

**SOUTHWEST COLORADO COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION
PROJECT (SWCO CFLRP)
CHARTER
Version: June 13, 2023**

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Southwest Colorado CFLRP¹ will empower an open and inclusive group of diverse stakeholders. This group will engage in a collaborative approach to restore ponderosa pine, warm/dry mixed conifer forests, and key watersheds, leveraging additional efforts and spanning jurisdictional boundaries. Southwest Colorado CFLRP activities will support local economies and communities while achieving ecological restoration through science-based forest management.

The Southwest Colorado CFLRP will encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority landscapes. As outlined in the enabling legislation and proposal, the purpose of the Southwest Colorado CFLRP is to:

- Encourage ecological, economic, and social sustainability;
- Leverage local resources with national and private resources;
- Facilitate the reduction of wildfire management costs, including through reestablishing natural fire regimes and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire;
- Use ecological restoration techniques to (1) achieve ecological and watershed health objectives and (2) affect wildfire activity and management costs; and
- Use forest restoration byproducts to offset treatment costs while benefiting local rural economies and improving forest health.

The Southwest Colorado CFLRP restoration strategy involves:

- Incorporating the best available science and scientific application tools;
- Conducting forest restoration treatments that reduce hazardous fuels. This will be through:
 - Focusing on small diameter trees, thinning, strategic fuel breaks, and fire use to modify fire behavior;
 - Maximizing the retention of large trees, as appropriate for the forest type, to the extent that trees promote fire-resilient stands;
- Fully maintaining, or contributing toward the restoration of, the structure and composition of old growth stands according to the pre-fire suppression old growth conditions characteristic of the forest type; and
- Additional activities to support and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and watershed function, wildfire risk reduction, and other forest and watershed conditions as outlined in the enabling legislation and Southwest Colorado CFLRP proposal and as is consistent with the San Juan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

¹ The enabling legislation for the CFLRP is available [here](#).
More information about the CLFR Program is available [here](#).
The Southwest Colorado CFLRP proposals is available [here](#).

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GOVERNANCE

The Coordinating Council leads collaborative CFLRP efforts and is responsible for:

- Coordinating the work of the CFLRP effort
- Coordinating the CFLRP committees (see below)
- Prioritizing tasks and topics
- Providing feedback and making recommendations to agencies
- Soliciting input from the broader stakeholder group if/as needed
- Speaking on behalf of the broader stakeholder group about the Southwest Colorado CFLRP
- Seeking funding opportunities and leveraging funding

There are **six standing committees** that work to inform, assess, share, support, and celebrate the work of the Southwest Colorado CFLRP. Each standing committee annually elects a chair who serves on the Coordinating Council. All committees support end of year reporting for the Southwest Colorado CFLRP. The six standing committees are:

- ***The Projects and Places Committee*** discusses projects within the CFLRP mission and geographic boundary and prepares a preliminary set of priorities to recommend to the San Juan National Forest via the Coordinating Council. The work of this committee will complement and support the work of the three place-based collaboratives identified in the original proposal, striving for alignment with recommendations and needs of these groups. This committee is responsible for developing evaluation criteria based on CFLRP project-wide desired conditions and the San Juan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The committee will incorporate wildfire risk, water quality and supply, wildlife, recreation, and other values and uses into its discussions and work products.
- ***The Science and Multiparty Monitoring Committee*** develops and oversees the monitoring plan, discusses the implications of monitoring results, evaluates treatment effectiveness, and advises about needed changes as part of the adaptive management cycle. The committee may engage in capacity development and/or garnering of resources to complete monitoring activities.
- ***The Forest Byproducts Committee*** will strategize how to effectively use forest byproducts from CFLRP treatments. This committee will coordinate with the Projects and Places Committee and with project implementation efforts on the ground regarding processing and utilization of produced biomass.
- ***The Communications Committee*** engages and educates the public and serves as the first line of engagement between the broader constellation of stakeholders and the other committees and the Coordinating Council. This committee utilizes two-way communication tools to connect the committees and the Coordinating Council with people, ideas, questions, and concerns from the broader constellation of stakeholders and the public. The Communications Committee also directs technical professionals in the development and management of the Southwest Colorado CFLRP website, serves as a primary point of contact for the media regarding the Southwest Colorado CFLRP, and may engage in capacity development and/or garnering of resources in service to communications objectives.
- ***The Cross Boundary Coordination Committee*** leverages efforts and resources to promote landscape scale projects that benefit lands on multiple jurisdictions (public, private, tribal, county, state, municipal, etc.). The committee coordinates

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projects/proposals from non-NFS organizations, entities and agencies with those of the Southwest Colorado CFLRP and can prepare letters of support for cross boundary projects, as needed, that benefit Southwest Colorado CFLRP goals. This committee also specifically supports all-lands end of year reporting for the Southwest Colorado CFLRP.

- ***The Entertainment and Fun Committee*** plans regular opportunities for social connection among stakeholders. This will include at least two optional social events per calendar year.

A **Planning Team** supports the committee structure:

A **Planning Team** made up of a representative from the San Juan National Forest and the coordinators of the three collaborative groups identified in the proposal supports coordination of activities between committees, work with committee chairs and the third party facilitator to set agendas for Coordination Council and Southwest Colorado CFLRP stakeholder meetings, and serves as the primary point of contact for the third party facilitator. This group ensures processes continue between regularly scheduled meetings, streamlines communication within the Southwest Colorado CFLRP governance structure, and identifies and/or may support other administrative needs. Planning Team members may, but are not required to, also represent the interests of the place-based collaborative group they serve on the Coordinating Council based on the identified needs and processes of place-based collaborative.

Members of the **broader constellation of stakeholders** participate in committees and task groups, do on-the-ground project work, participate in community monitoring efforts, provide input when requested by committees or the Coordinating Council, and bring issues and ideas to committees for discussion and consideration.

The Coordinating Council and any of the six standing committees may create **task groups** to work on specific projects or actions. The work of any task group is limited to the task or action specified by the Coordinating Council or committee creating it.

MEMBERSHIP

There are 11 “voting” members of the Coordinating Council. Coordinating Council members are required to attend 75% of the meetings held by the Council annually. Each entity or committee is responsible for selecting its own representative on the Coordinating Council. The voting members of the Coordinating Council are:

- Projects and Places Committee Chair
- Science and Multiparty Monitoring Committee Chair
- Forest By-Products Committee Chair
- Communications Committee Chair
- Cross Boundary Coordination Committee Chair
- Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest Collaborative (DWRF)
- San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP)
- Four Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative (4Rivers)
- Three members of the community at-large

At-large community representatives are selected at the annual Southwest Colorado CFLRP full constellation of stakeholders meeting by everyone in attendance. The Coordinating Council and/or Planning Team will distribute an online fillable form prior to the annual meeting to solicit self and

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suggested nominations for at large representatives. These nominations, along with nominations at the annual meeting will be considered by those in attendance and voted on using a predetermined process. If they accept, the three nominees that receive the most votes will serve as at large representatives on the Coordinating Council for the next year. At-large members commit to advancing landscape-scale and community needs and interests above those of any organization or their personal interests and/or opinions.

There are approximately 9 ex-officio members of the Coordinating Council. These members may participate in discussions but not in decisions of the Coordinating Council. This number may vary, as one person may fill multiple seats and because the Coordinating Council may invite additional agencies or entities to participate on an as-needed basis. The ex-officio members of the Coordinating Council are:

- Bureau of Land Management
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Entertainment and Fun Committee Chair
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative
- Tribal Nations
- US Forest Service / San Juan National Forest
- Wildfire Adapted Partnership
- Additional, invited individuals with specific expertise or geographic knowledge

All voting and ex-officio members of the Coordinating Council must have signed the Expectations and Commitments Form and a Conflict-of-Interest Declaration to be eligible to serve. Signed copies of these forms will be stored in a filing location accessible to the Coordinating Council and a list of those who have signed the forms will be made publicly available on the Southwest Colorado CFLRP website.

Membership in the **six standing committees** is open to any member of the broader constellation of stakeholders who signs the Expectations and Commitments Form and the Conflict-of-Interest Declaration. Participation in committee decision-making is limited to committee members who have attended 75% of meetings in the 12 months prior to the decision. Attendance will be tracked in committee meeting notes that are stored in a publicly accessible location and 75% attendance will be based on the honor system unless a specific conflict related to decision-making arises, at which point meeting notes can be consulted. Committee members may be removed if 75% of voting members believe that person has violated the tenets of either the Expectations and Commitments Form or the Conflict-of-Interest Declaration.

Committees elect their chairs annually at their June meeting. No single organization, entity, or agency may have staff who serve as chairs of more than two committees. Facilitation training may be available for committee chairs.

Membership in the **broader constellation of stakeholders** is open to anyone who is interested. Those interested in joining a standing committee to advance committee work should contact the committee chair(s), whose names and contact information can be found on the Southwest Colorado CFLRP website.

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Any member of the broader constellation of stakeholders may participate in **task groups**, on-the-ground projects, and feedback opportunities unless otherwise specified by the Coordinating Council or committee creating it.

DECISION MAKING

Coordinating Council decisions are expected to honor the recommendations that come to them from stakeholders via the committees. The Coordinating Council makes decisions using the five fingers voting model. Voting members use their fingers as indicators of the relative degree of support for a proposal. Five fingers indicate the highest level of support; one finger indicates the lowest level of support. A proposal carries if all voting members of the Coordinating Council indicate three or more fingers.

If, after 2 rounds of polling, more than two voting members of the Coordinating Council are still at 1 or 2 fingers, the group will table the decision or send it back to committee. Finger counts will be publicly available on the Southwest Colorado CFLRP website in a Coordinating Council voting log and recommendations from the Coordinating Council will be documented appropriately and submitted to the San Juan National Forest. Concerns from members who indicated a 1 or 2 in early polling will also be included in the submission to the San Juan National Forest.

The Coordinating Council will meet once a month. When decisions need to be made between meetings and cannot wait until the next Coordinating Council meeting, the Coordinating Council will hold either an ad hoc virtual meeting or solicit a vote by email. In this case, if full agreement cannot be reached during the virtual meeting or by email, a majority yes/no vote will carry. A narrative description of the reasonings behind the votes (pro/con) will be submitted with the final vote/decision. These fast-turnaround situations are expected to be unusual. Examples could include:

- Letters of support for grants to support CFLRP projects or efforts
- Short-turnaround funding opportunities from the USFS Regional Office or Washington Office related to CFLRP projects
- There are problems related to the CFLRP effort that need immediate attention

The **six standing committees** make decisions using the same methodology as the Coordinating Council.

The **Planning Team** exists only for administrative and organizational purposes and does not have decision-making authority beyond the decision making required to implement regular communications with the third party facilitator, committee leads, and the Coordinating Council and supporting the development of agendas for Coordinating Council and full constellation of stakeholders meetings.

The **broader constellation of stakeholders** votes for at-large coordinating council representatives, engages in place-based collaborative processes, provides feedback on Southwest Colorado CFLRP processes and procedures and offers public input at meetings.

Task groups have decision making authority related to their task and make recommendations to the committee that forms them.

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The **US Forest Service** retains final decision-making authority regarding all actions and projects that may occur on the San Juan National Forest.

INTERACTION BETWEEN GROUPS

The primary source of CFLRP projects will be the three place-based collaboratives: DWRP, the SJHFHP, and 4Rivers. These collaboratives will develop projects together with the San Juan National Forest and their own diverse stakeholders and members. The place-based collaboratives will identify project-specific desired conditions, identify priorities and projects in their specific landscapes and assess project alignment with the CFLRP mission and geographic boundary working in concert with members of the Projects and Places Committee when appropriate and based on processes outlined in the Southwest Colorado Priority Evaluation Flowchart.

Other members of the broader constellation of stakeholders may identify priorities and projects by communicating directly with the Projects and Places Committee chair, though they are strongly encouraged to initiate their project ideas with one of the three place-based collaboratives named above.

FACILITATION

As funding allows, a third party facilitator will facilitate and document meetings of the Coordinating Council, full constellation of stakeholders, and the Projects and Places Committee for at least one year. Other committee chairs may request facilitation support if needed; these requests are submitted to the Coordinating Council. The facilitator will work with committee chairs to develop agendas for committee meetings where applicable, and with the Planning Team for all other meetings requiring third party facilitation. In the absence of a third party facilitator, a non-USFS member of the Planning Team will facilitate meetings of the Coordinating Council, full constellation of stakeholders, and the Projects and Places Committee. Committee chairs will not participate in running meetings if the facilitator is facilitating.

GUIDING EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL MEMBERS

- Work to advance collaborative ecological restoration in Southwest Colorado, as is required by the enabling legislation and outlined in the 2020 Southwest Colorado CFLRP proposal and 2022 Southwest Colorado CFLRP work plan
- Treat working together as an opportunity to identify and solve problems
- Strive for timely, efficient processes seeking a balance between thorough processes and timely action
- Utilize operational structures for consistent and transparent communication
- Prioritize front-end collaboration, generating goals and processes together
- Identify and involve diverse stakeholders from the ground level, integrating and respecting their perspectives and expertise
- Leave egos at the door, consider the good of all involved parties in addition to benefits to the individual organization or group you represent
- Work together to identify desired conditions and leverage resources and initiatives to achieve shared outcomes
- Identify the unique role of the CFLRP in reaching shared outcomes

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- Integrate members from new and ongoing collaboratives and mechanisms across Southwest Colorado when and where appropriate
 - Honor and fulfill the commitments that we make to each other
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ISSUE RESOLUTION

Any member of the broader constellation of stakeholders may raise issues or concerns that they feel are not being adequately or appropriately addressed by a place-based collaborative and/or a specific committee. They must first bring the issue or concern to the attention of the chair of the relevant standing committee. If the issue is within the scope of the CFLRP, the chair will put the item on the next committee agenda for discussion and resolution. If the committee cannot resolve the issue or if the person(s) who raised it are not satisfied with the decision of the committee, they may bring the issue to the attention of any member of the Coordinating Council. If the issue is within the scope of the CFLRP, that member will ensure the item is placed on the next meeting agenda for Coordinating Council discussion and resolution. Issues and concerns that are outside the CFLRP scope, will be referred appropriately. Coordinating Council decisions and recommendations are final after the five finger voting process described in the decision making section of this charter is complete. Decisions made by the Coordinating Council may be changed, reversed, or overridden by future votes of the Coordinating Council if they are in service to the goals and objectives of the Southwest Colorado CFLRP at a future date.

MEETING SCHEDULES

The Coordinating Council will meet monthly.

The Planning Team will meet as needed.

Each of the **six standing committees** will meet on a schedule they define. Each committee must hold an annual June meeting to elect its chair.

The broader constellation of stakeholders will meet at least annually.

Task groups will determine their own meeting schedules, based on the work they have been assigned by the Coordinating Council or committee.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Coordinating Council meetings are open to public observation by non-members (in person and online). Notes and agendas will be distributed to the broad constellation of stakeholders via email as necessary, and will be made available on the Southwest Colorado CFLRP website.

Committee meetings are public but do not need to be made available virtually. Committee meeting notes will follow a consistent meeting notes template, include meeting attendance, and be made available on the Southwest Colorado CFLRP website. Additional information will be made available from the chair upon request.

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MEETING DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

The facilitator will complete notes and summaries for Coordinating Council, full constellation of stakeholders, and the Projects and Places Committee meetings. Other committees will have notes prepared by the chair or by a volunteer secretary. All meeting summaries and notes will be available on the website, as will the current governing charter.

Names and means of contacting Coordinating Council members and committee chairs will be available on the website.

MEDIA INTERACTION

The chair of the Communications Committee and the San Juan National Forest PAOs will serve as the point persons for media contact about the Southwest Colorado CFLRP and will direct media inquiries to appropriate parties and/or respond appropriately. Beyond these individuals or their designees, no individual or organization is authorized to speak on behalf of all the stakeholders or partners in the Southwest Colorado CFLRP effort. Individuals who are contacted by the media may speak about their own or their agency's perspective. If anyone speaks to the media about the Southwest Colorado CFLRP effort, they are obligated to notify the chair of the Communications Committee and the San Juan National Forest PAOs.

FUNDING

The highest priority for CFLRP funding is on-the-ground projects. CFLRP funds will be allocated to such projects to the greatest extent possible. Every effort will be made to leverage these funds and to bring additional resources to the CFLRP effort to support additional needs, including but not limited to facilitation.

SCHEDULE AND PROCESS FOR REVIEWING AND REVISING THIS CHARTER

The Coordinating Council will lead an annual effort every June to review and revise this charter. This will include working with the Communications Committee and/or Planning Team to solicit input via an annual survey from the broader constellation of stakeholders in May. In years when the CFLRP governance survey is administered by third party researchers, answers to Southwest Colorado CFLRP specific questions will be utilized as input for annual charter review and adjustment. Annual surveys administered by the Communications Committee and/or Planning Team to solicit input in years when the third party governance survey is not conducted will ask questions in alignment with the formal governance survey. The Coordinating Council is responsible for making formal charter adjustments based on feedback collected from the full constellation of stakeholders annually. Changes to the charter will be communicated to the broader constellation of stakeholders. The current charter will always be available on the Southwest Colorado CFLRP website.