

**Collaborative Forest Restoration Program**

# **2008 Annual Workshop**

**January 22 – 24, 2008**

**USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region  
U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution  
Meridian Institute**

**March 4, 2008**

# Collaborative Forest Restoration Program 2008 Annual Workshop

## Introduction

The Community Forest Restoration Act of 2000 (Title VI, Public Law 106-393) authorized the establishment of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP). Now in its eighth year of implementation, the CFRP seeks to promote healthy watersheds and reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires, insect infestation, and disease in forests throughout New Mexico. The Program is administered by the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service), Southwestern Regional Office and provides cost-share grants to collaborative groups working on forest restoration projects on public lands. Detailed information regarding the CFRP, including extensive program documentation, is available from the CFRP website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/cfrp/>.

The CFRP convenes an annual workshop of grant recipients to discuss the program and projects funded through the program. The annual workshops are a signature event for the CFRP, offering a unique opportunity for sharing and exchange among project participants, for synthesis of program lessons, and for resolving issues both programmatic and administrative.

This year's annual meeting was held from January 22 to 24, 2008 in Santa Fe, with 169 participants representing the broad range of program constituencies: the Forest Service and other federal agencies, state and local governments, NGOs, Tribes, universities, businesses, and other interested citizens. Focus of discussion on the third day, and a recurring theme throughout the conference, was discussion of opportunities for landscape scale ecosystem restoration. The report below offers a record of the three days of discussions. Issues brought up during the conference evaluation are summarized in Appendix I. The conference agenda is provided in Appendix II. The participant list is provided in Appendix III.

## Tuesday, January 22, 2008

### **Keynote Speaker – Corbin Newman, USDA Forest Service, Regional Forester**

Corbin Newman replaced Harv Forsgren as Regional Forester for Southwest Region 3 in October 2007. Mr. Newman has been with the Forest Service for 25 years, including assignments in Colorado, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Washington, D.C. Until his appointment as Regional Forester, he served as National Director of Forest Management.

Through his work, he has learned about New Mexico people's values, feelings and positions about what should happen with their forests. These forests are experiencing many challenges, including a changing climate and emerging new uses. Mr. Newman looks forward to working with everyone involved in the CFRP program and bringing his experience at all levels of the agency to bear in his new position.

He thanked everyone for welcoming him and expressed his desire to learn about all the challenges participants face and the exciting work they are doing. He plans to travel through the

region and find out first-hand what activities are taking place, what is working, and what the Forest Service can do to help.

## **CFRP Overview, Program Highlights, Updates & Accomplishments**

*Walter Dunn, USDA Forest Service*

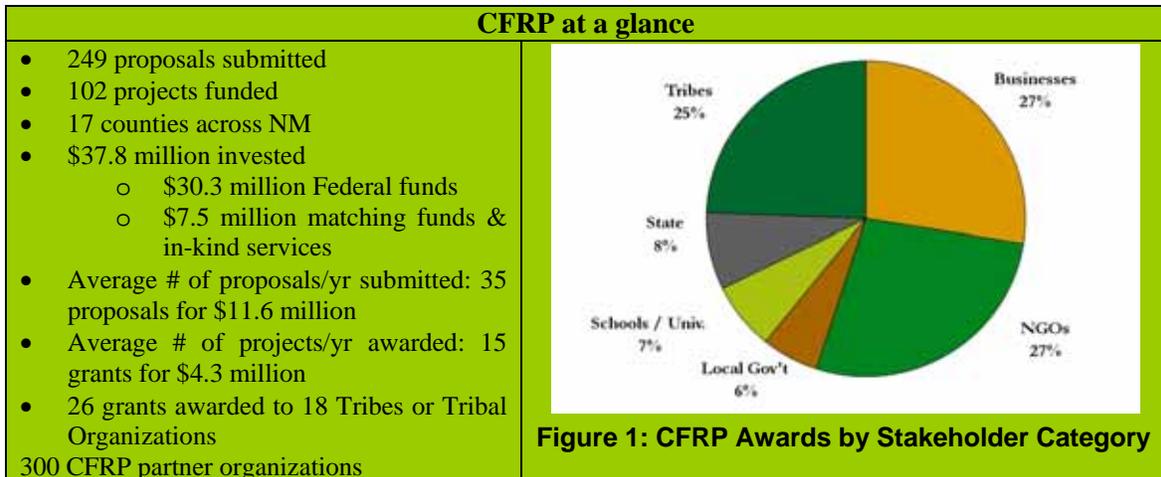
Walter Dunn provided the following overview and update on the CFRP program. The CFRP program has come a long way since it started. CFRP continues to build on its initial successes and challenges of building awareness of the program and confidence in the process, building trust and establishing partnerships, and challenging institutional barriers.

CFRP is placing continued emphasis on program improvement, for instance through Field Program Reviews that are highlighting lessons learned and addressing implementation challenges, and by better aligning program direction with land management policy and needs (e.g., aligning NEPA requirements, reporting requirements, etc.).

Multi-party monitoring is a unique aspect of the program. Enough projects have now been completed and assessment reports are coming in. CFRP is trying to use these reports to learn programmatically. This summer, CFRP is conducting the second Technical Advisory Panel Multiparty Monitoring Review meeting to look across reports to see what they tell CFRP about ecological and socio economic effects of the individual projects as well as the program. CFRP is also developing long-term indicators to measure impact.

The program is highly successful. Indicators of the CFRP program's success include:

- Continued increase in grant proposal quality as a result of grant writing tools and workshops.
- Replication of the program's approach. Colorado is now starting a Community Forest Restoration grant program that was created in 2007 by the CO State Legislature (\$1M, 46 applicants, 12 funded projects).
- Diversity of projects. Project range from recycling to forest restoration, riparian restoration, etc.
- National recognition of the program. The 2007 Forest Service Chiefs Review of the Southwestern Region stated: *"The CFRP holds out hope. It shows that small-scale community-based projects are key to capacity building, setting the stage for large-scale restoration. The program offers a glimpse of the future nationwide. The lessons learned are invaluable for the Forest Service."*



The total projected acreage treated under the CFRP program is approximately 20,600 (approximately 13,500 completed to date).

The program has had significant social and economic impacts, including:

- Increasing focus on youth
  - Inclusion of youth in multiparty monitoring efforts
  - Ruidoso Schools Natural Resources Outdoor Learning Center (CFRP 13-07)
- New and innovative partnerships
  - Inter-tribal collaborative efforts
  - Cross jurisdictional projects (e.g., Santa Cruz and Embudo Creek Watershed Project, CFRP 16-07)
- Identification and filling of “niche” needs, e.g. Bosque Riparian Nursery (CFRP 07-07)
- Supporting development of Management Plans, e.g., Santa Fe Watershed Management Plan (CFRP 27-07)

Mr. Dunn mentioned that important reasons for CFRP’s success are the fundamental elements of: requiring collaboration by a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders, and using a consensus-based approach to decision-making by the multi-stakeholder Technical Advisory Panel.

As every evolving and growing program, CFRP faces a number of challenges and opportunities. For the coming years, these include:

- Outreach to (new) prospective applicants, for instance Land Grants, which can now receive grants directly.
- Defining and encouraging sustainability, in particular economic sustainability.
- Developing a strategy for 15 year monitoring of ecological effects.
- Encouraging cross-jurisdictional projects that act as a catalyst to facilitate landscape scale treatments in priority watersheds.

Mr. Dunn concluded his overview by thanking all grantees for the diversity of ideas they have brought to the program and for the opportunity to work together.

## **New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute Updates & Highlights**

*Dr. Ken Smith, Director of NMFWRI*

Ken Smith provided an update on the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute (NMFWRI). The Institute started just over a year ago with two staff. They have now added a number of very capable staff – foresters, GIS experts, and administrative assistant – and involve students from Highlands University as much as possible. In addition, the Institute is working with a number of contractors that provide specialized services to the Institute and to collaborators.

NMFWRI is working closely with CFRP. In May 2007, the Institute took over the multi-party monitoring technical assistance program. Tori Derr and Eytan Krasilovsky are continuing to provide technical assistance to CFRP grantees and multi-party monitoring teams. In addition, the NMFWRI has developed the CFRP Short Guide, which is an excellent tool for developing multi-partner monitoring and planning and including community members in the project. Dr. Smith mentioned the importance of integrating requests for data and the use of techniques not in the handbook in multi-party monitoring programs.

NMFWRI has developed an interactive map of CFRP project locations and descriptions (available at: <http://www.forestguild.org/CFRP/CFRP.html>), and a number of other relevant publications (Short Guide for Developing CFRP Restoration Prescriptions, Social and Economic Issues in Landscape Scale Restoration, and Wildlife Monitoring for the CFRP). These and other tools are freely available at: <http://www.nmhu.edu/nmfwri/>.

The Institute's field crew has brought students into the field to practice field skills, GIS, mapping, etc. The Institute has a Field Monitoring Team, which can help grantees integrate multi-party monitoring in their projects. These teams can support individual CFRP projects. They can collect inventory data and work with CFRP partners to synthesize field data for multi-party monitoring plans.

The Institute is looking into integrating CFRP monitoring projects with the larger monitoring community. The Institute has started to explore this with the State Office of Forest and Watershed Health. They will work together with Federal and State Agencies to create a clearinghouse of New Mexico's watershed information. Another important element is integrating CFRP projects with other projects in the same area. For instance, the Institute could help grantees develop maps to show interactions and help prioritize where funds will be spent.

Future issues the Institute will be considering include:

- Regional monitoring centers
- Regional monitoring panels
- Regional trainings/safety program
- Incorporating techniques and data requests outside of the monitoring handbook
- 15 year monitoring of ecological effects (what variables and what projects will we use?)

The Institute is doing important work on forest restoration and should be seen as a resource for CFRP grantees in developing approaches to restoration. What does "restoration" mean? From an ecological point of view, this could mean:

- Historical fire regimes and intensities

- Tree densities and spatial arrangements
- Understory diversity and biomass
- Understanding differences between ponderosa, PJ, and mixed conifer/aspens
- Making our forests more resilient

There is also an educational component to restoration. Are we preparing the next generation to meet the challenges ahead?

And, finally, there are economic aspects of restoration, which include work force issues, transport costs, adding value, processing, equipment purchases and maintenance, and marketing.

## **Lessons Learned on Multi-Party Assessment and Monitoring** ***Dave Morgan, La Calandria Associates***

Dave Morgan told the story of lessons he and his collaborators have learned about multi-party assessment and monitoring based on his experiences with projects aimed at bosque restoration on Ohkay Owingeh and Tesuque Pueblo lands along the Rio Grande and Rio Tesuque. Objectives of the projects included removing fire-prone non-native trees in the bosque and replant native vegetation to restoring pre-disturbance ecosystem function, species compositions, and forest structure.

The projects began with EPA funding, but the CFRP grants were truly catalytic because it allowed the project participants to take a longer view, expand the number of acres that could be treated, and increase the number of partners and entities involved in the work (including: Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, City of Espanola).

Mr. Morgan's involvement started in 1997 with monitoring. In 1999 they started removing Russian Olive trees and restoring wetlands. Although they had good intentions to monitor from the start, this was put on the back burner due to the pressure to implement the restoration work. Through the CFRP program, they were fortunate to work with Dr. Melissa Savage of the Four Corners Institute who helped them think through their approaches to monitoring and assessment. Getting more partners involved in the monitoring program expanded their horizons; partners raised many aspects of monitoring the impact of the restoration work – different programs and agencies had different questions.

The challenge then became to develop a monitoring protocol that looked broadly at what was happening in the bosque and whether the projects were meeting their targets. Ultimately, the project participants wanted to know how good of a restoration job they were doing. In order to answer that question, they really needed a reference site to determine what the project site was supposed to look like.

Unfortunately, there were no reference sites. Everywhere along the Rio Grande has been affected by many centuries of human use (i.e., grazing, introduced plants, flood control work, etc.). They tried to come as close as possible by:

- Talking to lots of people to get the historical perspective
- Looking for documentation about how the river worked and native vegetation and wildlife communities)
- Looking at historical records, including old photos.

- Looking for sampling data (National Heritage Program had done some sampling and created plant lists)

This information helped create an idea of the reference site on which they based their restoration goals. The goals could not be very quantitative for lack of reference data, but the project participants developed a qualitative set of restoration goals (e.g., remove invasive non-native plants). Along the way the project team had to think about whether their 250 acre project was enough to be called landscape restoration. Could there be further ranging effects than they anticipated? For instance, would restoring the riparian area improve Willow Flycatcher habitat and have an impact on the population of Willow Flycatchers?

In order to measure for something like this, the project's monitoring had to become more sophisticated. That raised the further interesting question of how do we make these systems more sustainable? They found that a key piece was still missing: although they saved pieces of the bosque, the river was still below the bosque and there was no flooding in the floodplain. If the ecosystem is to persist, it needs this external disturbance to the system. A functioning bosque ecosystem needs this "creative destruction" associated with seasonal flooding.

The project team is now working with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land Management to see if they can allow seasonal flooding by undoing some of the flood control measures and restore river function. This may be possible in an area where there is little housing and development in the riparian areas and where there is a spring runoff in a relatively natural hydrograph.

The project team hopes to have a big enough landscape to experiment with these types of interventions and learn lessons that could be applied in other areas. CFRP has been a real catalyst in pushing this forward and making it possible to think – and experiment – at a landscape scale.

## **Discussion**

*Could you characterize your discussions with the Army Corps of Engineers? How has it evolved over the years?*

The Corps is conducting a general investigation that includes Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo to assess how much of a seasonal flooding disturbance can be re-created. The project conducted a pilot study of implications of undoing the channelization. We created a hydrological model of the river and then look at effect of various prescriptions to determine which options would work best. We found that if you put a pile of rocks near an old channel and cut a hole in the levy, you can recreate the river's meandering and flooding. It is possible with a reasonable amount of expense and effort to restore some historical meandering and disturbance while containing floods. We took these studies to the Corps and they are now studying it.

*Is the sand and gravel operation still going on and is the company willing to restore disturbance they have caused?*

There is still a sand and gravel operation. There used to be more extraction out of the river bed. Perhaps the company could be part of the solution. It is worth pursuing. We need to look at companies as partners in the CFRP, even if they contributed to impacts on ecosystem functioning.

*Is fire critical in a restored bosque?*

I am not sure. It may be that fire was part of a completely naturally functioning bosque. Fire does not seem to be a key source of disturbance for bosque ecosystem functioning. For example, non-native species are a lot more combustible than indigenous species (e.g., Russian Olive) and sprout back vigorously after a fire.

## **Grant Administration for Grantees**

### ***Susan McDonnell, Grants and Agreements, USDA Forest Service***

Susan highlighted various grant administration requirements and related issues that have come up in the course of the program.

- Three components of the Forest Service are involved in each grant:
  - Project Manager (i.e., Forest Coordinator): the technical expert monitors project progress and is the point of contact for grantees.
  - Grants and Agreements Specialist: the person who receives and oversees the contract, and maintains the file. This person is also subject to audits and has to make sure the contract abides by the relevant rules.
  - Financial Manager: payments and other finances are managed by the Albuquerque Service Center (ASC), which makes the rules about invoices and payments.

This can be confusing, but they are here to help grantees get their projects done. Although the CFRP is a unique program, they still have to abide by grant rules that are applied across the Forest Service and that determine administrative requirements.

- Grantees make their offer on a Standard Form 424 (SF424). The form lists the financial components (i.e., your budget line items). The work statement should be attached to the form. The work statement is your offer to the government, which the Technical Advisory Panel reviews.
- If a grant is awarded, the CFRP Coordinator sits down with the grantee to ensure that everything is correct. Once signed, the contract is binding, including budget, timelines, and scope of work. Amendments to the contract have to be signed by the grantee agent (the same person who signed the proposal). If there is a change in grantee agent, the Forest Service needs a letter of designation.
- The Forest Service payment system requires that grantees have a D-U-N-S Number ([http://www.dnb.com/US/duns\\_update/](http://www.dnb.com/US/duns_update/)). Call Dun and Bradstreet to obtain the number. Grantees also need to register in the contractor registration database. This can take some time, and needs to be renewed every year.
- Use form SF270 to request payments. The form goes directly to the ASC. CFRP coordinators approve payment online and make sure progress is according to the grant.

Some issues that have come up recently:

- Advance payment for start up costs (CFRP usually pays on reimbursement basis). If a grantee received an initial advance, they have to provide a memo, invoice, or SF279 to show that the advance was liquidated.
- Payment requests have to show the period of performance. No other payment period can overlap. The grants use finite blocks of performance.
- Equipment title is vested in the grantee. The government does want the equipment used. If it is sitting idle, Forest Service can give the equipment to another grantee so it is used

for its intended purpose. If the government purchased the equipment and the grantee sells it, the grantee owes proceeds to the government if it is over \$5,000. Grantees are allowed to use equipment after the grant period. Forest Service does not allow grantees to sell, not use, or use the equipment for unintended purposes.

- CFRP grants are provided on a cost share basis. Grantees should reconcile their cost share annually or show cost share on every invoice. Also, make sure the cost share component appears in the grant.
- Milestones. CFRP actively tracks milestones written in the grant agreement. If milestones cannot be met, discuss this with your CFRP coordinator and negotiate new milestones so they can monitor the project.

## **Discussion**

*Can Gross Receipts Tax be reimbursed under the grant?*

GRT should be written into the grant budget. That makes it a reimbursable expense. GRT only applies to commercial entities. There has been some confusion in years past, but Forest Service has determined that GRT should be included in the budget.

*GRT applies differently to tribes, non-profit organizations, municipalities, etc. Could CFRP organize a workshop on this topic?*

Government agencies cannot provide tax advice. Talk to your tax advisors for more information.

*Can you talk about indirect expenses, which are only 10% reimbursed?*

If you have indirect expenses that exceed the 10% cap and you can specify them as direct costs, you can include them as direct costs in the project budget. Other indirect costs above the cap can be counted towards your cost share.

## **CFRP 101: 2008 Request for Proposals and Q&A**

*Walter Dunn, CFRP Program Manager*

Walter Dunn went over the requirements of the Request for Proposals to make potential grantees aware of important requirements. The CFRP program wants to fund the best project ideas, so it is important that people express their ideas extremely well and meet all the RFP requirements. The 2008 RFP is available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/cfrp/2008program/>.

People applying for a grant should pay attention to the bolded language in the RFP. These are issues that have caused confusion to others and are important guidelines for successful grant applications.

For 2008, there are two important considerations for grant applications:

- Landscape restoration projects will be a priority.
- If a NEPA assessment has been concluded, the Decision Memo should be included in the appendix.

Key requirements for successful grant applications include the following. Applicants should carefully review the RFP before preparing their proposals.

- Projects should be collaborative efforts among a diverse group of stakeholders. For instance, think about who is on the CFRP Technical Advisory Panel (TAP): federal agencies, tribes, state government, scientists, business and commodity groups, environmental organizations, and local organizations. Each will ask: do the project partners represent my interests. The broader the range of stakeholders, the better off you will be.
- The project has to be on public land. Projects on private land will not be considered. Treatments cannot be on private land, but facilities can be private if a majority of treated wood comes from public land.
- CFRP is a reimbursement program. You can get an advance for start up costs, but only apply for it if you really need it. It is a complex process. You cannot earn interest on federal monies.
- Incorporate current scientific forest restoration information. Use NMFWRI as a resource. They can tell you what current scientific information is. They can also help you design and set up a monitoring protocol.
- Include a multiparty assessment. CFRP has lots of resources to help you develop your multiparty monitoring plan. You can consult with the NMFWRI and review the materials on the website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/cfrp/index.shtml>).
- Create local employment or training opportunities. Think about creating summer youth jobs where appropriate. This has become a robust part of CFRP. One of the underlying motivations for the CFRP program is to increase the quality of discourse about natural resources management, which requires that we educate people about these issues.
- Budget.
  - Include your travel expenses to come to the annual workshop.
  - Types of expenditures that are not allowed include:
    - Land purchases
    - Construction of permanent structures (temporary structures can be funded). Fences: depend on how permanent they are and the context. Check with CFRP Coordinators.
  - Transportation of people. Make sure you have proof of current liability insurance.
  - Match. If you have more than 20% match, describe it in the narrative, but do not include it in the budget. In the narrative, it can be helpful to show that you are doing lots of other things that will support your proposed program. It shows something about the management capacity of the applicant to manage complicated programs with multiple elements. You can do all your matching in one year; there is no requirement to spread it out.
- An organization may receive more than one CFRP grant at the same time if the activities are independent of one another. If you apply for a subsequent grant, you have to show that you successfully completed the earlier project and that the new project enhances the previous work.
- Describe how materials that have market value are going to be handled. Don't leave that to be worked out later. There are a large number of federal regulations regarding disposition of material with merchantable value. The reviewers have to assess whether those requirements can be met.
- Application Information (Section V): these requirements are there to create a level playing field. Make your proposal easy to read. Keep to the maximum length.

- Letter of endorsement from whomever is legally responsible for managing the land. The letter has to say how they collaborated in the proposal development and how it meets their land management objectives. The content of the letter will demonstrate the level of collaboration in developing the proposal.
- If a project includes doing NEPA assessment, we request that you write a grant application for the NEPA planning first. When the NEPA assessment has been completed, you can request a grant for implementing the proposed project. In the past CFRP combined both, but ran into problems when there was a delay in the NEPA assessment. That delay will reduce the time available for implementation.
- The budget and proposal narrative need to work perfectly together. We often try to get a feel for the project by looking at the budget and look at the narrative work plan for the detail.
- The Executive Summary is an important piece. It tells us the “what, who, how, and where” and is used to describe the project to anyone who is interested. Appendix F has example executive summaries.
- Objectives should be described in your words. Don’t repeat the CFRP objectives.
- Letters of support are required from direct partners who helped develop the idea and who will help with implementation. For instance, you need to show you contacted tribes who use the land for traditional uses. Encourage inter-tribal collaboration, especially bordering tribes.
- Proposals are evaluated by the Technical Advisory Panel. Evaluation of the proposals is an open process. Anyone is welcome to observe the process. The evaluation process is described on page 11 of the RFP. The TAP has to follow a Federal Advisory Committee Act process, which may be cumbersome. If you have submitted a proposal, you would sit next to your Forest Coordinator and work with your coordinator to make sure questions are addressed. You may also submit written comments, which are read during the public comment periods before lunch and before the TAP adjourns at the end of each day.
- The appendices provide a number of resources to help you strengthen your proposal, including a checklist (Appendix A), boilerplate strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations (Appendix C), a standard set of guidelines you are required to follow when you work on National Forest lands (Appendix G), and pointers for making good maps (Appendix H).

## **CFRP 201: Forest Coordinators**

This session focused on issues faced by current grantees including:

- Budgeting & Work Plan Modification
  - When is a formal modification needed?
  - Linking work plans and budgets
  - Following the reimbursement and advancement trail
- Grantee/Subcontractor responsibilities and communications
- What to do if things go wrong
- Delay of grants through forest closures
- Delays due to NEPA & appeals

Reuben Montes, Ignacio Peralta, Connie Zipperer, Tom Marks and Craig Cowie introduced themselves and noted that Tom Marks would be retiring soon and Craig Cowie would continue as interim coordinator until such time as a new coordinator could be hired. The new Coordinator for the Cibola, Ian Fox, though still in the midst of transition, introduced himself to participants and gave a brief overview of his experience.

The CFRP Forest Coordinators organized this CFRP 201 session to discuss some of the common challenges faced by current grantees.

## **Grant Agreements**

A grant agreement is a legally binding agreement between the agency and the grant recipient. It establishes basic understandings about:

- What work is to be done
- How and by whom is the work to be done
- When is the work to be done
- What is the estimated cost of the work
- Under what special terms and conditions is the work to be done

The Agreement serves as checklist against which the recipient will be monitored, and it establishes the rights and responsibilities of each party.

Certain post-award changes in work plans and budgets require formal prior written approval from the Forest Service. The following changes to work plans require prior approval:

- Any change in the scope or objectives of the project (e.g., number of acres treated).
- Changes in key personnel or the corporate name specified in the grant award (e.g., when Forest Guardians changed to Forest Trust).
- Cumulative transfer of funds among budget categories which exceed 10% of total approved budget for federal funding over \$100,000.
- Changes to existing terms/conditions of grant award, such as:
  - Extensions of grant expiration date
  - Change of approved signatory officials (e.g., change in corporate officers)
  - Procedural changes
  - Changes in funding
- Decisions to contract out or obtain services of a third party to perform activities central to the purpose of the grant that were not included in the original proposal.
- Changes to the original budget, for instance adding capital equipment purchases (unit cost of \$5,000 or more – purchases under \$5,000 are considered supplies) identified as a direct cost in the project, proposal costs, publication/printing costs, or shifting costs between direct charges and indirect charges.

The procedure for requesting prior approval to change a work plan or budget consists of the following steps:

- Requests should be submitted in writing to the CFRP Coordinator of the participating National Forest.

- Budget revisions should be outlined in the same budget format as the original application, and accompanied by a narrative justification for the proposed revision(s).
- Requests should be signed by an authorized official of the grant organization and the principal project contact.
- Changes are mutually agreed to by both parties and modifications signed by the current authorized signatory official of the grant recipient and by the Forest Supervisor.
- The National Forest should notify the recipient within 30 days of receiving the request.

Failure by the recipient to obtain prior approval when required may result in disallowance of these costs.

## **Reimbursements and Advance Payments**

The Forest Coordinators described the process of processing reimbursement requests and advance payments from the moment an SF270 form is submitted until payment. The information provided is based on advice from the ASC, which processes all reimbursement and advance payment requests. CFRP experience indicates that it takes about two weeks to process payments.

The reimbursement process includes the following steps:

1. All requests (whether received by email, fax or mail) are entered into an electronic database, indexed (agreement number is manually keyed in database), sorted into electronic folders by type (invoice, obligation, modification), and scanned into a database.
2. ASC Technicians type invoice information in the IWEB (the system used to keep track of all grants) and attach the scanned invoice from database.
3. The Technician then emails the Payment Approver (PA; i.e., the Forest Coordinator) with notice of the pending invoice.
4. The Forest Coordinator goes into the database, checks everything, and authorizes payment.
5. A financial approver at ASC reviews IWEB daily to verify that the PA has entered the payment into the system, review vendor code, and financially approve payment.
6. The transactions go into a general ledger that is electronically sent to the National Finance Center in New Orleans, LA.
7. Payments are sent to the US Treasury for disbursement.
8. And, finally, payments are sent to recipient's financial institution.

## **Advance Payments**

The following rules apply to advance payments:

- Projects can receive only one advance payment.
- An advance payment must be spent within 30 days (to avoid projects earning interest income on federal dollars).
- Advances do not draw down on the obligation balance, because they are considered loans. Because they are loans, the following rules apply:
  - Advances must be liquidated before another payment can be processed.

- Liquidation of an advance has to be demonstrated by way of: 1) written documentation that shows the funds have been spent and submitted to ASC, or 2) information in the next reimbursement request showing that the advance money was spent. If a grantee goes with option 2 it is still helpful to include a brief narrative.

Some tips from ASC Customer Service about the things grantees can do to prevent delays in getting paid.

- Contact ASC Help Desk (877-372-7248) if you have any questions or want to follow up on a payment.
- Use the complete, accurate grant number (15 digits), since everything is tracked through the grant number. It is also essential that performance dates are indicated on the invoices. Incorrect/incomplete invoices will be returned with a cover letter indicating the problem.
- Register in CCR (Central Contractor Registration); this must be renewed annually.
- Register in DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System). DUNS assigns a unique nine character identification number provided by Dun & Bradstreet.
- Registration and TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number) verification with the IRS takes 24-72 hours.
- Do not submit an advance and a reimbursement on the same form; the two transactions should be separate.
- Process any change in banking information in CCR, and then contact the Forest G&A Specialist or Forest Coordinator, who contacts ASC to update the vendor information.
- Verify with your bank and include the correct routing number for electronic funds transfer (EFT) into your account. (i.e., EFT routing numbers are different from wire transfers).
- Address correspondence to: Payments Grants & Agreements – FAX: 877-687-4894.

People or organizations that are both a contractor and a grantee, should register twice in the CCR and DUNS. For instance, a county may have multiple departments; each department should register separately (separate DUNS number and CCR). This helps ASC ensure that the right funds go to the right account.

## **Designing a Work Plan to Fit a Budget**

There are several challenges that realistic work plans and budgets can help address:

- Ensure that the project is delivered within the defined constraints (time, cost, what's needed to get the work done, risk management).
- Optimize allocated resources to achieve pre-defined objectives and integrate the resources needed to meet those objectives.
- Carefully select a set of tasks to achieve objectives and use resources.

The first step in developing a work plan and budget is to determine a set of clearly defined project objectives. Aspiring grantees should then develop a work plan that:

- Identifies tasks needed to demonstrate you can accomplish objectives.
- Includes task descriptions and identifies who is carrying out each task.
- Sequence and schedule each task along a 6-9 month timeframe.

Once the work plan has been developed, with specific task descriptions, assignments, and timelines, a budget should be developed. The budget should follow the guidelines outlined in the CFRP Request for Proposals. Please note that “direct costs” are tied specifically to the project and billed directly to the project line item in the accounting system, while “indirect costs” are costs tied to two or more projects or incurred for the general operations of the business.

Workers’ compensation insurance, for example, would be considered an indirect cost. In many cases, workers’ comp is part of the cost of doing business (e.g., if there is a delay, the crew will continue to work and workers’ comp still has to be paid). Some participants felt that including workers’ comp as an indirect cost makes it very difficult to stay within the CFRP maximum rate of 10% indirect costs. They suggested that workers’ comp might be considered as fringe benefits.

The Forest Coordinators mentioned that the key issue is consistency. For example, if an organization chooses to apply workers’ comp to fringe benefits (direct cost), it should do so across its project accounting system. Grantees should develop the indirect rate for their organization and use the indirect rate to prepare the budget for a grant project. Indirect costs up to 10% can be included in the project costs, while anything over 10% can be used as match. Organizations must indicate how they derive their indirect percentage, and justify how they arrived at this percentage.

### **Why are projects delayed?**

There are several common causes for delays in project implementation. Projects can be extended through a grant modification with the National Forest. Projects can get a one year extension, but are limited to maximum project duration of five years. Examples of causes of project delays include the following.

**Delays due to Forest closures:** The Forest Service may close a forest under extreme drought conditions and severe fire danger. Forest closures for extended time periods can significantly set back a project’s proposed timeline.

Grantees and district staff should use the down time during a closure to review the project and brainstorm any potential issues or concerns from the original proposal that may arise (e.g., new studies may indicate conditions on the ground may have changed).

**Delays due to environmental appeals:** The following example describes what happened to a project that seemed a great fit for the CFRP program, but ran into an unexpected problem when the Environmental Assessment decision was appealed and reversed.

- February 2004: the Environmental Assessment for Gallinas Municipal Watershed WUI project was published by the Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District (municipal watershed for city of Las Vegas).
- April 2004: the Tierra y Montes Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) received a CFRP grant to treat 270 acres within the WUI project area.
- June 2004: the District Ranger’s decision was appealed from the original EA.
- September 2004: the decision was reversed by the US Forest Service Southwestern Regional Office. As a result, the Tierra Y Montes SWCD CFRP grant was delayed for the next 2 years.
- September 2006: an appeals review found the Gallinas WUI project was in NEPA compliance and the Ranger District was allowed to proceed with the project.

- January 2007: after 2 years of inactivity, the Tierra Y Montes SWCD CFRP grant project is moving forward with bids for thinning contractors.

The project was extended by two years, so the grantees were able to use the full 5 year grant period. Ideally, when people put a project together, they should plan for a 3-year project period.

**Delays due to the NEPA process:** The following example describes a project that was delayed due to an appeal against a Categorical Exclusion.

- In 2004, The Conservation Fund (TCF) was awarded a CFRP grant to complete NEPA for restoration treatments for 600 acres on Rowe Mesa within the Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District. CFRP II project.
- Upon NEPA completion, TCF would begin thinning treatments and broadcast burning.
- In June 2006, the District Ranger issued a Categorical Exclusion (CE) for the project. The CE was appealed by Wild Watershed.
- In September 2006, the Forest Supervisor reversed the District Ranger's CE due to lack of fuels analysis.
- A new public comment period will also be conducted.

Several participants had experiences with unforeseen circumstances that delayed project implementation. The Forest Coordinators suggested that grantees meet regularly with their collaborators to make sure everyone understands the cause of the delay and agrees to the adjustments in timelines that will be made to accommodate the delays.

## Lessons Learned

Some of the key lessons learned in the implementation of CFRP projects to date include:

- Work plans should be specific, but additional planning documents may be needed to create detailed plans necessary for accountability and transparency.
- Credible and defensible costs in the budget are critical to prevent problems during the implementation phase. Resources should be sufficient to deliver all work required to complete a project within defined scope, time, and cost constraints.
- Proposal text and budget should be consistent (e.g., can you treat the proposed acreage with the requested amount of money?).
- Don't underestimate the relationship between direct and indirect costs.
- It is important to be disciplined in organizing and managing resources.

## Developing Restoration Prescriptions and Working at a Landscape Scale

*Ken Smith, Director of NMFWRI*

*Melissa Savage, Four Corners Institute*

*Tori Derr, Contractor to NM Forest Watershed Restoration Institute*

*Eytan Krasilovsky, Forest Guild*

This session summarized recommendations for developing restoration prescriptions in four of New Mexico's forest types (ponderosa pine, piñon-juniper, mixed conifer, and bosque). The presentation was based on the Short Guide for Developing CFRP Restoration Prescriptions

(available from NMFWRI). Presenters also discussed issues and approaches to landscape scale restoration and a new wildlife monitoring protocol.

CFRP recipients and multiparty teams are encouraged to integrate monitoring information with prescription writing (when possible). The purpose of prescriptions is to reduce fuel, but also to effect structural changes and return fire to the ecosystem. Ultimately this is about forest health and resiliency.

Make restoration fit the site. This means understanding past land use, using pre-treatment monitoring to inform prescription writing, thinking about how to use variable thinning rates (ridges vs. riparian zones vs. mid-slope), and fostering heterogeneity (clumps of mature trees, create openings, some even-spacing of mature trees, groups of younger trees).

Include wildlife considerations, such as the importance of: mast producing plants (oak), snags, leaving some dead and down, cover (groups of younger trees), trees with interlocking crowns, and foster the development of grasses and forbs, which carry cool surface fires, provide forage, increase site diversity, protect soil surface. Pay special attention to meadows.

During implementation, pay attention to roads and skid trails. Keep residual damage to a minimum.

Also be mindful of invasive plants. Seed mixes may be contaminated. Pay attention to pre-treatment invasive populations, and monitor for post-treatment invasive establishment.

Forest structure includes larger and older trees, larger dead trees (snags), and heterogeneity (all age structure). Specific recommendations by forest type include the following.

#### Ponderosa Pine

- Reduce abundant small trees; protect large trees
- Make the forest safe for low-intensity fire; restore prescribed fire
- Foster the native grasses and forbs
- Prevent non-native invasive weeds from increasing
- Protect large snags
- Keep some patches of young trees
- Thin so that clumps of trees remain
- Protect wildlife corridors and leave habitat patches

#### Piñon-Juniper Forest, Woodland & Savanna

- Determine the type of p-j community: forest, woodland, savanna
- Do not treat forests, which rarely burn
- Thin woodlands and savannas by removing small trees
- Protect large trees
- Lop and scatter biomass to help understory flourish

#### Mixed Conifer Forest

- Thin small dense trees, especially fire-sensitive species such as white fir

- Introduce prescribed fire
- Encourage aspen trees
- Protect large snags

#### Bosque

- Remove non-native invasive trees of all species
- Protect native trees, especially large cottonwoods
- Protect native shrubs like native olives and willows
- Do not prescribe burn
- If possible, restore some level of occasional flooding

As you develop a site-specific prescription use ecological objectives and stakeholder perspectives (the multiparty process) in prescription development. Baseline (pre-treatment) data is essential to developing site-specific prescriptions.

Presenters provided the following additional pointers for developing restoration prescriptions, in particular at the landscape level.

#### During the Proposal Development Stage:

- Select priority areas that are appropriate for restoration
- Build on existing restoration efforts
- Build on existing wood utilization opportunities
- Clarify which areas are “NEPA-ready”
- Show how monitoring data will be used in the development of a site-specific prescription

#### During the Project Implementation Phase:

- Collect baseline ecological data
- Review baseline data with multiparty team
- Collaboratively develop site-specific prescription
- Implement the restoration treatment
- Collect and analyze post-treatment data
- Review successes and shortcomings with multiparty team

Presenters mentioned two additional papers that may provide helpful information for grantees:

- “Social and Economic Issues in Landscape Scale Restoration” touches on
  - Social and cultural issues
  - Economic scale and capacity issues
  - Issues related to working under different land jurisdictions (e.g., NEPA issues, identifying stakeholders)
- “Wildlife Monitoring for CFRP “ contains protocols for monitoring birds, turkey, deer and elk. The NMFWRRI is conducting training sessions on these issues.

#### Discussion

*Can you speak to the differences between developing prescriptions pre-NEPA and post-NEPA?*

Pre-NEPA you can work with the team to identify parameters that you are interested in. This gives more flexibility and an opportunity to include parameters you want to restore and monitor. Post-NEPA, you are working with an established set of parameters. You may not be able to get everything you wanted if they are not already in the NEPA.

*How do you make your monitoring useful to the land management agency?*

If you do monitoring of any type, also speak with the agency land manager to find out what kind of monitoring they need for NEPA, and try to integrate that in your monitoring process.

*Ecosystem restoration takes many years. How do you monitor this beyond the duration of the project?*

It is hard to do the monitoring within the grant period. Any meaningful monitoring should continue. The Forest Service has an obligation to monitor the forests they manage. Grantees might consider monitoring within the context of on-going monitoring by the land management agency.

## **Developing a Multi-Party Monitoring Panel**

*Bryan Bird, Forest Guardians*

*Luis Torres, Community Organizer*

*John Phillips, USDA Forest Service, Coyote Ranger District*

*Eytan Krasilovsky, Forest Guild*

This panel discussion focused on an idea to coordinate multi-party monitoring between clusters of projects. The idea was presented by four individuals who have been involved in the CFRP program for many years and who wanted to explore their idea with workshop participants.

CFRP has been very successful. Over 100 projects have been funded (see interactive map: <http://www.forestguild.org/CFRP/>). Especially the Carson National Forest and the Santa Fe National Forest have seen numerous projects funded, 21 and 35 respectively. There are many projects ongoing, which creates a great opportunity to coordinate monitoring on these CFRP projects. The purpose of coordination would be to improve information gathering and to find efficiencies by sharing resources and maximize what we can do with the time and resources available.

The proposed coordination could be achieved by setting up a monitoring panel consisting of CFRP participants, Forest Service staff, representatives of other agencies, and community members. The panel would act as a sounding board where each CFRP project director or coordinator could get advice and feedback about whether they are achieving their goals. The panel would help ensure that multi-party monitoring teams achieve their own goals. Advantages of a panel to coordinate multi-party monitoring efforts could include:

- More efficient use of people's time and project resources.
- Improving multi-party monitoring by enhancing multi-party input on ecological and socio-economic monitoring.
- Creating opportunities to improve socio-economic monitoring, for instance by sharing an economist to help with this type of monitoring.

The panels could also lead to better opportunities for collaboration in the future. The idea's proponents would like to see future successful CFRP projects and the panels could help identify new opportunities that build on everything that has already been done. For example, there are several CFRP projects in the Coyote Ranger District. Each project has a multi-party monitoring obligation and a multi-party monitoring board. Instead of getting the District Ranger, agency representatives, and community members to come to all these multi-party monitoring board meetings, it would be practical to get them to a less-frequent panel meeting to discuss monitoring of multiple projects.

Many CFRP projects are doing a good job at ecological monitoring, but in many cases social and economic monitoring is lagging behind. Grantees need to gather data on the social and economic impact of their projects. By consolidating their efforts, grantees might begin to do better in those arenas.

When you look at the map of CFRP projects, you see clusters of projects. By having a panel, grantees can look for potential synergies but also overlapping or duplicating efforts, or gaps. The panel model could also be an opportunity to leverage additional grants for the area.

## **Discussion**

*Who would organize this effort?*

We could start by organizing this at the District level. If successful, we could elevate this across Districts or to the Forest level.

The model could also create opportunities to set up long-term (15 year) monitoring plans. The panel could help develop these plans and identify the projects that might be most appropriate for a 15-year study. Also the socio-economic monitoring may be too intensive for one project, but at the Forest Level we might be able to pull together the resources to pull this together.

Each of the grantees could have a representative on the panel, and the panel could include any shared agencies, Forest Service, and the community. Perhaps there would be 3 or 4 meetings per year of the panel and fewer meetings of project boards.

*Have you had any disputes between projects? How would disputes be resolved?*

We are not aware of disputes. Presenters did a test drive among three projects in the Coyote District. Based on grantee comments, there seems to be enough benefit that they would like to see this happen and do their best to avoid conflicts from arising.

*Great that you have taken it upon yourself to develop the idea. How do you ensure that each project is represented and gets equal playing time during panel meetings?*

We envision that each panel would have a facilitator/coordinator. That person would ensure that the whole thing moves and all projects are treated equal. The panels would be oriented to helping all projects meet their requirements.

*I could see this work with existing projects. How would you ensure that new projects get equal access? Is there a risk of territorialism since we all compete for the same resources?*

We need to think that through.

*Other comments.*

Making the effort more efficient is a real plus. In a multi-project area, even a watershed, the scheduling to get the right people together is very difficult. With more CFRP projects coming on line it will add to the workload. The panel idea could really be an improvement to help us handle an increasing workload.

Another potential benefit of the panel is greater collaboration at the beginning of the project.

Could CFRP management endorse this idea and help grantees think it through further so it would also be implemented in other areas?

Wood clusters and the NM Forest Industry Association are good places to enhance coordination.

Next Steps: The presenters want to make this idea work in the Coyote Ranger District. They will take feedback into account and try to make this work.

## **Concurrent Sessions**

### **Multiparty Monitoring 101**

*Tori Derr, Contractor to NM Forest Watershed Restoration Institute*

*Eytan Krasilovsky, Forest Guild*

The CFRP requires multiparty monitoring by a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders as well as appropriate government representatives. A diverse and balanced group of stakeholders should be involved in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project.

Based on seven years of providing multiparty monitoring support to CFRP grantees, the presenters provided an overview of multiparty monitoring from start to finish with examples of successful projects and lessons learned from past experiences. They provided guidance for incorporating monitoring into proposal development and project implementation.

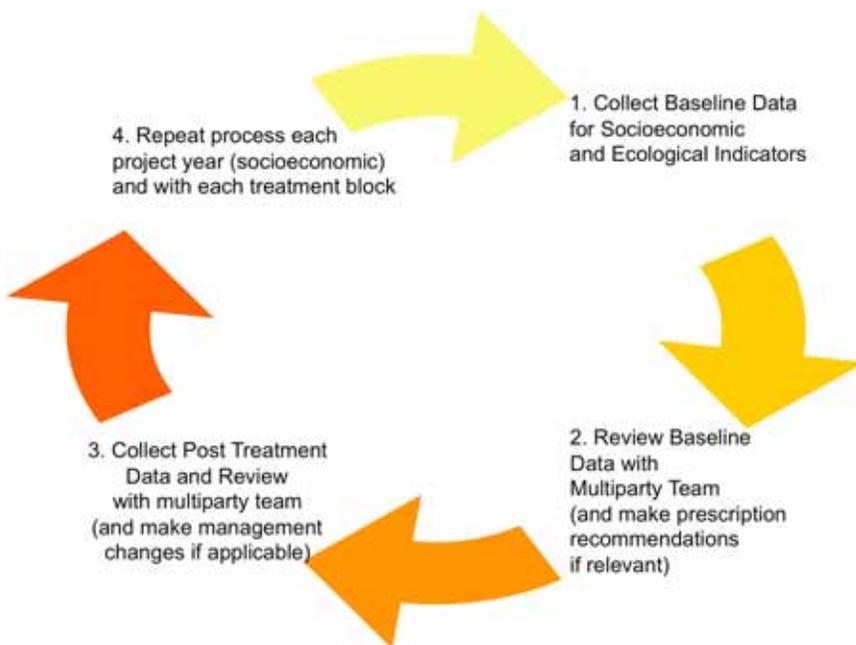
The purpose of monitoring is to monitor the impact of your project by watching for any change(s) over time. It is important that projects measure both positive and negative impacts (in fact, the CFRP Statute requires monitoring), in order to evaluate project implementation and assess the impacts of the project. It is also important to assess the data on an ongoing basis, so it can be used to make mid-course corrections. Monitoring also allows projects to learn about what works and what does not work, so those lessons can be shared. The multiparty monitoring approach also builds trusted relationships and creates project accountability, which help improve collaborative forest restoration.

“Good” monitoring requires systematic data collection using reliable methods, not just casual observation and reporting. Monitoring begins with a multiparty assessment to identify the existing ecological condition of the proposed project area and a description of the desired future condition. During the project, projects take repeat measurements and work towards a report on the positive or negative impact and effectiveness of the project including improvements in local management skills and on the ground results.

The process of developing and implementing a multiparty monitoring plan includes the following steps and activities:

- Proposal Development

- Gather interested parties and get letters of support to engage as part of a multiparty team
- Integrate monitoring into your proposed workplan and budget
- From your desired future ecological and socioeconomic conditions, develop sample indicators to monitor for your proposal
- Identify groups to invite to join the monitoring team
- 1st Multiparty Meeting
  - Invite all interested parties
  - Review Grant Goals
  - Discuss planned activities
  - Brainstorm indicators (including sample indicators from proposal) that can be used to monitor grant goals
- Write a Monitoring Plan
  - Take sample indicators from proposal and brainstormed indicators from 1st multiparty meeting and merge into a monitoring plan
  - Monitoring plan will list who will do what and when
  - See monitoring case studies for real project examples!
- The Monitoring Process During a Project



**Figure 2: Multi-Party Monitoring Process**

Multiparty monitoring may seem daunting, but it is not. All grantees are able to develop a successful monitoring program, as illustrated by the highly successful monitoring program developed by the Corona High School. The school developed course work and gives credit for environmental sciences based upon students' participation in the forest restoration and small diameter utilization efforts.

There are numerous resources available to help CFRP develop and implement multiparty monitoring plans, including the Short Guide, handbooks, and Excel spreadsheets for analysis. These are available on the following websites:

- <http://www.nmhu.edu/nmfwri/cfrp.html>
- <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/cfrp/monitoring/index.shtml>

## **Monitoring Interpreting and Sharing Results**

*Tori Derr, Contractor to NM Forest Watershed Restoration Institute*  
*Eytan Krasilovsky, Forest Guild*

The presenters provided guidance and process for analyzing data, interpreting results, and comparing these results to project goals.

To conduct social and economic monitoring, the following indicators might be relevant:

- Number and type of jobs created
- Skills gained
- Value of wood products generated
- Outreach and educational activities
- Community perceptions of project

To conduct ecological monitoring, the following indicators might be relevant:

- Live and dead tree density
- Live and dead tree size
- Overstory canopy cover
- Understory cover
- Surface fuels

Presenters showed various examples of datasheets that can be used to record data. Many examples of sheets are available for CFRP grantees from the following websites:

- <http://www.nmhu.edu/nmfwri/cfrp.html>
- <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/cfrp/monitoring/index.shtml>

Presenters used the example of the Zuni Forest Products project (CFRP project #11-04) to illustrate how to use data during project implementation and reporting, in particular how you gather data on an ongoing basis and compare it to project goals to determine if you are on track.

Presenters were available to provide direct assistance to existing or prospective grantees in problem-solving monitoring questions.

For projects that need assistance on proposal development, development of a monitoring plan, collecting socioeconomic and ecological (multiple protocols) data, and analyzing data, please contact:

- Tori Derr 505-231-5622 or
- Eytan Krasilovsky, 505-983-8992 xt. 16

## **Planning for NEPA and NEPA Compliance for CFRP Projects**

*Connie Zipperer, Lincoln NF*

*John Phillips, Coyote Ranger District*

*Jack Andrew, Regional NEPA Coordinator*

In 1969, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was signed into law. The legislation provides the foundation for environmental protection in the U.S. NEPA sets out a comprehensive national environmental policy directing federal agencies”....to use all practicable means...to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony...”

NEPA prescribes an environmental review and public involvement process for federal agencies to follow when considering actions that may affect the quality of the human environment. It is used to improve and coordinate federal plans, functions, programs and resources to achieve a wide range of social, cultural, economic, and environmental values.

NEPA has brought the public, including state, tribal and local governments much greater information regarding environmental issues and awareness of the potential environmental impacts of federal agency actions. The law brought information to citizens so they could also bring their views to the government. However, the law does not give direction on how members of the public and federal government officials go about resolving the different individual views and values implicated by the potential impacts of agency actions.

Prior to the enactment of NEPA, agency decision-making was generally mission-oriented and one-dimensional and often occurred with little or no public or interagency involvement. Although the specifics of environmental impact assessment differ from agency to agency, NEPA contains certain fundamental principles that are becoming universal these include:

- Full and open disclosure of environmental consequences prior to agency action
- Interdisciplinary approach to project evaluation
- Focus on key issues relating to the agency decision
- Objective consideration of all reasonable alternatives
- Application of measures to avoid or reduce adverse impacts
- Encouragement of public participation
- Consultation and coordination among agencies

Purposes of an environmental assessment under NEPA:

- Provides sufficient evidence and analysis to determine whether an EIS (environmental Impact Statement) is required.
- Supports an agency’s compliance with NEPA when no EIS is required
- Facilitates preparation of an EIS when one is required

Lead and cooperating agency roles:

A lead agency is the federal agency with primary responsibility for preparation of an EIS. If more than one federal agency is involved in a project, the lead agency is determined by considering the following factors:

- Magnitude of the agency’s involvement
- Approval or disapproval authority over the proposed action

- Expertise with regard to environmental effects
- Duration of the agency's involvement
- Sequences of the agency's involvement

A cooperating agency may be any federal agency other than the lead agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to the environmental impacts expected to result from a proposal.

The NEPA process is collaboration between parties (FS & Grantees) and helps to:

- Clarify the timeline, tasks, milestones
- Emphasize the Need for a Detailed Work Plan
- Projects on Forest Service Lands

Critical Milestones for a project include:

- Creating a collaborative relationship with the Decision Officer
- Development of Purpose and Need for the project
- Development of Proposed Actions
- Outlining Data/Survey Needs
- Clear Work Plans are part of successful proposals
- Scoping/Public Involvement
- Document Review and Editing
- Decision Documents/Date
- A collaborative relationship with the USFS includes meeting with Key Resource People including:
  - The District Ranger decides where resources go specific to budget and personnel. The Ranger also will be key in order to determine where the project fits into the overall strategic plan for the district.
  - Biologist
  - Archaeologist
  - Fuels/Fire Management Officer
  - Silviculturalist/Forester
  - Resource Planner

In order to meet compliance with NEPA there are specific tasks that the grantee will conduct and those that the agency is responsible for:

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>versus</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Analysis		Review and Edit
Specialist Report Writing		Review and Edit
Contract Out Survey-Archaeology		Review/ Edit/ Authorization
NEPA Analysis/Documents		Review and Edit
Draft Decision		<b>MAKE DECISION</b>

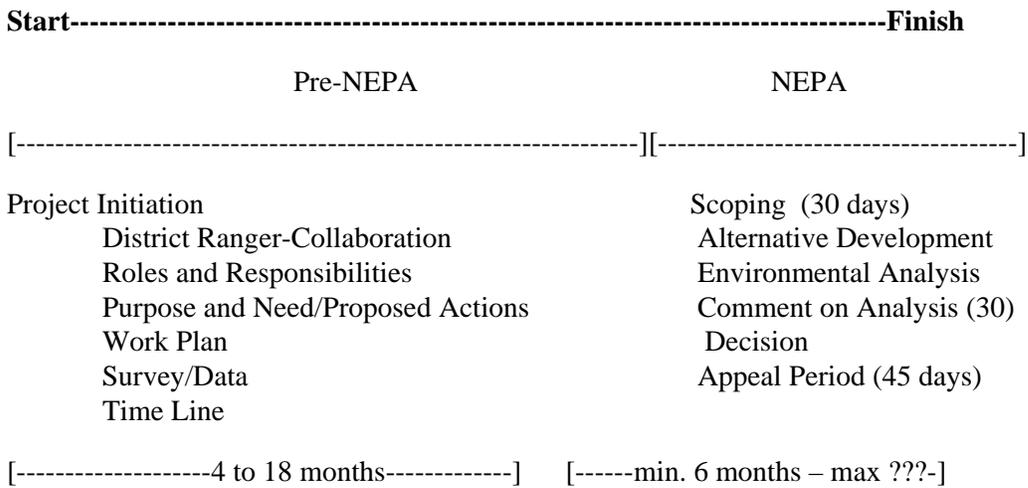
Roles and Responsibilities must be clarified between:

- Lead Agency/Deciding Officer
- Forest Service and the District Ranger
- Primary Contacts and Proponents
  - Agency-Resource Planner/Fire Mgt Officer-Planning Liaison
  - Grantee-Project Leader, etc
- Planning and Analysis
  - Contractor or In House

Develop clear timelines:

- Define Deliverables and Dates
  - Wildlife Survey-By Whom, When and How (methodology)
  - Archaeology Survey-By Whom, When and How
  - Resource Reports-By Whom, When and How
- Must Define Turn-Around Time for Edits
  - Generally Acceptable Response Time-24 hour/1 week

**Planning Timeline:**



A key element of the NEPA assessment process include the construction of the Proposed Action, which describes what actions are required to move from existing to desired conditions. NEPA also requires that alternatives to the Proposed Action are investigated.

Data/Survey needs for the NEPA assessment include:

- Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species are a common survey need. If there are TE/SS, where are they? There are significant implications, for instance, a Mountain Spotted Owl survey can take two years.
- Stand Exams or Fire Regime Conditions Class
- Survey, Clearance Reports
- Archaeological Surveys

- Based on Proposed Actions
- Most CFRP projects will have proposed actions that requires survey
- Surveys must be planned for timely implementation and review
- State Historic Preservation Office/SHPO

The types of environmental documents that may be generated and decisions that may be issued during the NEPA process, include:

- Environmental Assessment
  - Brief document that allows the agency to decide if the proposal would have significant impacts.
  - Finding of no significant impact (FONSI)
- Categorical Exclusion
  - Agency has a list of categories of actions which do not individual/cumulative have significant effect on environment
  - Does not require an EA or EIS
- Effects Analysis
  - Gather baseline environmental information for the area
  - Develop specialists reports based on alternatives
  - Determine cumulative effects
  - Conduct Heritage, Botanical, Wildlife, Soils, Hydrology, and any other analysis
  - Team reviews and updates project record

A critical element of NEPA is Public Involvement. Develop a process (public involvement plan) to determine how best to include the public to comment on the proposed activities. Determine significant issues and eliminate non-significant issues to present. Public involvement and Scoping include:

- Develop public involvement plan
- Consider cooperating agencies
- Consider Tribal consultation
- Develop mailing lists
- Prepare scoping letter
- Publish scoping notice/mail/public meetings

In order to have a successful project that meets NEPA requirements:

- Develop clear work plans with deliverables and due dates
- Clarify data needs
- Create manageable timelines
- Define milestones in process
- Identify proposed actions, and plan scoping period, analysis, decision date
- Leave time for document review and editing
- Commission Specialist Reports
  - Soil/Watershed

- Vegetation/Fuels
- Recreation/Visuals
- Timber/Silviculture
- Wildlife Biological Assessments

Participants who are considering doing the NEPA should work closely with Forest Service staff in developing their projects. It might seem clear but there are many steps involved and it is important to PLAN – PLAN – PLAN.

## **Wednesday, January 23, 2008**

### **Sharing Experiences from multi-year projects and final reporting Carl Colonius, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC)**

**Ben Thomas, Field Program Director, RMYC**

**Coleman Smith, Reporting and Evaluation Coordinator, RMYC**

Carl Colonius and his staff reviewed the history of the youth corps model, provided an overview of the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, and discussed the development of CFRP proposals with youth, reporting strategies, and lessons learned.

Mr. Colonius reported that today's youth corps program is modeled after the federal program initiated in 1933. Today, state, county and community youth corps programs serve youth ages 16-25 who work on community service projects as a means to learn new skills and for land management agencies to implement projects. Nationally, there are over 120 youth corps working with approximately 26,000 youth.

#### ***Proposal Development***

Ben Thomas suggested the following steps and considerations that RMYC takes when they develop a CFRP proposal:

- Ensure that your organization's goals drive the development of a proposal.
- Meet with land management agencies to review decision memorandums and agency goals to identify potential projects.
- Consider crew abilities, equipment available, road accessibility to the unit, proximity of the proposed area to the organization's location, among other factors to determine what projects might be a good match.
- Reviews existing projects in the area to identify opportunities to build landscape connectivity.
- Convene a stakeholders meeting to reconcile multiple viewpoints and strategies, encourage self-identification of stakeholder roles, and identify commitments, timelines and expectations for the project.

#### ***Monitoring Plans and Reporting Strategies***

Coleman Smith discussed RMYC's approach to developing a monitoring plan and reporting strategies. RMYC works with stakeholders and agencies to ensure that the ecological and socio-

economic indicators align with the needs of stakeholders and Forest Service protocols. RMYC's interim reports are brief (two pages) summaries of quantitative data and an accompanying narrative description. Current CFRP reporting guidance suggests grantees include a clear description of project outcomes, monitoring results, and how the goals of the original grant were met.

The presenters suggested that CFRP provide grantees with a reporting structure that includes both a section for project specific information (identified by the grantee), and a comprehensive but limited number of indicators that must be reported on in order to enable aggregation, tell the CFRP story, and correlate with national forest reporting needs.

### ***Lessons Learned***

Some lessons learned from RMYC's CFRP grant funded projects included.

- For youth corps, for-profit woodshop conflicted with member learning goals: production vs. learning
- Marketing of product was new and challenging
- Technical aspects of prescription management
  - There is quite a variance between an ocular assessment and a GIS/GPS;
  - Chipping on project makes removal of materials more efficient; minimizing environmental impact during removal is challenging
- Community outreach challenges
  - Partnering with another organization enabled RMYC to develop a system for distributing wood to those most in need (e.g. people who are homebound, disabled, etc.)

### **Discussion**

*What is the average term of service?*

The longest term is 1,700 hours. The average length of stay is 6 months. We are a stepping-stone: RMYC intended to lead to long-term employment elsewhere.

*Tell us about your workers compensation insurance.*

Our workers compensation is significant. About 3 years ago, it was 82%. It has come down due to education by CFRP members on this issue. There has been some recognition of certification and training, which has reduced the percentage of workers compensation. Right now we are classified as if we are a full logging operation, even though we are not dropping 24" trees. It is up to the NM legislature to create a solution.

NM does have a certified sawyer class code, which is \$30 vs. \$68 for others; due to the nature of the RMYC program, there is frequent turnover and so it is difficult to maintain a certified workforce and secure the lower rate.

*Do you screen for legal citizenship status?*

Yes we do. It is a requirement of AmeriCorps programs.

*Do you ever have a tough time staffing restoration crews?*

Recruitment is a challenge. We ask for a significant time commitment from an age group that is not accustomed to making this type of commitment. We try to brand the experience as “more than a job” – it’s about certification, getting paid.

*Do you screen for drug/alcohol abuse?*

We do not test upon enrollment. We make clear the expectation that we are a drug-free shop, and address the issue in a respectful and transparent way. If a member is suspected of using, individual testing is conducted.

*Have you been able to track whether participation in CFRP projects is translating into greater understanding of forest science within communities where corps members come from, and/or into corps members entering careers in forest restoration?*

We have not been able to formally measure this. We are conducting surveys at the community woodlot to try to ascertain the relationship between community members and corps members and the RMYC as a whole.

## **Forest Industry Association Updates and Highlights**

*Naomi Engelman, Earth Works Institute*

The New Mexico Forest Industry Association (NMFIA) was formed in 2007 and conducted its first annual membership meeting in conjunction with the 2008 CFRP Annual Workshop. The NMFIA is organized around 8 wood clusters around the state, each of which identifies an individual to represent them on an advisory board to the Association.

The mission of the NMFIA is as follows: Organized for and by its members, the New Mexico Forest Industry Association (NMFIA) seeks to create, strengthen, and support a business climate that ensures the needs of all constituents are aligned in the development and growth of a healthy, sustainable New Mexico forest industry.

Objectives include:

- Promote healthy forests
- Promote community based economic development
- Promote sound forestry practices for the benefit of our forests and the forest product industry
- Promote and provide public relations for the forest industry and to stimulate interest, use and involvement in the forest products industry
- Provide members and others with opportunities for dialog, education, advancement, and improvement in all aspects of the forest industry
- Promote, foster and develop industry standards, research and development, quality control and industry integrity
- Articulate and advocate as a focused voice the needs and interests of the forest industry before local, state and federal governments
- Operate as an official trade association of the New Mexico forest industry for the purpose of promoting the common business interests of its members

In 2008 the NMFIA will update the New Mexico Wood Products Manufacturers Directory and will work to take over responsibility for offering the forest worker safety certification training

currently provided by Forest Guild. They are working to establish long-term funding for this training. Other priorities are to grow the member base.

Those interested in learning more or becoming a member of NMFIA can contact Naomi Engelman at 505-412-9028, Naomi@nmfia.net. Visit the NMFIA Website for more information: <http://www.nmfia.net>.

## **Discussion**

*Will NMFIA offer Class B level training?*

Classes A, B and C are agency designations and reflect skill level. NMFIA's focus is on safety certification in order to maintain reduced workers compensation rates, so we do not provide skill-based training at this time. We could consider this in the future.

## **Breakout Sessions**

### **Lessons Learned and Networking Opportunities in Your Area**

#### **CFRP Forest Coordinators**

##### **Connie Zipperer, Forest Coordinator, Lincoln National Forest**

Connie introduced herself to the small group. The majority of time was spent orienting the participants to the RFP process and answering specific questions about a potential grant proposal for vegetation restoration and potential partners that could help with the project.

Connie asked the participants to think about:

- Objectives
- Type of restoration
- Description of vegetation
- Specifics on the grant money use

Participants asked questions about the grant process including different aspect that the reviewers consider. Connie responded that the Technical Advisory Panel looks carefully at the work plan, budget and if the project summary matches the rest of the grant in amount requested, partners etc.

A participant asked what type of public outreach should be conducted? Connie indicated that a goal of public outreach should include public awareness. Some of the outreach may depend on the partners. If one of the partners is an educational institution, then perhaps outreach could include schools and making the community aware about the project. Public meetings could include information sharing about the project including before and after pictures.

Once partners are in place an approach needs to be decided upon that will include what each of the partners will contribute to the project; letters of support to fully address the commitment and a budget and work plan that is clear about each partners commitment.

Connie encouraged the participants to collaborate with other funding entities.

Participants appreciated the opportunity to meet with the coordinator to talk about their project.

### **Reuben Montes, Forest Coordinator, Santa Fe N.F.**

Reuben mentioned that the Santa Fe N.F. has been awarded the highest number of CFRP grants. Reuben currently administers 24 CFRP grants.

Participants introduced themselves and discussed the following issues.

#### ***Challenges***

- Turnover in Forest Service staff – what are the underlying causes of frequent turnover of District Rangers, for example?

#### ***Suggestion***

- Use this forum to explore opportunities to combine multi-party monitoring efforts across multiple projects.

#### ***Announcement***

- Rueben Montes will host an Open House for grantees, those who are submitting proposals, and others interested in the CFRP at the Santa Fe Ranger District on Saturday, February 9, from 10 am to 1pm, at 1474 Rodeo Road. Rueben encouraged participants to view him as a resource and to contact him if he can be of assistance, at 438-7892.

### **Craig Cowie, Gila National Forest**

Mr. Cowie wanted CFRP partners in the Gila National Forest to be aware of the impending assignment of a new Forest Coordinator. In the interim, he reminded partners of two things: 1) the importance of submitting quarterly updates on the status of their projects, including some description of what is going on and finances; and 2) the importance of regular monitoring. He also advised partners of some staffing changes in the contracting office.

The group agreed that it would be helpful for Mr. Cowie to arrange for partners to meet the coordinator once they were situated.

### **Ignacio Peralta, Forest Coordinator, Carson N.F.**

Participants introduced themselves and the projects they are involved in and discussed a number of issues that have come up.

- Linking restoration projects (supply of raw material) to businesses that process these materials (e.g., Silver Dollar Racing & Shaving).
  - Silver Dollar needs raw material, but cost of transportation is an issue. CFRP and grantees are working on possible solutions to reduce cost and improve coordination with restoration projects.
  - Processing facilities can be on private land, but to qualify for CFRP grants, the facility would have to process a majority of material that comes from federal land.
- Revenue from the sale of forest product can be used to reinvest in the project to enhance the impact, or it can be given back and counted towards match. However, the latter option

requires complex procedures and preference is that grantees put revenues back into the project. For instance:

- Pay contractors to continue to work
- Expand the scope of the project
- Add components that achieve CFRP objectives
- Use it for outreach and education
- Use it to pay benefits to employees

If you are a thinning contractor, you can also put the money in another, related project, that would also result in work to achieve the objectives of the CFRP. Grantees need to keep accurate internal accounts of what they do with revenues from the project.

- Grantees cannot generate interest with money from federal grants. If you generate income, you also have to put that into the project, cannot put in an interest-bearing account.
- If you are putting together a grant and want to get reduced workers comp, include money for worker safety training for initial and recurring cost of training and certification.
  - Talk to Orlando Romero to get estimate of cost for training.
  - Scheduling training can be a challenge – need 20 people to fill a class. Coordinate with other grantees to fill a class. Contact Orlando and Iggy.
- CFRP is growing and the Forest Service is maturing along with it. Now, the agency is trying to better integrate CFRP's multi-party monitoring into the agency's NEPA assessment and monitoring requirements. The Forest Service needs data in a format that can match the data format for the Forest Service database and can be used in models for long-term monitoring. The agency is asking CFRP grantees to consider using agency monitoring protocols to gather data and the agency can enter the data into their databases and models and track changes into the future. Grantees would gather the same information they are already gathering, but would use data sheets and slightly different methods that are consistent with the agency format. Forest Service also offers 3-day training to help the groups implement this.
- Monitoring is one of the hardest aspects of CFRP grants. Grantees now have a great resource in the NMFWR. Also, get kids involved; they love learning about GPS/GIS mapping and pick that up quickly.

## **Concurrent CFRP Project Presentations**

### **Internal/External Public Awareness Cedar Creek Project – CFRP 20-05**

*Sherry Barrow, SBS Wood Shavings and Micky Mader, Timber Sale Administrator, USDA Forest Service*

This presentation built on experiences in a project to do forest and watershed restoration and harvesting on 252 acres within the Perk/Grindstone Fuels & Restoration Project Area of the Smokey Bear District, Lincoln National Forest. The project site is nearly adjacent to the Smokey Bear Ranger District and provided a highly visible demonstration that will compliment an annual public awareness campaign.

#### ***Public Engagement Methods***

Sherry Barrow identified the following venues for informing and engaging with the public: newspaper, radio, website, flyers, handbills, and presentations to community groups.

Regarding websites, Ms. Barrow recommended that they tell people “where, what, how and when” about the CFRP project. She also suggested including photos, and recommended that before-and-after treatment photos be taken at the same time of day, same time of year, and with the same camera.

### ***Internal Work with the Forest Service***

Mr. Mader discussed the following aspects of the project review by the Forest Service:

The Forest Service adjusted to the difference between working with a contract and grant guidelines.

The Forest Service put together a transportation system to enable utilization of the product, using existing roads and trails. We took the opportunity of the Cedar Creek project to fix roads that were badly eroded.

The grantee made a plan to prevent/mitigate silt in adjacent stream.

The equipment used on this job was appropriate to the task.

### **Discussion**

*Did you re-seed some of those areas?*

Because when the project was done, the areas we re-seeded did not look much different from the areas we did not re-seed, we decided to put further re-seeing on hold until the next spring.

*Any problems with musk thistle coming in?*

I have not seen any coming in. That is a big concern, even though we clean equipment before we move from site to site.

*What kind of opposition did you have?*

There were some walkers who are there every day who did have questions. All it took was a conversation. They were afraid we were going to tear it up. We never did run across somebody who was adamantly opposed to the project. We have had so many comments saying they appreciate what we were doing. SBS objective was to improve the ecosystem function. NEPA went smoothly; it was a CE. Laura McCarthy, who was with Forest Guild at the time, facilitated the very first stakeholder meeting when we were developing the project. Once we went around the room and told what we were thinking, there was a sigh of relief and everybody relaxed a bit.

### **Silver Dollar Racing & Shavings – CFRP 20-06**

*Cody & Kathy Deines, Silver Dollar Racing & Shaving*

In June 2003, Cody and Kathy bought the Maxwell warehouse and started procuring equipment to be able to add value to small diameter trees and forest residue in order to help supplement restoration activities in our forests and watersheds. They received a grant to design, test, and develop a process to manufacture sanitary erosion control and water filtration products. These products are derived from under-utilized small-diameter trees and slash from ongoing forest

restoration and hazardous fuels mitigation projects. The erosion control and water filtration products they produce are sterile and weed free, and are sold to help mitigate runoff from wildfires and other disturbances. The project has hired 6 full-time staff.

### **Discussion**

- What is optimal material? Looking for logs. We can produce higher quality material with new machine and produce a more consistent product. We can also get more volume in that way. We will take clean chips and mix them with logs.
- Looking for delivery. We have capability to unload. Yard is open to anyone who wants to bring logs. We will see if we need to pick up and what we need to get in terms of equipment.
- Where is nearest scale? Trying to get 30 -35 tons delivered. There is a scale at Russell's Truck Stop about 7 miles away. There is one across the street, but the owners had difficulty certifying it.
- Do you have a species preference? Any pine species that gets a bright product (white fir, ponderosa, aspen, pinon, etc.). Juniper eats up blades too fast.
- Do you take any length logs? Really would prefer 8 feet logs. Up to 8.5 feet. Want them cut to length.
- What is the smallest diameter? Our machine can go down to a couple of inches. Really depends on what you think is feasible. Straighter will get more production, but the machine can handle knotty or less straight pieces.
- Will you take sawmill slabs? Yes. We can run a percentage of slabs and top them with logs.
- Is insurance for the operation high? No, not as high as for logging operations. It will go up some with the new machine (due to the blades).
- Several grantees expressed interest in exploring equipment options for loading and hauling raw materials from various sites to Silver Dollar business, and exploring different options for transportation (e.g., suppliers transport part of the way, receivers haul the remainder). NMFWI can also be helpful and has an interest in exploring this to ensure that grantees and others have information to pick the right piece of equipment.

### **Developing Small Diameter Utilization and Stewardship Capacity in Navajo Communities – CFRP 28-04**

*Naomi Engelman, Earth Works Institute*

The project is located in the Bluewater Ecosystem Management Area on the Mt. Taylor District of the Cibola National Forest. The proposal submitted by Earth Works Institute offered to treat 1,500 – 3,000 acres in a Wildland Urban Interface protection zone that is adjacent to Bluewater Lake communities. A second aspect of the proposal included development of wood products for traditional uses and included business planning for value-added manufacturing of by-products from ponderosa pine and hogan building.

Earth Works Institute developed the project in coordination with several partners including: Torreon/Star Lake Chapter, Ramah Navajo Weavers Association, Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc., Ramah Navajo Natural Resources, Ojo Encino Veterans Group, Ojo Encino Chapter, Santa Clara Woodworks, Cuba Ranger District and Mt. Taylor Ranger District.

The first phase of the project was focused on capacity building specific to building relationships focused on forest thinning, workshops conducted to learn about hogan building, small business training and equipment education and acquisition.

#### What worked – Phase I

- Collaboration with Ranger Districts
- Collaboration with Jemez, Zuni Pueblos and other CFRP projects
- Getting people enthusiastic
- Having a completed product to show
- Having a product that has a potential economic and cultural/ceremonial value

#### Challenges – Phase I

- Continuity, timing: keeping the crew working, reaching community agreement on hogan site
- Log hauling: bad roads, weather, forest closures, transportation costs, equipment breakdowns
- Figuring out a use of small wood “left overs”
- Marketing and making the project financially viable

#### Challenges – Phase II

- Participant retention
- Effective communication
- Hogan design
- Funding to complete/maintain hogans
- Equipment deficiencies
- Community participation
- Balancing multiple project partners interests

#### Lessons Learned – Phase I and II

- Vision and strong leadership at all levels
- Good communication; keeping up the spirit
- Collaboration is key
- Following through, perseverance in the face of challenges
- Keeping crews working (on-the-job training)
- Having good equipment
- Always adapting, innovating

As the program moves forward to completion, the grantees will focus on additional trainings on business development, safety and ramada building. Hogans that were started will be completed and tours will be developed to bring interested people and community members to see the buildings.

## **NM Recycling Coalition - Outreach and Education to enhance the Utilization of Compost and Mulch from Forest Residuals – CFRP 20-07**

*English Bird, NM Recycling Coalition, Krista Bonfantine, Jim Brooks*

New Mexico Recycling Coalition is the lead agency on four composting and mulching demonstration sites around Santa Fe:

1. Santa Fe County Fire Department will be thinning 40 acres on city/county lands and will use the wood residue to create a composting project on Santa Fe County lands.
2. Pueblo of Tesuque will create a composting demonstration project on their land with wood residuals from their CFRP bosque project.
3. Forest Guild will create mulch from the residue of a CFRP restoration project on Rowe Mesa.
4. Earth Works Institute will use the mulched forest material on their restoration projects for erosion control.

In addition, the project includes engaging the New Mexico Department of Transportation to use this material in road project in the northern part of the State.

### **Discussion**

*Can the berms comprised of wood chips for hillslope treatments also be spread out on top of the hill to help diffuse and divert the flow of surface water at the top of the slope to reduce runoff and road or slope erosion?*

Yes. It is possible to thin the wood chips out at different intervals starting at the top and progressing down the slope. The berms need not be spaced at any particular interval.

*Does it make any difference (e.g., more or less road erosion from surface water runoff) if the wood chips are dispersed versus bermed along the slope?*

Spreading the wood chips works well, but it is still more effective to integrate some type of diversion/damming intervals going down the slope. This effect can be achieved in different ways – berming wood chips along the contour or using lop and scatter along the contour interval.

*What is the cost of this type of treatment per road mile?*

The presenters were not sure what the cost would be.

*Is it effective to use wood chips directly on the road?*

Not if the road is in use, however if the road is closed, using chips can work well, depending on the circumstances.

*What happens to the slopes that are treated over time?*

Grass and other vegetation grows as the mulch biodegrades. In addition, wind blown seeds are captured in the berms and mulch, diversifying future vegetation. Growth may ultimately follow the pattern of successional growth.

*What is the cost of using filter sock or wattles for erosion control?*

The cost varies. For some idea of what the cost may be: 1) the cost of sock weave may be \$0.15/foot; whereas the cost per foot of a compost-filled sock could be \$2.35 to \$ 2.85.

*Is or can the sock material be biodegradable?*

Yes, it is possible to get sock material that is photodegradable or biodegradable.

*Is it possible to add bagged nutrients to increase the biodegradation and re-growth and stabilization process?*

Yes.

### **Village of Questa /La Lama CFRP 13-03**

*Brent Jaramillo & Jerry Sanchez, Village of Questa*

The project conducted forest restoration treatments on 150 acres on the Questa Ranger District of the Carson National Forest adjacent to the Village of Questa. Objectives of the project were to: thin population of small diameter trees and infested trees for reduction of hazardous fuel materials; create open space for native grasses and/or vegetation and to promote healthy watershed; utilize all wood products from the forest for public use and youth education; and create local employment opportunities. The Village purchased a chipper to mulch the slash and small diameter trees were made available to local residents. The Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and the Singing River Field Center conducted a Forest Ecology Camp for area youth.

#### ***Achievements:***

- Summer program for local youth—promoting healthy forest; how to thin small diameter trees; wilderness safety
- Local employment – local contractors hired for the duration of the project; twenty-six jobs created
- Approximately 100 Senior Citizens and disabled citizens received fire wood
- Approximately 166 acres thinned
- Created fire break on Southeast Village limits
- Application form and criteria developed for distribution of wood to disabled and elderly members of the community.

#### ***Challenges/Lessons Learned:***

- NEPA – Project implementation was delayed due to a protest in the Questa/Lama WUI. This was addressed by connecting with the La Lama Neighborhood Association (fellow CFRP grantee), and was ultimately resolved when the appeal was not upheld by the court.
- Insect infestation – This resulted in a short time frame to conduct thinning because contractors were not available because they were out on wildfire work.
- Distribution of wood to the community – More communication early on could have prevented some challenges. This communication should focus on the fact that the wood from the project was intended to be given to the elderly and the disabled, per the objectives of the grant, and the safety reasons for not allowing public access to the site during the project.

### **Discussion**

*What criteria did you use for the wood distribution?*

Provide disability form

Senior citizens – 55 and above

Income limit

*Did you allow the local community to go get their own wood?*

Not during the project. After the project the District Ranger issued permits for dead and down wood on steep slopes.

*What was the protest based on?*

Prescription. Some in Lama did not want any thinning to occur.

*Will the residual biomass be part of a prescribed burn?*

It was scattered and lopped. The project is scheduled for a prescribed burn in 2008.

### **Use of the Bull Hog Brush Shredder – CFRP 18-05**

*Glenn Griffin*

This presentation was on the use of a Bull Hog Brush Shredder in a CFRP project that conducted restoration treatments, over three years, on 350 acres of Little Walnut Picnic Area Wildland Urban Interface.

The presenter showed a number of pictures to show the learning that took place in this project of different methods for thinning and shredding. Initially, the crews cut trees with chainsaws and then shredded on site and burnt branches. This was very labor intensive.

The Bull Hog brush shredder dramatically increased productivity and reduced cost of thinning. The equipment will remove brush and small diameter trees in 1/5<sup>th</sup> the time it would take two crewmembers to do the same job by hand. Glenn and his crews have also devised a number of ways to reduce damage to soil and forest (e.g., biomass roads; blocking temporary roads).

The equipment costs Glenn around \$83 - \$84 per hour to operate. The cost of clearing is currently \$700 per acre, and they can clear 2 – 3 acres per day in a basal area.

There is now a dealer in New Mexico that can supply this type of equipment (Construction Rental & Supply, Albuquerque). They brought a piece of equipment for viewing to the conference.

### **Valles Caldera/Jemez Fire Restoration Project - CFRP 27-03**

*Anne Bradley, The Nature Conservancy, Mike Dechter, Jemez Ranger District, Marie Rodriguez, Valles Caldera*

The project focused on forest restoration treatments (thinning and prescribed burning) on 590 acres in the southwestern corner of the Valles Caldera National Preserve and the Los Griegos area of the Jemez Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest. The goal of the project was to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in ponderosa pine forests, restore fire-adapted ecosystems, build local capacity to carry out ecological restoration treatments, and develop science-based restoration and

fuels reduction prescriptions and monitoring protocols. Restoration and monitoring activities were closely coordinated with other CFRP projects currently underway at Monument Canyon Research Natural area in the Santa Fe National Forest. Treatment prescriptions were based on scientific methods and ecological assessments developed for the Jemez Mountain Fire Learning Network.

Partner Project Objectives included:

- Provide a demonstration project for agency staff and the public
- Experiment with different approaches to ponderosa pine restoration
- Implement a project in an important conservation area with widespread fire regime disruption and high fuel hazard

Treatment methods included:

- Mastication needed due to rocky and steep ground
- Cut and masticate in a single entry
- 8-10 acres/day

Adaptive Management and Learning:

- Public workshop on restoration treatments for local landowners, state, federal and tribal managers, conservation interests
- Stand marking with volunteers from Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI)
- Field trips for regional and national Forest Service employees brought over 300 people through the site.
- Regional Goshawk workshop field trip
- Locating treatment sites located at major recreation areas
- Visits by congressional staffers

In summary, the project was successful because it did reduce hazard and risk to a larger landscape through adapted treatments. Partners were able to explore various prescriptions to meet future challenges to restore the Preserve's significantly degraded forest and added to the "tool box" of learnings for partners. Monitoring and measuring outcomes and effects lead to better application of prescriptions and treatment methods.

Lessons learned – implementing restoration:

- Need for a thoughtful contractor to be a real partner – if you cannot continually administer the project, that person must be reliable and communicative and should be willing to ask questions and help improve the project.
- People are still debating the details of restoration treatments. Know that there are different voices out there. You must work with the forest you have – issues as well as species and stand structure.
- Questions to ponder: Our forest/woodland systems are sustained by natural processes – if we don't reintroduce fire or flooding (bosque) is it really a restoration? What do you expect your project to do? Restore an area or prepare it for a natural process? What happens after the project?

- Much learning has and continues to be made by incorporating many partners and providing comparative treatments. Time consuming and sometimes frustrating but a great education.
- Many potential partners beyond the main grantee and local managers. Scientists, agencies and the public are trying to restore areas and reduce hazards throughout the West.
- This kind of visible and accessible project has attracted a lot of people. It has provided a platform to discuss and improve our restoration practices and policies.
- Agency people are very hard pressed for time and will not be able to provide as much time as you may like.
- Pros and cons to NEPA development – helped us reformulate a more informative project and brought in more partners. Added more time and stress. USFS is challenged with decreased funding and having to do extra planning.
- Expertise on a District is “stovepiped” throughout the project you will potentially be working with different staff with unique expertise. Make sure you have a working relationship with planners, sale administrators and fire and wildlife staff.
- Keep the communication going – make sure you have an advocate. Changes in staffing and priorities can create a challenge over the life of a project.

## **Wellness Coalition Youth Corps/Alternative Forestry Unlimited - CFRP 13-07**

*Josh Baldwin & Mick Deubel, Alternative Forestry Unlimited*

Eight members of the Silver City-based Wellness Coalition Youth Corps received safety and other training to do most of the thinning in a hazardous fuels reduction project. The Wellness Coalition Youth Corps project was a complement to a previous Pinos Altos Wildfire Risk Reduction and Smallwood Utilization Project. The project continues forest thinning treatments on 450 acres of Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands to reduce the wildfire threat to Pinos Altos, a community identified by New Mexico State Forestry Division as being at great risk from catastrophic fire.

The project thinned overstocked trees to a historic range of variation, preserve old and large trees, and create conditions conducive to re-establishing low intensity surface fires. The project provided a supply of the thinned materials for value-added products. The project improved the local watershed and restore forest ecosystems by reducing insect and disease infestations. Students from the Silver City Consolidated School District participated in classroom and field based ecology classes. Local community groups participated in educational and outreach efforts that are designed to promote utilization, sustainability, education, communication, and joint problem solving. Local wood-product businesses collaborated in the utilization and marketing of the thinned materials. The project provides for the annual forest worker safety training and certification of 9 Youth Corps members.

The Wellness Coalition provided an AmeriCorps Youth Corps crew of eight 18-25 year olds. Besides the Forest Worker’s Safety Certification, AmeriCorps Members were provided CPR/1<sup>st</sup> aid training, leadership courses, bias and cultural awareness training, and communication skills workshops. TWC handled all Human Resources issues for the crew and supervisor including recruitment, supervision, payroll and payroll taxes (including worker’s comp). Corps Members also took part in an environmental education presentation to local grade school students.

## **Discussion**

*How does the attrition of students and young people taking part in this program compare to the national average of attrition for AmeriCorps projects?*

The presenter was not certain about these statistics at the time of the session. He reiterated that, for this program, the focus was on providing underprivileged youth with the opportunity to learn how to be responsible and to learn life and technical skills that were transferable.

## **Gila Restoration Project: Restoring Forest Watersheds and Native Fish - CFRP 28-06**

*Trout Unlimited*

This project completed NEPA in the Aldo Leopold Wilderness so that 89,000 acres of the Wilderness Area may be treated via prescribed fire and Wildland Fire Use. The project will also improve road crossings and riparian forests to expand habitat for native fish. The grantee will sponsor a public seminar and develop educational materials on the risk of fire and the survival of the endangered Gila trout. The project will provide jobs and revenue to local businesses and will utilize the efforts of local volunteers, who will assist in implementing project activities, receive training in forest and fisheries conservation, and conduct outreach and education efforts.

## **Discussion**

*Is there a review of the contractor's NEPA work?*

Yes, the Forest Service reviews everything they do and makes the decision.

## **Upper Mora Watershed Restoration Phase II - CFRP 03-01**

*Gilbert Vigil and Ben Sanchez, La Jicarita Enterprise Community/Joe Reddan, Forest Service*

Ben Sanchez told the story of how this CFRP project built relationships between a community and federal agencies that had a long history of animosity. Starting in the 1960's, federal agencies began closing public land to forest resource dependent communities. This limited access for, for instance, firewood gathering. In the late 1990's, several initiatives (e.g., National Fire Plan) created opportunities for public meetings and to begin discussing socio-economic development. CFRP was truly a different animal. It forced everybody to learn a different jargon (e.g, collaboration, watersheds, etc.) and began to open up forest management to community involvement in setting policies and developing new programs.

La Jicarita applied for funding to restore 1,000 acres in Carson and Santa Fe National Forests. They received a grant in 1999/2000, during the first year of the CFRP program. They started getting data together for the grant application, but the on-the-ground work did not start until. It took time to connect the right people. La Jicarita got in touch with Ben Romero and Ignacio Peralta of the Forest Service. They had just started and wanted to know why the project had not drawn down any money for on the ground work. They were concerned that they might not be able to meet all the objectives written in the proposal. Together, they decided to focus work on the project area in the Santa Fe National Forest where NEPA had been completed.

Another important step was when the folks from La Jicarita met Joe Reddan, the new District Ranger. They discussed the challenges of the project, but with Joe's support devised a way to

move the project forward. Then, during a meeting with Walter Dunn, they discussed involving Gilbert Vigil. Gilbert was from the area and was retired from the Forest Service. He started to help the group and it started to happen. Little by little trust was being built, knowledge was shared, and local businesses were getting involved in the project.

The project is an example of how you need to build trust and relationships. Some animosity still exists, but trust is building. Work in the forests has to continue to restore healthy ecosystems and create economic development opportunities for forest-dependent communities. Rural forest dependent communities are ready and able to do the work on private and public lands. The Mora area now has well-established companies that are doing the work.

Joe Reddan added that from the perspective of the Forest Service, with the NEPA done and the close relationships being forged, Walker Flats was a natural fit for the project. The area had been used historically by, and was part of, the Land Grant. It borders Carson National Forest and has a good mix of public and private lands. Walker Flats had been densified as a result of fire suppression. The District had been working on the NEPA, but needed to do more work. They had 650 acres that they could fit the two CFRP grants in. People have used that to start businesses that are now working in neighboring counties and all over Northern New Mexico. The groups used several approaches to build and enhance the trusted relationships. CFRP created the opportunity for the Forest Service to reestablish a presence in the area and provide services to the community. The District now has a better relationship with North-Eastern Communities.

Some additional comments and lessons learned.

- Gilbert is retired Forest Service Forest Supervisor of Carson national Forest. He is a community member and really understands the agency. He has been a tremendous resource.
- Forest Service staff was always available to help. A supportive District Ranger also gave staff the freedom to work there and be at the service of the grantees and the community.
- This is a great demonstration of the benefit of thinning for grazing. In one location, you can see the before and after effects of treatment. CFRP is a real opportunity to transfer the learning to private landowners.
- Lots of projects do monitoring, but this project does it really well. This is a model.
- In the course of the years, the community established relationships with people who provided substantial technical assistance. This is helping the community be more competitive in obtaining grants for our communities.
- University of New Mexico and Highlands University are now helping with monitoring. Clustering monitoring is an ideal approach.
- A key issue for La Jicarita now is how to pull value out of the forest products resulting from treatments. They are not there yet.

## **Bluewater Wildland Urban Interface, Piñon/Juniper Meadows Restoration Project - CFRP 01-05**

### *Forest Guild/Joint FS Presentation*

The project is located in the Bluewater Ecosystem Management Area on the Mt. Taylor District of the Cibola National Forest. The project is a watershed-scale area that had been reviewed by many and was ideal because it was ready for treatment after a completed EIS and a District that was looking for implementation partners.

Goals of the project included:

- Treat and restore 700-900 acres of pinon-juniper savannah in a wildland urban interface
- Restore 100-200 acres of grassland meadows
- Restore 50-100 acres of ponderosa pine (utilization strategy)
- Provide training and employment opportunities for the local workforce and youth
- Development of a wood utilization and economic strategy for the Grants, NM area

Key Partners:

- Mount Taylor Ranger District, Cibola National Forest;
- Forest Guild
- Mt. Taylor Millwork
- Ramah Navajo Chapter – Natural Resources Division
- Zuni Forest Products
- Southwest Sustainable Forests Partnership
- NM State Forestry
- Grants High School
- Cottonwood Gulch

The capacity building aspects of the project included:

- Establishing relationships and building trust
- Developing a network for information sharing
- Discussion of issues that were of concern
- Identifying opportunities for further collaboration
- Development of local infrastructure

A survey was administered to local organizations to determine if the capacity building aspects of the project had been successful. 100% of the respondents noted that their organizations had benefited, 100% of the respondents reported that their organizations were more informed about forest related issues, and 100% respondents felt their organizations were better networked among forest related interests.

Capacity Building challenges included:

- Competition versus collaboration
- Minimal existing infrastructure

Capacity Building Lessons Learned included:

- Be patient
- Be persistent
- Add value

Multiparty Monitoring - challenges included:

- Coordination of treatments, crew availability and ecological monitoring

- Changing of prescription from Phase I to Phase II required additional monitoring in the same vegetation type
- Low survey response

Lessons learned:

- Stagger treatments, especially within the same forest type across project years (and seasons) allows for baseline and post treatment data to have time to be evaluated and addressed by site prescriptions
- Have a prescription meeting prior to implementation review details
- Pay students and teachers for their time

Multiparty Monitoring Successes:

- 29 youth trained in ecological monitoring
- Both qualitative and quantitative socioeconomic data collected
- Working with partners to treat acres, while pursuing an adaptive management strategy using site specific data.

## **Beaver Habitat Restoration in the Jemez Mountains – CFRP 2507**

*Bruce Bauer & David Morgan, Pueblo of Santa Clara*

This project aims to restore 80 acres of degraded beaver habitat along approximately two miles of Indios and Santa Clara creeks in mixed conifer forest between about 8500 and 9500 feet elevation on the Santa Clara Pueblo reservation and the Valles Caldera National Preserve. It will:

- Demonstrate techniques to re-establish degraded riparian zones and enable them to function as wetland fire breaks in mixed-conifer forests;
- Compare high-altitude riparian restoration techniques, including a small prescribed burn;
- Explore the ecological relationship between beavers, elk, mule deer, and other herbivores in southwestern forests; and
- Install hydrologic monitoring equipment that will yield valuable data for years to come on how beavers affect upper watershed hydrology, for the benefit of local mountain communities and their acequias and water supplies.

The primary product or outcome of this project will be improved riparian forest health and scientific information. In addition an innovative use will be made of the 8,000 to 15,000 small-diameter mixed conifers removed from riparian areas, to construct barriers that will protect young riparian vegetation from elk browsing. The project will employ at least 10 forestry technicians at Santa Clara Pueblo, train 10 or more technicians and 5 to 10 YCC participants per year in vegetation transplanting and other restoration techniques, involve 12 to 25 students at Northern New Mexico College, and include an extensive education and outreach program that will reach more than 100 volunteers and students from all over northern New Mexico.

### **Discussion**

*The beaver naturally creates valley bottom disturbances through its way of life (e.g. it is a “slash and burn” species). How desirable is it to simulate these disturbances, what successional process is anticipated, and what is the time line?*

The presenter was not certain about the time line. He acknowledged that they anticipate ecological disturbance factor and it will be interesting to see how it plays out in the study areas. Another observer noted that in the southwest disturbance “makes it happen” and we all need to live with disturbance in the natural environment. The beaver is a species that adds value even though it creates disturbance. In addition, the beaver creates a roughness of the stream channel that helps to create a healthy stream environment.

## **Thursday, January 24, 2008**

The meeting on Thursday, January 24 was focused on discussing opportunities for landscape scale restoration. Several recent CFRP grants are attempting to look at forest restoration at landscape and watershed levels. Landscape scale restoration will be both an opportunity and challenge for CFRP grantees and many other stakeholders in the years to come.

### **Keynote Speech**

#### **Daniel Jiron, USDA Forest Service, Forest Supervisor, Santa Fe NF – Making the Case for Landscape Scale Restoration**

Daniel Jiron has been with the Forest Service and involved in forest restoration in various parts of the country, but his roots are in Northern New Mexico. As a natural resource manager, he is always thinking about precious resources of water. What are possible tools to use at the landscape level?

There has been a lot of progress in Northern New Mexico. Last year we were able to reintroduce fire in large areas. Now we need to think about, and plan for, restoration at the landscape level. How do we do it and how can we use partnerships and leverage available resources better.

Some outcomes we could see if we move forward in landscape planning and implementation and monitoring of projects, include:

- With lots of people moving to our region and fire being a natural part of healthy ecosystems, what will be the impacts on communities, and how do we protect wildland-urban interfaces? As part of our interaction with various stakeholders we need to think about how we prioritize and make decisions about doing the right things.
- Reintroduction of fire in ecosystems. Fire is a part of natural ecosystems. What has happened with small diameter timber makes prescribed burning more risky.
- Climate change. As time goes on we will see changes in ecosystems as a result of climate change. We should learn a lot from each other and we need to be aware of what science is going to tell us about these changes. Need to make forests more resilient to future changes.
- We should be really concerned about watersheds. Catastrophic fire, climate change, and other issues make watersheds really critical to our communities and future generations. Most people agree on protecting watersheds, but there are lots of different views on how to do it. We need to work through this and identify key watersheds and prioritize what needs to be done to protect these watersheds.

How do we make ecosystems and our communities more resilient? CFRP grantees and everybody else who has a stake in healthy forests and communities needs to get involved. We need to figure out any venue for communicating and connecting to determine how to move forward together.

We already have a number of tools that may be relevant to landscape level efforts. We need to think about how we best use existing tools as well as new tools that may come on-line.

- Continue to work with small communities. They face unique challenges. We need them in the conversation.
- There are lots of federal grant programs and several programs in local, state, and tribal government that support prescribed burning and stewardship programs. What is the suite of correct tools to use, and where do we use them to achieve our goals.
- Private sector local operators. In Northern NM, we don't have a large operator. Most of our industry includes small businesses. How do we integrate them better into landscape level efforts?
- Cities that have key watersheds are important partners. Local communities, city, county, and state entities are all very important. They need to be part to ensure the alignment needed to have an impact.

Mr. Jiron mentioned a number of key opportunities for the future:

- Reintroduction of fire. The Forest Service is committed, but as we move forward, we need to pick the right places and have a positive impact. We have to burn areas at the right intervals. How do we ensure that the right intervals are established and that there is follow up?
- Thinning. How do we do it in a way that makes sense?
- Learning new concepts. As a group in NM, we will start to learn a new language (e.g., carbon markets, environmental services). We need to learn collectively about what they mean and how they apply to us. For example, terminology regarding environmental services. One of the key services is water. It is a key service to our communities and our landscapes. If the human part of the ecosystem is not healthy, then the ecosystem is also not going to be healthy. How do these concepts apply to us and how do they integrate into our planning processes and how we do things here. What ideas will help us plan better at the landscape level?

In conclusion, Mr. Jiron gave some ideas about where we could go from here. Landscape level restoration and ecosystem health require a collaborative effort. The National Forests are here and will be a player in these efforts. We can only do the job by working together.

Mr. Jiron is going to look at how to integrate these ideas into management of the National Forests. Things are only going to move forward if everyone works towards a common goal. CFRP at heart enables all stakeholders to set a common goal, but we have much more to do.

Environmental services and resilience are key concepts. The challenge is for us to learn more about these concepts and how we understand and apply that thinking to us. Resiliency is key to how we improve and enhance condition class on the land; how do make forests more resilient; and how we face changes in climate.

Landscape level planning is multi-generational. Our time here is short, but we need to think about the next generations, our children. We should be charting a course for the future. Our efforts won't make a difference if our children don't pick it up and keep it moving forward. How do we involve children in the planning process?

## **Discussion**

*This summer and fall you set up stakeholder meetings to try a multi-jurisdictional contract.*

Northern Arizona has done this. We need to think about whether a large-scale contract could help achieve the goals we want to achieve at the landscape level. We have started meeting with many groups to help us be better prepared. We are still thinking through it.

A couple of considerations are important. Stewardship contracting can be a good way to achieve landscape level goals, but it is one way to do it, and let's not just look at this one tool. We need to look at many tools and pick the ones that work best. For instance, how do we get small businesses involved?

*I am in the wood floor business. I need the stewardship contract to benefit my community. Need a robust model to really get involved. Why don't you run with the model, and see how it fits. Forest Service has everything you need; take the ball and run with it.*

New Mexico is different from Arizona. We need to make sure we get it right.

## **Two Examples of Landscape Level Approaches in Northern and Southern NM**

### **Example 1: Landscape Scale Approaches and Successes: La Jara Fuels Reduction Project (Carson NF)**

*Ignacio Peralta and Patricia Coral, USDA Forest Service*

The La Jara Fuels Reduction Project is restoring a small part of the La Jara watershed. This has been in the works for several years and builds on past work. Since 1996, the Camino Real District has been taking a landscape level approach. The District felt that the human component was critical, so they based their landscape approach on social zones and watersheds.

The planning documents were developed based on information about how people used the area (existing conditions) and involving the community in describing the desired condition. The planning documents are dynamic and evolve over time. By 2001, the Forest Service developed and implemented several projects within Taos Canyon to reduce the high potential for wildfires.

The Forest Service continued to gather data and used the additional data to design the La Jara project in consultation with community members and various other resources. The Forest Service was surprised to see that fire danger was not as high a priority for the community as was forest health. People felt the forest needed to be made sustainable. The project participants found great alignment between the community and the Forest Service regarding desired condition.

Based on this alignment during the planning process, the proposed actions for the project included: fuelbreaks, thinning, prescribed burning, watershed restoration, turkey piles and road closures. The approach taken matched very well with the CFRP approach of building collaborative multi-stakeholder projects.

Why is this relevant to landscape level planning? It is a small project in the Rio Fernando Watershed. It is only one piece of the watershed. There are several CFRP and other WUI projects. It is an example of how CFRP fits in with the larger landscape. There are several projects that are addressing fire reduction and forest restoration initiatives. The La Jara project has generated a lot of excitement and gotten a lot of interest from community members, so you see one project leading to others. Taos Pueblo owns adjacent land and is also implementing CFRP projects. Taos

Pueblo and Forest Service are now collaborating more closely to share data and manage the larger landscape with more accuracy.

## **Discussion**

*Private property looks critical from the landscape perspective.*

A neighborhood association, Taos business alliance, and other private landowners are directly involved in the CFRP projects.

*Are you seeing much treatment on private land?*

Yes. There had already been some, but there is a lot more now.

*Are you allowing fire to occur in areas where it can happen safely? Is there concern about decline of aspen?*

The treatments are designed to restore forest health, not just mitigate fire risk. There are several areas for aspen regeneration. Aspen are not removed; thinning focuses on pine. When wildfire starts further away from the communities, the Forest Service will allow fires to burn, depending on conditions.

*How do you prioritize projects? Do you have a landscape scale assessment to identify areas where you have an impact for long-term landscape restoration and health? Are you able to tap into the Forest planning documents to help with landscape scale planning.*

First we looked at fire danger to the communities, but then also looked at the watershed.

## **Example 2: Signal Peak Project (Gila NF)**

*Russell Ward, USDA Forest Service and Todd Schulke, Center for Biological Diversity*

Signal Peak is a first step towards thinking big and trying to impact the landscape in the Gila National Forest. It builds on lots of collaborative smaller projects that have been implemented.

The Signal Peak project focuses on completing landscape planning. Experience has shown that a critical element in the establishment and survival of forest restoration related businesses is the ability to develop and coordinate with land managers an appropriate and predictable program of work, combined with a stable and steady flow of material.

There are good reasons for landscape planning:

- Various grant opportunities, of which CFRP is perhaps the most significant, have provided essential funding for many projects and business startups. But those projects have tended to be somewhat narrow in scope and short on long-term planning, and have not yet created an environment of smooth and continuous cooperation between local businesses and communities and neighboring federal and state forestlands.
- Many CFRP projects have not been fully coordinated with existing agency programs of work and that has caused frustration on all sides.
- Public lands managers have struggled with the intermittent nature of accommodating grant funded collaborative projects.
- For local forest-based businesses a steady flow of materials is important. It is hard to secure that without longer-term planning.

Signal Peak Landscape Objectives are to:

- Assess ecological issues and prioritization of restoration needs at the scale of landscape disturbances and effectively assess cumulative affects of proposed restoration by doing landscape scale assessment and large scale NEPA analysis.
- Reduce NEPA analysis needs by covering more ground and eliminating redundancy of many small-scale analyses while creating a reservoir of restoration projects for an extended period of time.
- Incorporate project within agency program of work and leverage long-term funding requests.
- Coordinate restoration by-product supply to allow for long-term business planning and economic development by community-based restoration businesses.

General steps in the landscape assessment process are to:

- Complete landscape scale assessment
- Complete collaborative large scale NEPA analysis
- Assess utilization and economic development potential of restoration treatments
- Establish a rigorous long-term monitoring and education program

The assessment focused on an area that included mixed ownership of about 360,000 acres, including one large watershed and parts of two adjacent watersheds with interrelated issues. The assessment included participation by agencies, local industry, and conservation groups. Priorities for protection/restoration that emerged in the process included WUI areas, Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO) protected activity centers (PACs), and introduction of landscape fire.

The project included a NEPA analyses that focused on a smaller area to investigate the key issues in more detail. The CFRP grant paid for data collection and analysis, including:

- Analysis of restoration treatments (mechanical thinning and burning) across 27,000 priority acres.
- Wildlife (MSO and goshawk) surveys, archeological survey, and timber stand exams contracted by collaborative group

Gila NF is funding and contracting for the Environmental Assessment. The preliminary proposed action includes 6,000 acres of mechanical thinning and 21,000 acres of prescribed burning (in several burn blocks).

Establishing an ecological monitoring and education program are key components of the project. Long-term monitoring has been a challenge and this grant has really helped establish the program. The long-term monitoring plots at landscape scale include burn-only plots. To keep this going in the long-term, the project is investing in local long-term monitoring capacity, for instance by involving youth in the monitoring process and developing an ecological restoration curriculum. In addition, the project is building awareness and engaging the general public through field trips and media outreach.

A unique element of this project is the assessment of economic effects of thinning projects. The project evaluates: restoration byproduct and economic development potential associated with mechanical thinning; long-term treatment costs, including cost reductions associated with

economic development and expansion of markets; and community economic benefits offered by employment, tax assessments, local circulation of revenues and wages, fire prevention value, etc.

### **Discussion**

The project has seen a lot of support from the community, but is trying to get people in the woods to see the effects of treatments.

The economic monitoring program could have benefits to the broader CFRP program to apply these approaches to other grant. Perhaps the approach can be used for the whole CFRP.

## **Panel Discussion: Opportunities to Leverage Funding for Landscape Scale Restoration**

This panel session focused on how to connect a number of existing funding programs and resources to achieve landscape planning and restoration. The speakers focused on the unique elements of these programs.

### ***Habitat Improvement Stamp Program, Dale Hall, NM Department of Game and Fish***

- NM Game & Fish collects funds through the sale of habitat stamps. The funds are used to fund projects that enhance wildlife habitat. The agency has identified landscapes (areas of emphasis) that they are interested in. The program is authorized by the Sikes Act.
- Unique results are achieved through the partnerships with Forest Service and the BLM. The Habitat Improvement Stamp funds provide funding that matches their programs, and the NEPA planning effort provides match to the Habitat Stamp funds.
- Managing for wildlife requires hot burns that create habitat replacement. NM Game and Fish are not interested in cool fires because wildlife need successional stages that can only be achieved with hot fires.
- Grant applications are reviewed by a seven-member citizen advisory committee. They rank project proposals, and NM Game and Fish authorizes the funds.

### ***Healthy Lands Initiative, Dave Borland, BLM***

- BLM has received Habitat Stamp funds in the Socorro area to reduce pinon-juniper density in ponderosa pine stands. They are using fire to accomplish that goal. This landscape scale project has been done in 70's and 90's and treated 60,000 acres.
- BLM uses stewardship contracts, including stewardship agreements with tribes, as a tool to fund restoration project. They have been using these mechanisms on a smaller scale.
- BLM is planning a landscape assessment in the El Malpais area and is putting in place a long-term stewardship agreement with adjoining tribes. That would be a 160,000+ acre project. Funding from various sources will be used to help fund this.
- BLM has a community wildfire assistance program with NM Association of Counties. This is a grant program for communities that have a wildfire protection plan. Donna Hummel is the contact.
- BLM's Healthy Lands Initiative followed the Healthy Forests Initiative. It was implemented in 2007 and increased the BLM budget. The program focuses on restoring areas impacted by old oil and gas wells, facilities, and roads. The intent is to restore fire

regimes, improve wildlife habitat, and address invasive species. Those funds can be leveraged together with other funds.

***EPA Clean Water Act Section 319, Mike Matush, New Mexico Environment Department***

- Federal Clean Water Act 319 funding is available for water quality improvement projects. The program is administered by the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau. Money is available for projects aimed at improving water quality in impaired streams. Most perennial streams in New Mexico are listed as impaired streams.
- The first step in acquiring a 319 grant is to develop a Watershed Plan. Once a plan has been developed, you can apply for funding.
- The grant program requires 40% match. Matching funds (or in-kind contributions) have to come from non-federal sources.
- Grants are provided for restoration activities (also called best management practices, BMPs). Most BMPs benefit forest stands and wildlife. When working on Forest Service and BLM property, NMED fits the program to those federal agencies' needs.
- 319 works really effectively with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). You can use 319 funds to match NRCS EQIP (agricultural producers) or NRCS WHIP (non-agricultural producers) grant funds. Also, Habitat Stamp funds can be used to match 319 grant funds.

***Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) Woody Biomass Grants, Jerry Payne, Forest Service***

- Jerry is the Regional Coordinator of the FPL Biomass Grant Program.
- The Forest Service pulled 5M\$ to bring in the private sector to help reduce the cost of fuel reduction.
- It is a very competitive program, but New Mexico is very successful.
- The grants are usually in the \$25,000 – \$50,000 range and require a 20% match). This is a one-time grant and is mostly used to buy equipment to improve efficiency of businesses. It has also been used to pay for safety training.
- The program works a lot with the Southwest Sustainable Partnership.

Panel members discussed a number of connections between the various programs that could help landscape level planning and restoration.

- CFRP and the 319 program, for instance, both require that the project is developed and implemented by a diverse group of stakeholders who help with planning, prioritization and implementation.
- Most programs require monitoring and can include education components.
- Various agencies have expertise and tools to support grantees. For instance, NMED does a lot of water quality monitoring and can provide that part of a project for grantees.
- NM Department of Game & Fish has been going through a strategic planning process. What are the objectives for landscapes, what has been done, and what do we want to do. They can really help with spatial planning.

The panelists represented various grant programs. They want to make them more compatible and useful to each other and challenged the grantees to talk to them and find out more about each

program. Agencies and grantees need to figure out how they can effectively combine these resources and make a landscape area better.

There are other programs as well, for instance the Governors River Ecosystem Restoration program. Planning and restoration at the watershed level requires collaboration with all of these programs to support strategic implementation.

### **Discussion**

- Another relevant program is the Insect and Disease Management Program that funds insect prevention projects on National Forests. The program is small, but it might be a component to consider when designing a project.
- Forest Service also has entomologists on staff who can help with assessment and strategy development.
- Private foundations are not in the room, but are funding wildlands projects and may have an interest in large-scale restoration.
- Trails can do a lot to connect the public and generate support. There is federal and state funding for trails.
- National Forest Foundation can be a good source for funding.
- There are lots of non-financial resources, such as LandFire (mapping and planning tools), and the NMFWRI.
- The challenge is to create connectivity between many different plans and programs.

### **Equipment: State-of-the-Art Obie O'Brien, USDA Forest Service and Bob Rummer, USDA Forest Service**

This session focused on the types of equipment needed to implement work at the landscape level. The presenters combined the following roles. Mr. O'Brien has operational expertise and helps with project planning, and assessments of logging feasibility, accident prevention, and fuel reduction. Dr. Rummer is a research engineer, based in Auburn. He also does consultations and has consulted with many CFRP grantees.

How do you get from current condition to future condition? You need three components:

- Prescription (what to treat)
- Forest operation (how to treat)
- Forest products and enhanced ecosystem services.

This presentation focused on the middle step. For example, if you have a WUI, we can help you identify what the constraints are and what piece of equipment would fit.

ToolChoice = what is the task + how long will you be at it (time) + where and local condition (place) + what budget do you have (\$).

You have different equipment for various types of jobs and terrain. The presenters showed a number of tools, both equipment and planning tools such as maps that show access options. These planning tools help you figure out where you get the optimum solution.

What is different about landscape level operations?

- Scale is different – volume of work
  - Amount of work needed to get work done
  - How much time would it take to do this much work
  - What can available people and equipment do (production rates)
  - Can the market absorb the product
  - Economies of scale (big vs. small equipment)
- Spatial orientation considerations. Which blocks and what kind of access are available.
- Mix of treatments and operations
  - Variety of operations. Fell and remove merchantable stems, process stems to recover max value, fell non-merchantable stems, treat activity fuels, roadwork, create wildlife snags, remediate compaction on trails and landings
  - Variety of conditions.
    - Multi-function machines that can handle multiple tasks and different types of products. One machine does multiple jobs.
    - Multi-function systems. Multiple machines, coordinated operations, best fit of task and equipment.
- Landscape level markets – who would use this much material.
  - Biomass can be a more reliable market.
  - What is the conversion technology going to be, where will be the market. Take woody biomass in the forest and take it to biomass plants. These are in prototype stages.

In NM, markets are small. Utilization effect is critical. Equipment has to be productively employed to ensure profitability. If we can use a machine 75% of the time, the cost per hour is significantly lower than if we use it only 50% of the time.

### **Discussion**

A lot of pre-NEPA planning has been lost. We are now looking at collaborative landscape planning. Obie has a lot of relevant knowledge that should be brought to bear on our efforts. Bring Obie in up-front to identify what needs exist for complex logging situations. This up-front planning makes the NEPA process easier, because we will already know that we can implement the project because there is the capability to do it.

*Slope issues. What are the constraints?*

What can the machine do? Manufacturer says one thing, but agency could have other constraints about sensitive slope. In the West, a District can have cut-off slope percentages, but look into what underlies this and see if there is a need to modify.

*What kind of support system is helping operations keep machinery up and running? Especially with lots of people buying used equipment.*

That is a challenge. Dealers won't provide the required level of support when they have only a few people using machines. You have to look into best practices for preventative maintenance (e.g., oil analysis). In selecting equipment, consider if the parts are so specialized that only one

person in the country can service it or if they are made by bigger dealers (e.g., Caterpillar) that use common components across different machines.

Look into the 70th Annual Oregon Logging Conference, which includes a Logging, Construction, Trucking and Heavy Equipment Expo. It is an annual event that takes place February. This year it is in Eugene, Oregon (<http://www.oregonloggingconference.com>).

## **Networking Session: Identifying opportunities for Potential CFRP Landscape Level Projects**

The final session of the conference was a networking session during which participants broke into three smaller groups and had an energized conversation about opportunities for landscape level planning and opportunities in their regions. Participants gathered around maps and identified potential areas for landscape level projects. In each group there were people who will create opportunities to continue the conversation with potential partners and explore the possibility for these landscape level projects.

Participants felt that it was really important to start these conversations and really begin to do some planning for landscape restoration. They will need more resources, such as maps, GIS overlays, and other tools to help the planning.

Participants agreed that this discussion carries the CFRP thinking to a higher level. A few participants suggested that program managers of relevant grant programs get together to see how they can create greater alignment between these programs to support landscape level planning.

## **Summary Remarks**

Participants greatly appreciated the opportunity to engage with other program participants and to explore common issues and look towards the future of the program. The feedback and evaluation is summarized in Appendix I.

A participant brought to everyone's attention that 10 years ago the first roundtables were organized to discuss forest restoration in New Mexico. The CFRP program was born out of those roundtable discussions.

CFRP is the most important and effective forum for restoration projects. There is a need to build more awareness of the program. People need to know what the benefits are. Think about ways to get more attention and bring in new people.

# Appendix I. Evaluation

## Things that Worked

- The opportunity for sharing information and perspectives
- Networking opportunities
- Opportunities to “share the pain”
- Some of the overarching important themes are being worked out over time (e.g., issues around insurance, landscape scale efforts)
- “Magic is happening”; there is “gold in the alchemy” while at the same time achieving collaborative forest restoration
- High energy forum for people to get together
- Hearing about current projects in concurrent sessions
- Keep adjacent room for networking
- Keep time for Forest Coordinator meetings
- The third day about landscape scale restoration was very energizing.
  - Good to have breakout groups.
  - It was more forward thinking with the landscape theme; less time reporting and more time planning and networking for forward planning.

## Improvements

- Find a new venue for the meeting
- It would be helpful to have a 10 year overview to help set the context for the meeting (e.g., starting with the original roundtables, to legislation, to CFRP today, to the future)
- Along the same lines, do more to acknowledge the successes the program and use them to advertise – expand the program in other areas
- Get some press coverage
- It was disappointing to have so few participants attending the smaller group sessions. There seems to be more attrition each year in the life of the program
- There seems to be a lack of energy associated with the program (in comparison to the kind of interest and energy associated with the Quivira Coalition meetings). Take some time to assess and potentially address this observation.
- Expand the meeting to include informative and inspirational speakers from outside of the program.
- Would like to hear all the presentations

## Ideas for Next Year

- Expand the meeting to include more than the “insiders”. Include an inspiring key not speaker who might help grantees think beyond the norm.
- Tell the story of CFRP (e.g., 10-year context above). Tie in what is or could be happening elsewhere (e.g., expand the program)

- Get some press coverage to inform others of the program
- Include a field trip in the program
- Integrate a keynote or some other inspirational speaker from outside of the program – someone who could look at the program as an outsider and provide some fresh perspectives about the program.
- Consider the idea of CFRP partnering with one or two non-profits to design and fund the next annual meeting.
- More time for informal networking
- More time between presentations
- Reception – could be hosted by a sponsor or paid for by individuals
- Conduct a session on gross receipts tax
- Use the forest coordination sessions on day 2 for forest level planning. Project planning, equipment sharing.

# Appendix II. Conference Agenda

**2008 CFRP ANNUAL WORKSHOP**  
**January 22 – 24, 2008**  
**Marriott Courtyard Santa Fe, 3347 Cerrillos Road**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507**

## AGENDA

### Tuesday, January 22, 2008

- 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Registration (Atrium)
- 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Welcome, Meeting Goals, and Agenda Review (La Sala Ballroom)  
*Rosemary Romero, Workshop Facilitator*
- 8:45 - 9:00 a.m. **Keynote Speaker**  
*Corbin Newman, USDA Forest Service, Regional Forester (Invited) (La Sala Ballroom)*
- 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. CFRP Overview, Program Highlights, Updates & Accomplishments  
*Walter Dunn, USDA Forest Service (La Sala Ballroom)*
- 9:30 – 9:45 a.m. New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute Updates & Highlights**  
*Dr. Ken Smith, Director of NMFWRI (La Sala Ballroom)*
- 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. Lessons Learned on Multi-Assessment and Monitoring  
*Dave Morgan, La Calandria (La Sala Ballroom)*
- 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. **Grant Administration for Grantees (La Sala Ballroom)**  
*Susan McDonnell, Grants and Agreements, USDA Forest*
- 10:45 - 11:15 a.m.** Break & Room Change
- 11:15-12:15 p.m.** Concurrent Session 1  
**CFRP 101: 2008 Request for Proposals and Q&A (La Loma Room)**  
Walter Dunn, CFRP Program Manager
- Concurrent Session 2  
CFRP 201: Forest Coordinators  
(La Vista Room)  
This session will focus on issues faced by current grantees including:
- Budgeting & Work Plan Modification
    - When is a formal modification needed?
    - Linking work plans and budgets
    - Following the reimbursement & advancement trail
  - Grantee/Subcontractor responsibilities and communications
  - When things go wrong
    - Delay of grants through forest closures

- Delays due to NEPA & Appeals
- 12:15-1:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30-2:15 p.m. Developing Restoration Prescriptions and Working at a Landscape Scale (La Sala Ballroom)
 

This session will summarize recommendations for developing restoration prescriptions in four of New Mexico’s forest types (ponderosa pine, piñon-juniper, mixed conifer, and bosque). Issues and approaches to landscape scale restoration will also be presented. A new wildlife monitoring protocol will also be discussed.

*Ken Smith, Director of NMFWR*  
*Melissa Savage, Four Corners Institute*  
*Tori Derr, Contractor to NM Forest Watershed Restoration Institute*  
*Eytan Krasilovsky, Forest Guild*
- 2:15 – 2:45 p.m. Developing a multi-party monitoring panel (La Sala Ballroom)
 

*Bryan Bird, Forest Guardians*  
*Luis Torres, Community Organizer*  
*John Phillips, Coyote Ranger District*
- 2:45 – 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Concurrent Session 1: Multiparty Monitoring 101 (La Loma Room)
 

This session will provide an overview of multiparty monitoring from start to finish with examples of successful projects and lessons learned from past experiences. Guidance will be provided for incorporating monitoring into proposal development and project implementation.

*Tori Derr, Contractor to NM Forest Watershed Restoration Institute*  
*Eytan Krasilovsky, Forest Guild*
- 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Concurrent Session 2: Planning for NEPA (La Vista Room)
 

NEPA 101: Process Steps and Timelines.

This session will provide an overview of the NEPA compliance process and recommendations for coordinating with the Forest Service to develop successful work plans and timelines that clearly define the role of each project partner.

*Connie Zipperer, Lincoln NF*  
*John Phillips, Coyote Ranger District*
- 4:00 – 4:10 p.m. Room Change
- 4:10 - 5:10 p.m. Concurrent Session 1: NEPA Compliance for CFRP Projects on Non-Forest Service Land and Other Challenges of working across multiple land jurisdictions. (La Vista Room)
 

*Jackie Andrew, Regional NEPA Coordinator.*
- 4:10 – 5:10 p.m. Concurrent Session 2: Monitoring Interpreting and Sharing Results (La Loma Room)
 

This session will provide guidance and process for analyzing data, interpreting results, and comparing these results to project goals. How to use data during project implementation and reporting will also be discussed. Examples from current CFRP projects will be used. This

session will also provide direct assistance to existing or prospective grantees in problem-solving monitoring questions. Grantees at all stages welcome to attend.

*Tori Derr, Contractor to NM Forest Watershed Restoration Institute  
Eytan Krasilovsky, Forest Guild*

**Session continued with Coaching for CFRP Monitoring** (La Loma Room)

This session will provide direct assistance to existing or prospective grantees in problem-solving monitoring questions. Grantees at all stages welcome to attend.

*Tori Derr, Contractor to NM Forest Watershed Restoration Institute  
Eytan Krasilovsky, Forest Guild*

5:10 p.m.

**Adjourn**

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

New Mexico Forest Industry Association Annual Meeting (La Sala Ballroom)

*Naomi Engelman*

## Wednesday, January 23, 2008

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

**Registration** (Atrium)

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

**Workshop Goals and Agenda Review** (La Sala Ballroom)

*Rosemary Romero, Workshop Facilitator*

8:45 – 9:00 a.m.

**Welcome** (La Sala Ballroom)

*Walter Dunn, CFRP Program Manager*

9:00 – 9:45 a.m.

**Sharing Experiences from multi-year projects and final reporting** (La Sala Ballroom)

*Coleman Smith, Reporting and Evaluation Coordinator, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC).*

9:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Forest Industry Association Updates & Highlights

*Naomi Engelman (La Sala Ballroom)*

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

**Break/room change**

10:30 – 12:00 p.m.

**Breakout Sessions**

**Lessons Learned and Networking Opportunities in your area**

— **CFRP Forest Coordinators**

- *Connie Zipperer, Lincoln N.F. (Atrium)*
- *Reuben Montes, Santa Fe N.F. (La Loma Room)*
- *Ignacio Peralta, Carson N.F. (La Sierra Room)*
- *Tom Marks, Cibola N.F. (La Cumbre Room)*
- *Craig Cowie, Gila N.F. (La Vista Room)*

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

**LUNCH** (on your own)

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

**Concurrent CFRP Project Presentations**

- Internal/External Public Awareness Cedar Creek Project - CFRP 20-05 (La Loma Room)  
*Sherry Barrow, SBS Wood Shavings*

- Silver Dollar Racing & Shavings – CFRP 20-06 (La Sierra Room)  
*Cody & Kathy Deines*
- Developing Small Diameter Utilization & Stewardship Capacity in Navajo Communities – CFRP 28-04 (La Cumbre Room)  
*Naomi Engelman, Earth Works Institute*
- NM Recycling Coalition - Outreach and Education to enhance the Utilization of Compost and Mulch from Forest Residuals - CFRP 20-07 (La Vista Room)  
*English Bird, NM Recycling Coalition, Krista Bonfantine, Jim Brooks*

2:30 – 2:40 p.m.

Room Change

2:40 – 3:40 p.m.

**Concurrent CFRP Project Presentations**

- Village of Questa /La Lama CFRP 13-03 (La Loma Room)  
*Brent Jaramillo & Jerry Sanchez, Village of Questa*
- Use of the Bull Hog Brush Shredder – CFRP 18-05 (La Sierra Room)  
*Glenn Griffiths & Gabe Partido, USFS*
- Valles Caldera/Jemez Fire Restoration Project - CFRP 27-03 (La Cumbre Room)  
*Anne Bradley, The Nature Conservancy, Mike Dechter, Jemez Ranger District, Marie Rodriguez, Valles Caldera*
- Wellness Coalition Youth Corps/Alternative Forestry Unlimited CFRP 13-07 (La Vista Room)  
Eight members of the Silver City-based Wellness Coalition Youth Corps received safety and other training to do most of the thinning in a hazardous fuels reduction project.  
*Josh Baldwin & Mick Deubel*

3:40 – 4:00 p.m.

**Break/Room Change**

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Concurrent CFRP Project presentations**

- Gila Restoration Project: Restoring Forest Watersheds and Native Fish - CFRP 28-06 (La Loma Room)  
*Trout Unlimited/USFS*
- Upper Mora Watershed Restoration Phase II - CFRP03-01 (La Sierra Room)  
*Gilbert Vigil, La Jicarita Enterprise Community/Joint FS Presentation*
- Bluewater Wildland Urban Interface, Piñon/Juniper Meadows Restoration Project - CFRP 01-05 (La Cumbre Room)  
*Forest Guild/Joint FS Presentation*
- Beaver Habitat Restoration in the Jemez Mountains – CFRP 2507 (La Vista Room)  
*Bruce Bauer & David Morgan*

## Thursday, January 24, 2008

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

**Registration (Atrium)**

- 8:30 – 8:45 a.m.      **Welcome/Introductions/Objectives**  
*Rosemary Romero, Workshop Facilitator*  
*Walter Dunn, USDA Forest Service*
- 8:45 – 9:30 a.m.      **Keynote Speaker**  
*Daniel Jiron, USDA Forest Service, Forest Supervisor-Santa Fe NF –*  
*Making the Case for Landscape Scale Restoration*
- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.      **Landscape Scale Approaches and Successes**  
 La Jara Project (Carson NF)  
*Ignacio Peralta, USDA Forest Service and Paula Cote*
- 10:00 – 10:15 a.m.      **BREAK**
- 10:15 – 10:45 a.m.      Signal Peak Project (Gila NF)  
*Russell Ward, USDA Forest Service and Todd Schulke, Center for*  
*Biological Diversity*
- 10:45 -12:00 p.m.      **Panel Discussions: Opportunities to leverage funding for landscape**  
**scale restoration**
- EPA 319 - Mike Matush, NMED
  - EQIP - Mike Neubeiser, NRCS
  - Habitat Stamp, Sikes Act, etc – Dale Hall, NM Dept. Game and Fish
  - FPL Biomass - Jerry Payne, USDA Forest Service
  - Healthy Lands Initiative – Dave Borland, BLM
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.      **Lunch** (on your own)
- 1:00-2:00 p.m.      **Equipment: State-of-the-Art**  
*Obie O'Brien, USDA Forest Service*  
*Bob Rummer, USDA Forest Service*
- 2:00-3:00 p.m.      **Networking Session:** Identifying opportunities for Potential CFRP  
 Landscape Level Projects
- 3:00 p.m.      **Summary Remarks,** *Rosemary Romero*
- What worked?
  - What could be improved?
- Adjourn

**POSTER SESSIONS: Available in the Atrium**

# Appendix III. Participant List

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