

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESTORATION INITIATIVE-COLORADO  
GOVERNANCE CHARTER - DRAFT  
Updated June 23, 2020**

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**VISION:** Embrace Shared Stewardship principles\* by building a collaborative foundation to address challenges, identify opportunities and potential solutions that will lead to measurable and scalable results in the restoration of critical landscapes in the Rocky Mountains.

**VALUES:** RMRI-Colorado (RMRI-CO) operates under a framework of RMRI’s four values (water, recreation, forests & habitat, and communities) to ensure that any groups affiliated with RMRI engage in activities that support these four values. The four values are:



**Water:** Clean drinking water is available for local communities and downstream beneficiaries.



**Recreation:** Accessible, inclusive, and sustainable recreation opportunities are available for local communities and visitors.



**Forests & Wildlife Habitat:** Healthy, functioning forests support suitable wildlife habitat and populations.



**Communities:** People in communities are prepared for the threat, and potential impacts, of wildfire.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:** RMRI-CO is composed of the RMRI-CO Leadership Team, the RMRI-CO Support Team, and the RMRI-CO Stakeholder Group. All RMRI groups will seek to achieve agreement through consensus. Consensus will be achieved when all participants present agree that they can live with a proposal.

**RMRI-CO Leadership Team**

*Structure:* The RMRI-CO Leadership Team consists of 17 seats in total. The 17 seats are composed of seven appointed seats for agency representatives, seven nominated seats for different interests, and three seats for a representative from the three RMRI priority areas (Southwest Colorado, Upper Arkansas River, Upper South Platte). For the three seats that are held for the three RMRI priority areas, it is not a requirement that the priority area partners send a representative; priority area partners may choose if they would like to fill their respective seat. The seats of the RMRI-CO Leadership Team are as follows:

RMRI-CO Leadership Team		
Appointed Seats	Nominated Seats	Priority Area Seats
US Forest Service (co-chair)	Water	Southwest Colorado
National Wild Tukey Federation (co-chair)	Communities	Upper Arkansas
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Recreation	Upper South Platte
Colorado State Forest Service	Forests	
Department of Natural Resources	Wildlife	
Bureau of Land Management	Science	
Division of Fire Protection and Control	Timber	

\* [US Forest Service Shared Stewardship Strategy](#)

\* [Colorado and US Forest Service Memorandum of Understanding for Shared Stewardship](#)

#### *Seat Selection Process:*

- For appointed seats, the identified organization will decide internally who should fill the appointed seat.
- For priority area seats, the priority area partners will decide among themselves who should fill their seat.
- For nominated seats, when a nominated representative vacates their seat, the outgoing representative will make a recommendation for someone to fill their seat. The Leadership Team will consider their recommendation and come to an agreement on who they will recommend to fill the vacated seat. The recommendation will be brought to the RMRI Stakeholder Group to consider the Leadership Team's recommendation and come to an agreement on who should fill the vacant seat. RMRI partners may also propose nominees for the RMRI Stakeholder Group to consider.

#### *Term Limits:*

- There are no term limits for appointed seats. An appointed representative may serve at the discretion of the represented organization.
- There are no term limits for priority area seats. A priority area representative may serve at the discretion of the local priority area partners.
- People filling nominated seats will ideally serve no more than two consecutive two-year terms. Once someone has served their two consecutive two-year terms, the Leadership Team will work to recruit additional people to fill seats if needed. The goal of this recruitment is to ensure a diversity of voices and perspectives on the Leadership Team. If no one else is interested in serving in a nominated seat, it is acceptable for a person to remain in a nominated seat longer than the two consecutive two-year terms. If a person serves on a nominated seat for more than two consecutive two-year terms, the Leadership Team will revisit the nominated seat every year to determine if anyone else is interested in filling it. A person who fills a nominated seat should be familiar with RMRI through their involvement with the RMRI Stakeholder Group, subcommittees, and/or priority landscapes and be able to bring new ideas to RMRI.

#### *Roles and Responsibilities:*

The RMRI Leadership Team provides guidance and support to the RMRI-CO Stakeholder Group and priority area partners. The RMRI-CO Leadership Team does *not* serve as a decision-making body for local landscapes, subcommittees, or RMRI as a whole. The roles and responsibilities of the RMRI-CO Leadership Team are to:

- Raise awareness and support for RMRI efforts.
- Provide leadership and direction to RMRI-CO Stakeholder Group.
- Communicate clear direction to prioritize RMRI to staff within respective organizations or among constituents.
- Exchange information and lessons-learned from/to other Shared Stewardship initiatives at a state/regional/national level.
- Make recommendations on priorities to RMRI-CO Stakeholder Group (landscapes, subcommittees, issues, etc.)
- Annually evaluate (with core partners) whether RMRI as an initiative is reaching outcomes. Evaluate and recommended course corrections to RMRI-CO Stakeholder Group.

### **RMRI Support Team**

*Structure:* The RMRI Support Team is composed of representatives from the US Forest Service and National Wild Turkey Federation. The facilitation team is also included in these meetings. Subcommittee and local landscape leads may join weekly meetings if/as needed.

### *Roles and Responsibilities:*

The RMRI Support Team receives input from local landscape and subcommittee leads to plan meetings and develop meeting agendas. The RMRI Support Team does *not* set direction or priorities for RMRI-CO. Each local landscape and subcommittee will identify a point of contact with whom the RMRI Support Team will coordinate.

## **RMRI-CO Stakeholder Group**

*Structure:* The RMRI-CO Stakeholder Group is composed of a broader network of partners and subcommittees. The broader network of partners and subcommittees are open to anyone who wants to join them.

### *Roles and Responsibilities:*

The overarching role of the RMRI-CO Stakeholder Group is to set priorities and targets for RMRI-CO and then provide resources and guidance to priority landscapes when requested based on whether the goals and outcomes of the priority landscapes align with the goals, priorities, and values of RMRI. The RMRI-CO Stakeholder Group does *not* serve as a decision-making body for local landscapes or to direct funding from different partner organizations. Local landscapes should make their own decisions, set their own strategies, and provide updates on their goals, outcomes, achievements, and other topics needed for discussion by RMRI-CO, and partner organizations will continue to direct funding at their own discretion. The roles and responsibilities of the RMRI-CO Stakeholder Group are to:

- Ensure communication and exchange of information and lessons learned between RMRI focal groups.
- Provide leadership and staff subcommittees.
- Work to fulfill identified support needs of RMRI-Southwest Colorado.
- Work to fulfill identified support needs of the RMRI-Upper Arkansas and RMRI-Upper South Platte.
- Build broad partnerships that bring political support and build potential funding and tools to achieve RMRI goals.
- Provide a diverse cadre of subject matter experts to help overcome obstacles, fill gaps, and provide critical feedback.
- Provide a network of advocates that provide synergy and serve as a sounding board to achieve goals.
- Support the development of outcome-based performance measures.
- Establish identity/brand and develop communication strategy.

## **RMRI-CO Subcommittees Overview**

### *Roles and Responsibilities:*

The subcommittees of the RMRI-CO Stakeholder Group are subject to change based on the needs of RMRI. There are two types of subcommittees: operational and substantive. The operational subcommittees focus on the overarching work to support all three landscapes and all substantive committees. The substantive subcommittee focus on statewide and/or place-based projects to advance RMRI goals. RMRI partners in priority landscapes have the option to reach out to RMRI subcommittees for support in the subcommittee's specific topic area as needed. The current RMRI-CO subcommittees are:

<b>RMRI-CO Subcommittees</b>	
<b>Operational Subcommittees</b> <i>Focus: Overarching work to support all three landscapes and all substantive committees</i>	<b>Substantive Subcommittees</b> <i>Focus: Statewide and/or place-based projects to advance RMRI goals</i>
Communications	Biomass Utilization
Funding	Social License
Governance	Workforce Capacity

### **RMRI-CO Communications Subcommittee**

*Roles and Responsibilities:*

The RMRI-CO Communications Subcommittee is an operational subcommittee that helps manage the communication functions of RMRI. The role and responsibilities of the RMRI-CO Communication Subcommittee are to:

- Develop a communication strategy and consistent messaging for RMRI-CO partners to use at the local, state, and national level to communicate successes while also giving local groups flexibility to incorporate local sensitivities into the messaging.
- Develop communication protocols and infrastructure to vet messaging among RMRI-CO partners.
- Help to align communication strategies among local, state, and national partners.
- Develop a RMRI brand that respects and recognizes the identity and history of priority landscape partners.
- Develop a channel to facilitate communication between project areas and RMRI-CO.
- Research internal and external audiences.
- Identify a RMRI point of contact for all communication needs.
- Develop communication materials and tools (e.g., website, newsletters, central depository of information) to track and communicate successes and deliver messages.

### **RMRI-CO Funding Subcommittee**

*Roles and Responsibilities*

The RMRI-CO Funding Subcommittee is an operational subcommittee. The Subcommittee does *not* provide direct investment into landscapes or projects; control, divide, or distribute an existing pool of money; or choose winners and losers among landscapes or projects. The roles and responsibilities of the Funding Subcommittee are to:

- Serve as a “matchmaker” to help landscape teams and subcommittees connect with funding opportunities.
- Help solve funding challenges through coordination and creative thinking with other entities, agencies, and organizations if/as needed.
- Develop a funding strategy for private/foundation investment.
- Develop/support “big picture” funding efforts if/as needed.
- Identify and address policy change if/as needed.
- Update and maintain a grants database with funding opportunities.

### **RMRI-CO Governance Subcommittee**

*Roles and Responsibilities:*

The RMRI-CO Governance Subcommittee is an operational subcommittee. The roles and responsibilities of the Governance Subcommittee are to:

- Clarify the governing structure and process of RMRI as a whole.
- Determine how any new subcommittee will fit within the existing governance structure of RMRI if/as needed.

## **RMRI-CO Biomass Utilization Subcommittee**

### *Roles and Responsibilities:*

The RMRI-CO Biomass Utilization Subcommittee is a substantive subcommittee that seeks to address cross-cutting issues and remove barriers related to biomass utilization to help priority landscapes achieve their goals. The roles and responsibilities of the Biomass Utilization Subcommittee are to:

- Develop strategies and approaches that lead to improving biomass utilization on the ground.
- Identify already existing resources on biomass utilization and improve access to them.
- Research biomass utilization issues to better understand the regulatory and scientific barriers to action.
- Develop a conference or workshop on biomass utilization.
- Identifying and addressing policy changes if/as needed.

## **RMRI-CO Workforce Capacity Subcommittee**

### *Roles and Responsibilities:*

The RMRI-CO Workforce Capacity Subcommittee is a substantive subcommittee that seeks to address cross-cutting issues and remove barriers related to workforce capacity to help priority landscapes achieve their goals. The roles and responsibilities of the Workforce Capacity Subcommittee are to:

- Develop strategies and approaches that lead to improving workforce capacity on the ground.
- Identify already existing resources on workforce programs and improve access to them.
- Research workforce capacity issues to better understand the opportunities and barriers to increasing workforce capacity.
- Develop a conference or workshop on workforce capacity.
- Identifying and addressing policy changes if/as needed.

## **RMRI-CO Social License Subcommittee**

### *Roles and Responsibilities:*

The RMRI-CO Social License Subcommittee is a substantive subcommittee that seeks to address cross-cutting issues and remove barriers related to building social license to help priority landscapes achieve their goals. The roles and responsibilities of the Social License Subcommittee are to:

- Develop key messages to develop broad social approval for active vegetation management, prescribed fire, and private landowner forestry treatments (e.g., defensible space, home hardening, etc.).
- Research, identify, and address barriers in public perception towards active vegetation management, prescribed fire, and private landowner forestry treatments.
- Coordinate with the Communication Subcommittee to produce communication materials based on the key messages.
- Create a depository of communication materials for partners to access on a variety of topics (e.g., forest health, wildlife habitat, etc.).
- Identify and develop natural and social science outcomes related to building social license.

## **PRIORITY AREA PARTNERS**

### *Roles and Responsibilities:*

The three RMRI priority areas are Southwest Colorado, Upper Arkansas, and Upper South Platte. The roles and responsibilities of partners in the priority areas are to:

- Develop and utilize a strategy in order to ensure proposed projects address the goals, current needs, and concerns of the priority area and RMRI-CO.

- Create opportunities for exemplary educational outreach and outstanding communication with local publics.
- Define and coordinate a yearly program of work, budget, and an overarching strategy for prioritizing and implementing projects that help to accomplish RMRI’s overarching values and goals.
- Report annually to RMRI-CO on accomplishments, outcomes, out-year projects, and any challenges or adjustments.
- Coordinate media requests, communications, and community outreach associated with the priority area projects.
- Work in partnership with RMRI-CO to implement the RMRI vision and mission.
  - Develop shared goals and outcomes in alignment with RMRI mission.
  - Develop shared measures of progress/success to achieve goals and outcomes.
  - Identify support needs (funding, expertise, influence, network, training, etc.).
- Serve as a conduit between RMRI-CO and the local community, its goals, needs, and concerns.
- Serve as a decision-making body for prioritizing local projects, fundraising, and budgeting.
- Provide oversight and coordination of the priority area partners.
- Provide strategic and operational direction for the priority area partners.
- Determine methods and metrics used to measure goals, outcomes, and objectives.

**RMRI GOVERNANCE MODEL**

The following model is a visual representation of the RMRI governance structure.

