

2024

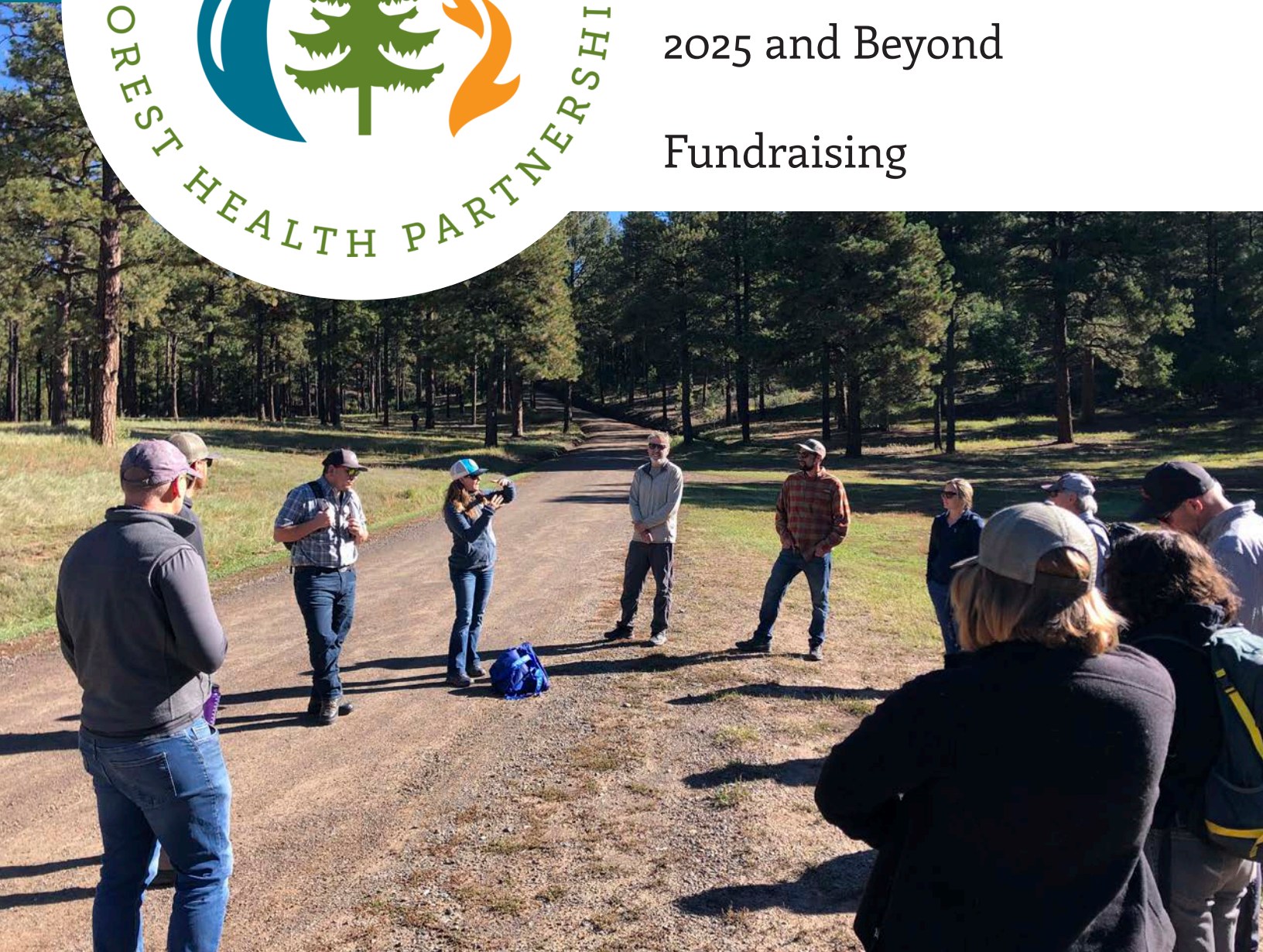
Annual Report



2024 Highlights, Events,
and Outreach

2025 and Beyond

Fundraising



Highlights

FRWRM Grant Perseverance pays off

SJHFHP was excited to be awarded a Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant (FRWRM) in 2021 from the Colorado State Forest Service. A barrage of obstacles - including staff turnover at nearly all partner organizations and difficulty in finding willing landowners - created significant project delays.

Thanks to well established and longstanding relationships fostered by the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership, the project partners were able to push through these challenges, create new relationships with landowners, and work collaboratively to find a solution. Wildfire Adapted Partnership via coordinator Bill Trimarco found a willing landowner in Hidden Valley, one drainage over from Fourmile creek, and still in a high priority watershed. Local Pagosa contractor and long-time San Juan Headwaters participant JR



Project partners tour the site in Fall 2024

Ford with Forest Health Company, LLC stepped in to take the lead on thinning and mastication. In the end, the grant was implemented in a high need area and has since been a source of inspiration for neighbors to pursue their own wildfire mitigation work.

Sincere thanks to the Colorado State Forest Service for the opportunity to do this important work in our community.

Monitoring Snowtography, ASCC, and Valle Seco

Volunteers from San Juan Outdoor Club completed a full winter's worth of data collection at the Jackson Mountain snowtography site that headwaters helped identify and fund. Eventually, the data will reveal what forest characteristics change the retention, ablation, and infiltration of water and snow which can help make management decisions. Data from Arizona is already making management recommendations for Ponderosa forests, and with more data, we will follow suit

with our forest types.

In the same Jackson Mountain landscape, crews from Mountain Studies Institute surveyed the Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change plots, preparing for treatments in 2025.

As part of the 2-3-2 monitoring effort, crews collected pre-treatment data at Valle Seco, just south of Pagosa Springs.



Volunteer snowtography monitoring



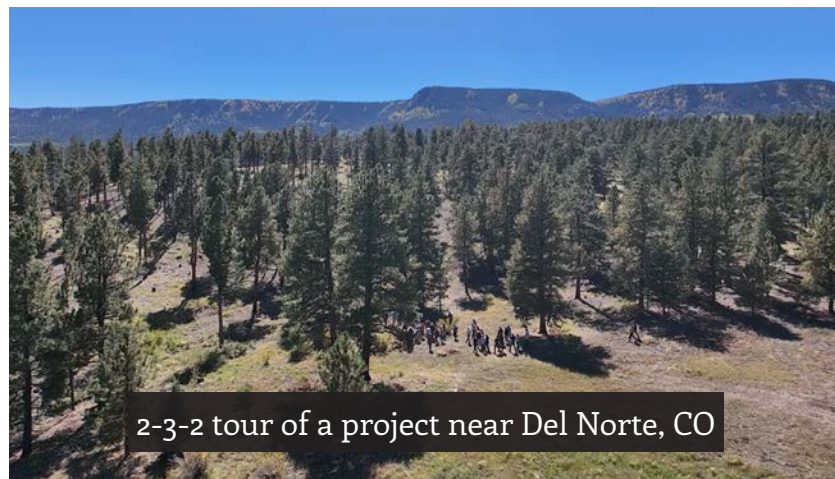
2-3-2 monitoring at Valle Seco

Collaboration

BLOBs and CFLRPs

As part of the Southwest Colorado Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP), SJHFHP engaged in a prioritization process, creating Broad Landscape Opportunity Boundaries (BLOBs). These priority areas, which capture values ranging from water resources and infrastructure to wildlife to fire mitigation work, were shared with the San Juan National Forest to create alignment with projects and local values. While it was knowledge that had long existed in the minds of Headwaters members, it was the first time it was formally recorded.

SJHFHP also participated in the discussions and planning of the 2-3-2 and Rio Chama CFLRP, visiting neighboring Del Norte for an important discussion on economic drivers for forestry and forest health.



2-3-2 tour of a project near Del Norte, CO



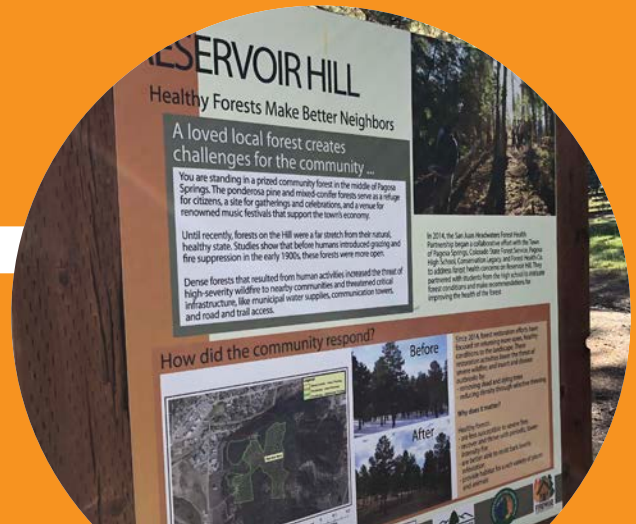
SW CO CFLRP Tour of Hermosa Creek



Bill Trimarco searches for birds at Fawn Gulch

2024 by the numbers

- 960 volunteer hours
- 40 organizations and agencies represented
- 3 tours
- 9 regular meetings
- 47 acres of direct mitigation work at Hidden Valley
- 3 press releases
- 4 quarterly newsletters
- 3 radio interviews on KWUF



Partners of 2024

Local organizations

4 Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative
Audubon Rockies
Banded Peak Ranch
Build Pagosa
Chama Peak Land Alliance
Colorado Timber Industry Association
CSU Extension
Dolocek Enterprises
Durango Herald
Forest Stewards Guild
Mountain Studies Institute
MoxieCran Media
National Forest Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
Pagosa Area Trails Council
Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District
Pagosa Fire
Pagosa Forest Products
Pagosa Sun
Private contractors
Pueblo Community College
QIS Solutions
San Juan Citizens Alliance

San Juan Mountains Association
San Juan Outdoor Club
San Juan Water Conservancy District
Studs Lumber Company
The Nature Conservancy
Tri-State Generation and Transmission
Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement
Partnership
Volunteers
Weminuche Audubon Society
Wildfire Adapted Partnership

Local government

Archuleta County
La Plata County
Town of Pagosa Springs

Agencies

Colorado State Forest Service
San Juan National Forest
US Forest Service Region 2



Joint tour with 4 Rivers at Dry Lake

Events

Site visit of work, post-treatment at Hidden Valley Ranch as part of the FRWRM Grant

Joint field trip with the 4 Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative of prescribed fire locations at Dry Lake

Birding and forestry field trip with the Weminuche Audubon Society, learning about how bird monitoring can help inform forest management

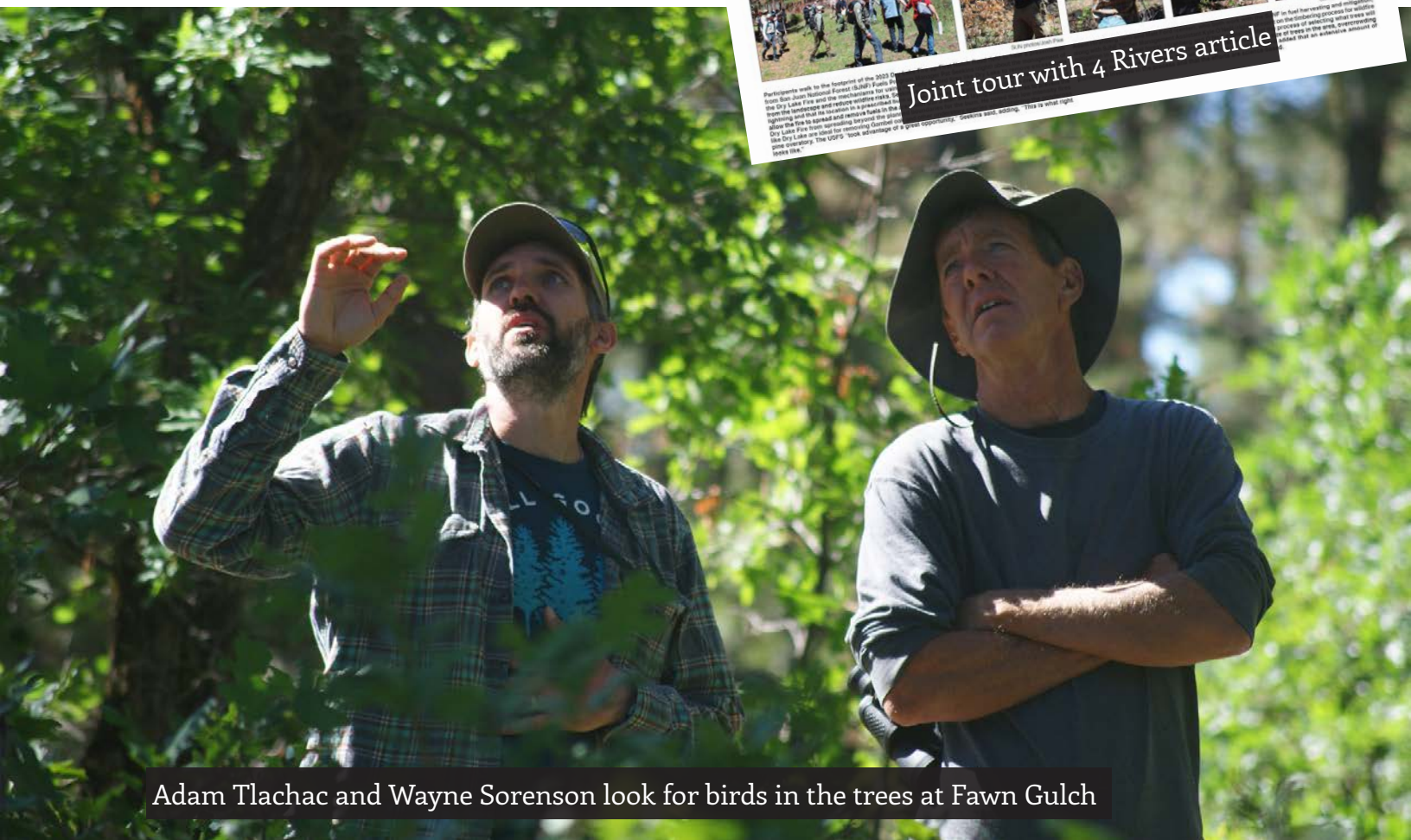
Field trip and BBQ at Reservoir Hill to learn the legacy of the Headwaters and the recent work to maintain this iconic location



BBQ after the Reservoir Hill field trip



Joint tour with 4 Rivers article



Adam Tlachac and Wayne Sorenson look for birds in the trees at Fawn Gulch



Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network Annual Summit in Durango



SJWCD film premiere in Pagosa

SJHFHP Coordinator emceed the San Juan Water Conservancy District Film Premiere and panel

Key Headwaters members (past and present), Matt Ford, Dana Guinn, Kevin Khung and Aaron Kimple shared the unique brand of collaboration that has made us successful during a talk at the Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network Annual Summit in Durango

Headwaters members attended regional 2-3-2 meetings in Del Norte, CO, Abiquiu, NM, and El Rito, NM.

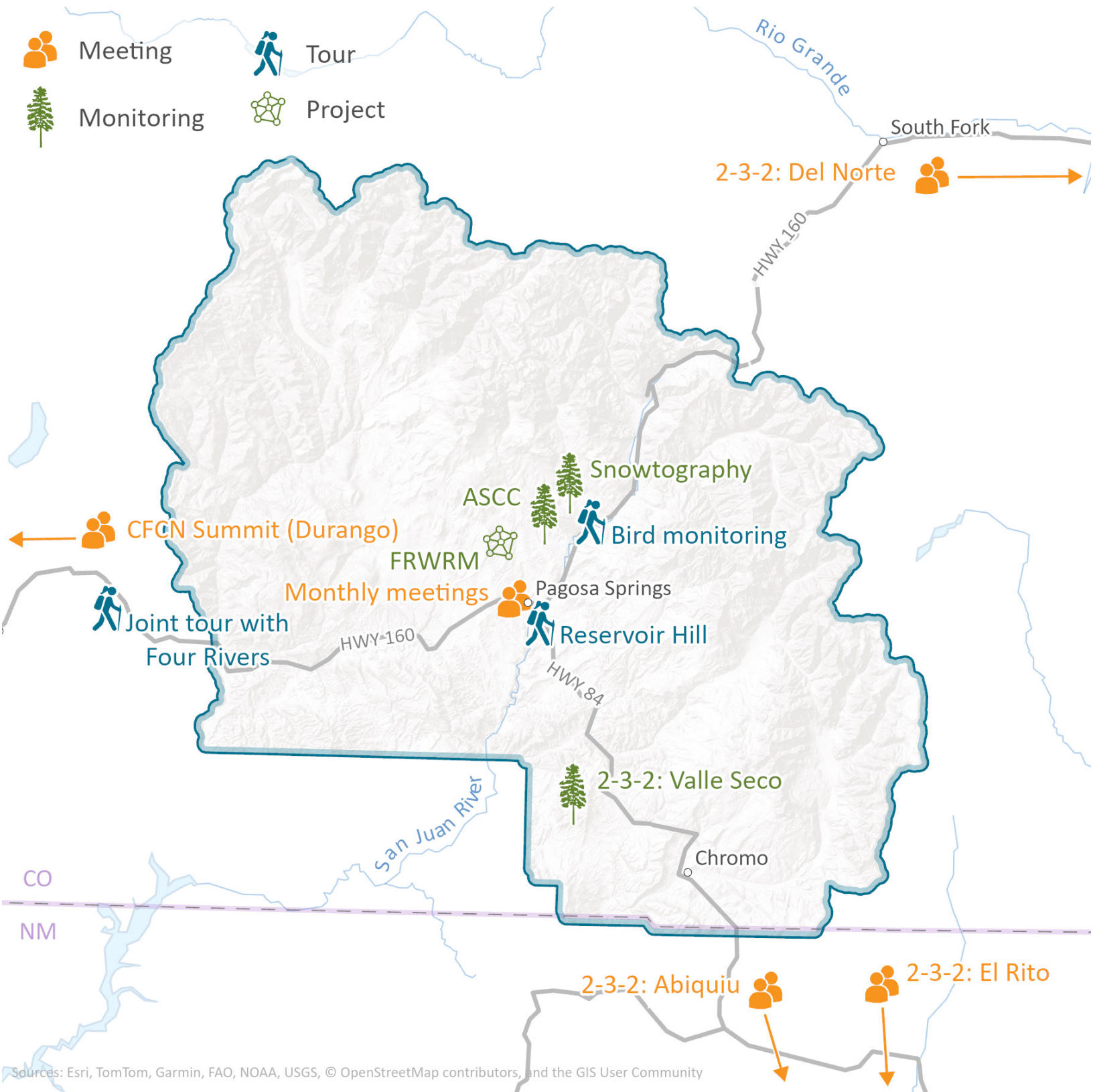


Joint tour with 4 Rivers article



2-3-2 full partnership meeting in Abiquiu, NM

Across the landscape:



Outreach

On the airwaves...

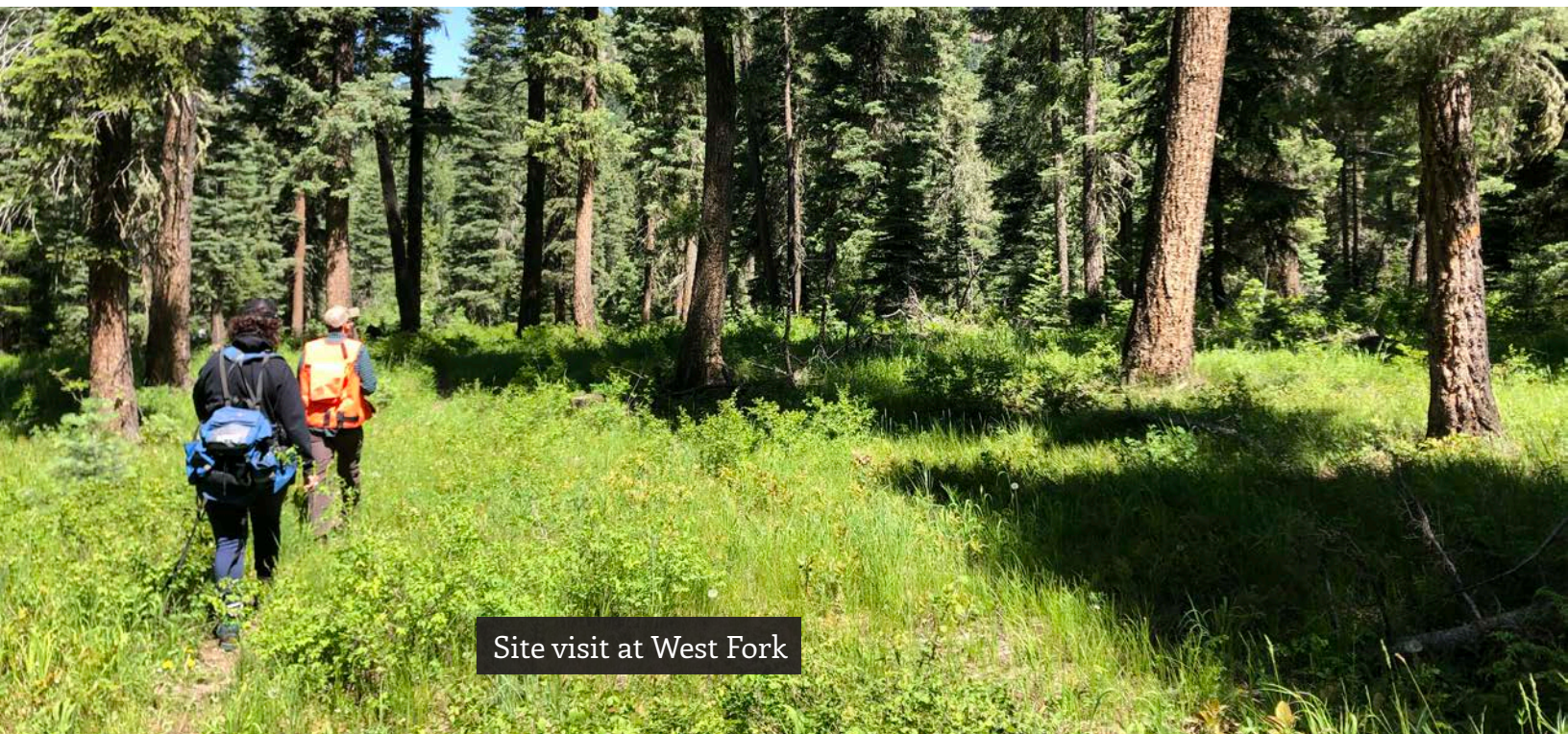
Teamed up with **KWUF Radio** to highlight SJHFHP and partner work:

June: Matt Ford discussed SJHFHP and the value of community engagement and collaboration, and the Weminuche Audubon bird monitoring project.

July: Matt Ford, Tim Haarmann, and Josh Peck discussed working across private and public boundaries.

August: Matt Ford and Fred Ellis discussed fuels management on the San Juan National Forest.

The Dirt and Dust podcast highlighted SJHFHP member Tim Haarmann from Banded Peak Ranch, discussing the management of watersheds.



Site visit at West Fork

In the press...

Article:

Article written by the Pagosa Sun from the joint 4 Rivers tour

Press releases:

On snowtopography and the community members who are helping monitor the site in the Pagosa Sun and Pagosa Daily Post.

On SJHFHP's and the Weminuche Audubon Society's bird monitoring citizen science and how it informs forest management. Published in the Pagosa Sun and Pagosa Daily Post.

On the nuance of old growth trees and management that was published in the Pagosa Daily Post.

Newsletters:

February: Snowtopography, bird monitoring, and the 2024 work plan.

May: The joint tour with 4 Rivers, a podcast featuring the SJHFHP landscape, and more member updates.

August: Birding and Forestry field trip, radio interviews of various members, monitoring at Valle Seco, and a summary of the Jackson Mountain conversation.

November: Revisiting Reservoir Hill, wildfire mitigation grant success, CFCN Summit, and film premiere.

Fundraising



Snowtography installation on Jackson Mountain

We raised \$15,500 in 2024

Our work would not be possible without the continued financial support of local organizations and agencies:

San Juan National Forest

Banded Peak Ranch

San Juan Water Conservancy District

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District

Alpine Cascade Ranch

Looking Ahead

We're excited for another year of collaborative successes, tours, field trips, and more. Here's some of what we're planning:

Tour of the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) grant area at Hidden Valley Ranch.

Field trip at Fawn Gulch to discuss post-prescribed fire conditions through the eyes of birds.

Developing a long-term management plan for Reservoir Hill in partnership with the Town of Pagosa Springs.

Updating the Archuleta County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Ongoing outreach, including the Forest and Fire Learning Series and realtors and contractors.