

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

Accomplishments 2014



Aaron Kimple, Program Coordinator
San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership
November 2014
akimple@mountainstudies.org

Executive Summary

The San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership had a successful 2014. We hosted **4 classroom** educational events, offered **6 citizen science** forest monitoring opportunities, invested in **1 intern**, worked with regional schools, secured funding for **700 acres** of forest treatment around essential water resources, and documented **over 1000 volunteer hours** and nearly **\$30,000 of In-Kind** Contribution. San Juan Headwaters helped implement treatments on private lands, and on lands managed by



Archuleta County, the Town of Pagosa, and the United States Forest Service. To meet the defined goals for 2014 SJHFHP has hosted **10 monthly meetings**, special meetings around key issues, outreach and fundraising opportunities.

San Juan Headwater secured grants and donations from Archuleta County, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado State Department of Natural Resources, Forest Health Company LLC, Pagosa Area and Water Sanitation District, Southwest Firewise, and the Town of Pagosa Springs. **Thank you to all for your support!**

In 2014 **San Juan Headwaters revisited and assessed** its overarching goals, and accomplishments. In that process the group identified its current purpose as:

- 1) Strengthening regional understanding of methods for improving forest health and watershed resilience,
- 2) Broadening knowledge of forest conditions and needs,
- 3) Generating viable management approaches,
- 4) Initiating projects to address identified needs, and 5) monitor treatments to guide adaptive management practices.

Our efforts in 2014 have laid the groundwork for another successful year. In 2015 we coordinate the treatment of Reservoir Hill in the Town of Pagosa, private and public acres in the Fourmile area around Dutton Ditch, and continue our education outreach efforts. **The efforts and energy that the stakeholders put into the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership is greatly appreciated.**

Contents

Executive Summary 1

Contents..... 2

2014 Accomplishments 3

Finances 6

Organizational Purpose & Goals 7



2014 Accomplishments

San Juan Headwaters recognizes that communities need information to make decisions about how to manage resources. In 2014 the SJHFHP offered educational opportunities for students and citizens of southwest Colorado. Educational programs included tours of burn areas, community discussions, citizen science, and working with regional schools. The events were designed to introduce the public to issues associated with forest health in SW Colorado.

Education

Citizen Science:

April 9, 2013

San Juan Headwaters provided 6 opportunities for citizens to participate in monitoring of forest health conditions. San Juan Headwaters developed monitoring protocols that are accessible and comprehensible to folks without a science



background. The program was designed to build off of, and incorporate, the interests of participants. San Juan Headwaters included experts for discussions on how forest health impacts birds, wildlife, and water quality. The season wrapped up with a tour of the Proposed Reservoir Hill Project and a celebrational Bar-B-Q. Nearly **30 people** participated in the Citizen Science Program, volunteering **650 hours** and generating information on the forest conditions of over **30 acres**.

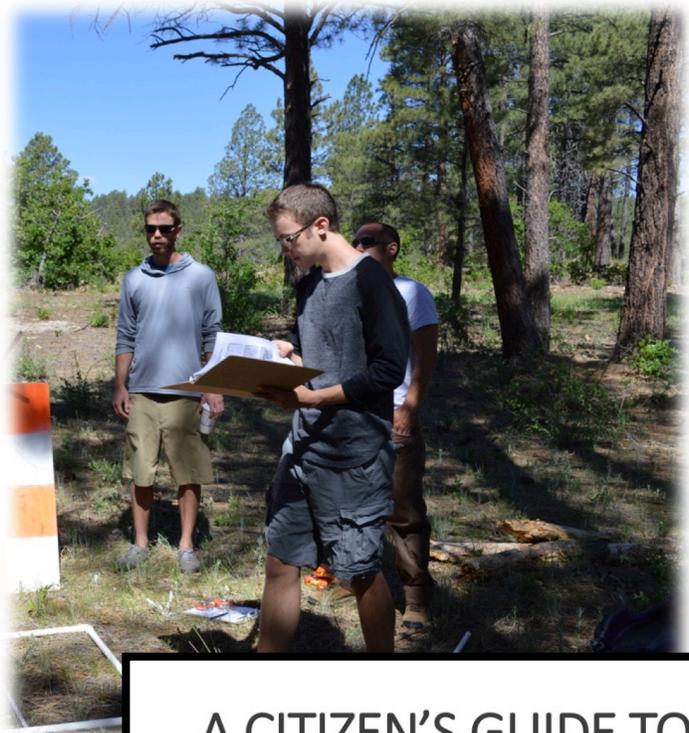


Pagosa Schools: San Juan Headwaters worked with classes at the Pagosa High School. The class used monitoring protocols to assess the conditions of forests in proposed project areas. Students monitored nearly 10 acres of proposed treatment. They conducted an analysis of the data they gathered and reported their findings in public meetings to local (town and county) decision makers. San Juan Headwaters offered initial instruction, monitoring locations, and a venue for presentation. Approximately 25 students participated in the monitoring effort.

Intern Program: In addition to regular class work, San Juan Headwaters, with the assistance of Mountain Studies Institute, was able to offer an internship opportunity to a local student. The student helped instruct citizen science programs and developed a regional guide to flora and fauna of Southwest Colorado that citizens can take into the field on survey days. The student gave a presentation to San Juan Headwaters members on his findings and efforts.

Educational Materials: The efforts of the San Juan Headwaters resulted in the refinement of monitoring protocols and the development of a field guide for citizens to help interpret the local flora and fauna.

Tours: San Juan Headwaters offered two public tours in 2014. The first was a tour of the West Fork Fire Complex. The tour included a discussion of fire dynamics and impacts, both on the ground and to the community. The second tour was of Reservoir Hill in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. This tour was designed to spark community involvement in understanding the conditions on the hill, threats to infrastructure, and proposed treatments.



A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO FOREST HEALTH MONITORING

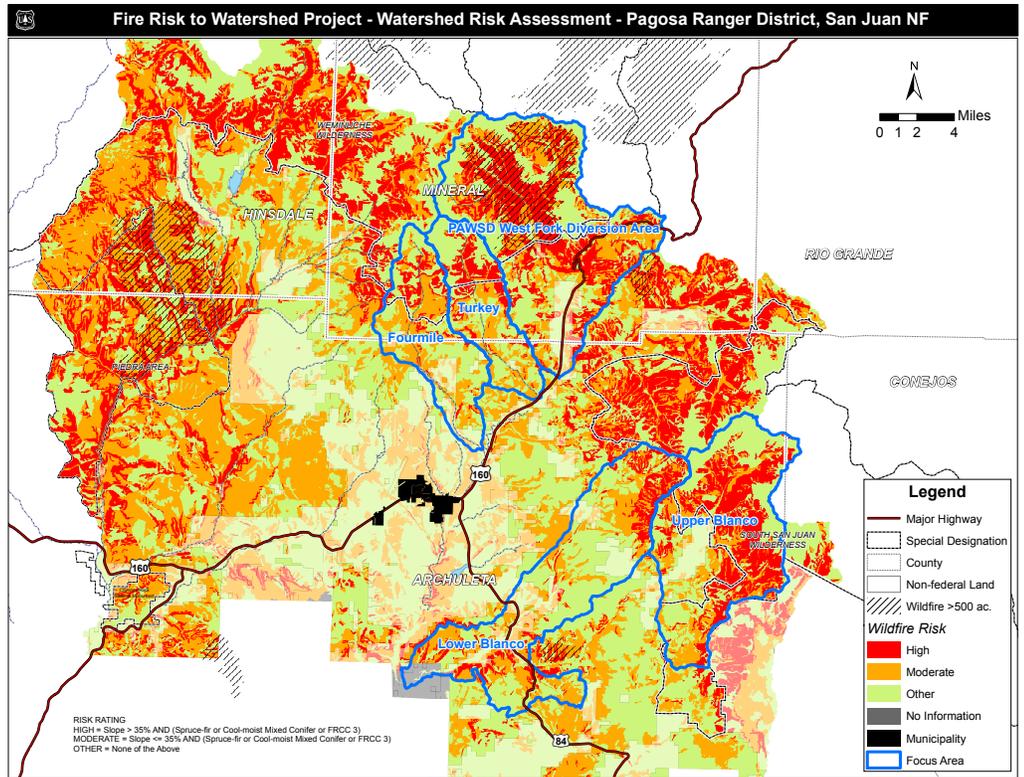


Wildfire Risk and Watershed Health Assessment

In 2014 San Juan Headwaters completed an assessment of wildfire risk to essential water resources that service communities in the headwaters of the San Juan River. The assessment included an analysis of wildfire risk, identification of vital community water resources, and generation of project areas that would protect values at risk.

Forest Treatments

The San Juan Headwaters has conducted mitigation measures on private, county, and federal lands to help protect water resources. Nearly 700 acres were treated in the Fourmile area of Pagosa Springs and funding was received to treat an additional 50 acres on Reservoir Hill in the heart of Pagosa Springs. Both areas contain essential water infrastructure.



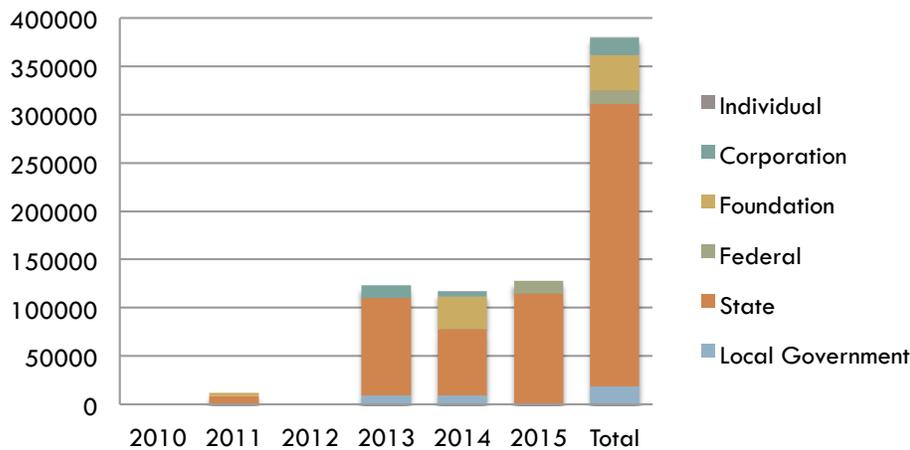
RESERVOIR HILL RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
 The Town of Pagosa Springs proposes to treat 12 acres of steep mixed conifer forest by hand thinning by Southwest Conservation Corps) and 40 acres of ponderosa pine woodland by Forest Health Company through biofuel removal.
 CO-WRAP Wildfire Risk Assessment shows this property as moderate to high fire intensity, wildland urban interface, and 30 foot flame lengths.



Income According to Source



Finances

San Juan Headwaters established a budget of \$118,275.00 for 2014. The budget included coordination fees that included travel, supplies and personnel expenses. Also, included were costs of subcontractors to complete on the ground projects.

Income

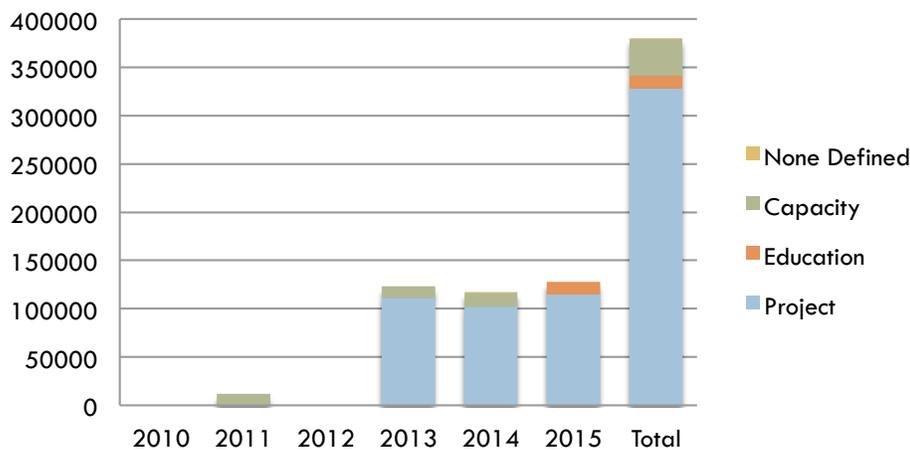
Donations and Contributions

The San Juan Headwaters continues to solicit funding from private donors. Most of the private donations in 2014 were received through a mulch reimbursement program sponsored by the Forest Health Company.

Earned Revenues.

The SJHFHP partnership has received grants to fund operations and projects. The grants come from state, federal, county and private sources.

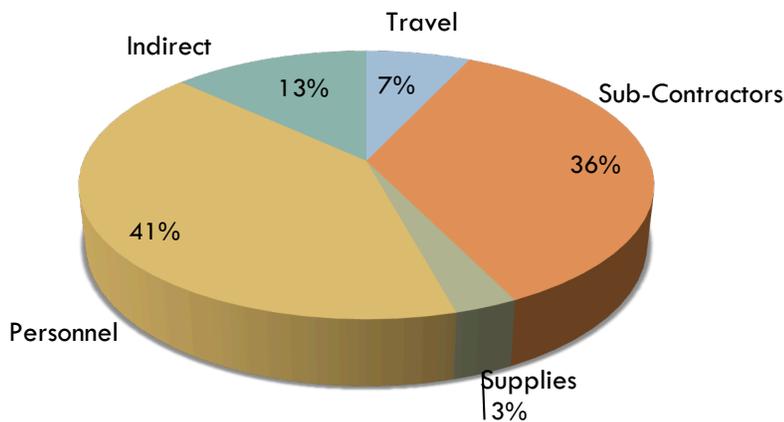
Income According to Designated Use



Partnering Funders Include:

- Archuleta County - \$7,500
- Colorado State Forest Service - \$68,750
- Colorado State Department of Natural Resources - \$50,940
- National Forest Foundation - \$33,423
- Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District - \$5,000
- Southwest Water Conservation District - \$10,000

2014 Budget Expenditures



Organizational Purpose & Goals

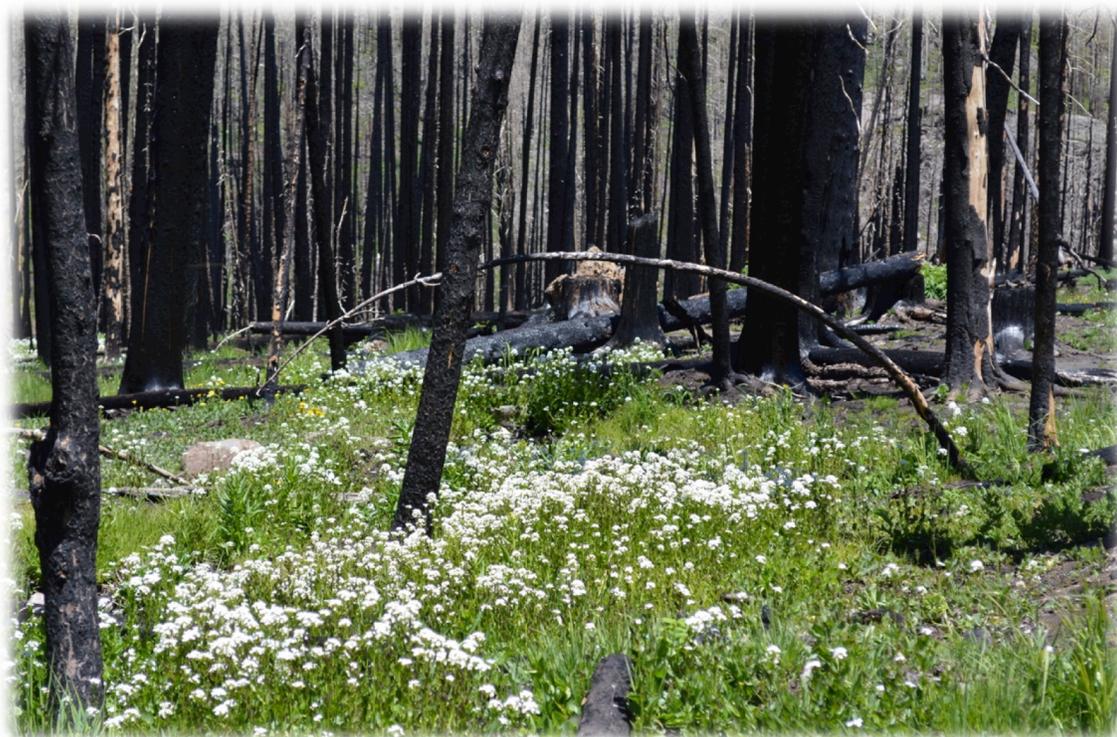
The purpose of the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership is to develop science-based, collaborative priorities for the sustainable management of forests, watersheds, and essential community resources.

Goals

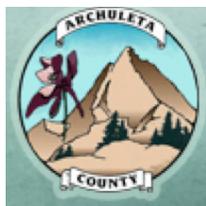
1. Strengthen regional communities through a landscape-scale, adaptive approach to addressing forest and watershed health;
2. Work with partners to facilitate the development of and adopt a list of principles, values, and priorities;
3. Enhance regional economic viability and use of forest health products; and
4. Implement forest treatments in high risk areas

Objectives

1. Inform and assist community members in understanding and improving forest resilience and diversity;
2. Provide educational opportunities about management goals, vegetation treatment methods, and outcomes;
3. Increase community awareness of the impacts of wildfire, and insect and disease outbreaks, and challenges associated with mitigation;
4. Provide opportunities for the affected communities and all interested citizens to learn about what they can do to get involved;
5. Promote the concept of resiliency;
6. Identify priority project areas; and
7. Form and implement a monitoring plan to guide adaptive management.



Thank you to our funders and supporters!



Get Involved with the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership!

- Support SJHFHP**—Your donations go a long way to making our work possible.
- Become a member**—We invite you to participate in meetings and provide input to the group.
- Volunteer**—Help SJHFHP monitor forest health and study the impacts of our efforts.
- Participate in Events**—Go to the web site and learn about our upcoming events.

I am interested in making a contribution of \$ _____ to the SJHFHP. I have enclosed a check

Name: _____ Address: _____

Charge my Visa or MasterCard (circle one) Card number: _____ Ext Date: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Please include me in your e-mail notifications

Or Make a Donation On-Line at WWW.SANJUANHEADWATERS.ORG

PROGRAM COORDINATOR:
Aaron Kimple, 1309 E. 3rd Ave, Suite 106, Durango, CO 81301, (970) 387-5161,
akimple@mountainstudies.org
WWW.SANJUANHEADWATERS.ORG

