

**San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership**  
**Agenda November 20, 2015 – 9:30am to 12:30pm**  
**At the Pagosa Ranger District Office**

I. Welcome and Introductions (5 min)

Attending: Jimbo Buickerood, Bev Warburton, Matt Ford, Kent Grant, Bill Trimarco, Ben Bailey, Steve Hartvigsen, Marcie Bidwell, JR Ford, Jerry Archuleta, John Janowski, Matt Tuten, Thurman Wilson, Aaron Kimple

II. Updates (30 min)

a. Public Meeting

- i. There were roughly 40 people present
- ii. 7 Audubon Members attended the meeting
- iii. Everyone felt the information was relevant
- iv. It would be good to host these more frequently – perhaps quarterly or 2X a year
  1. Pair the meeting with learning opportunities
  2. Offer Pot Luck with a theme for the future, at a site/project area
- v. We should make an effort to go to the meetings of other groups – Rotary, Business Bites, Life-long learning, Pagosa Outdoor Club
  1. Matt Tuten will be talking to POC on Dec 3.
- vi. Questions or themes brought forward by the attendees included:
  1. Historic Range of Variability
  2. An interest in the comparison of before and after treatment
- vii. For the future:
  1. There may have been Too much emphasis on federal funding
    - a. American Forest Foundation works to encourage private forest landowners to help do their piece (John Janowski is on AFF policy board – maybe we can use some of their materials about the importance of private forest lands for water, habitat, etc.)
  2. Messaging – Work on private lands supports work on federal lands. People need to help pay for work on their private lands.
  3. How do we fund efforts moving forward
  4. The connection between Forests and water

5. Try to engage the audience more, maybe by reducing the info we throw at them (i.e., allowing more time for info sharing)
- b. Reservoir Hill
    - i. Current conditions are too wet for equipment
    - ii. Maybe January or February – Need the ground to be more firm, or in spring if dries out early
  - c. FourMile/ Turkey Springs
    - i. Fourmile monitoring is done by both MSI and NRCS
    - ii. Cutting started in Turkey but shut down because of the weather. Start up again in the spring
  - d. USFS
    - i. Working on long-term schedule for work
    - ii. Conducting NEPA on Falls Creek
      1. Open house in February
    - iii. NEPA on “Beaver Slope” (Beaver Meadows Rd access, Columbine RD)
      1. May be important to have stakeholder involvement
      2. May need an open house
      3. NRCS was meeting with Columbine to discuss what is needed
    - iv. Spruce Strategy Meeting
      1. Currently no collaborative group in Columbine
      2. There is a group starting in the Dolores Area
      3. Spruce Fir Workshop Week of March 14 (current more likely date is week of March 21).
    - v. Spruce-Fir Mortality studies (based on remote sensing)
      1. Laurie Swisher is the contact – Meeting in March
  - e. NRCS
    - i. Progress report on Fourmile is in
    - ii. Work will occur in spring
    - iii. There is an interest in Elk Park
    - iv. 40 different projects total
    - v. Targeting specific areas and work on the ground gets folks interested – ties with work adjacent on USFS
  - f. FireWise
    - i. Giving out 30K on projects under 5 acres
    - ii. Chipper rebate was a success
    - iii. All programs funded for next year
      1. No WRRG funding currently available
    - iv. 4 ambassadors in Alpine Lakes/ San Juan River Village
    - v. FEMA Grant – County needs to be willing to support NEPA efforts around Pagosa Sky Rocket because funding is from a federal source
      1. 200K work in Aspen Springs or Twin Creek
  - g. Dolores Watershed Effort

- i. Seems to be a collaborative forest health group forming
    - ii. They have had consistent/ diverse representation at the meetings
  - h. Work with Chama Peak Land Alliance
    - i. Private land work could help support work on USFS lands
    - ii. Developing base information for planning
    - iii. Looking at where work can be done
    - iv. Some potential funding from NM
  - i. Legislation Update
    - i. SJHFHP quoted in the article supporting WRRG
    - ii. Support for WRRG – Federal government would like to see state support work
    - iii. Colorado Forest Restoration Dollars will sunset in a few years – there is a need to support this funding source
    - iv. Jimbo will circulate the bills that are up for review
- III. Financial Update/ Approvals (20 min)
  - a. In the future - add date to the spreadsheet to better represent the time-frame for the number (e.g., statement date)
  - b. Bev supported expenditures
  - c. **Expenditures were approved** by the group
  - d. The future
    - i. We have been project driven and state supported
      - 1. Funding from the state may be in question for a few years; and state funding has been biggest piece of pie for our group
    - ii. Need to reach out to other contractors for small projects
      - 1. The Forest Health Company will have commitments to meet on USFS lands
    - iii. How do we encourage additional contractors to prepare for work?
      - 1. There is a need for added contractor capacity
      - 2. Demonstrate that we are doing as a group
      - 3. Beyond hand work
    - iv. Fundraising
      - 1. Surcharge for water protection efforts
        - a. PAWSD
          - i. Aaron and JR meet with
          - ii. Take them out on FourMile
      - 2. Build Relationship with TNC
      - 3. Tip Jar at all the events
      - 4. Is there the possibility of a Golf Tournament (John J.)?
        - a. Perhaps Frisbee golf
      - 5. Fundraising Committee
        - a. Revise
        - b. Bev, Matt, Steve, John

6. Aaron needs to thank the Hershey Foundation and LPEA RoundUp
7. Bare Bones operation cost for the group is \$35K
8. Aaron will write a Letter to the County
  - a. List all partners
  - b. Meeting on Tuesday morning at 8:30
9. Snow Bowl??
10. Is there a way to visually present what the state has offered and how it multiplies capabilities on Federal and Private lands
  - a. Dollars and acres
  - b. An economic multiplier
  - c. Share with other collaboratives

IV. Group Evaluation/ Discussion (30 min)

a. Group Assessment

- i. We currently do a good job discussing forest health
- ii. We need to do a better job talking about headwaters
- iii. Need more visuals
- iv. Before and after Photos are important
- v. Better job on the website
  1. Update content and partners
- vi. Mission/ Vision
  1. Follow the mission more so and build off lessons learned
  2. Mission is long – 1<sup>st</sup> statement is great – bold this
- vii. Reach the older community members
- viii. Is this value added beyond supporting work
  1. Does the work of this group support the work you do outside of the group
- ix. Need to maintain independence and work to have open honest dialogue

b. Let's Remain Relevant

V. Group direction and future (1.5 hours) – *Working from the 2015 strategic plan*

a. Programs

i. Landscape scale approach

1. Expand contractor capabilities – Under identify mission partners
2. Currently have approx. one a month
3. Learning opportunities need to expand to more than just monitoring
4. Most Effective outreach
  - a. Work with Pagosa Schools
  - b. Reach out to 4H
  - c. Regional internship
  - d. Associate education with SJHFHP

- 5. How about a Forestry watershed forum?
    - a. It offers the ability to address students and adults
    - b. Stem camp
  - 6. We should extend special invites to pertinent attendees
  - ii. Implement on-the-ground Project
    - 1. Need to present the community aspect of our work
    - 2. Completed fire risk plan
      - a. Implement
      - b. Augment with a pre-post fire plan
    - 3. Need to Build more industry capacity
  - iii. Enhance Use of Forest Products
    - 1. Maintain relationships with existing industry
    - 2. Is there a way to explore possible trade groups to incentivize
      - a. Biomass working group
    - 3. Identify saw mills in the region, what they need, and educate them on what is on PRD
      - a. Need more groups to move product
      - b. Encourage bid on task orders
    - 4. Exchange for firewood
    - 5. Work with current biomass study
      - a. There is a biomass study being conducted for the region that may inform this discussion
  - b. Landscape Scale
    - i. What is landscape scale?
      - 1. Area wide planning
      - 2. Big enough to make an impact
      - 3. Perhaps we can create a group trip to visit the Front Range or AZ
      - 4. Visit Bud Halderson's property
      - 5. Assess our impact
        - a. We need to do a better job measuring the work we have done
      - 6. Better presentation on Cloman
        - a. This offers some comparison of treatment types
- VI. Action Items (5 min)
- a. Aaron build work plan
  - b. Finance committee meet
  - c. Update Programs
  - d. Year -End Report
  - e. Letter to the County \*\*\*
  - f. Establish our goal posts