

Shared Notes: *Taking Action with the Forest Resilience Planning Guide*

Wednesday, September 9th

Why Collaborate?

Activators

Collaboration is often sparked by a shared challenge, urgent threat, or recognized need—especially when wildfire, forest health, or other impacts create a sense of urgency. It is also enabled by shared values, relationships, trust, complementary capacity, and the resources or authority needed to act together.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaboration > Litigation• Love• Fear• A wildfire in the adjacent county• Big event or threat• Identified as a wildfire crisis strategy landscape• Eating smoke• Shared challenges• Flood and fire• Major mountain pine beetle epidemic - fear of loss of forest• Willing participation from multiple levels of government• Teeth to collaborative decision results | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent funding• To garner the needs and multiply the resources to accomplish agreed upon goals• Access to public land• Funding• Capacity• Collaboration allows individual organizations to meet our goals• Getting people to maintain relationships / work together• Social cohesion• Lived experience• Shared values• Similar problems | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common goals or problem• Trust• Complementary skillsets and expertise• Shared concern or passion for a cause• Understand the need and urgency of the issue• Lack of “official” support or funds• Direct impact/effect• Co-learning• Continuity in forum and participation• Recognized as an organizational need |
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Challenges

Collaboratives face ongoing challenges in sustaining engagement, capacity, funding, and momentum over time, particularly amid competing priorities, turnover,

and uncertainty. Differences in goals, approaches, commitment, and organizational processes can also make it difficult to maintain trust, coordination, and progress from planning to implementation.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustaining after initial passion wanes • Constant interaction (fatigue) • Maintaining energy/interest • Limited time available • People wearing many hats • Funding • Boom-bust funding • Money for coordination to keep things moving and people involved • Funding • Outlet for woody biomass - no real market in the front range • Consistent funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining common knowledge and base of information • People are messy • People have different approaches and objectives • Different commitment levels • Funding is competitive and scarce • Groups have egos • Dips in momentum from personnel turnover • Federal uncertainty • Educating private property owners • Public awareness • Prioritizing projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring is critical • Managing the process to ensure engagement • Keeping partners engaged in a saturated collaboration space • People capacity • Unhealthy conflict • Human power (work on the ground) • Restrictions with land ownership • Navigating politics and each others' processes • Maintaining engagement after planning • Building trust and credibility |
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Benefits

Collaboration brings together diverse perspectives, relationships, expertise, resources, and capacity that individual organizations often cannot access or leverage alone. This collective capacity can support more coordinated, cross-boundary action, strengthen shared voice and influence, and increase the reach and impact of projects.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many hands = light work • Inclusivity/perspective • More ideas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More networks • More voice/leverage • Future planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared intellectual and financial resources • Results that align with group interests |
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- Diversity of position/need
- Communication between stakeholders
- Shared resources
- New ideas and perspectives
- Expanded reach
- Multiple perspectives and approaches to addressing the issue
- We are very nearly useless alone
- Cross-funding opportunities
- Trust
- Relationships across diverse groups
- Win-win
- More minds
- Access to funding
- Mix of fire-adapted communities
- Cross-boundary fuels treatment
- More effectively address the problem or opportunity
- Funder's buy-in
- Funding
- Collective power to take action, disperse responsibilities, and leverage roles
- Common voice across agencies and the public
- Greater impact
- Projects "in the chamber" when funding becomes available
- Projects/activities that align with group interests
- Shared resources

Best Practices for Securing Resources

- **Stack funders:** Build a portfolio of projects and funding sources that can be combined to support on-the-ground work.
- **Identify strategic areas:** Prioritize strategic landscapes or areas that cross landownership boundaries. For example, the RMI Ponderosa Pine Belt took 15+ years to identify, plan, and implement.
- **Talk with funders early and often:** Build relationships and understand funders' priorities before opportunities arise.
- **Get projects permitted early:** Where possible, complete permitting before applying for funding.
- **Identify projects with shared goals:** Understand which other projects could meet similar goals, and maintain flexibility to modify grants or pivot funds when logistical hurdles arise.
- **Partner with prior grantees:** Learn from organizations that have successfully received funding in your area; their expertise can provide valuable funder relationships and lessons learned.

- **Pursue long-term, sustainable funding:** Steady funding sources can support operations and maintenance while providing a foundation for gathering resources over time.
- **Start with prioritized projects:** Develop a clear list of priority projects, then work with funders to identify which align with their missions. Be prepared to clearly explain the rationale behind your map and priorities.