



# **Wildlife Movement Workshop: Connectivity in the Upper Rio Grande Watershed**

Exploring opportunities, goals, and the state of relevant science at the  
landscape-scale

Sagebrush Inn and Suites, 1508 Paseo Del Pueblo Sur, Taos, NM 87571  
Phone: (575) 758-2254

## **Workshop Objectives:**

- Share and consider relevant science regarding terrestrial and aquatic wildlife movement, landscape permeability, and functional connectivity, with an emphasis on management implications in the Upper Rio Grande Watershed.
- Strengthen a professional network for improved communication and interagency coordination to support shared management objectives across administrative boundaries.
- Develop science-based resources on wildlife movement/connectivity to inform the public engagement processes now supporting planning efforts on multiple administrative units in the Upper Rio Grande watershed.

**Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> (Full day)**

### **Morning Kickoff**

8:00-8:15 Introductions, overview and goals for workshop

### **Managing for Wildlife Movement / Habitat Connectivity / Landscape Permeability – Current and Desired States / Available Resources / Pertinent Guidance**

8:15 – 8:35 Colorado Parks and Wildlife – Brian Magee

8:35 – 8:55 New Mexico Department of Game and Fish – Chuck Hayes

8:55 – 9:15 BLM Land Management and Planning – Molly Cobbs

9:15 – 9:35 USFS (Planning under the 2012 Planning Rule) - Jack Triepke & Ernie Taylor

9:35 – 9:55 New Mexico Department of Transportation – Jim Hirsch

9:55 – 10:15 Private Lands Perspective (Chama Peak Land Alliance) – Monique DiGiorgio

**Break: 10:15 – 10:30**

### **Planning Updates from Participating Administrative Units**

10:30 – 10:45 Rio Grande National Forest – Randy Ghormley & Erin Minks

10:45 – 11:00 BLM Taos Field Office Rio Grande del Norte Nat'l Monument – Justina Thorsen

11:00 – 11:15 Carson National Forest – Alyssa Radcliff

11:15 – 11:30 Santa Fe National Forest – Daryl Ratajczak

**Lunch: 11:30 – 1:00**

### **State of Relevant Science – Considerations and Analyses at Landscape Scales**

**1:00 – 1:30**

**Foundational Principles of Managing Landscapes for Wildlife Movement and Habitat**

**Connectivity** - Sam Cushman, Research Landscape Ecologist & Director, Center for Landscape Science, Rocky Mountain Research Station

**1:30 – 2:00**

**Developing and Implementing Linkage Conservation Plans to Enhance Connectivity between Protected Areas** - Paul Beier, Regents' Professor, School of Forestry, NAU

**Relevant Data Resources and Knowledge – Upper Rio Grande Watershed**

**2:00 – 2:30**

**Factors Influencing Movement of Pronghorn at Multiple Spatial Scales** - Andrew Jakes, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Wildlife Biology Program, College of Forestry & Conservation University of Montana

**2:30 – 3:00**

**Wildlife Doorways: Supporting Wildlife Habitat Connectivity across Borders in the Upper Rio Grande Watershed** - Esteban Muldavin and Rayo McCollough, Natural Heritage New Mexico

**Break:** 3:00 – 3:15

**Applying Science to Management**

**3:15 – 3:45**

**Connectivity for Aquatic Organisms in the Southwest** – Yvette Paroz, Southwestern Regional Fisheries Program Leader

**3:45 – 4:15**

**Identifying and Conserving Ungulate Migration Routes across Administrative Boundaries: Case Studies from the Western U.S.**

– Hall Sawyer, Research Biologist, Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc.

**Brainstorming Session 1 – Participants Together**

**4:15 – 5:00**

Prompt: During our half day together tomorrow we will be working in breakout groups to explore, in detail, a set of conservation opportunities / needs that relate to terrestrial and aquatic species movement in the Upper Rio Grande Watershed. Your task now is to identify a set of candidate breakout topics that we will revisit tomorrow in groups. Focal topics could include:

- single or select groups of species that warrant more focused attention in this landscape
- a factor or management action currently or foreseeably inhibiting wildlife movement in this landscape
- a factor or management action currently or foreseeably facilitating wildlife movement in this landscape
- data / research needs and how they might be addressed and incorporated into future management
- addressing foundational principles in land management planning
- a particular place within this landscape that may warrant focused consideration for special management

**5:30** – Social, held onsite in The Sagebrush Inn's Cantina

**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> (Half day)**

**8:00 – 12:00: Facilitated breakout groups focus on select set of topics generated on Day 1.**

Note: A Day 2 agenda will be shared at the start of this session.

**12:00 Lunch / Adjourn**