WELCOME

Dear RVCC Participants,

Welcome to the 15th Annual Meeting of the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition! We are thrilled to be hosting in Santa Fe, in a new landscape and with local partners in the Southwest. While the place is different, the opportunity to learn from, be inspired by, and advocate for change with your peers remains the same.

What I’ve always admired about RVCC is the space we create for civil dialogue. At a time that seems more politically polarized than perhaps any point in our careers, taking an interest group posture to stake out one’s ground might be compelling. It’s a lot harder to broker solutions. I believe RVCC, including all of you at this meeting, is uniquely positioned to name real problems and offer creative solutions without falling into intractable ideological positions.

Solutions to increasing the use of prescribed fire and getting ahead of the growing wildfire problem; to stabilizing county payments and equitably compensating rural communities; to overcoming the complexity of multijurisdictional land stewardship; to unifying common messages across our coalition; and to ensuring that local voices and interests are not lost in the swing from one administration to another.

RVCC is better positioned than ever to facilitate collective action and offer a shared voice in support of healthy landscapes and vibrant rural communities. We have an incredible team that I’m privileged to work with. Your collective commitment to thriving rural communities, to livelihoods in support of land stewardship, and the cause of conservation compels us.

We encourage you to bring your new ideas to the table over the next three days. I hope this meeting inspires you to participate, contribute, and invest in shaping RVCC’s work in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Karen Hardigg

MEETING DESIGN

The RVCC Annual Meeting connects practitioners from across the West, facilitates peer-to-peer learning, and helps participants identify common challenges and opportunities. We believe that by bringing leaders together and asking critical questions, we can develop comprehensive solutions and – ultimately - be more effective as a whole. The outcomes from this meeting help us refine and shape RVCC’s 2019 priorities.
MEETING ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Karen Hardigg, RVCC
Tyson Bertone-Riggs, RVCC
Jessica Sabine Brothers, RVCC
Sally Bernstein, RVCC
Zander Evans, Forest Stewards Guild
Kendal Martel, Forest Stewards Guild
Emily Jane Davis, OSU/EWP
Tom Page, Central Idaho Rangelands Network

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FIELD TRIP PARTNERS

US Forest Service, Region 3
Forest Stewards Guild
Santa Fe National Forest

SUPPORTERS

We would like to thank:
USDA Forest Service
Northwest Fire Science Consortium
RVCC Leadership Team
for their support of the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition and the 15th Annual Meeting.

CONTACT

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www.ruralvoicescoalition.org

PRINTING & DESIGN

Design: Jessica Sabine Brothers
Printing: OSU Printing and Mailing
Photo contributors:
  Jessica Sabine Brothers
  Emily Jane Davis
  Eytan Krasilovsky
  USFS Region 6
  USFS Region 3
Local Recommendations

Eat/Drink:
The Cowgirl
Café Pasquals
The Shed
Tia Sophias
Enjoy a frito pie @ Five and Dime

Attractions:
Georgia O'Keeffe Museum
SITE Santa Fe Contemporary Art
New Mexico History Museum
Historic Santa Fe Plaza
New Mexico Museum of Art
Ten Thousand Waves Spa

Walk:
Dale Ball Trail System
Santa Fe Rail Trail
Santa Fe River Park
### MONDAY, JAN 28
**FIELD TRIP & LAY OF THE LAND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optional Field Trip &amp; Discussion – Santa Fe Watershed</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration Open</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Networking Lunch</td>
<td>11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome and an Introduction to RVCC</td>
<td>12:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remarks from Southwestern Regional Forester Cal Joyner</td>
<td>1:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panel: Political Realities and Opportunities in Rural Conservation</td>
<td>1:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
<td>3:00 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Realities and Context of Rural Western Communities</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panel: Working with Federal Agency Partners</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjourn</td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal social gathering</td>
<td>6:00 p.m. – onward</td>
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### TUESDAY, JAN 29
**PEER LEARNING, POLICY & PRIORITY SETTING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast (provided)</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation to the Day/Assignments</td>
<td>8:15 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MORNING BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS</strong></td>
<td>8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch (provided) + YFYF Presentation</td>
<td>12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AFTERNOON BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS</strong></td>
<td>1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evening Reception</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Evening on your own</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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### WEDNESDAY, JAN 30
**PRIORITIES & WORK PLANS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome + Summary of Day Two</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Establishing 2019 Priorities</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizing Toward Collective Action</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
<td>10:45 a.m.</td>
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</table>
### Field Trip & Discussion – Santa Fe Watershed, Optional

**Purpose:** Participants will hike to the edge of the Santa Fe watershed to see how collaboration is making a difference on the ground by restoring forests and protecting lives and livelihoods. Participants will gather for coffee at the Hilton at 8 am to learn about the project, then depart at 8:30 am to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains (1/2 hour drive time one way). If the snow allows, we’ll take a short guided hike to the Santa Fe watershed through a 2018 thinning and see the results of 10 years of collaboration. If time allows, we’ll then drive higher up into the mountains for a beautiful view of the Great Santa Fe Fireshed area. We will return to the Hilton in time for lunch at 11:30 am.

**What to Bring:** Water, warm clothes, decent boots, readiness to hike for an hour at 9,000 ft, and flexibility as weather conditions may change plans at the last minute. (Limited to 30 participants)

**Host:** Forest Stewards Guild

### Monday, Jan 28

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am –</td>
<td>PECOS</td>
<td><strong>Field Trip &amp; Discussion – Santa Fe Watershed, Optional</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>OFF-SITE</td>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> Participants will hike to the edge of the Santa Fe watershed to see</td>
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<td>how collaboration is making a difference on the ground by restoring forests and</td>
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<td>last minute. (Limited to 30 participants)</td>
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<td><strong>Host:</strong> Forest Stewards Guild</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am –</td>
<td>PROMENADE</td>
<td><strong>Registration Open</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
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<td>11:30 am –</td>
<td>MESA BALLROOM</td>
<td><strong>Networking Lunch</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
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<td>An opportunity to connect with peers and new partners. Light lunch provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45 pm –</td>
<td>MESA BALLROOM</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and an Introduction to RVCC</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> An orientation to the Southwest and the importance of a Coalition</td>
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<td>like RVCC to regional work. In addition, an overview of RVCC, what we believe in,</td>
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<td>what to expect during the meeting, and what we hope to accomplish.</td>
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<td><strong>Speakers:</strong> Zander Evans, Executive Director, Forest Stewards Guild</td>
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<td>Karen Hardigg, Director, RVCC</td>
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<td>1:15 pm</td>
<td>MESA BALLROOM</td>
<td><strong>Remarks from Southwestern Regional Forester Cal Joyner</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>The role of community based organizations and collaborative groups in supporting</td>
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<td>the vision of landscape scale restoration in the Southwestern Region.</td>
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<td>1:45 pm</td>
<td>MESA BALLROOM</td>
<td><strong>Panel: Political Realities and Opportunities in Rural Conservation</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Tyson Bertone-Riggs, Program Manager, RVCC</td>
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<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> To assess the political landscape to advance issues of concern for the</td>
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<td>Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition and to incorporate these into the 2019</td>
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<td>platform and strategies. Key issues to be addressed by panelists will include:</td>
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<td>forest restoration, opportunities post fire funding fix, Farm Bill opportunities,</td>
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<td>impacts of the new Congress, rural economic development, and other related issues.</td>
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<td><strong>Speakers:</strong> Cecilia Clavet, Senior Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy</td>
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<td>Katharine Ferguson, CSG Associate Director, Aspen Institute</td>
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<td>Erin Minks, Senior Advisor for Rural Affairs to Senator Michael Bennet (CO)</td>
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LAY OF THE LAND

MONDAY, JAN 28

3:00pm – MESA BALLROOM
BREAK, SNACKS PROVIDED

3:30pm – MESA BALLROOM
ECONOMIC REALITIES AND CONTEXT OF RURAL WESTERN COMMUNITIES
Speaker: Mark Haggerty, Headwaters Economics

4:00pm – MESA BALLROOM
WORKING WITH FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS: ASSESSMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES
Moderator: Karen Hardigg, RVCC
Purpose: To step back and examine the broad trends in federal agencies over the past 25 years, from both an academic and practitioner perspective. Panelists will share what those trends mean for communities and partners as they work on implementing restoration projects on public and private lands.
Speakers:
Jesse Abrams, Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Policy and Sustainability, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia
Jesse Juen, Advisor, Western Landowners Alliance
Laura McCarthy, Associate State Director, The Nature Conservancy (NM)
Courtney Schultz, Associate Professor of Forest & Natural Resource Policy, Colorado State University

5:00pm – MESA BALLROOM
ADJOURN

6:00pm – OFF-SITE
INFORMAL SOCIAL GATHERING (LOCATION TBD)

Forest Collaboration in New Mexico // photo credits: Eyton Krasilovsky, SW Director Forest Stewards Guild
TUESDAY, JAN 29  
PEER LEARNING, POLICY, & PRIORITY SETTING

7:30am – MESA BALLROOM  BREAKFAST, PROVIDED

8:15am – MESA BALLROOM  ORIENTATION TO THE DAY/ASSIGNMENTS
Review of the day ahead with instructions and goals.

8:45am – MORNING BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS (DESCRIPTIONS BELOW)  
For each topic, we will have two 1.5 hour discussions. Participants will be asked to pick one morning topic and stay through both sessions. Sessions will include an understanding of current information, trends and conditions, with a heavy emphasis on solution setting. What are our priorities, what’s feasible, what are we willing to work on together?

CHAPEL  
PARNERING WITH THE FOREST SERVICE
The Forest Service increasingly relies on partnerships to accomplish its mission. Changing interpretations of contracts and agreements, as well as staff transitions, can significantly impact effective partnerships. This session will identify and explore implications of these issues on community-based partners and restoration.

SESSION LEADS:
Tyson Bertone-Riggs, RVCC
Zander Evans, Forest Stewards Guild

PECOS  
RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Recreation and county payments are important economic pillars for many rural communities. We will provide expertise on county payments and discuss a coalition position and approach to a Support Rural Schools (SRS) trust fund proposal. We will also identify ways RVCC might engage on the topic of recreation, drafting a set of values and priorities.

SESSION LEADS:
Mark Haggerty, Headwaters Economics
Toni Rush, Salmon Valley Stewardship
Chelsea McIver, University of Idaho

CANADY 1  
OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO PRESCRIBED FIRE
Participants will discuss strategies for getting more “good fire” on the ground for resource management and community wildfire protection purposes. In this session we will cover collaborative planning approaches, opportunities for local workforce development and utilization, and explore policy measures that could improve ecological, economic and social outcomes from deliberately using fire as a land management tool.

SESSION LEADS:
Nick Goulette, The Watershed Center
Courtney Schultz, Colorado State University

CANADY 2  
ALL LANDS MANAGEMENT
Working across public and private boundaries, and with multiple partners, is essential to address the ecological and economic challenges that communities in the rural West face. Participants will connect with innovators who are implementing all lands projects, identify key trends, and learn more about RVCC’s efforts to improve policy and practice through peer exchanges, research, and case studies.

SESSION LEADS:
Karen Hardigg, RVCC
Alyssa Cudmore, Wallowa Resources

12:15pm – MESA BALLROOM  LUNCH, PROVIDED + PARTNER PRESENTATION
Your Forests, Your Future: Crowdsourcing new Storytelling Opportunities
Speakers:
Liz Townley, U.S. Forest Service
Mindy Crowell, Salmon Valley Stewardship

4:30pm – AFTERNOON BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS
*DESCRIPTIONS ON FOLLOWING PAGE*
For each topic, we will have two 1.5 hour discussions. Participants will be asked to pick one afternoon topic and stay through both sessions. Same format as morning session with a problem diagnosis and solution setting.
PRIORITIES & WORK PLANS

WEDNESDAY, JAN 30

7:30am – BREAKFAST, ON YOUR OWN

8:30am – WELCOME & SUMMARY FROM DAY TWO
Breakout session leads will share highlights from their discussions the previous day, including proposed actions for RVCC in the coming year.

9:30am – ESTABLISHING 2019 PRIORITIES
Purpose: Meeting participants will have an opportunity to provide feedback on potential RVCC priorities for the coming year, using interactive polling technology.

10:00am – ORGANIZING TOWARD COLLECTIVE ACTION
Purpose: Building on the priorities and actions set during breakout discussions, we will organize coalition participants into working groups or other ways of working together in the coming year.

10:45am – CLOSING REMARKS + ADJOURN
Speaker: Whitney Kimball Coe, Center for Rural Strategies
Zander Evans  Executive Director, Forest Stewards Guild

Zander’s current research includes the effectiveness of fuels treatment and sustainability of forest bioenergy. He is involved in local collaborative efforts to improve forest management and is an active board member on of Southwest Fire Science Consortium. He received his PhD from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies after working as a cartographer and spatial analyst with the US Geological Survey.

Karen Hardigg  Director, Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition

Karen has served as Director of the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition since 2015. Previously, she spent eight years working in Southeast Alaska on community forestry, forest stewardship, restoration and policy both at The Wilderness Society and The Nature Conservancy. She has served on both the national CFLR and 2012 Forest Planning Rule Federal Advisory Committees. Karen holds a Master’s degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Cal Joyner  Southwestern Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service

Cal has been the Southwestern Regional Forester since 2013. He has held numerous positions at all levels of the Forest Service—in both the eastern and western parts of the country. Before coming to the Southwestern Region, he was the Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System in the Washington D.C. Office. Cal graduated from Humboldt State University with a degree in watershed management.

Tyson Bertone-Riggs  Program Manager, RVCC

Tyson is responsible for leading RVCC’s policy engagement, as well as tracking evolving uses of federal authorities. Before joining RVCC, he worked for the Oregon Department of Forestry in the Federal Forest Restoration Program, utilizing the Good Neighbor Authority and working with forest collaboratives in Central and Eastern Oregon. Tyson holds a Master’s degree from Oregon State University with an emphasis on federal land management policy and social science.

Cecilia Clavet  Senior Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy

Cecilia works as a senior policy advisor on fire and forest restoration for TNC’s U.S. Government Relations branch and the Restoring America’s Forests North America project. For the last three years, Cecilia’s work has been focused on USDA Forest Service issues, including forest restoration, wildfire suppression budgeting, biomass and appropriations. Cecilia holds a Master’s degree in Resource Economics & Policy from the University of Maine.

Katharine Ferguson  CSG Associate Director, The Aspen Institute

Katharine is an experienced leader and public manager with a penchant for civic engagement, bridging perceived divides, and systems change. In her role, Katharine connects, motivates and equips local leaders to build more prosperous regions and advance those living on the economic margins. Katharine previously served as Chief of Staff for the White House Domestic Policy Council and as Chief of Staff for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Obama Administration. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Syracuse University.
Erin Minks  Senior Advisor for Rural Affairs to Senator Michael Bennett (CO)
Erin has served as the Senior Policy Advisor on Rural Affairs and San Luis Valley Regional Representative for US Senator Michael Bennet since May 2018. Before then, she was the planner for the Rio Grande National Forest. From 2005-2014, Erin worked as a field representative for Senator Ken Salazar, Congressman John Salazar, and Senator Mark Udall out of Alamosa, Colorado. A native of rural New England, Erin graduated from CU-Boulder in 1996 and has a law degree from Vermont Law School.

Mark Haggerty  Researcher, Headwaters Economics
Mark works to communicate key lessons and policy ideas to people working to make their communities more livable and sustainable. Mark’s expertise is in fiscal policy, rural economic development, and community planning. He has served on local planning boards, worked with county commissioners and state legislators across the West, and testified in Congress at the request of both Republicans and Democrats. Mark holds a B.A. in Economics and M.A. in Geography from the University of Colorado.

Jesse Abrams  Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Policy and Sustainability, University of Georgia
Jesse researches natural resource policy, governance, and rural development, with an emphasis on qualitative and case-study methodologies. His research centers on forests, rangelands, and peri-urban landscapes of the U.S. and Latin America. Before joining UofG, he spent two years as a visiting assistant professor at Whitman College and five years as a research associate at the Ecosystem Workforce Program at the University of Oregon. Jesse holds a Master and Ph.D. degree in Forest Resources from Oregon State University.

Jesse Juen  Public Policy Advisor, Western Landowners Alliance
Jesse retired as New Mexico BLM State Director in January 2015. He began his career as a wildlife biological aid with the Forest Service before joining the BLM as a wildlife biologist in New Mexico’s Roswell area office. He has held positions throughout New Mexico, Arizona and Washington D.C. headquarters office. His public service career focused on collaboration and partnerships at the intersection of communities, landowners, agencies and the corporations. Jesse also currently serves as a natural resource specialist with the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts.

Laura McCarthy  Associate State Director, The Nature Conservancy (NM)
Laura oversees programs in the Rio Grande, Gila, and San Juan Basins, including freshwater and climate and energy programs, and a new urban initiative in Albuquerque. She also founded TNC’s Rio Grande Water Fund, where she’s truly revolutionizing the way forests are managed in the increasingly arid Southwest. Before joining TNC, Laura spent eight years as Associate Director of the New Mexico-based Forest Guild. She also worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a wildland firefighter, timber manager and forest planner. She holds a Master of Forestry from Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Courtney Schultz  Associate Professor of Forest & Natural Resource Policy, Colorado State University
Courtney’s research focuses on policy design to support improved approaches to forest governance. She specifically investigate topics at the intersection of science and policy, and her recent work has focused on policy innovations to support collaborative landscape restoration, fire management, and climate change adaptation on US forest lands. Courtney received a Master of Science in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development from the University of Maryland and a Ph.D. in Forestry from University of Montana.

Whitney Kimball Coe, Director, National Programs, Center for Rural Strategies
Whitney coordinates a rural movement made up of activities and partnerships geared toward building better policy and more opportunity across the country. In 2017, she was a featured speaker at the inaugural summit of the Obama Foundation. Her focus on building civic courage in communities is directly tied to a practice of participation in her hometown of Athens, Tennessee. She holds an M.A. in Appalachian studies from Appalachian State University in North Carolina.
RVCC’s Leadership Team is committed to promoting healthy landscapes and vibrant rural communities throughout the American West. Members represent community-based or regional organizations and institutions from a wide range of perspectives and geographies, always keeping our work firmly grounded in the local communities on whose behalf RVCC works. The Leadership Team helps set strategic direction, provides leadership, shapes policy recommendations, and lifts up the shared values of our network participants.