



**AR-LA CDN Steering Committee
24 March, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Virtual Meeting**

Co-Chairs, David Breithaupt and Ricky Chastain, convened this meeting to conduct important business for 2022. They conveyed that we had a successful start to the RCPP in 2021; the 8 weeks of December and November passed quickly after learning the sign-up phase would begin prior to 2022, and that the Fact Sheet needed a revised map. Today's meeting was focused on 2022, with decisions and plans for 2022-23 to consider. We also have \$157,000 in RCPP cash contributions; we need to develop a process to utilize those funds in the most effective manner, and in a way the partners expect us to focus our resources for the RCPP.

Bill Bartush reviewed the CDN, and especially progress of the AR-LA CDN since the initial 2012-2014 establishment, MFFI in 2017-18, and Magnolia Steering Meeting in 2019. Current work load discussion:

- Fact Sheet, sign-up steps, partner contacts, and summary/assessment (POCs)
 - Map on Fact Sheet needs to be re-evaluated after Delivery Work group convenes; NRCS needs to receive any recommendations by early October, 2022.
 - Sign-up steps have been bumpy – mostly because of timing during holidays and COVID, but also due to a larger number of sign-ups from new clients. FSA overload in certain areas (Drew/Ashley Co) was discussed, but with extended dates to get F&T numbers, most are comfortable with all sign-ups getting counted and into the system.
- RCPP site visit overload (Diener in-general, Chastain AR, and Breithaupt LA)
 - All POCs (Implementation Team) voiced comfort with ability to work with all sign-ups; each state POCs should stay in communication and identify areas where bottlenecks may arise. QF staff believes the effort is manageable, but POCs do need to be in touch.
- Building Rx Fire Capacity (In-House and Contractors led by QF)
 - Several expressed little concern with 338 fire contractors; however, hand crews for TSI, as well as other intermediate treatments (666), are worrisome.
 - Options in LA and AR for “learn to burn” do not really bolster contractors, but does more for landowners and coops. LA has more restrictive requirements for burn plans and burn boss credentials, and this could impact LA outcomes. Discussed the opportunity to “cluster” projects to improve support by Rx Fire managers and work more efficiently.

Issue – Consulting Foresters in some areas are advising clients not to sign up for RCPP, due to project focus on low basal area. Chandler Barton expressed an opportunity for our partnership to develop a presentation to explain the program at upcoming CF meetings: (a) Ferndale and (b) Hope/Arkadelphia.





Final Notes

3/24/2022

Ricky Chastain is already slated for a presentation at the Ferndale meeting; suggest we discuss in depth with AFD (Chandler Barton, Ricky O'Neill, John McAlpine, and possibly others at AGFC and AFD).

Overview of RCPP Cash Contribution Plan RCPP – Good discussion regarding the use of cash contributions from partners for the RCPP project. It was agreed these funds require sideboards for what/how we will use money for the project objectives of Technical Assistance (practices) Implementation for habitat work (incentives, etc.), or Enhancement - communication and outreach, or science-related items. Ad Hoc Team will develop proposals for use of funds on (a) Habitat, (b) Outreach, or (c) Science. **David B, Ricky C, Austin K, Ben N, and Luke L; report due 6/15/22.**

- Possible options for outreach and communication are signage and recognition.
- Consider supplementing implementation consideration for habitat-related practices and incentives.

JV Science and RCPP teams – Bartush provided a quick overview of the JV history and development of science efforts, with existing teams that cover the 9 JV states. The AR-LA CDN is one of 7 delivery networks. This RCPP will need specific teams to fully function over 5+ years. Development is as follows:

- Implementation Team (10 POCs; 5 in each state – **group lead Austin Klais**). This group is self-driven by close coordination within each state; possible replacement may be needed in LA.
- Science/Monitoring (to be developed by Anne Mini, Chair)
- Social/HD (5 members, Anne Mini, Chair)
- Communication (4 members - 2 in each state; Gregg Elliott, Chair)

Discuss and Plan for CDN Steering, Delivery/Planning Working Group members

- Vacancies to fill; Steering Committee and Delivery Work Group (Bartush)
 - Bartush displayed Steering and Delivery WG recommendations (consensus, no objections)
- Refining the Open Pine Model – Charge for Delivery Work Group
 - Provided one-page charge in draft form, all SC members are requested to review and provide comments; if no objections, the group will convene in April/May 2022.

Wrap-up, calendar, and planned field days

- Calendar for 2022/23 (Doodle July-August for next Steering Committee Meeting)
 - July 19-21 or 26-28, or August 9-11 or 16-18
- What to expect with RCPP and Open Pine Model; open discussion of other opportunities
- LA “open pine” field day for POCs on April 13 in the Minden-Ruston area

AR-LA



CDN