

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership
Agenda September 15, 2017 – 9:00am to 12:00pm
Ruby Sisson Library, 811 San Juan Street

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

Attending: Matt Tuten, Ben Bailey, Jerry Archuleta, Bill Trimarco, Emily Hohman,
Bev Warburton, Aaron Kimple

9:00 – 9:10 **Welcome and Introductions**

9:10 – 9:30 **Updates**

- a. NRCS
 - i. Finishing last of joint chiefs
 - 1. Mostly in FourMile
 - ii. They have secured almost \$1 million in new projects
 - iii. NRCS is currently exploring how to apply prescribed fire. They are currently working with TREX.
 - iv. Reservoir Hill
 - 1. Plan to cut adjacent to town land – 60 acres
- b. CSFS
 - i. There was an observance for the Tree farmer of the year. Congratulations to John Janowski.
 - ii. There is Good Neighbor work happening north of Durango
 - iii. The CAFA Grant has been funded through an alternative source of funding.
 - iv. Ellen Roberts has been hired as a contractor with the CSFS. Her role will be to:
 - 1. Promote biomass industry
 - 2. Work with collaboratives
 - 3. Talking to special projects committee
- c. USFS
 - i. Mastication in Fawn Gulch completing
 - ii. Work in Willow Draw is finished
 - iii. There were plans to burn this Fall but resources are committed to recent wildfires
 - iv. Wolf Creek salvage is in operation
 - v. Aspen timber sale – 100acres
 - 1. Stimulate aspen
 - vi. JR is working in Echo Canyon
 - 1. Cutting by description
 - 2. JR’s operator, Blane, is cutting by prescription and has a good idea of what the end result needs to look like.
 - 3. JR is pleased with what he has seen from the air
 - vii. Joint Chiefs call for November 9

1. There is an area in the 2-3-2 landscape – Navajo/ Blanco - that has promise.
 - a. Has watershed concerns
2. Turkey springs/ Elk Park
3. Set up a side meeting to think through
- viii. Current NEPA
 1. Sand Bench
 2. Working on some NEPA in the 2-3-2 area
 - a. Mill Creek to NM
- d. FireWise
 - i. Finish up 30 lots
 - ii. Community projects in Meadows Four
- e. Reservoir Hill
 - i. Folk Festival
 - ii. Folks participated and enjoyed the tour. The tent was well received.
- f. Forest Conversation
 - i. There are new proposals for fast tracking NEPA and expanding the industry work in the forest. This could change the conversations around forest health.
 1. How do we pair industry with biomass removal?
 2. What forest types will the industry be interested in?
 3. How do we balance restoration with ecological forestry?
 - ii. Some limits to industry work are built into suitable base – approx. 100,000 acres
 1. 30 to 40% cool moist mixed con
 - iii. What's the science behind management of mixed conifer?
 1. The SJN Forest has the new plan. We should review what is in the plan.
 2. The group should design goals and vision for forest work in mixed conifer
 3. CFRI has publications on mixed conifer
 - a. Aaron will email the docs to the group
 4. New science should be used to develop group message
 5. Let's get ahead of the curve and lead the balanced discussion
- g. Emily Hohman - Prescribed Fire
 - i. Emily Discussed TREX
 - ii. Chama Peak Land Alliance is looking to advance prescribed fire and collaborative burning
 - iii. Finances for TREX events are still being worked out
 - iv. RCPP funds – for work on private lands in northern New Mexico
 1. Agreements are not in place yet
 2. Waiting for an alternate funding agreement
 - v. Nature Conservancy is offering money in Upper Blanco

1. Pushing for project work in June 30
 2. Hoping to complete 5 projects
- h. Matt Edrich continues his internship at CSU
- i. Please Submit data to Matt so that he can add it to the database
- 9:30 – 9:45 **Smoke talk update**
- a. Jerry is working to gauge interest from a regional researcher.
 - i. The talk should include a discussion of the differences between wildfire and prescribed fire
 - b. We include a discussion of the Ecological benefits of fire. Possibly by Julie Korb
 - c. We could host the talk at Ross Aragon
- 9:45 – 10:15 **Finances**
- 10:15 – 10:45 **Events**
- a. Signs
 - i. We are still gathering input on the signs
 - ii. The effort will take a little more time but will result in a better representation of the efforts on Reservoir Hill
 - b. Tour
 - i. October 7 at PLPOA conference room
 - ii. Morning with snacks and coffee
 - iii. Back by lunch
 - iv. Work with Fred on locations
 1. Aaron reach out to Fred
 - c. Pagosa Area Trails Council – September 23, 9:00
 - i. Public Lands
 - ii. Free Food
 - iii. Top of Coyote Hill
- 10:45 – 11:00 **Travel to Reservoir Hill**
- 11:00 – 12:00 **Tour of Reservoir Hill and Projects**
- a. The tour of Reservoir Hill included a discussion of how to treat mixed conifer on the north slope. The discussion included:
 - i. Mixed conifer generally grows in more moist slopes. Conditions would have to be dry for the slope to burn.
 - ii. The slope includes spruce/fir, aspen, juniper, some ponderosa
 - iii. There was a discussion of the goals of the thinning
 - b. The discussion resulted in the follow description:

Reservoir Treatment – mixed conifer

Goals:

- 1) Reduce fire intensity
- 2) Promote resilient forest type
- 3) Maintain species diversity

Prescription:

- Thin from below; removing thin and unhealthy trees
- Remove trees with mistletoe infestation

- Remove white fir and juniper
- Clear around larger trees and trees with healthy canopies
- Retain species diversity
- Retain small trees with healthy crowns
- Promote/ thin around ponderosa pine
- Promote aspen

General Description:

Approach thin from below management with lighter touch, focusing on smaller, unhealthy trees, trees infested with mistletoe, white fir and juniper. Do not leave behind thin trees with unhealthy canopies. Leave larger trees and maintain species diversity. Promote smaller examples of tree species that have healthy crowns. Promote aspen and ponderosa pine by clearing trees around larger/ healthy seed trees.

Future trips

- Pagosa Creek

Outcomes:

1. Communication of current efforts
2. Update on recent outreach efforts
3. Review budget updates
4. Plan upcoming events
5. Review Reservoir Hill Project