

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

Notes November 18, 2016 – 9:30am to 12:30pm

Pagosa Ranger District Conference Room

“Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.” –
Henry Ford

Attending: Aaron Kimple, Thurman Wilson, Matt Tuten, Doug Seacrest, Bill Trimarco, Sam Foster, Pam Wilson, Kent Grant, Bev Warburton, Steve Hartvigsen, Roberta Tolan, Jerry Archuleta

- I. Welcome and Introductions (5 min)
- II. Updates (20 min)
 - a. USFS
 - i. Forest Health Co (JR Ford): 250 acres treated in Kenney
 - ii. FHC: 1/3 to half of work completed in Left Hand Canyon
 - iii. FHC: Next Spring will be conducted in Echo Canyon
 1. Paint is faded; too much work/time to repaint
 2. Shift to a “Designation by Prescription” (describe work, assess Contractor’s results after sample of area treated)
 - iv. Salvage Sales near Wolf Creek
 1. Slight delay in securing work for “Wolf Creek Salvage” (off Wolf Ck Rd network)
 2. USFS is currently finishing Environmental Assessment (NEPA) for “Fall Creek [Rd network] Salvage”
 3. Wood may be used for timber frame – future tour
 4. There is an opportunity to promote a buy local approach
 - v. Columbine
 1. Vallecito Piedra EA is going forward
 - b. NRCS
 - i. 144 acres treated on private lands
 - ii. 200 acres are planned for treatment in 2017
 - iii. NRCS has been monitoring treatment areas similar to USFS
 - c. FireWise
 - i. Chipper Rebate Program had a successful year
 - ii. Slash depot chipped 30000 cubic yards
 - iii. Planning programs to inform publics about prescribed fire on Brockover Mesa
 - iv. Insurance agents want a get together to discuss fire risk and property management
 - v. County has returned FEMA grant and dropped commitment (small fraction payment by county/huge grant by federal govt)
 1. Firewise is helping to cover properties that were assessed and prepared for thinning

- vi. Firewise helped conduct social science on public perceptions
 1. Most folks under evaluated the risk to their property
 2. People were willing to cut vegetation
 3. Over 80% of homeowners were accepting of letting fires burn where appropriate
 4. Firewise will use research going forward
 5. Is there a difference between resident and non-permanent residents?
 - d. CSFS
 - i. Staff has been helping Jerry with EQIP
 - ii. Currently reviewing Forest AG properties
 - iii. CAFA grants – Electra Lake
 1. Project in Montezuma
 - e. DWaRF – Dolores Watershed and Resilient Forest Collaborative
 - i. Hydrologist – Shauna Jensen has identified a way to assess post fire erosion issues
 1. This will be applied in the Dolores area initially with the effort carrying across the San Juan Forest
 - f. San Juan Water Conservation District
 - i. Has funding from CWCB and SWCD
 - ii. Some CWCB funding for planning and stream management planning
 - g. Reservoir Hill
 - i. Public and visible
 - ii. Signage
 - iii. SCC crew has worked on additional 12 acres on north side (CSFS funded)
 - h. 2-3-2 (2 state, 3 rivers, 2 regions)
 - i. Blanco Basin effort has a landscape scale fire risk effort taking place
 1. Chama Peak, San Juan Headwaters, and TNC are involved
 - i. CSU Extension
 - i. Extension is offering education down into Dulce
 - ii. December 13 – Extension officer will be in town.
 1. Are folks available to meet?
 - iii. Real time weather data has been established
- III. Financial Update/ Approvals (30 min)
- a. Budget Review
 - i. Aaron presented the numbers for August, September, and October
 - ii. All grants are within limits.
 - iii. MFPP has one more pay period in so the expenditures will be covered in December

- iv. There is an overage of \$162.50 in coordination that we need to cover; some could be covered if partnership members opt to contribute (e.g., \$20/member)
 - b. Approval
 - i. Bev moved to approve expenditures, Bill seconded,
 - ii. Expenditures approved
 - c. Budget needs
 - i. There is a need to find other funding sources. We don't want to be reliant upon federal sources. We need sources that are not project driven. The sources should support meeting and bridge gaps associated with pay periods.
 - d. Possible funding sources
 - i. Matt could give presentation to San Juan Water Conservation District re: proposed work on SJNF lands adjacent to Dry Gulch project area
 - ii. Next San Juan Water Conservation District meeting is in December
 - iii. Oil and Gas
 - iv. Tri-State/ LPEA
 - v. Joint Chiefs
 - 1. Fawn Gulch is the focus
- IV. Quick Review of data from Turkey Springs (10 min)
 - a. Attendees liked the simplicity and efficiency of sampling protocol and the resulting data
 - b. Suggestion to write short article for Pagosa Sun to show off Pagosa RD Rx burn work and work by our Partnership, given high profile of area
- V. A Year in Review - Group Evaluation/ Discussion (30 min)
 - a. Celebrate our SUCCESSES
 - i. Can we turn our list into a one-page with photos and descriptions?
 - 1. This could be delivered to funders and stakeholders
 - b. Group Assessment
 - i. Please send these to Aaron
 - c. Coordinator Evaluation
 - i. Please send these to Aaron
 - ii. Your input is greatly appreciated
 - d. Let's Remain Relevant!!
- VI. Group direction and future (1.5 hours) – *Working from the 2015 strategic plan*
 - a. 2016 Successes
 - i. Reservoir Hill
 - ii. Joint Chiefs funding
 - 1. Education and outreach
 - iii. National/ State Exposure
 - iv. Inspiration for other efforts in the region
 - v. Programmatic monitoring/ Evaluation/ Sharing

- vi. Citizen science involvement – Pagosa Schools
- vii. Supporting partner efforts
- b. Assets
 - i. Partner Commitment
 - ii. Diversified Partners
 - iii. Active participation
 - iv. Geographic Opportunity – also a challenge
 - 1. Within a reasonable scope
 - v. Community engagement with the landscape – also a challenge
 - vi. Established track record
 - vii. Good relationships with researchers
 - viii. Existing timber industry
 - ix. Work completed on the ground
 - x. Pro-active group – also a challenge
 - xi. Strong commitment from agency partners
 - xii. Good outreach efforts
- c. Challenges
 - i. Funding
 - 1. Maintain current sources
 - 2. Develop new
 - ii. Diversify Funding sources
 - iii. Capacity of partners
 - 1. Time
 - 2. Energy
 - iv. Sustainability
 - v. Long-term vision to present to the public
 - vi. Need for new participants
 - vii. Outreach – telling our story
 - viii. Wood outlets for projects
 - ix. Disconnect between the work we do and what people see
- d. Opportunities
 - i. Landscape measurement linking treated areas
 - ii. Developing community pride in being pro-active
 - iii. Community engagement
 - iv. Bring new people to the effort
 - 1. Diversify stakeholders
 - v. Sustainable communities as a message
 - vi. We can build off the efforts we started
 - vii. Carry a message to down river users
 - viii. Inform our county commissioners and resource managers (PAWSD)
 - ix. On-the-ground projects
- e. Action for 2017
 - i. Support discussions with downstream communities
 - 1. Farmington
 - 2. Rio Grande Water Fund

- 3. Santa Fe/ Alburquerque
 - ii. Strategize accomplished treatments with treatment needs
 - iii. Provide information to County Representatives
 - iv. Consolidate data
 - 1. Interpret and present data to:
 - a. Leaders
 - b. Group
 - c. Community
 - v. Review Mission and long-term vision
 - vi. Identify projects and funding opportunities
 - vii. Build off successful events
 - 1. Review timing
 - 2. Expand to necessary partners (industry and contractors)
 - 3. Consider a booth at events for industry
 - viii. Plan with water conservation districts on water source protection
 - ix. Host 1 to 2 major field visits
 - 1. Private land work in 4 mile
 - 2. Prescribed fire
 - x. January Meeting
 - 1. Plan events and look at calendar
 - 2. Host informational exchange meeting
 - xi. Advance partner involvement
 - 1. Identify hooks
 - 2. Creative thinking about partners
 - 3. Go to the partners – present at their meetings
 - 4. Present at the right time and place
 - f. Structure and Participation (20 min)
 - i. Timing
 - 1. Continue to meet monthly
 - 2. Change or cancel if apparent conflicts or lack of information
 - ii. Coordinator Role
- VII. Action Items (5 min)
 - a. Aaron – bring action list for review
 - b. Develop calendar for discussion
 - c. Organize information exchange
 - d. Support Roberta on December 13
 - e. Prepare and submit news article to Pagosa Sun from Turkey Spgs monitoring/evaluation work

Future Efforts

- Information Presentation
- More Citizen Involvement
- Better Evaluation of Efforts