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Dear Members of the Zuni Mountain Landscape Collaborative,

My name is Kim Coleman. I am a PhD student at Virginia Tech conducting research on large-scale collaborative natural resource management in the United States. My research will involve following four CFLR projects over the next two years. I hope that the Zuni can serve as one of these cases.

The goal of my research is to learn about the particular challenges associated with conducting large-scale restoration and navigating procedural requirements (such as those imposed by NEPA, FACA, and NFMA). I am particularly interested in the governance structures, procedures, and processes that enable and/or constrain effective collaboration at the landscape scale. My hope is that this research will identify important lessons and promising strategies for ongoing and future projects.

As my project develops, I'll be inviting members of the collaborative to participate in interviews. Of course, the interviews are entirely voluntary and all identifying information about interviewees (name, age, etc.) will be kept confidential. I'm working with my major professor, Dr. Marc Stern at Virginia Tech, on this research. We're also collaborating directly with Dr. Will Butler and Ashley Monroe at Florida State University. We recognize that several researchers may have interviewed members of the Zuni Collaborative over time, so I will make sure to use your time efficiently. Besides the four of us, only a hired transcriptionist will have access to any personally identifiable information.

Our work is funded by the Pacific Northwest Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service. In addition to helping me complete my dissertation, we intend to share whatever lessons we may learn through peer-reviewed publications and other professional venues. I will also share my findings with collaborative members. Since I will be studying four CFLR projects, this will give members of all four collaboratives the chance to learn from each other's experiences.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the e-mail address below. I look forward to learning about your experiences!

Kind regards,

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