into the specific goals of the FAP; the national goals of Enhancing, Protecting and or Conserving; and specific CWPP goals and objectives. It is important to describe how the project meets the goals of these planning documents. Do not provide page number references; describe how the project relates to both documents. [See FAP here](#). **1700 characters**

This project will address the three main National Themes (Conserve, Protect, Enhance), which in conjunction with place-based threats to Colorado's forest resources, provide the framework of the CO Forest Action Plan (FAP).

FAP STRATEGIES/TACTICS identify the need to:

- Focus forest management activities to reduce impacts of wildfire, forest insects and diseases.
- Coordinate forest management implementation among all parties affected by CWPPs.
- Encourage creation of fire-adapted communities through implementation of forest management to increase forest resiliency.
- Advocate landscape approaches to protect communities.
- Reduce the risk of and impacts from catastrophic events, and the threats to forest health and productivity in urban forests.
- Inform WUI residents to help them understand the importance of and need to protect critical infrastructure from wildfire.
- Encourage and support innovative programs for implementing forest health and fuels mitigation programs on private lands.
- Encourage broader use of Colorado's Are You Firewise? Program and Community Wildfire Protection Plans to help restore and conserve functioning ecosystems, and to meet social and economic objectives.

This program also meets Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program goals:

- Encourage ecological, economic & social sustainability.
- Leverage local resources with national & private resources.

Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (COWRAP) will be used to analyze areas in the CWPP and help prioritize treatments. Communities ranking high to extreme will receive preference for treatments.

**Box 7 – Proposed Activities** - Clearly explain exactly how the grant dollars will be spent on this project and outline what will be accomplished. Use measurable units where applicable. Specify the location of the project, how many communities, the names of the communities, total acreage, and identify how many people will be directly and indirectly impacted. Describe treatment methodology, vegetation type, and who will be doing the project work. **3800 characters**

Project activities will focus on planning, through the creation of new or improved CWPPs, homeowner education and outreach, and hazard fuel treatment on private land and around critical reservoirs. Good Neighbor Authority will be used to treat access across public lands and adjacent public lands for efficient and effective treatment prioritization.

**PLANNING AND EDUCATION** - RWEACT staff, in coordination with partners, will create a CWPP that includes 13 or more communities that are adjacent to National Forest land and are not adequately protected. RWEACT will hold 10-15 public meetings with approximately 15-20 attendees per meeting.

#### **TREATMENTS**

- RWEACT will assist homeowners with contractor selection to treat 120 acres in the 13 communities and fuel-breaks at two reservoirs (Santa Maria and Rio Grande), all with 1:1 landowner match.
- CSFS Alamosa District staff to periodically inspect projects.

#### **PRESCRIPTION DETAILS**

- Defensible space and fuel breaks will follow CSFS guidance. Slash and small diameter trees will be chipped and removed.
- At the Santa Maria Reservoir, contractors will create a fuel-break on the adjacent slopes to make a buffer from wildfire and reduce the potential for sedimentation. This will be accomplished on 60 acres. This will increase wildfire safety, create a corridor for equipment and personnel, and protect a high-value water storage facility.
- At the Rio Grande Reservoir, treatments on seven acres will protect the dam and four utility buildings in the area to increase safety and protect a high-value water storage facility that is owned by the San Luis Valley Irrigation District. This infrastructure has multi-state impacts as it relates to the Rio Grande Compact. This site was evacuated during the West Fork Complex fire.
- Roads will be evaluated for access and egress by residents and fire-fighting crews whether on private or public land. If needed, treatments will occur along these roads.

Vegetation types are predominately upper montane ponderosa pine (PP) forest and mixed conifer (MC)/Douglas-fir (DF) with Engelmann spruce (ES) in higher elevations on northern aspects. Forests are mostly overstocked with significant ladder fuels within fire-excluded landscapes, with extensive spruce-beetle kill.

Prescriptions focus on managing and retaining mixed conifer stands at densities that are more resistant to catastrophic fire. Where appropriate, the project will also restore resilience to the forest on a landscape level through thinning to create heterogeneity through age class, species, and spatial diversity. When encountered, aspen will be favored for retention and enhancement by removing understory shade-tolerant conifer species and also removing any overstory conifers which are encroaching. This type of management significantly reduces mixed conifer stand densities, increases openings, decreases horizontal and vertical fuel continuity and arrangement and addresses ladder fuels and crown spacing.

Canopies are raised by thinning understory and tree removal, overstory thinning, and pruning residual trees which result in a more resilient and sustainable stand condition and characteristics. Post-treatment basal areas range from 20 to 80 sq. ft/acre and contribute to the sustainability of ecosystem services. Treatments combine thinning, variable-size clear cuts (micro to large), and groups of trees.

Slash management will involve mastication (<4"), chipping (< 4"), and/or where appropriate, lop and scatter (< 18"). Forest products will be utilized wherever possible. Fuel-breaks will be installed in accordance with CSFS standards ("Fuel-breaks for Forested Subdivisions" publication). The project may necessitate use of both hand crews and mechanized equipment.

**Box 8: Landscape** - Describe the landscape this project influences. Show how the project has or will have impact outside the immediate project area. For example, a project in a community may compliment a USFS project to create a fuel break around your community defensible space project. Give specifics on how this project will tie into the larger picture of community protection or education. For information/education and/or planning projects, explain how your project compliments or enhances those by other agencies or groups and/or ties into a greater goal. Explain the who, what, when, where, why and how of its anticipated impacts. Note, be specific when naming USFS, private, or other related projects. Include information on the broader acreage, number of communities, or other CWPPs that this project will connect with. Think global (watershed) not local (subdivision). **1700 characters**

There is a complicated pattern of ownership in the mountain communities of the Upper Rio Grande Basin. The identified subdivisions, collectively, represent 220 acres that have 620 structures. The CSFS and US Forest Service have implemented fuel treatments in many of these communities; this project will fill treatment gaps. Beyond the actual neighborhoods undergoing treatment, the work will protect, positively impact and improve forest health for population centers and WUI neighborhoods, in Mineral, Hinsdale, Rio Grande, Conejos, Saguache, and Alamosa counties. The population of the San Luis Valley is 44,000, all of whom will be positively affected by treatments around private homes and around the reservoirs.

The mitigation projects on private property will reduce the chances of cross-boundary fire and the spread of fire from one community to the next. Further, work by private landowners to mitigate fire risk will be magnified as managers of adjacent public lands complete complementary treatments. These complementary efforts will provide a blanket, rather than a patchwork, of protection.

**Box 9 - Project Collaboration** - Describe the contributions each partner will make to the project by stating the collaborating partners name and what the specific activities they will be contributing to the project such as labor, equipment, matching funds, etc. This should include the partners listed in Box 3/Budget Template (matching share). The partner list needs to state what they are contributing – the

specific activity AND the dollar values of the activity. All items listed as match in this section MUST equal the match listed in the budget grid (Box 3/attached Budget Template). **1700 characters**

CSFS will provide project management throughout the life of the project including personnel, technical assistance, inspection of practices, contracting assistance, project implementation and/or oversight.

Match=\$55,000

RWEACT, whose mission is to promote partnerships and actions that provide for public safety and resiliency of communities and watersheds of the Rio Grande Basin in Colorado, is the primary agency for this project. RWEACT will provide match for project management and coordinate the efforts of all cooperating agencies and property owners, as well as organize and facilitate the public meetings, provide communication/notification, maintain records and generate reports in conjunction with CWPP coordinators in each County. Cash Match \$60,250 In-kind \$60,250.

Homeowners, communities, reservoir owners and respective managers will provide 1:1 cash match as well as in-kind volunteer labor to conduct mitigation treatments at their sites with assistance from RWEACT staff as needed. Cash Match \$60,250 In-kind \$60,250.

USFS, local fire protection districts (FPDs), emergency managers, land use offices, and other affected parties will be invited to participate in the development of the CWPP and provide in-kind match. Local FPDs will provide community outreach and CWPP review (In-Kind \$2,000). Emergency managers will review the CWPP for county relevance and FEMA applicability (In-Kind \$1,000). Land use offices will review the subdivisions included and provide input on potential areas of development to include (In-Kind \$1,000).

**Box 10 - Project Timeline** – Provide a concise timeline for the significant activities, broken down by year, included in *the Proposed Activities* section including: begin/end dates, milestones, annual accomplishments, deliverables (e.g. number of homes with defensible space completed per year, number of community meetings held with # of attendees at each), and who is responsible for each activity.

#### **Year 1 (2018-2019)**

- Contact landowners/HOAs and reservoir managers: Months 1-2
- Plan communication outreach, including identification of deliverables: Months 1-2
- Hold initial public education meetings: Months 1–12
- Begin competitive bid process for projects involving contractors: Months 1-3
- Hire contractors and initiate treatment work: Months 3-9
- Conduct risk evaluations: Months 3-6
- Hold secondary meetings to develop CWPPs: Months 3-12
- Finalize CWPP: Months 3 -12
- Lay out projects where CWPPs are complete: Months 6 -12
- Implement treatments with homeowners and contractors: Months 6 – 12

Year 1 Goals: Initial public meetings conducted in all 13 communities, complete treatments at 2 sites at Rio Grande and Santa Maria Reservoirs, finalize CWPPs for 6 communities, initiate treatments by volunteers and contractors have begun, 10 acres complete.

## **Year 2 (2019 -2020)**

- All CWPPs are finalized: Months 1 -3
- Plan and lay out treatment projects for Year 2: Months 1 -6
- Contracting – competitive bid process, hire contractors: Months 3 -9
- All contractor and volunteer homeowner work complete: Months 7 – 9

Year 2 Goals: All CWPPs complete, 45 acres treated.

## **Year 3 (2020 -2021)**

- Contracting – competitive bid process, hire contractors: Months 1 -4
- All project layouts for Year 3 completed: Months 1 -6
- Project implementation by contractors/volunteer homeowners (weather dependent): Months 4 -10
- All work complete: Months 8 -10
- Final paperwork processing: Months 10 -12
- Final report complete: Month 12

Year 3 Goals: 65 acres treated, all CWP's are finalized, all community education and outreach implemented, contracts completed, all paperwork and final report completed.

**Box 11 - Project Sustainability** - Clearly describe the who, what, when, where and why of how this project will remain effective and be sustained over time for each of the four elements below. When answering, be concise and provide only relevant details.

**1 - Environmental Factors (vegetation regrowth):** describe the maintenance requirements unique to this project based on site characteristics i.e., present and future vegetation occupying the site, growth rates, natural fire return intervals or any other environmental factor that affects the continued maintenance of this project

**2 - Education (programs and methods):** describe how landowners have been trained and educated to **maintain the project** and explain their understanding of the needs and expectations for the project's maintenance. If this is an information/education project, make sure to explain how it will be delivered, the audience you are targeting, and specific deliverables.

**3 - Commitment:** describe the commitment by the individual/community to maintain this project into the future, i.e. state laws, CWPP maintenance, signed landowner agreements or other documents or agreements that hold the sub-grantee accountable for project maintenance over time. If this is an information/education project, make sure you explain the commitment to carry this program forward and update as necessary.

**4 - Monitoring:** describe who will be responsible for monitoring the project, what qualifications they have if they are not obvious (i.e. State Forestry personnel, Fire Safe Council member, Fire Department personnel, etc.), and at what intervals they will be checking (i.e. yearly, quarterly, etc.); clearly describe timelines, and milestones.

Environment - Aspen stands will require minimal upkeep once conifers are removed. Mixed conifer will require upkeep every 5-10 years depending on site moisture. Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine regeneration will need to be thinned from 10-20 years after treatment.

Education - Project sustainability will be assured through homeowner education and ongoing maintenance and monitoring. Homeowners will receive information regarding risks and how to maintain fuels within a defensible space of all structures they own. This will be accomplished through a variety of



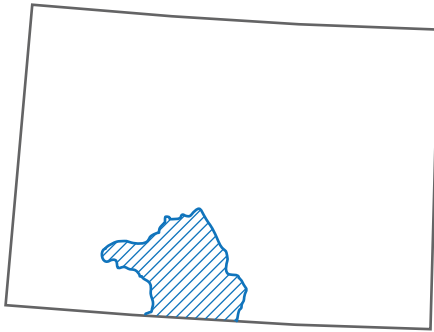
methods including face-to-face communications, presentations, media article generation, and the use of social media outlets.

Communities receiving money will be required to participate in a Firewise educational workshop conducted by CSFS. RWEACT and CSFS, together with local CWPP Coordinators and OEM staff, will provide educational outreach via workshops and presentations that will include: forest management, fuels mitigation, project maintenance, wood utilization, and insect and disease control. All homeowners will be required to attend.

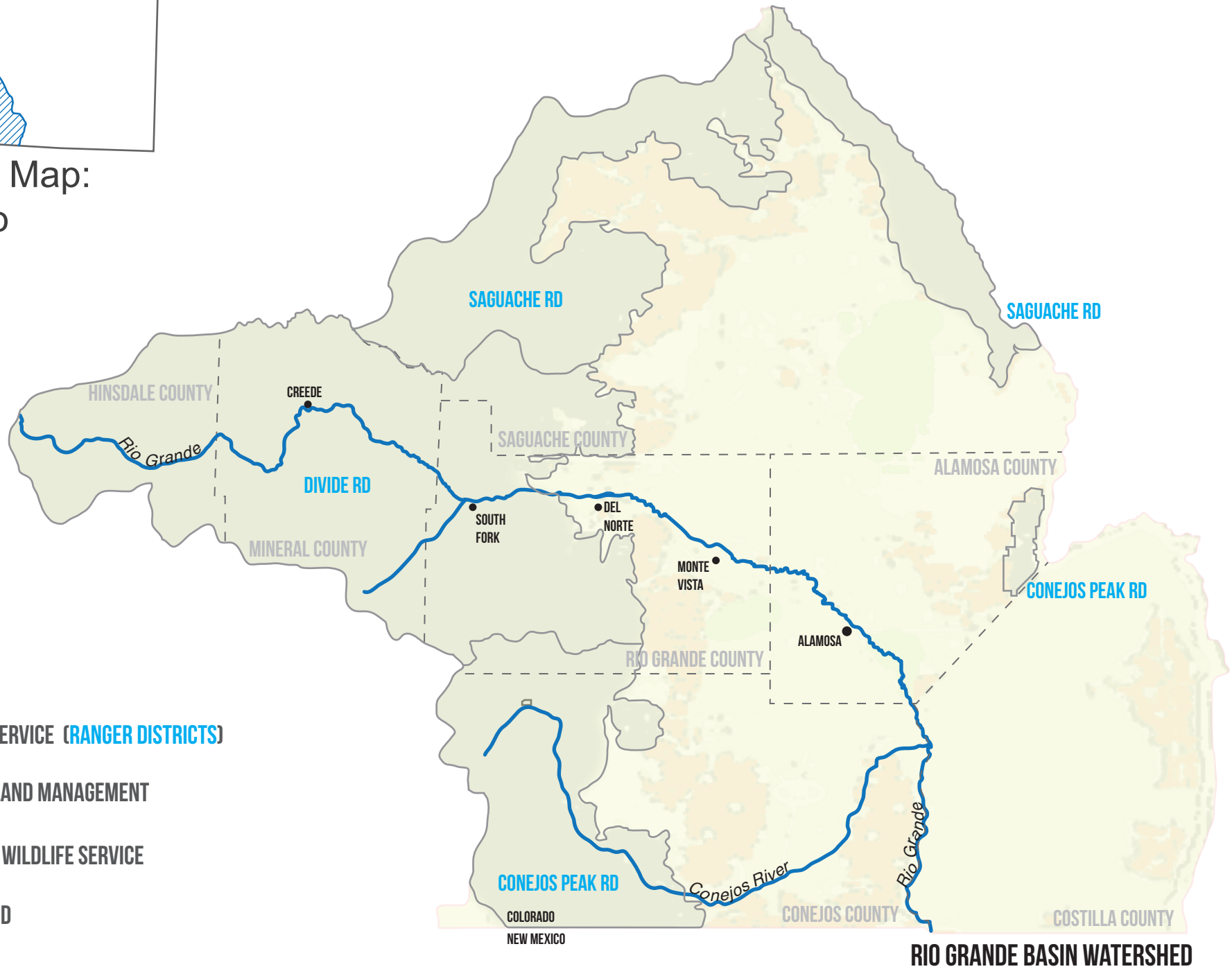
Commitment - Project participants will be required to create a vegetation management agreement to describe how the project will meet best management practices. The agreement will increase awareness and understanding of how CSFS Best Management Practices are employed to reduce erosion; the benefit of protecting forest regeneration; USFS minimum maintenance guidelines; and that fuels will be maintained in a Firewise manner per CSFS defensible space guidelines.

Monitoring - Reservoir owners will be required to maintain projects for 10 years. CSFS personnel will monitor the projects and conduct site inspections before, during and after the work is completed and annually thereafter.

# Project Area: Upper Rio Grande Basin CWPP and Treatment Project



Location Map:  
Colorado



## KEY

- US FOREST SERVICE (RANGER DISTRICTS)
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
- PRIVATE LAND

## SFA WUI Budget Template for Applications - FY 2018

Project Title: Upper Rio Grande-RWEACT

Project Contact: Kristine Borchers, RWEACT, 970-596-9071

	Grant	Match		TOTAL	
	Funds Requested	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	Total Project Cost	Notes
Personnel/Labor	\$ 31,746	\$ 45,558		\$ 77,304	CSFS admin costs/match
Fringe Benefit	\$ 8,762	\$ 9,442			CSFS admin costs/match
Travel	\$ 3,143	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,143	CSFS vehicle costs
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Supplies					
Contractual	\$ 245,000	\$ -	\$ 245,000	\$ 490,000	RWEACT expenses/match
Other		\$ -		\$ -	
Indirect Costs	\$ 11,349			\$ 11,349	CSFS costs
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 300,000</b>	<b>\$ 55,000</b>	<b>\$ 245,000</b>	<b>\$ 600,000</b>	



To: RWEACT Board  
Fr: Kristine Borchers  
Da: August 25, 2017  
Re: Grants Path Update (refer to complete Grants Path previously distributed)

- 1) Miller Coors – we need to determine next application opportunity (Heather visited with them?)
- 2) SLV CCI – submitted; received; project being implemented
- 3) Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund (due April 30<sup>th</sup>)
- 4) Colorado Watershed Restoration Fund (due November 20, 2017)
- 5) Temper Fund (due December 15<sup>th</sup>)
- 6) National Forest Foundation (Borchers attended webinar; money up front required)
- 7) Wood Innovation grant (RWEACT partner with Wood Source Fuels who submitted / received grant; meeting to be held August 31<sup>st</sup>)
- 8) Captain Planet Foundation (due January 17<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>)
- 9) US Endowment (due February 2017)
- 10) REDI grant (due May 31<sup>st</sup>; requires local government partner; discussions occurred)
- 11) Anschutz Family Foundation (letter of intent due August 1<sup>st</sup>)
- 12) GOCO Youth Corps (due September 1, 2017)
- 13) El Pomar – need more information about regional options

Additional efforts

- 14) CSFS preproposal approved and final submitted August 24, 2017 (final included in packet); we will receive a packet of applications received September 18, 2017)
- 15) RCPP preproposal submitted and not approved (June 2017)
- 16) RAC (Resource Advisory Council); Borchers met with Commissioner Anderson / Ranger Post to review priorities; three Hinsdale County applications were submitted (none were funded)
- 17) Summitville Natural Resources Damages projects (registration due August 4; need to further review and see if opportunities for RWEACT exist)
- 18) Colorado Water Plan projects (due October 1<sup>st</sup>)

## **Financial Record-Keeping & Protocol**

RWEACT

August 2017

1. Each grant will be covered by a Contract or an Agreement. Existing grants will continue to follow best practices as established. Board will approve grant applications, projects (Scope of Work), and associated budgets.
1. The Board reserves the right to negotiate a percentage as a fiscal agent.
2. Project leaders will implement Tasks Identified in SOW / according to Budget
3. When appropriate, bids will be solicited for purchases according to contracts or agreements.
4. Each check requires written invoices / documentation. Program manager will prepare checks. Checks must be double-signed by Directors (President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer) and by Program Manager (with written approval from Executive Committee). Expenditures will be within SOW and budget per task. Deviations require Board approval.
5. Upon secured grants with RWEACT as the fiscal agent, the Board may opt to work with a bookkeeper.
6. Financial reports will be developed and provided/presented to the RWEACT board. Monthly reports will include checks written. Quarterly reports will include Profit & Loss to Budget and Balance Sheets.
7. Financial records will be kept in accordance with contract specifications.

**Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 16-0797.01 Thomas Morris x4218

**HOUSE BILL 16-1255**

---

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Coram and Vigil,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

---

**House Committees**

Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources

**Senate Committees**

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING ADDITIONAL METHODS TO MANAGE FORESTS TO SECURE**  
102      **FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR WATER SUPPLY.**

---

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

**Section 1** of the bill directs the Colorado state forest service to conduct, or contract with one or more entities to conduct, demonstration pilot projects that utilize Colorado's good neighbor authority with the United States forest service to implement forest management treatments that improve forest health and resilience and supply forest products to Colorado businesses and that target a Colorado watershed. Of the \$1

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

million that is currently annually allocated to the state forest service for community watershed restoration, the bill allocates at least \$200,000 to implement the pilot projects. Section 1 also directs the state forest service, in conjunction with the Colorado water conservation board, to conduct, or contract with one or more entities to conduct, a study to quantify and document the relationship between the state water plan and the importance of forest management in protecting and managing Colorado's water resources. The report containing the results of the study must be submitted to the general assembly's committees with jurisdiction over natural resources by January 1, 2017.

**Section 2** creates within the state forest service the forest health advisory council to provide a collaborative forum to advise the state forester on a broad range of issues, opportunities, and threats with regard to Colorado's forests. The council will be appointed by the governor and legislative leadership and is subject to sunset review in 2021 (**section 3**).

---

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-313, **amend** (6) (b) (I) and (9); and **add** (6) (a) (IV) as follows:

**23-31-313. Healthy forests - vibrant communities - funds created - repeal. (6) Community watershed restoration.** (a) In order to support communities and land managers in moving from risk reduction to long-term ecological restoration so that the underlying condition of Colorado's forests supports a variety of values, particularly public water supply and high-quality wildlife habitat, the forest service shall:

(IV) CONDUCT, OR CONTRACT WITH ONE OR MORE ENTITIES TO CONDUCT, ONE OR MORE DEMONSTRATION PILOT PROJECTS THAT UTILIZE COLORADO'S GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY WITH THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE TO IMPLEMENT FOREST MANAGEMENT TREATMENTS THAT IMPROVE FOREST HEALTH AND RESILIENCE AND SUPPLY FOREST PRODUCTS TO COLORADO BUSINESSES. IN OVERSEEING A PILOT PROJECT, THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL:

(A) USE A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH;

1           (B) LEVERAGE STATE RESOURCES TO ACCOMPLISH WORK ACROSS  
2 LAND OWNERSHIP BOUNDARIES IN ORDER TO TREAT MORE ACRES AT  
3 REDUCED COST;

4           (C) TARGET A COLORADO WATERSHED TO IMPLEMENT FOREST  
5 MANAGEMENT TREATMENTS THAT WILL PROTECT AND ENHANCE FOREST  
6 RESILIENCE, REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE,  
7 SALVAGE INSECT- AND DISEASE-IMPACTED TREES, AND PROVIDE FOREST  
8 PRODUCTS FOR BUSINESSES IN COLORADO; AND

9           (D) CONSIDER LOCATIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN SUBJECT TO  
10 REVIEW UNDER THE FEDERAL "NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT  
11 OF 1969", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 4321 ET SEQ., INCLUDING THE ALPINE PLATEAU  
12 IN GUNNISON COUNTY AND AREAS IN THE GRAND MESA, UNCOMPAHGRE,  
13 AND GUNNISON NATIONAL FORESTS THAT ARE SUBJECT TO THE SPRUCE  
14 BEETLE EPIDEMIC AND ASPEN DECLINE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
15 STATEMENT.

16           (b) (I) The forest service may use up to one million dollars  
17 annually until July 1, 2017, from the forest restoration program cash fund  
18 created in section 23-31-310 (8.5) for the purpose of complying with this  
19 subsection (6), OF WHICH AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS  
20 SHALL BE USED TO IMPLEMENT SUBPARAGRAPH (IV) OF PARAGRAPH (a) OF  
21 THIS SUBSECTION (6).

22           (9) **Improved outreach and technical assistance.** In order to  
23 ensure that the forest service has the capacity to deliver key funding and  
24 technical assistance that will be needed to guide and support  
25 implementation of wildfire preparedness, risk mitigation, watershed  
26 restoration, and economic development initiatives in a way that adds  
27 value to these efforts at the state level and across community boundaries,



1 the forest service shall:

2 (a) Secure full-time temporary staff for developing, revising, and  
3 implementing CWPPs; developing and implementing risk mitigation and  
4 watershed restoration plans; strengthening the responsible use of  
5 prescribed fire; and supporting economically beneficial uses of woody  
6 biomass;

7 (b) Secure sufficient GIS capacity to assist with wildfire, insect,  
8 and disease risk assessments, as well as landscape-scale prioritization and  
9 planning; and emphasize making data available to and usable by local  
10 entities and other interested parties, including any electric, gas, and water  
11 utilities in the affected area; ~~and~~

12 (c) Develop a web-based clearinghouse for technical assistance  
13 and funding resources relevant to the initiatives established in this  
14 section; AND

15 (d) (I) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COLORADO WATER  
16 CONSERVATION BOARD, CONDUCT, OR CONTRACT WITH ONE OR MORE  
17 ENTITIES TO CONDUCT, A STUDY TO QUANTIFY AND DOCUMENT THE  
18 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE WATER PLAN ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
19 SECTION 37-60-106 (1) (u), C.R.S., AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FOREST  
20 MANAGEMENT IN PROTECTING AND MANAGING COLORADO'S WATER  
21 RESOURCES. THE COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE AND THE BOARD  
22 SHALL ENGAGE ADDITIONAL EXPERTISE AS THEY DEEM NECESSARY IN  
23 CONDUCTING THE STUDY. THE STUDY MUST INCLUDE A COST-BENEFIT  
24 ANALYSIS FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT AND WATERSHED PROTECTION AND  
25 MUST INVESTIGATE:

26 (A) THE POTENTIAL COSTS TO AND EFFECTS ON WATERSHEDS,  
27 COMMUNITIES, WATER USERS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IF APPROPRIATE

1 FOREST MANAGEMENT DOES NOT OCCUR AND A FORESTED AREA BURNS;  
2 AND

3 (B) THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF COMPLETING FOREST  
4 MANAGEMENT TREATMENTS.

5 (II) THE BOARD SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT CONTAINING THE  
6 RESULTS OF THE STUDY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S COMMITTEES WITH  
7 JURISDICTION OVER NATURAL RESOURCES BY JANUARY 1, 2017.

8 (III) THIS PARAGRAPH (d) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,  
9 2018.

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-31-316 as  
11 follows:

12 **23-31-316. Forest health advisory council - repeal.** (1) THERE  
13 IS HEREBY CREATED WITHIN THE COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE THE  
14 FOREST HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL TO PROVIDE A COLLABORATIVE  
15 FORUM TO ADVISE THE STATE FORESTER ON A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES,  
16 OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS WITH REGARD TO COLORADO'S FORESTS.  
17 THE COUNCIL CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING TWENTY-FOUR MEMBERS:

18 (a) EIGHT MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AS FOLLOWS:

19 (I) THE STATE FORESTER, WHO IS THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL;

20 (II) A SENIOR-LEVEL EXECUTIVE BRANCH POLICY ADVISOR ON  
21 WATER OR NATURAL RESOURCES;

22 (III) TWO MEMBERS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY OR ASSOCIATED WITH  
23 AN ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION;

24 (IV) TWO MEMBERS WHO OWN OR ARE EMPLOYED BY A WOOD  
25 PRODUCTS BUSINESS;

26 (V) ONE MEMBER WHO IS EMPLOYED BY OR ASSOCIATED WITH A  
27 WILDLIFE ORGANIZATION; AND

1           (VI) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A SCIENTIST OR IS EMPLOYED IN A  
2     SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH POSITION;  
3           (b) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
4     REPRESENTATIVES AS FOLLOWS:  
5           (I) TWO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; AND  
6           (II) TWO MEMBERS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY A PUBLIC UTILITY  
7     THAT OWNS OR OPERATES TRANSMISSION FACILITIES;  
8           (c) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE  
9     HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AS FOLLOWS:  
10          (I) ONE MEMBER WHO OWNS A RANCH;  
11          (II) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A FIRE CHIEF;  
12          (III) ONE MEMBER WHO IS AN ENROLLED MEMBER OF A TRIBE THAT  
13     HAS A RESERVATION WITHIN COLORADO; AND  
14          (IV) ONE MEMBER WHO IS EMPLOYED BY AN INSURANCE  
15     COMPANY;  
16          (d) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE  
17     AS FOLLOWS:  
18          (I) TWO MEMBERS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY A MUNICIPAL DRINKING  
19     WATER SUPPLIER;  
20          (II) ONE MEMBER WHO IS EMPLOYED BY AN IRRIGATION WATER  
21     SUPPLIER; AND  
22          (III) ONE MEMBER WHO IS EMPLOYED BY OR ASSOCIATED WITH A  
23     CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION;  
24          (e) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE  
25     SENATE AS FOLLOWS:  
26          (I) ONE MEMBER WHO IS EMPLOYED BY OR ASSOCIATED WITH AN  
27     ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION;

1 (II) ONE MEMBER WHO IS EMPLOYED BY OR ASSOCIATED WITH A  
2 SPORTSMAN ORGANIZATION; AND

3 (III) TWO MEMBERS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY OR ASSOCIATED WITH  
4 RECREATION ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS, OF WHICH ONE ORGANIZATION  
5 MUST ADVOCATE FOR MOTORIZED RECREATION AND ONE ORGANIZATION  
6 MUST ADVOCATE FOR NONMOTORIZED RECREATION.

7 (2) THE TERM OF EACH COUNCIL MEMBER IS FIVE YEARS; EXCEPT  
8 THAT:

9 (a) ON AND AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, THE TERM OF EACH  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER IS FOUR YEARS; AND

11 (b) THE INITIAL TERMS OF HALF OF THE MEMBERS SPECIFIED IN  
12 PARAGRAPHS (b), (c), (d), AND (e) OF SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION  
13 ARE TWO YEARS, AS SPECIFIED BY THE CORRESPONDING APPOINTING  
14 AUTHORITY.

15 (3) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021.  
16 BEFORE ITS REPEAL, THIS SECTION IS SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW IN  
17 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2-3-1203, C.R.S.

18 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-1203, **add** (3)  
19 (hh.5) (II) as follows:

20 **2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees.** (3) The  
21 following dates are the dates on which the statutory authorization for the  
22 designated advisory committee is scheduled for repeal:

23 (hh.5) September 1, 2021:

24 (II) THE FOREST HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL CREATED IN SECTION  
25 23-31-316, C.R.S.;

26 **SECTION 4. Applicability.** This act applies to conduct occurring  
27 on or after the effective date of this act.

1           **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
2       determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
3       preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.