

**San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP)  
 Joint Meeting with Watershed Wildfire Protection Group (WWPG)  
 Notes for September 20, 2013**

Attending: Kevin Kuhn, JR Ford, Jimbo Buickerood, Steve Hartvigsen, Thurman Wilson, Brad Peihl, Rich Edwards, Kent Grant, Marcie Bidwell, Aaron Kimple, Margaret Kleiner, Bev Wharburton, John Nelson, Mike Johnson, Roberta Tolan, Darlene Marcus, Bob , Ivan Gilroy, Bill Trimarco

**To do:**

Who	What	When
Steve	Meeting with Marty	
Marcie and Kent	Crunch numbers and write up proposal	Week of 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Aaron	Written proposal to Hershey to Becky Gillet – Aaron talk to BEcky	
Aaron	Summary of time usage	
JR	Visit with Pagosa SUN	
Aaron	Send on-pager, comm plan, web site to Roberta	
Roberta	Roberta help with write up	
Jimbo	contact HCN- Betsy Marshton, HCN	
Jimbo	Alan Best, Mountain xxxx	
Jimbo	Telegraph	
Aaron	Attend Forest Health Meeting October 28 and 29	

**Decisions**

- Group approved budget expenditures
- Discuss the budget further at the next meeting

**Next meeting**

Included meeting at West Fork  
 October 18 – 1 hour in chamber – tour of West Fork

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **SJHFHP Business Meeting**
  - A. Budget Recommendations and approval

The budget was presented and discussed. New grant income was presented. A short discussion was held around the idea of a ½ time versus ¼ time coordinator. IS there time in winter to scale back – Meet on monthly basis – maybe skip December to save money? The discussion was tabled to October to allow for more time for discussion. The group needs to identify a budget for 2014.

#### B. Web site design

Overall the group liked the presentation of the web site. A couple of thoughts included:

- a. Bigger type
- b. Improving Health of Forest and Communities
- c. Pictures – more
- d. Boxes good presentation
- e. Discuss what photo is about
- f. Home in the woods
- g. Recent accomplishments

#### C. Forest Assessment Training

The Forest Assessment Training was presented. A short conversation followed around what would occur and who was attending.

#### D. Announcement

A discussion was held around the presenting the current efforts of the SJHFHP. We received several grants and have had several great events. The idea was presented to write an article on the Forest Health Assessment Training , the Watershed Assessment work, and the release of the new SJHFHP website. Roberta and Bev offered to help with write ups.

Aaron will attend the Colorado Forest Meeting in Delta, October 28 and 29 in Delta and Montrose.

- E. Other grant apps in January
  - a. Purchase equipment –DNR
  - b. Wood utilization

- F. Future Opportunities
  - a. Public Tour of West Fork Fire Complex
  - b. Tour of Forest Lakes Air Curtain Burner (new grant) when it is functional

### III. **Front Range Watershed Wildfire Protection Group**

#### A. History of SJHFHP

Thurman gave an introduction to the SJHFHP and a bit of the groups history. He introduced everyone to the current Forest Health, Wildfire Risk, Watershed Assesment Process.

- a. Watershed Assesment
  - i. Kick off right before West Fork flared up

- b. SUB-GROUPS
  - i. Data
  - ii. Water - threats
  - iii. Fire Risk and threat
- c. Looking at vegetation/ slope/ CO-Wrap
- d. Area – exterior boundary of Pagosa Public Lands
  - i. Focus on high threat and high value
  - ii. Combination of GIS and expert knowledge
- e. Draft January but done in spring

**B. Wildfire Watershed Assessment Process & Implementation by Brad Piehl, JW Associates**

- a. Brad - Forest Hydrologist
  - b. Worked to assess watersheds on a 4<sup>th</sup> level watershed scale – large
  - c. They identified Zones of concerns – opportunities and constraints
  - d. Worked to prioritize on a 6<sup>th</sup> level
  - e. Targeted areas of effort on a 7<sup>th</sup> level – small scale
    - i. wildfire hazard
      - 1. Flam map model – flame length – percentage with high hazard
      - ii. Flooding/ debris – road density and ruggedness – steep and shape
      - iii. Soil erodibility – nracs sergo and USFS, k-factor and slope
      - iv. Three together for composite hazard – priority map – equal weighted
      - v. Final priority – water structure
      - vi. Watershed boundaries above zones of concern
      - vii. Does not include communities
      - viii. Authority 5 miles up a reservoir
  - f. How get things on the ground – smaller watersheds
    - i. Smaller watersheds – functional areas were assessed for:
      - 1. Stream gradient
      - 2. Ruggedness
      - 3. Burn severity
      - 4. NRCS Peakflow
      - 5. Distance to watershed
      - 6. USGS Debris flow
      - 7. CDOT Debris removal
      - 8. Observations
    - ii. Used Tree felling – high in the watershed to control initial runoff
    - iii. Followed the strategy of Treat high, avoid mid, big effort on specific low areas
    - iv. EWP – Emergency Water Protection from NRCS – private land
    - v. BAER
    - vi. Use wildland volunteers to do the work
    - vii. Target makes work
- C. Future Funding Opportunities; Chris Sturm, Colorado Water Conservation Board & Rich Edwards, Colorado State Forest Service
- a. Making this a state wide group

- b. Incorporate prevention into economic model
- c. CO-Wrap?
  - i. Use specific components rather than aggregate

D. Discussion

- a. USFS assesment seemed more detailed to CO-WRAP
- b. WWFPG found some surprising up-stream factors
- c. SJHFHP thinking of moving from specific outwards a bit
- d. Balancing limited time and funding with appropriate analysis
- e. Get to prioritizing 6 level watersheds would be helpful
  - i. Grants
  - ii. Easy to identify projects
- f. Trying to utilize existing tools and data
- g. Implementation
  - i. How do you move sections of forest to what identified as health
  - ii. Prescribed fire, managing natural ignition
  - iii. Zones of response

IV. 1115-1215: SJHFHP & WWPG Dialogue between groups

V. 1215-1230: Conclusion & Adjourn