



San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

Dear Stakeholder,

The San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP) has received a grant to review the watersheds and water resources of Archuleta and portions of the surrounding counties, assess their vulnerability to wildfire, and prioritize areas in need of mitigation or treatment to reduce the impact of potential wildfire. The process will include a review of the watersheds, infrastructure, and water resources associated with the region, an evaluation of watershed characteristics, an identification of possible threats, and prioritization of potential actions to reduce those threats.

Currently we plan to rely on existing documents and knowledge to complete the assessment and prioritization process. We plan for this process to result in a document that could be used to augment or inform existing watershed efforts, community wildfire protection plans, and community health processes.

Our process will include several workgroups. Initially we have discussed work groups for:

- 1) Reporting and outreach
- 2) Data inventory/ GIS
- 3) Determining fire Risk
- 4) Documenting water quality factors
- 5) Development of a Method of prioritization
- 6) Prioritize areas of concern and potential threats
- 7) Writing of Document

We understand that you have an interest in this region and knowledge of some of the resources that we will be reviewing. We want to make sure that you are informed of our process and have the opportunity to contribute to the assessment and prioritization.

We have an initial meeting on **July 19, from 10:30 to 12:30** at the Pagosa Chamber of Commerce Building, Pagosa Springs, CO. At the meeting we will begin to flesh out the process for developing the assessment. The agenda will include: establishing a timeline, defining priorities, and establishing a project list.

The SJHFHP is interested in making sure that the assessment and prioritization process is complete and accurate. Please consider contributing your knowledge and time to this effort. Contact Aaron Kimple, SJHFHP Program Coordinator, for more information. He can be reached at 970-382-6908 or akimple@mountainstudies.org.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Aaron Kimple
Program Coordinator
San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

Contact: Aaron Kimple, Program Coordinator, akimple@mountainstudies.org, 970-382-6908