



# Defining River Network's Path Forward on Healthy Rivers in Agricultural Landscapes

2022-2025 PLAN

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# Theory of Change

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By increasing knowledge, leveraging financial resources and technical aid, and promoting policy solutions that support healthy rivers in agricultural landscapes, **River Network can strengthen the capacity of our network to forge partnerships with agricultural stakeholders and support approaches to ensure that productive agriculture and healthy rivers co-exist side by side.**

## Overview

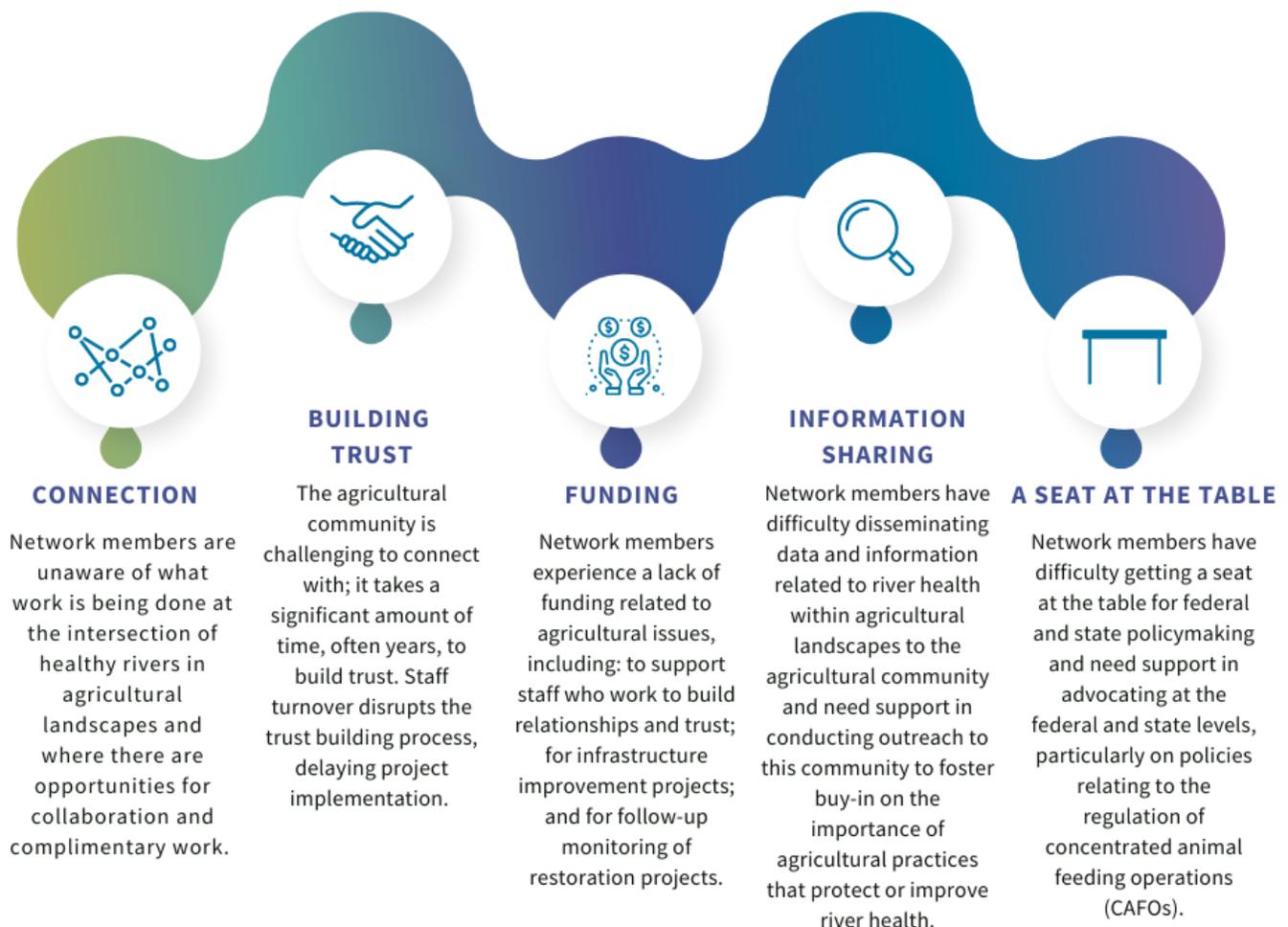
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The nexus between agriculture and water is a critical one: farms, ranches and rangelands occupy almost half of our land in the U.S., use significant amounts of water, and contribute to pollution of our waterways. Supporting members of our network that work directly with agricultural partners is a relatively new strategic priority for River Network. **Our primary audience is our network, who are the conservation and community organizations, land management agencies, and early adopters and progressive trade groups that work with agricultural partners to collaboratively develop and implement on-the-ground solutions.**

This plan builds on our agricultural work in the Colorado River Basin and is informed by a nationwide survey, focus group, and interviews in 2020-2021, where network members shared the needs and challenges they face when working with an agricultural audience.

## Existing Barriers

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## Desired Impact

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By 2030, a larger percentage of our network will work alongside their agricultural community to improve the health of rivers and watersheds within agricultural landscapes throughout the US. Specifically, River Network will have:



### CONNECTION

Supported increased connectivity among members of our network and agricultural partners to increase the pace of knowledge transfer and availability of technical aid.



### FUNDING

Leveraged federal, state, local, and private funding sources to further conservation outcomes within agricultural landscapes;



### POLICY SOLUTIONS

Promoted policy solutions that support healthy rivers in agricultural landscapes; advance equity and climate resilience; and increase technical aid to members of our network working with agricultural partners.

## Objectives for 2022-2025

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Based on our research and interviews, we believe the following are the key ingredients for our network to successfully work with agricultural partners to support and improve the health of rivers in agricultural landscapes. River Network will:

1. Support connections among network members and agricultural partners to increase technical aid and sharing of information, resources, best practices, and collective problem solving for working with agriculture to collaboratively design strategies that support healthy rivers in agricultural landscapes.
2. Deepen the network's understanding of funding sources, including federal (Farm Bill and non-Farm Bill), state, local and private sources, and how to leverage funding to build capacity and partnerships and implement multi-benefit projects;
3. Increase network knowledge of how to utilize and influence federal and state policies, regulatory tools, and programs that support healthy rivers in agricultural landscapes.

For more information, please see: <https://www.rivernetwork.org/our-priorities-healthy-rivers-in-agricultural-landscapes/>

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