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**Symposium Organizer:** William Carromero

**NAC20 Program Topic:** Collaborative approaches to conservation-public/private partnerships

**Description:** Managers and owners of forests across the nation face urgent challenges, among them catastrophic wildfires, invasive species, drought, and epidemics of forest insects and disease. Of particular concern are longer fire seasons and the rising size and severity of wildfires, along with the expanding risk to communities, natural resources, and the safety of firefighters. Through shared stewardship, the Forest Service and State and other partners have unprecedented opportunities to co-manage fire risk and achieve positive outcomes at the most appropriate scales. This session will discuss the progress and results of the Shared Stewardship strategy.

**Presentation Title:** Shared Stewardship: Origins, Evolution, Overview

**Presenter:** Erin Connelly

**Abstract:** The Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture announced a “new” strategy for the Forest Service as he released “Towards Shared Stewardship Across Landscapes: An Outcome-Based Investment Strategy” to broad and bipartisan support in August of 2018. In this presentation, you will gain an understanding of the Strategy’s origin, how it has manifested and been implemented across the nation since 2018, and results that have been achieved related to addressing mutual priorities of land managers. Through the engagement at all levels and scales, we look to make a difference together on matters that affect all of us, such as reducing wildland fire risk, restoring watersheds, and supporting communities yet that none of us could accomplish alone.

**Presentation Title:** Shared Stewardship Across Management Boundaries

**Presenter:** Jordan Hosmer

**Abstract:** Nevada as the state with the highest percentage of federally managed land, faces unique challenges in implementing landscape-scale restoration and resilience projects. This presentation will describe the process of developing and implementing a unique multi-agency shared stewardship agreement and the challenges and lessons learned.

**Presentation Title:** Advancing NM's collaborative management- a new comprehensive spatial risk assessment for shared stewardship priorities

**Presenters:** Anne Bradley, Steve Bassett

**Abstract:** The Nature Conservancy worked closely with the New Mexico Division of Forestry to develop a statewide comprehensive risk analysis and associated spatial data to assist the state in completing its update of the Forest Action Plan. The analyses also contributed substantially to the identification of potential joint priorities for the state and the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service. The statewide assessment of values and threats and robust engagement in the Forest Action Plan were made possible by nearly two decades of cross-jurisdictional collaboration between agencies, NGOs, and tribes in New Mexico to work together to restore watersheds and protect communities from large fire impacts. This partnering approach has been especially important for a state with relatively few resources to bring to bear on natural resource problems. The enabling conditions for collaboration and opportunities for cross-jurisdictional resilience-building identified in the Forest Action Plan will be described.

**Presentation Title:** Shared Stewardship: Strategies for Engaging Community-Based Partners

**Presenter:** Karen Hardigg

**Abstract:** Shared stewardship recognizes that both public land managers and the communities in which they are located, along with other stakeholders, can share responsibility and accountability for being stewards of the land, and can work together across ownership boundaries to accomplish common management objectives. The approach also recognizes that conservation and local community benefits are related and can be mutually supported. At its core, shared stewardship encourages the Forest Service to partner with a diversity of groups and organizations to accomplish its mission. The Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC) has worked closely with the Forest Service on implementing the vision of shared stewardship in the West. We have worked with partners to improve implementation of collaborative restoration projects that cross ownership boundaries by focusing on how agencies, landowners, and organizations can partner to accomplish work on the ground. In this presentation we will share best practices and strategies for including and working with community and collaborative partners. Themes will be drawn from applied research, peer learning exchanges, and case studies.

**Presentation Title:** Shared Stewardship, Shared Outcomes

**Presenter:** Laura Ault

**Abstract:** Managers and owners of forested land in Utah face many challenges, among them catastrophic fires, drought, insects and disease, invasive species. Of particular concern are longer fire seasons and the increasing size and severity of wildfires, along with the expanding risk to communities, water sources, wildlife habitat, air quality, and the safety of firefighters. To address these concerns at a landscape scale, the State of Utah (State) and the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) entered into a Shared Stewardship Agreement. On May 22, 2019, Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert and USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue signed the Agreement for Shared Stewardship between the State and the Forest Service Intermountain Region. Under the agreement, the State and Forest Service will focus on landscape-scale forest restoration activities that protect at-risk communities and watersheds. The State and Forest Service have worked collaboratively to identify and map priority landscapes that will guide activities across jurisdictional boundaries. Shared Stewardship is about setting priorities together and combining resources to achieve cross-boundary outcomes using every available authority and tool to support partnership efforts to improve forest health and target treatments in the highest priority landscapes, thereby protecting at-risk communities and watersheds from catastrophic fire. The State of Utah and the Forest Service will work in partnership to restore these priority landscapes using all available tools.