

ATTACHMENT

HOW THE WEST WAS ONE: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

ABOUT THE PLAN

This implementation plan is an unfunded series of tactical actions that could bring our vision to life. It is a living plan, always in progress, that will require many things to be successful, including funding, and existing and new partners. Several of these implementation ideas are founded in the National Western Center's existing strategic implementation plan; others are new as a result of the Rockefeller 2050 Food Vision Prize. Systems stakeholders below are not committed partners; they are organizations we have collaborated with on this vision, and/or would seek to collaborate with to pursue these ideas.

Leverage Loops. The plan is organized around “leverage loops” and depicts what the Colorado food system will look like in 2050 after key interventions have transformed current vicious cycles into virtuous ones. To learn more about leverage loops and to see full systems map, visit [this link](#).



It's 2023.

We have a growing vision ecosystem and here are the three key milestones we have achieved in order to ensure our vision is on track:

Milestone 1 — Measurement Systems:

Early work in 2021 developed standard measurement systems and critical baseline data in areas like soil health. These efforts were participatory, combining public data with citizen science on an open source platform. This real-time data is deepening economic and cultural connections across Colorado -- when persistent drought conditions threaten the state's agricultural water supply, urban and rural stakeholders are informed and responsive.

Milestone 2 — Proven Pilots:

How the West Was One is rapidly becoming a reality — gathering momentum, statewide engagement and national attention. The pilot programs launched in communities around the state have been improved through iterative feedback from hundreds of participants. A multigenerational curriculum now spans 20 different programs for youth, families and business. Initial analysis of these pilot programs demonstrates positive changes in participants' interest in food and ag and appreciation for the state's urban-rural issues.

Milestone 3 — Committed Stakeholders:

The community, businesses, industry, and government partners that shaped this vision from the beginning have deepened their engagement and commitment. Thirty organizations have committed staff to quarterly steering committee meetings, reinforcing the vision as a stakeholder-led process. An initial culture assessment created shared language and values, and resulted in the creation of 10 subcommittees made up of 200 partners that meet monthly to shape and oversee detailed implementation action plans for our 10-year milestones.

It's 2030.

Here is the progress we have made in each solution area in order for our vision to be realized in 2050:

Cultural Integration & Interdependence:

Experiential learning programs reach thousands of youth and families each year. Inspired, families spend millions on regional “staycations,” experiencing Colorado’s regional food brands and food events. Biannual statewide policy roundtables and the urban-rural food and ag caucus culminate in the Food and Farm Bill. Another decade of these interactions will create a true sense of urban-rural interdependence.

Economic Stability & Redistribution:

Multiple rural areas are attracting and retaining a highly skilled workforce, bolstered and connected by a rural and urban leadership development program and workforce development apprenticeships. A joint venture accelerator graduated hundreds of companies including three that have raised \$1 billion after initial funding from the \$100 million revolving rural innovation fund. These rural innovation ecosystems are inspiring other communities to adopt this model for strong rural communities and economies.

Nutritional Equity and Abundance:

Food insecurity in the neighborhoods surrounding the National Western Center is eliminated because diverse actors in the local foodshed are now networked for collaboration, supporting a resilient and efficient system. Furthermore, public and private stakeholders from across the state, nation, and globe visit campus to spread the place-based, equitable food security model.

Environmental Regeneration:

An ecosystem services marketplace is established with ecological incentives that pay producers a living wage for the full value they create. University-industry partnerships accelerate the rapid adoption of bioregional best practices in land management. As a result, undesired farm transitions in Colorado are eliminated through models of perpetual land and water preservation.

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Focus Area: Cultural Integration & Interdependence						
Leverage Loop	Body of Work	2030 Milestones (10 year)	2030 Indicators (10 year)	2023 Milestones (3 year)	Systems Stakeholders	NWC Role
Urban-Rural Interdependence. Increasing opportunities for urban-rural interactions led to increased meaningful urban-rural connections and shared political power.						
Experiential Learning Opportunities in Food and Agriculture for All Ages						
	Unique Experiential Learning Campus for Youth and Families	The NWC campus features hands-on, interactive experiences for urban and rural kids to experience the range of Colorado's environmental inputs and agricultural practices, with differentiated experiences for elementary, middle, and high school aged youth. Online and offsite programming creates opportunities to for learning statewide.	Thousands of youth and families visit the NWC each year, participating in programs ranging from self-guided tours to multi-month programs. Campus programming is used as a model and replicated in other places.	Pilot programs launch (improving through iterative participant feedback); construction of the first phases of the National Western Center, including CSU Spur campus, are complete.	City and County of Denver, CSU Spur, Colorado Water Center, History Colorado, LoProCO, FFA, 4H	Lead
	Lifelong Experiential Learning through Agritourism	State tourism board and regional eco-devo organizations, in coordination with the National Western Center, launch annual marketing campaigns that drive interest in unique adult and family agritourism experiences in all of Colorado's regions: from cattle roping on horseback to vineyard bike rides.	Tens of thousands of Colorado residents and tourists from around the world are engaged in agritourism each year across all of Colorado's ag regions.	An agritourism guide is published featuring Colorado's unique regions; a coordinated marketing campaign is designed and piloted.	Colorado Tourism Office, Colorado Department of Agriculture, OEDIT, community economic development organizations, local chambers of commerce.	Support
	Expanded Food and Ag Integration across K12 Curriculum	Food and agriculture is integrated into school curricula, including robust digital programs and supplements for hands-on experiences with food, gardening, and ag. Made possible by NWC and cultural institutions. Experiences in math, science, history and art are enhanced by digital connections between urban and rural youth. Culminating with unique exchange programs for middle and high school students.	Every student in Colorado receives a formal curriculum, learning new details about food and agriculture in their education each year.	A guide is updated for integrating Colorado-specific food and ag learning objectives into STEAM and social studies curricula designed for K12 students.	CDE/BOCES, 4H, CSU Ag in the Classroom, CSU Spur, CCCS, Denver Urban Gardens	Monitor
Rural Innovation Ecosystem. Capital for rural investment accelerated at the confluence of place-based innovation/investment and the strengthening of rural/micropolitan innovation hubs						
Robust Rural Innovation Ecosystem						
	Joint Venture Accelerator	Annual, traveling accelerator incubates urban-rural joint ventures that equitably drive wealth creation in rural communities and diffuse innovation back into urban and global communities. Accelerators focus on relationship-building with business mentors and enhancing access to experts, capital and other business resources.	Multiple urban-rural joint ventures build equity and wealth in rural communities.	An operator of the accelerator process is on board, and a prototype innovation accelerator is deployed.	TechStars/Nature Conservancy, Greater Colorado Venture Fund, Rocky Venture Club, Colorado Impact Fund, CSU Spur	Partner
	Rural Innovation Fund	Multimillion-dollar community-aligned revolving capital fund is developed and deployed to support early stage enterprises and to scale promising ventures. Novel investment vehicles decrease risk to operators and, when successful, generate shared public-private returns.	An evergreen fund has raised \$100M and successfully deployed and recovered multiple financing rounds.	Network hosts community capital conference and collects letters of interest from potential capital partners.	CO Impact Fund, Greater CO Venture Fund, Rocky Venture Club, USDA RD, and community economic development organizations	Partner
	Targeted Tech-Transfer and Commercialization Partnerships	Place-based university research and publicly-funded research is actively commercialized in partnership with rural entrepreneurs and food/farm enterprises.	Several multimillion-dollar businesses are started in rural communities by commercializing and scaling unique research.	Tech-transfer and innovation partnerships are drafted with one or more universities.	University tech transfer offices, EDIT, community economic development organizations, local chambers of commerce	Convene

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Economic Stability & Redistribution						
Leverage Loop	Body of Work	2030 Milestones (10 year)	2030 Indicators (10 year)	2023 Milestones (3 year)	Systems Stakeholders	NWC Role
Vibrant Rural Communities. Rural economic stability reinforces strong rural community cultures through investment in developing and retaining a high quality rural workforce, including on-farm and in ag related careers						
Highly Skilled Rural Populations						
	Rural + Urban Leadership Development Program	An integrated urban-rural leadership program for civic and business leaders connects food and farm innovators, entrepreneurs, and investors across Colorado while highlighting unique business opportunities in rural communities, including a track for youth entrepreneurship development.	300+ program alumni are in rural community and business leadership roles; alumni successfully attract resources and guide inclusive community economic development in their region.	Network of program partners and funders has developed curriculum and recruited first round of participants. Precursor pilot program, such as digital strategy bootcamps for rural and urban producers, are complete and are in the process of scaling.	Colorado Ag Leadership Program, RMFU leadership program, 4H, FFA, NYFC, CDA	Partner
	Workforce Development Apprenticeships	A robust pipeline of on-farm and off-farm apprenticeships have been created by the How the West was One network with a focus on fair and equitable educational opportunities to upskill urban and rural workers for the farm and food jobs of the future, including high tech, remote, and automated technical skills.	There is more diversity in the food and ag workforce and more diversity of STEM careers in the food and ag industry.	Paid apprenticeships are in place for business development and job opportunities at the National Western Center.	Together We Grow, CSU Spur, private industry (e.g. John Deere)	Convene
Thriving Rural Communities with Stable/Growing Populations						
	Inclusive Placemaking	Community-driven inclusive placemaking practices spread across rural places, and are reinforced through inclusive economic development, zoning, land use and placemaking policies. These deeply inclusive processes provide culturally appropriate engagement of all populations to ensure equity.	We see increases in rural civic participation, engagement, public art, trust in local public agencies, mental health, and overall community wellbeing.	Case studies of Colorado communities (like Chaffee County, Buena Vista, others) highlight "success stories" and lessons learned in inclusive rural placemaking.	DOLA, Colorado's Rural Response, Recovery and Resilience (4R) program, Urban Land Institute, Orton Family Foundation, private developers	Partner
	Ruralization	Rural communities are home to attractive living-wage jobs. The next generation is increasingly interested in staying engaged in rural living -- joined by urban workers interested in relocating to rural places.	Rural communities have stable/growing populations with a decreasing average age, and increasing levels of educational attainment, employee job satisfaction, and average household income.	There is measurable population growth or economic activity in a number of Colorado's rural towns.	DOLA, Arts & Humanities Board, Orton Family Foundation on Community Wellbeing and healthcare), state rural resiliency report	Monitor
	Rural Connectivity	Significant public investments in regional infrastructure provide high quality connectivity. Connected technological, transportation, and logistics infrastructure equitably connects micropolitan hubs to global networks and supply chains.	Rural broadband data speeds are at parity with urban data speeds and connectivity.	Rural broadband aligns with Governor Jared Polis's target of 92 percent.	Governor Polis's Rural Broadband Initiative, Colorado Department of Transportation, Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad and other regional railways, utility companies	Support
Resilient Economic Development. Regional resilience is enhanced through investments in regional processing infrastructure and regional market development						
Strong Regional Markets						
	Public Markets	High visibility NWC public food market serves as a regional showcase and business development powerhouse for local and regional food and farm businesses while also improving access to food for the community through innovative uses of SNAP and WIC programs.	Thousands of customers visit the public food market each week and more than 60 percent report that they experienced one or more new foods.	NWC public food market operator is selected and prototype programming is well underway.	NWC public food market	Lead

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	Regional Aggregation and Distribution	Rural-based food and farm businesses have access to urban and institutional markets through connections with new values-aligned supply chain intermediaries. Regionally identified products are aggregated in rural places and redistributed to urban businesses improving the efficiency of transactions and access to larger markets.	A regional aggregation and distribution company is moving tens of millions of dollars of regionally produced food and regional food brands.	An RFP is released to help attract and/or scale-up a regional aggregation and distribution company.	Food hub operators	Convene
	Public Purchasing	Public institutions drive support for Colorado farms and food businesses through preferential procurement policies and cooperative purchasing practices that meet farmers where they are and grow volumes collaboratively.	Regional, values-based procurement policies demonstrate impact on key economic and community development (health, equity, etc.) metrics.	Strong set of pilot projects in multiple regions demonstrate the potential for a scaled model which leads to a public commitment by elected officials and the NWC itself.	Center for Good Food Purchasing, universities, hospitals, municipalities	Lead, Convene
Flourishing Mid-Scale Regional Processing Infrastructure						
	Incubate Unique Food Products	A distributed network of food product accelerators (connected to a commercial kitchens network) builds on the success of cottage foods in Colorado and addresses critical gaps to help operators scale up to commercial volumes.	Food product incubators/accelerators across the state help cottage food entrepreneurs develop and scale multiple successful national brands as well as supporting regional brands that offer a sustainable living wage to operators.	Structured partnership model brings together regional infrastructure, capital, and business technical assistance to support small-to-medium food producers.	SBDC, Community Economic Development Organizations, Naturally Boulder, InnoSphere, USDA RD	Support
	Community-Based, Mid-scale Infrastructure	Critical infrastructure is developed to enhance "ag of the middle" and when possible cooperative ownership/governance is leveraged to decentralize risk and to ensure that shared ownership and control remain in rural communities.	3-4 successful, mid-scale, infrastructure pilot projects are established and demonstrate the potential for additional vertically integrated, diversified, community-based supply chain partnerships.	An assessment of assets, gaps and investment pipeline in key Colorado value chains is complete.	Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Cooperative Development Center, COBank, CSU Extension, Denver Public Market (wholesale)	Convene
Holistic Policy. Aligned urban and rural food policy priorities reinforce profitable, regional supply chains as well as integrated social and environmental priorities.						
Integrated Urban-Rural Policy Dialogues						
	Bi-Annual Statewide Policy Roundtables	Biannual statewide tours focus on building a shared urban-rural awareness of critical political issues in the state and on building credibility across geographic areas. Topics include water, energy, food infrastructure, etc.	Every two years elected officials and policymakers travel around the state hosting a series of policy roundtables. Farmers and ranchers are increasingly involved in policy-making and recruited for elected positions because they bring a valued mindset to the state capitol.	Host organization identified; first statewide policy roundtable tour is complete.	Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council	Support
	Legislative Urban-Rural Food & Ag Caucus	An urban and rural food and ag caucus in the state legislature meets regularly to discuss the urban and rural impacts (costs and benefits) of key state legislation and to plan a future legislative agenda that promotes a more equitable distribution of costs and benefits.	A bipartisan group of lawmakers meet twice each year to discuss the emerging policy issues.	State House and Senate Ag Committee members sign a letter of commitment.	Elected officials, National Association of State Lawmakers	Support
Transformational Food and Ag Policy						
	Food and Ag Policy Center	Best-practice policies will be highlighted by the Food and Ag Policy Center for consideration by public officials. Policies will be based on regular scans of local, state, and federal innovations as well as a comprehensive analysis of potential impacts in Colorado. Unique Colorado solutions will be popularized through case studies that can be replicated and possibly scale nationally.	Five to 10 policy briefs are released for public officials each year. Multiple best practices have been implemented in Colorado and several of Colorado's innovations have scaled across the country.	Network completes a Food and Ag Policy Center feasibility study and business plan with potential operator/host of policy center.	American Planning Association, universities, other policy centers	Support

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	Colorado's first CO Food and Farm Bill and Food Bill of Rights	Resulting from robust urban and rural policy dialogues, Colorado adopts its first Food and Farm Bill and Food Bill of Rights that seek to align food and farm policy and to holistically integrate critical overlaps with community economic development, education, energy, health care, immigration, etc.	Colorado passes its first Food and Farm Bill.	There is an initial platform and framework for the bill, and state leadership is committed.	Colorado Department of Agriculture	Partner
Nutritional Equity and Abundance						
Leverage Loop	Body of Work	2030 Milestones (10 year)	2030 Indicators (10 year)	2023 Milestones (3 year)	Systems Stakeholders	NWC Role
Equitable Food Security. Healthy food access for all is made possible by equitable community development, which reinforces equitable economic opportunity for all people and begins to ameliorate issues of systemic equity and inclusion.						
Healthy Food Access for All						
	Complete Network for Consumer Access	Schools, charitable food organizations, retail, and mobile food providers are organized as a network that provides complete food access for all ages, regardless of mobility or income. Furthermore, public and private stakeholders from across the state, nation, and globe visit to see the model and spread it to multiple other locations.	Food insecurity in participating communities is completely eliminated, regardless of mobility or income.	Systems map and gap analysis of community food access points is complete and funding is secured for a food security implementation plan.	Blueprint, LiveWell, The GrowHaus, Centura Health, Food Bank of the Rockies, Denver Public Schools, Clinica Tepeyac, Focus Points Family Resource Center, Healthy Food For Denver Kids	Lead
	Equitable neighborhood community development	The NWC campus has become a demonstration site for place-based, equitable food security. Healthy food access for all surrounding residents is made possible by deep commitments to the tenets of equitable community development which intentionally reinforces equitable economic opportunity for all people and begins to ameliorate issues of systemic equity and inclusion.	NWC activity on-campus and in the surrounding neighborhood drives equitable access to business development and job opportunities, increasing the household income for low income neighborhoods.	NWC's Community Advisory Committee continues to engage in participatory planning, shaping the way jobs and contracts are offered to ensure equitable opportunities for limited-resource community members.	CSU Spur, the National Western Stock Show, the NWC Community Advisory Committee, City and County of Denver, GrowHaus, Focus Points and other community-based organizations	Partner
Nourishing Diets. Consumer preferences shift to favor regional, whole, fresh or nutrient-dense packaged and processed foods.						
Celebrated Regional Food Cultures						
	Regional Food Brands	Regional food brands and associations do effective marketing; consumers recognize the exceptional quality of each region's products, similar to Wisconsin cheddar, Florida oranges.	Consumer surveys indicate widespread consumer recognition and pride in regional ag products and a willingness to pay a slight premium for Colorado "branded" products due to their exceptional quality.	A set of up to seven regional brands is defined.	Colorado Tourism Office, Colorado Proud/Colorado Department of Agriculture, CSU Ag Experiment Station Breeding Programs, Colorado Brewers Guild	Partner
	Regional Food Events	A loose network of statewide food and farm events foster a deep identity with food, linking geographies, cultures and food traditions. At the NWC, frequent tastings, food contests, and promotions complement regional food events and inspire new connections and relationships across Colorado's regional food cultures.	Over 1 million people attend Colorado's regional food events each year and participants report developing new relationships with food and shifting their perception of Colorado's food culture.	A new directory of regional food events aligns with the regional food brands.	Slow Food USA, Taste of Colorado, National Western Stock Show, regional food festivals (e.g. Aspen, Telluride, Pueblo, etc.)	Partner
Consumers Prefer Regional, Whole, Fresh and Healthy Processed Foods						
	Taste Lab with Nutrient Testing	A sensory and taste lab at the NWC helps entrepreneurs and industry develop food products for optimal taste and nutrients, thus improving the healthfulness of packaged food.	Consumer surveys indicate increasing preference for regional, whole, fresh and healthy processed foods, suggesting a continued trend in consumer tastes and palate.	Construction of the sensory lab at CSU Spur at the National Western Center is complete.	CSU Spur	Partner

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Values-Based Food Purchasing Behavior. Engaged and informed consumers are able to make real time, value-based purchasing decisions.							
Engaged Consumers							
	Technology-enabled Transparency	Technology-enabled transparency tools that provide real time info for consumers to make purchasing decisions based on their values are developed and popularized through a recurring business showcase event at NWC.	Several technologies have emerged from business showcase and are beginning to show impacts on food purchasing behavior changes.	A state program for blockchain traceability for farm products is under development.	Colorado Blockchain Working Group, entrepreneurs	Convene	
	Social Marketing Campaign	A well-funded, community-based social marketing campaign encourages positive messages about value-based purchasing that acknowledge individual motivations, diverse family and cultural values, and decision-making roles.	State level diet quality consumption metrics (BRFSS) and TABS (tobacco), internet panel surveys suggest population level reductions in diet-related diseases for youth and adults in the NWC's surrounding neighborhoods and across the state.	Baseline data is collected on diet-related diseases and other population level public health outcome trends. Partnerships with public health and health care providers lead to expanded pilot of fruit and vegetable program for NWC surrounding neighborhood.	FNV Campaign; Healthier America, public health agencies, healthcare partnerships, health-focused foundations	Support	
Environmental Regeneration							
Leverage Loop	Body of Work	2030 Milestones (10 year)	2030 Indicators (10 year)	2023 Milestones (3 year)	Systems Stakeholders	NWC Role	
Preserving Land in Agriculture. Land will be preserved in agriculture through improving the economic viability of farms, improving ag efficiency, and improving the efficient documentation of environmental benefits.							
Viable Farm Operations							
	Living Wage for Farmers	Adoption of appropriate technologies, land management best practices, and ecosystem services markets help farmers receive a living wage for their work, driven by farm profitability which also reduces undesired farm turnover and ensures farm operations are resilient in response to expected and unexpected disturbances.	Improved farm viability enables families to make a living wage in agriculture.	Network has completed an assessment of key drivers for farm viability by scale, crop and region; and a gap assessment of current and needed risk mitigation tools.	Colorado Department of Agriculture, CSU, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Farm Bureau, National Young Farmers Coalition	Support	
	Securing CO Ag Working Lands	Land is secured in agriculture through the expansion of a land preservation program and the implementation of innovative regional support mechanisms like agricultural zones.	Acreage under easements or other conservation programs has increased.	A feasibility assessment for a state agricultural zone program is complete.	American Farmland Trust, Great Outdoors Colorado, COL, Colorado Cattlemen's Association	Support	
	Farm Succession & Transition	Improved farm viability combined with robust training and support programs lead to diverse, young and beginning farmers taking over management of family farms or entering agriculture as first generation farmers/ranchers.	Undesired farm transitions in Colorado are effectively eliminated as the average age of farmers begins to decrease and the diversity of farmers increases dramatically.	Network has established a data collection methodology and baseline for undesired farm turnover.	Colorado Department of Agriculture, CSU Spur, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Farm Bureau, National Young Farmers Coalition	Support	
Ag Water Stewardship. Water has been conserved for many years and water rights have been preserved for agricultural use but in a way that incentivizes water stewardship and conservation on-farm as well.							
Water conservation							
	Alternative Transfer Methods	Farmers benefit from sophisticated and robust alternative transfer methods that provide flexibility between urban-rural uses but still maintain water within agriculture.	Policy, legal and regulatory environment for water transfers has shifted to benefit farmers economically while keeping water available for agriculture.	At a minimum, a short-term alternative to "buy and dry" (selling ag water rights to cities) is implemented.	Water Center, CWB, Colorado Water Plan	Convene	
	Water-saving Incentives	New methods are developed for compensating water efficiency, including incentives for the use of less water intensive crops and new on-farm infrastructure that can maintain or enhance farm economics.	Policy environment for water has shifted to align water conservation goals with economic and practical realities of farms.	Statewide collaboration provides education and technical assistance to disseminate best practices for improving soil's ability to support water quality and retention.	Water Center, CSU Spur, Colorado Water Plan	Support	

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	Demand Management Planning	The state and municipalities jointly set goals and develop the needed infrastructure and programs to manage water use so multi-state water compact requirements can be met while decreasing the pressure on ag water.	Colorado is in compliance with compact requirements, having secured sufficient sources of water.	State water quality Regulation 85 is not applied to agriculture because voluntary measures are determined to be adequate.	Water Center	Support
Ecological Incentives. Ecological incentives compensate farmers for the full value they create, spurring further adoption of best practices in land management and leading to greater agricultural profitability, resilience, and net environmental benefit.						
Ecosystem Services Marketplace						
	True Cost Accounting / Internalization of Externalized Costs & Benefits	NWC campus serves as a demonstration project for "true cost"/"full cost" accounting by seeking to monitor and quantify externalities with a focus on system-level costs and benefits (e.g. climate, consolidation, health). The transparent methodology is lauded as groundbreaking and integrated in discussions about financial accounting standards (e.g. GAAP standards) at the national (e.g., FASB) and international level (e.g. IASB), which further attracts attention and support from socially conscious investors.	The NWC demonstrates proactive, transparent leadership through full-cost accounting social responsibility and environmental impact reports.	Key metrics and data collection tools are established to complete baseline for social responsibility and environmental impact reports.	NWC, Natural Capitalism Solutions, The Nature Conservancy	Lead, Support
	Vibrant Ecosystem Services Marketplace	A new ecosystem services marketplace is established, enabling businesses to quickly adjust practices to improve ecological outcomes, attract investments based on quantifiable ecological returns, and prepare for consumer and regulatory expectations of full cost accounting.	Multi-million dollar marketplace is in place and functioning to manage risk and incentivize ecological stewardship for the public good	Enabling policy for a science-based ecosystem credits in place	Nori, ReGen Network	Convene
	Ecological Outcome Verification System	A science-based ecological outcome verification system, with clear sampling and verification protocols, is developed and implemented by state and private agencies. This new system moves the public dialogue beyond a debate of metrics and towards the discovery of exciting new insights about key drivers and leverage points for improving ecosystem health	Robust deployment of the Ecological Outcomes Verification System created unprecedented data on public and private land management practices. Water infiltration rates combined with new nutrient density measures (like BRIX) have generated novel insights, leading to significant decreases across agricultural inputs.	Reliable measurement tools are adapted and a baseline has been established for a set of statewide indices.	Savory Institute, Colorado greenhouse gas reduction and climate plan	Convene
Adaptive Farm Methods & Practices						
	Soil Health Innovation Lab	A research partnership between CSU and Colorado Department of Agriculture creates a soil health innovation lab dedicated to improving our understanding of soil-water-nutrient-ecosystems functions and innovative methods for improving overall ecosystem health in a bioregionally specific context.	An evidence-based soil health inventory has been developed, indicating direct impacts on water quantity/quality, revealing new best practices in land and water management.	A soil health innovation lab is established.	Colorado Department of Agriculture Soil Health Initiative, Healthy Soils Collaborative, CSU	Partner
	Aggregator - Regenerative Ag Coworking Space	Aggregator is a coworking and collaborative space on the National Western Center campus, housing nonprofits and for-profits focused on developing solutions connected to regenerative agriculture. Aggregator is thriving and has been replicated in other parts of the world.	The Aggregator model has scaled into multiple sites outside of Colorado, and collaborative programming has led to scalable solutions being adopted worldwide.	A sustainable operating model is in place with high tenant demand. The brand's identity is growing as a source for innovative solutions.	Savory International, American Grassfed Association, M12 Studios, TechStars	Lead

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	<p>Scaled Adoption of Best Practices in Land Management</p>	<p>University-industry partnerships accelerate the study and rapid adoption of bioregional best practices in land management which have helped regional farms become more profitable, resilient, environmentally beneficial and financially viable. Industry helps scale best practices to drive cost-effective production, which leads to the profitable expansion of best practices at scale.</p>	<p>Research in each of Colorado's unique bioregions identifies regionally-scalable, cost-effective production practices that drive profitability and net environmental benefits.</p>	<p>World experts in land management are regularly convened at the NWC in partnership with industry to identify and scale emerging best practices.</p>	<p>CSU Ag Experiment Stations, CSU Extension</p>	<p>Convene</p>
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