

# Grey's River Forest Collaborative

Meeting 6, 2-22-18



# Agenda 2-22-18

- 9:00 Welcome - Kay Lynn Nield, Star Valley Conservation District
- 9:10 Introductions - Jessica Western, Ruckelshaus Institute, UW
- 9:20 Background and Review of 2017 Interest statements - Jessica Western and Richard Stem
- 9:40 Presentation by USFS regarding progress on 2017 Collaborative recommendations.  
Discussion regarding opportunities, barriers and ways to leverage support.
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:30 Review of Collaborative Charter
- 1:30 Breakout Groups: Determine Issues for the Collaborative to Address in 2018
  - Possible next subjects for the Collaborative to address (see 2017 Collaborative Report):
    - Greys River District needs a master recreation plan
    - Travel management plan update for the district
    - Create a 5-year plan to apply for grants to rehabilitate existing trails (Wyoming State Trails, RTP)
    - Grazing
- 2:15 Information Needs to address Issues
- 2:30 Public Comment
- 2:50 Next Steps
- 3:00 Adjourn



# Collaboration

The process and structures of decision making and management that engage people constructively across the public, private and nonprofit sectors in order to carry out a public purpose that could not otherwise be accomplished.

A photograph of two men standing in a field of green bushes and trees. The man on the left is wearing a light green shirt, blue jeans, and sunglasses. The man on the right is wearing a light green shirt, blue jeans, and a wide-brimmed hat. They appear to be engaged in a conversation or a collaborative activity.

Adapted from Emerson, K., Nabatchi, T., & Balogh, S. (2011). An Integrative Framework for Collaborative Governance. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*.



# Collaboration is Difficult

- We often position ourselves for a zero-sum outcome
- We lack a systematic approach for preparing and conducting collaboration
- We are limited by institutional and cultural norms
- We are trapped by ego and emotion



# Collaboration & Negotiation

- Two sides to the same coin.
- Collaboration is 'negotiation' among many parties.
- It is FOTE: a Full, Open and Transparent Exchange.
- The result can be a collaborative decision.
- Collaboration is a positive-sum game, not a zero-sum game.
- To make positive gains, we have to help other stakeholders make gains too.
- Ultimately success hinges on trust.



# But, Very Possible

Platte Valley, Wyoming Range and Mule Deer, Sage Grouse, Black Hills forestry, Governor's Task Forces - many examples of successful collaboration in WY.

## Requirements:

- Recognize possibilities for mutual gain
- Help constituents understand how collaboration works and can benefit them.
- Listen, ask questions, find common ground.
- Trust must increase.
- More than any facilitator, you can make this successful.



# What does a Collaborative Process Look Like?



# Meeting Guidelines

1. We all have an interest in our forests - please use respectful behavior.
2. It's okay to disagree.
3. We will seek to understand while seeking to be understood: ask "why?".
4. We will all participate in making this a successful collaborative learning opportunity - please don't interrupt others, dominate or withhold information.
5. We will be constructive: Discuss less what does not work and more what we think will work.
6. Side conversations are disruptive.
7. If possible, we will turn off cell phones and pagers. If we can't, we will take the call outside the room.



# 2017 Interest Statements

## Interest Statements. A Healthy Forest in the Greys River:

1. Has healthy vegetative, wildlife and hydrological communities, and is resilient and resistant to disturbance.
2. Provides a variety of jobs and economies.
3. Needs to be understood by the public and supported through governance and active management.
4. Provides multiple uses.
5. Is safe for all visitors including recreationists and USFS employees.
6. Provides many social benefits including quality of life, aesthetics and sense of place now and in the future.



## Recommendation 1: We propose the following treatments on the Tri-Basin Divide to enhance forest resilience and reduce fuels.

- **Objectives:** This project will produce timber while enhancing wildlife and fisheries habitats and improve forest resilience. Specific objectives to address are:
  - Remove dead, dying, or diseased trees to increase forest health and resilience and remove fuels to reduce the potential for and intensity of catastrophic fire and to create diverse age classes;
  - Improve wildlife habitat;
  - Improve fisheries through sediment mitigation;
  - Improve existing roads.
- **Proposed strategies and tactics:**
  - Start with categorical exclusions (CE) and start to plan an environmental assessment (EA);
  - Implement a commercial harvest (maximum of 250 acres) in 2018;
  - Treat vegetation to encourage aspen regeneration;
  - Work with partners to examine and install culverts for fish passage;
  - Maintain system roads.



## Recommendation 2: Improve forest resilience by diversifying age classes and stand types and improving riparian areas in the Bear Creek and Three Forks.

**Objectives:** to diversify age classes by removing dead and older trees in mixed conifer and aspen stands and to decrease erosion into riparian areas through road improvement. Specific objectives to address are:

- Remove dead, dying, or diseased trees to increase forest health and resilience and remove fuels to reduce the potential for and intensity of catastrophic fire and to create diverse age classes;
- Improve wildlife habitat;
- Decrease erosion into riparian areas;
- Improve road conditions.
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- **Proposed strategies and tactics:** The Collaborative invites the USFS to propose methods that address the above objectives, and asks that they take the below suggestions into consideration:
  - Preferred award 2018 or 2019;
  - Strategic timber harvest;
  - Use timber harvest or prescribed fire to promote aspen and mountain shrubs;
  - Improve and promote aspen regeneration;
  - Improve road conditions and construct culverts to reduce sedimentation in riparian areas.



### **Recommendation 3: Diversify age classes while enhancing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities on Lower Greys/Murphy-White Creek.**

**Objectives:** Improve wildlife habitat by diversifying age classes in conifer, improving aspen, forbs and shrubs, and enhancing recreation opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized users.

- Remove dead, dying, or diseased trees to increase forest health and resilience and remove fuels to reduce the potential for and intensity of catastrophic fire and to create diverse age classes;
- Decrease erosion into riparian areas;
- Improve road conditions;
- Update the travel management plan to reflect legal motorized routes on the Lower Greys and map it;
- Improve habitat in this important wildlife area by increasing forbs, shrubs, and aspen;
- Enhance recreation opportunities;
- Improve public safety.



# Recommendation 3: Proposed Strategies and Tactics.

- Create an Environmental Assessment to include timber sales and prescribed fire to improve wildlife habitat and update travel plan with user groups and counties.
- Use strategic commercial harvest;
- Conduct prescribed burns to improve wildlife (elk/mule deer) habitat for calving (elk) and winter range (moose/mule deer);
- Evaluate the designation of the current trail system and look at opportunities for new trails;
- Use timber harvest or prescribed fire to promote aspen, mountain shrubs, and forbs;
- Improve road conditions to reduce sedimentation in riparian areas;
- Replace culverts to improve fish passage;
- Conduct an inventory of dispersed camp sites and use this to inform management;
- Preferred award in 2018 or 2019.



## **Recommendation 4: Restore and protect the watershed, improve recreational opportunities, and enhance wildlife habitat in Grover Park.**

**Objectives:** Take measures to protect and enhance the municipal watershed while enhancing recreation opportunities, stimulating aspen, and planning motorized and non-motorized travel.

- Protect and restore the municipal watershed; (through encouraging the growth of healthy vegetation communities and properly maintaining road systems)
- Enhance existing recreation opportunities while actively managing and mitigating their impacts;
- Improve wildlife habitat;
- Reduce fuels within the wildland-urban interface (WUI);
- Improve open routes.
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# Recommendation 4: Proposed Strategies and Tactics.

- Create an Environmental Assessment to achieve the above that includes commercial timber harvest, prescribed burns, road and drainage improvements, and travel management planning. Other considerations:
- Implement commercial timber harvest;
- Conduct prescribed burns to improve shrubs and regenerate aspen for wildlife;
- Maintain existing roads and improve road drainage;
- Analyze the current routes and amend or supplement the travel management plan as needed;
- Be sure to involve the public in decision-making regarding trails;
- Connect the road system with motorized trails;
- Create looped trails for non-motorized users;
- Designate looped trails for off-road vehicles (ORV);
- Conduct an inventory of dispersed camp sites and use this to inform management;
- Use an EA to permit the Annual Hill Climb on a 10-year basis instead of the current process of annual renewal;
- Prefer to start the EA now for implementation in 2019.



**Recommendation 5: All entities will pursue funding to mitigate dust on the Greys River Road.**