

# San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

## Meeting agenda for Friday, October 20, 2017

**Location:** Ruby Sisson Memorial Library, Pagosa Springs, CO

**Time:** 9 am – 12 pm

“In the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.” – Charles Darwin

Attending: Doug Seacrist, Tim Leishman, Fred Ellis, Ben Bailey, Jerry Archuleta, Emily Hohman, Robin Young, Bill Trimarco, Bev Warburton, Aaron Kimple, Brett Wolk (call in)

### AGENDA

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

9:10 – 9:30 **Updates**

- a. USFS
  - i. Fawn Gulch contract is complete
  - ii. Burning in Brockover has been postponed for a number of reasons
  - iii. There is hope for an aerial prescribed burn in Rio Blanco in 2018
  - iv. During his trip to the Fort Collins Aaron learned about an effort to map fire movement and containment areas. This could be included in the USFS efforts to map fire movement and values at risk.
    1. Fred has done some great initial work at mapping potential burn areas
    2. A mapping exercise would help Institutionalize decision making
  - v. The USFS is offering Task orders for:
    1. Aspen sale
    2. Spruce sale – fossil gulch
    3. Aspen in Beaver Meadows
- b. CSFS
  - i. The DFPC burning on state land in Lone Mesa State park. This is an exciting development
  - ii. CSFS is looking to hire help to support the implementation of Good neighbor authority
  - iii. The CAFA Grant has been approved
- c. NRCS
  - i. December 15 deadline for EQUIP
  - ii. Finished treating on 40 acres by FourMile
  - iii. 33 acres near Coyote Hill – another 60 to go
  - iv. FireWise
  - v. Potential work areas for FireWise include:
    1. Navajo Blanco
    2. Aspen Springs
    3. FourMile
  - vi. Closing books on chipper rebate and – 60K was spent within the county
    1. 30 homes protected
  - vii. There is money for projects in 2018
  - viii. A New Executive Director will be coming on board October 25

- ix. WRWG
  1. **Aaron set up a meeting to discuss funding opportunities**
  2. We should coordinate grant funding
  3. Latter part of the following week
- d. Chama Peak Land Alliance
  - i. There is an agreement with the Rio Grande Water Fund. This will help support treatment and prescribed fire in Navajo Blanco
  - ii. Need prescribed fire follow up
    1. Funding is the big concern. How do we support food and lodging?
- e. Ben Bailey
  - i. The Weminuche Audubon are involved with a new property on Jackson Mountain
    1. Currently they are pulling fence
- f. Matt and Kelly Tuten Have had their baby!!!**
- g. Stream Management Plan
  - i. The group reviewed the draft letter concerning a Stream Management Plan and had a discussion concerning whether or not we could support the effort.
  - ii. Needs to be a comprehensive conversation
  - iii. Forest health should be a part of the conversation
  - iv. This effort would be supported by MSI, TU, and other local representatives
  - v. The group confirmed support for the effort. They appreciated that SJHFHP was not the main group driving the conversation. Everyone felt that being at the table and part of the conversation fit the mission.
  - vi. Concern was expressed that it would be challenging for Aaron, as the coordinator for the SJHFHP, to also serve as coordinator for the watershed effort. It could complicate things.

9:30 – 10:00 **Update on Reservoir Hill** - Aaron Kimple/ Kent Grant

- a. 16 acres were treated
- b. There was an issue with use of the Air curtain burner. The burner emitted smoke that elicited a complaint from the local community. There was the threat of a fine but a warning was issued.
- c. Lessons learned:
  - a. Permits are required
    - i. Need them for piles and for air curtain burner
  - b. We needed to do a better job of communicating with the public
  - c. Needed better understanding of burn permits
- d. The conversation did bring up that there could be better communication on smoke between fire districts and USFS so that when a burn permit is issued all parties are aware
- e. The SCC stopped the air curtain burner and the town allowed them to pile slash. We should talk with the town about next steps in slash removal.
  - a. We could offer a Community chipping day
- f. Possibly Pagosa Fire District can take on burning – We should contact Karn Macht, Deputy Chief and/or Randy Larson, Chief
- g. Next steps
  - a. Aaron talk to town
  - b. If chipping
    - i. Approximately 3 days work

10:00 – 10:15 **TREX** - Jerry Archuleta/ Emily Hohman

- a. Plans for 2018
- b. Currently NRCS and CPLA are Looking for opportunities to burn
- c. Funding is the concern
  - i. Need dollars to support lodging and food
  - ii. TREX offers access to people but they need to be supported
  - iii. Also, need funding for writing burn plans
- d. Hoping to do spring and fall burn
- e. Local district wildlife manager for CPW may have access to funding to help support burn plan
- f. Interest in burning Cloman Park area across county property and onto private lands
  - i. Does offer opportunity
  - ii. Jerry and Emily will host a Landowner meeting
  - iii. This would cover approximately 200 acres
  - iv. Landowners are willing to participate
  - v. Including county property
  - vi. We have great data for Cloman
- g. Biggest cost are food and lodging
  - i. 10 to 12K
  - ii. Secure 20K – TREX is 50K
- h. Need burn boss who can burn on private lands
  - i. Could TNC be the burn boss?

10:15 – 10:45 **Proposed Work Scope with CFRI**

- a. A Draft Proposal with options was presented for discussion. The group worked to identify the top 3 priorities for moving the group forward. The group identified:
  - i. An assessment of work completed
  - ii. Development of priorities
  - iii. The science of mixed conifer
- b. Mixed conifer ecology and management been a core in the past and we are looking at where to go in the future
- c. How do we use the existing data to the fullest
- d. Integrated fire response and prescribed fire
- e. Gap analysis of what exists and what could be done
- f. How do we justify the various planning efforts – synthesize
- g. Hydro crew has done an assessment of the Rio Blanco
  - i. Roads, streams, forest conditions
- h. SJHFHP should Develop a science committee to inform work with CFRI
  - i. Matt, Aaron, Anthony, Steve, CFRI

10:45 – 11:00 **Mixed Conifer Management**

- a. Planning for “the science of Mixed Conifer”
- b. There is some desire for this information
- c. Do we compile existing information or do we need new information?
  - i. Combination
  - ii. What is applicable to Colorado?
  - iii. San Juan mixed conifer could be unique
  - iv. Include Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC)
  - v. What is relevant to our area

11:00 – 11:15 **Plan for Annual Evaluation**

- a. What should we look at for 2017?
  - i. What did we do?
  - ii. What did we learn?
  - iii. Outreach Efforts
    - 1. What events?
    - 2. Numbers
    - 3. What is success
  - iv. Need a group survey – no longer than 1 page
    - 1. What did we learn
    - 2. What was beneficial
    - 3. Pros and cons
    - 4. What is the future direction
    - 5. What projects were lacking
  - v. Need to be able to have tough conversations
- b. For the future
  - i. Events – there are goals for both internal and external events
    - 1. Internal
      - a. What is success
      - b. Type
      - c. Communication avenues
      - d. Evaluations
    - 2. External
      - a. To Whom
      - b. What is most effective
      - c. How do we outreach
      - d. Evaluations
    - 3. We should define stakeholder needs
      - a. Offer a public survey
        - i. Identify community awareness/ needs
        - ii. What does the community want to learn about in 2018
      - b. We need to be more accessible
        - i. Go to potential stakeholders
  - ii. We should think about legislative initiatives

11:15 – 11:50 **Committee Meetings**

11:50 – 12:00 **Next Steps**

OUTCOMES:

- Identify messages for Reservoir Hill
- Plan for future TREX efforts
- Agree on scope of work for CFRI
- Identify goals for mixed conifer science effort
- Agree on annual evaluation process