

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnerships

QUOTE of the DAY: “I feel bad you have to listen to me” Aaron K
“Not as bad as we do” JR Ford

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ben Bailey, Weminuche Audubon Society
Kent Grant, Colorado State Forest Service
Eric Eden, Colorado State Forest Service
Bev Warburton, Backcountry Horseman
Fred Ellis, US Forest Service
Doug Secrist, Representing SJWCD
Jerry Archuleta, NRCS
Matt Ford, Clean Forest Energy
Bill Trimarco, Archuleta FireWise
JR Ford, Clean Forest Energy
Herb Grover, SJWCD

9:00 – Introductions

9:10 – Updates

- USFS (Fred Ellis) – long-term stewardship contract
 - Working in Echo & will move into East Fork
 - Black Head 100-acre Aspen sale work has begun
 - 130-acre Wolf Creek salvage sale beginning soon
 - 423 acres masticated in the Fawn Gulch (completed about 700 acres already)
 - Willow Draw – one-man show, a bit behind schedule, but feeling like he’ll catch back up
 - Columbine Ranger District managed fire to 1,025 acres.
 - In PRD planning 1,000 acres in Brach/Turkey Springs
 - In planning level V, special circumstances
 - Potential to host another TREX in spring & fall
 - Planning for project in Rio Blanco to compliment 2-3-2, approx. 400,000 aerial burn (earliest of next fall)
 - Comment period closed on prescribed fire, negative comments received directly related to smoke & lack of belief in value of prescribed fire
- NRCS (Jerry Archuleta)
 - TREX- attempting to work with private land owners to do a 200-acre prescribed burn (estimate of spring 2018)

- Through funding cycle, all Elk Park work approved and taking off next spring (100-140 acres, clustered)
- Project in Vega La Juana approved
- Approximately \$1 mill budget for region (approx. 40% for forest health)
- Work on private land adjacent to Reservoir Hill
- **Kent Grant**
 - DanWand retired, still working with landowners as a consultant
 - Tree farmer event in Pagosa Springs (on 08192017)
 - Will receive an award for state tree farmer of the year
 - Wrapping up a project on **Cidelle** property
 - Good Neighbor Authority being pushed and in the Durango district received funds from USFS
 - Will begin near Purgatory (**Shalona** property)
 - Some projects in Montezuma County
 - Small projects in Vallecito
 - Hiring a Good Neighbor Assistant District Forester
 - CAFA Grant highly likely (mitigation work Aspen Springs, taking over where county FEMA grant didn't go through)
 - Wrapping up project on Lone Mesa State Park (thinning and Oak mastication)
 - 12,000 acres (not yet open to public)
 - in Dolores County
 - on new Forest Service map
 - Not open – no infrastructure/facilities
 - Purchased under great outdoors Colorado Legacy program
 - Lottery hunting allowed
 - Planned prescribed fire there in September (200 acres)
- **FireWise (Bill Trimarco)**
 - Chipper rebate still going, slowing down
 - Cost rebate going full steam
 - Local volunteer ambassadors stepped up and developing their own outreach to the community – helpful to see folks taking initiative (i.e., realty companies)
 - Each community with an ambassador will have a welcoming committee, goal of having realtors share ambassador information and bring new residents “current” on efforts of FireWise, SJHFHP
 - Matt Ford - recommends having contact information as part of sale documents
 - Also hoping to establish guidelines for better forestry practices
 - Example of PIPOA sharing “healthy forest” information on their website
 - Amazed to see level of interest and engagement (even in a year when there isn't as much smoke)
 - Role of insurance getting the message out

- AllState Insurance – Bill sent an assessment on a property that had been denied. May get insurance renewed based on local experts opinion. Opportunity for industry-acceptance of local experts.
- **Matt Ford**
 - Major increase in real estate sales/disposable income in the area
- **MSI (Aaron Kimple)**
 - CFRI
 - Audit of monitoring
 - Audit of prescriptions
 - Help plan next round
 - Help set up an annual “state of the forest” report
 - Review reports & make recommendations on reporting and consolidation of data (Matt Ford)
 - SW Conservation Corps will begin work on north face September 10
 - 2-3-2 effort continues
 - Visit with Heinrich next week
 - Request to RFP for grant money to do work in thinning/treatments for Four Mile
 - Updates on Matt Edrich’s efforts on the website (meeting notes, Bridging the Divide videos, resource library)
 - Updates on FB & Twitter efforts
- **Ben Barley, Audobon**
 - New species of bird on Reservoir Hill
 - On Cloman Park
 - New species also found
 - Distinct species composition on dense/thinned forest types
 - Toad Flax found in dense forest, not treated area
 - Adding a new niche for species
 - New members reporting
 - So far, improved habitat for at least the birds, and not creating new habitat for invasive species

10:00 - Updates on mapping/data tool developed by Matt Edrich & Matt Tuten

- Opportunities:
 - Treatment areas (project implementers, goals, details, dates, images)
 - A lot of value for story-telling
 - Tool for planning/assessing & moving forward
 - Powerful tool for grant applications/reports (Herb)
- Guide for using database & sharing data
- Discussion of whether goals need to be ranked
 - Distinction between goals / treatments
 - And add polygons (Jerry)
 - Historical fires (why go back only 10 years or so (Herb Grover)

- Adaptable, across US, desired by other organizations/efforts
- As a community tool – how do we incorporate this in the schools & help with the education piece
- Opportunity for before & after + changes in densities/etc.
- Matt Ford – we’ve got kids out with the school monitoring, now they have the opportunity to enter the date. Request for group to consider Pagosa student intern
 - Goal: approach school to say we’re going to hire someone
 - Maintain them 1-2 hours/week through school year (paid)
 - Trained to understand forestry work
 - Do administrative data tasks during the year
 - Benefit to student of career, push from STEM perspective
- Kent Grant – added recommendation of FLC intern

Matt Edrich on until November

- Next steps: input remaining data
- Work with CFRI contacts to assess and evaluate impact on the communities
- Matt Ford – idea of planning/identifying opportunities for next 3-5-10 years
- Fred Ellis – Forest risk assessment for Pagosa region will be released
- Aaron Kimple – add identify priority watersheds
- Fred Ellis – Rio Blanco watershed identified as priority, at-risk watershed
- Kent Grant – Statewide forest plans with different themes (can that be added as a layer)?
- If landowner parcel vs. treatment (default/exclude calculated acres)
- Need to address: distinction between project polygon & actual treatment area

10:30: Update PAWSD agreed to support SJHFHP with \$7,500

- Next goal = electric, sanitation
- Town, County, PAWSD,
 - Identified through financial planning that SJHFHP needed \$9,000 through “large donations”, and approximately \$6,000 through smaller
 - Above \$9,000 for “larger”
 - At approximately \$600 for “smaller”
 - Matt Ford – ask/reminder for partners to donate \$10-\$20
- Next step = approach LPEA round-up fund
 - Then LPEA board (b/c we’re protecting their power lines)

10:45 – Fall Events

- Labor Day events
 - Aaron leading tour on Sunday (10-12)
- September 15th (ish) for sign planting (next group meeting)

- October tour at Turkey Springs

Request for specific speakers?

- Herb Grover – movie at Paramount (Inconvenient Sequel)
- Possibility of bringing in a climatologist to speak about climate change
 - Two possibilities: Tom Ackerman (Director of Joint Institute for Environment & Oceans, Katherine Hayhoe – Time Magazine 100 most influential, Department at Political Science at Texas Tech)
 - Next spring or following fall
 - JR Ford – concern about values or idea of someone coming to town and telling “values”, but definite interest in sharing the science
 - Jerry – scientific data and interpolation of that of interest
 - Bill Trimarco – many studies about value/disbelief of data
 - Lots of personal interest
- Aaron: what would be most of interest to the group?
 - Jerry – smoke?
 - Latest research on smoke composition of prescribed vs. wildfire
 - Matt F – treatment effects on ground & surface water (total available water)

11:10 – Committee breakout

Turkey Springs Tour

- Audience: general public, open to public, Pagosa Lakes crew
- Goals:
 - Message: overall focus on treatment as reducing fire risk & increasing forest health
 - Highlighting individual pieces of the forest health puzzle
 - Focus on mosaic of treatment
 - Highlight mapping – show on a map (subdivisions, powerlines, water tank, reservoir) (to illustrate why highlighted as significant)
 - Hold big map against truck
 - Map that shows breadth of work that makes a ring around Pagosa
 - Poster-sized map of the turkey springs/Brockover Mesa area
 - Weather patterns out of west/southwest
 - Education around fire scar (Hartsvigen/Ros)
 - Any from Turkey Springs?
 - Here’s a fire scar as it looks in the forest, here’s what happens when you pull it out, here’s how it lives in the chart, interpreting the data
- Biomass demo, mastication, hand thinning, prescribed burn
 - Matt Tuten = strikes a nice tenor (level of objectivity)
 - Emily Holmen (particulars/planning) = burn boss & Fred Ellis (forest service goal, & smoke impact)

- Need to speak about atmospheric restrictions
- Answer question about inversion
- Why burning during hunting season

Potential dates: Saturday, October 7 (or September 30th)

List of speakers/tour guides:

Larry Lynch/Bill Trimarco (healthy forest)
 Steve Hartvigsen (historical fire perspective)
 Aaron Kimple
 Emily Holmgren (prescribed fire)
 Fred Ellis (work on the ground)

OUTSTANDING/ONGOING

- CAFA Grant meeting
- Radio follow-up
- Pagosa Springs intern (consider sponsoring local high school student to support mapping efforts & gain real skills in the process)
- Approach LPEA, other electric & sanitation utilities for funding
- Reach out to high school class/town/partners for “sign planting”
- Launching planning process for Bridging Mountains

ACTION ITEMS

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- Send letter out to all homeowners associations?
- Request Kent’s logo
- Contact Nicole DiMarco re: opportunity for sharing burn information on the radio
- Ask Matt Ford for radio “podcast” link (to share)
- Share “Bridging the Divide” videos on SM
- Data-sharing “campaign”?
- Share Matt’s contact information
- Request review of website (let us know what’s missing/difficult to access/etc.)
- Recurring donations (campaign)
- Turkey Springs tour in October (develop draft Agenda)
- Ask Fred Ellis for historic photos

Aaron

- Send report out that Ben sent (re: bird composition on Reservoir Hill & Cloman Park)
- Reach out to new Town Manager
- Share document for mapping/survey for inputting data (*what is the specific request, timeframe) (i.e. how often do we hope people will share data?)
- Send survey to group for feedback
- Encourage private landowners (contractors doing the work?)
- Confirm with Matt E. about ability to input polygons
- Request that Matt change form to allow identification of multiple “goals”
 - “Top Goals”
 - And add polygons (Jerry)
 - Can we “attach” shape files
 - Historical fires (why go back only 10 years or so (Herb Grover)
 - Next steps: input remaining data
 - Work with CFRI contacts to assess and evaluate impact on the communities
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 - Fred Ellis – Forest risk assessment for Pagosa region will be released
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 - Kent Grant – Statewide forest plans with different themes (can that be added as a layer)?
 - Issue of getting permission from private landowners (Jerry investigating how much permission)
 - Easy homeowner or contractor entry? Bill Trimarco
 - What level of “confirmation/approval” is there?
 - Any ability to flag duplicate efforts?
 - Matt Ford – of interest in the future (what’s the potential to pull the GPS/walk circumference/render polygon)
 - Matt Ford – also of value = layer showing the forest types broken apart
 - Folks asking about spruce fir & beetle
 - Request for speakers in September/October

Herb

- Send information about potential speakers to group

Fred Ellis

- Smoke specialist (names)

Jerry Archuleta

- Smoke research contact

Bill Trimarco

- Reach out to Pagosa Lakes re: availability of Club House