

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

Meeting Notes

July 20, 2018

Tour to Pagosa Creek Project Area

### **Action Items and Needs:**

- Volunteers at Archuleta County Fair. Robin is happy to set up and do some tabling, but she could use help!
- Spread the word about TREX! Sept 5-16<sup>th</sup>, 2018. See attached flyer.
  - Also looking for places to house ~25 with bunks, kitchen, showers
  - Looking for Chef to cook 3 meals a day for whole program too.
- Emily/Aaron/Matt: Pursue conversations around POD concept for fire preparedness mapping

### **Decisions made:**

- Keep doing Pagosa Folk Fest for now
  - Value in the conversations, even if rare
- Support TREX with \$2,000, and help with outreach and education around TREX (SJNF is main sponsor)
- Headwaters table will be at the County Fair (thank you Robin)
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### **Announcements & Events**

- Bridging the Divide: September 7 & 8, 2018
- San Juan TREX: September 5-16, 2018
  - Registration is on our website: [sanjuanheadwaters.org/trex/](http://sanjuanheadwaters.org/trex/)
- August 24: PAWSD tour with San Juan Headwaters
- Sept. 22: TBD, maybe beetle tour with Dan West
- October 15 & 16: Legislative Tour with the 2-3-2

### **Questions to monitor on Pagosa Creek**

- Does treatment reduce forest health issues/threats (beetles etc.)?
- Did regeneration occur (key to sustainability)?
- Was their extensive blowdown after cutting?
- Economically successful? Viable for business?
- How was habitat impacted?
- Were weed issues created?
- How is soil moisture content impacted?

### **Sparse Notes on Matt Tuten's Presentation:**

- Hoping to cut next year (maybe sooner)

- Pagosa Creek area is highly productive ecosystem
- No logging till the 1960s, then it was mostly thinned of large doug firs
- Blue spruce and white fir mostly: not fire adapted, fires rare and intense during dry years
- After fires, aspen usually regenerate first, then trees in their shade
- By not managing the forest, we are making an active decision
- 2011, Steve Hartvigsen put the Pagosa Creek plan together- commercial timber sale
- Area has had a ton of beetles, budworm, root rot
- JR won't work in this cool moist mixed conifer yet- specialize in Pondo
- General goal is to patch cut  $\frac{1}{4}$  of forest every 40 years, create some open aspen stands to start succession of species again and increase diversity, remove declining trees before they die and are of little harvestable use. 160 years cycle and start again.
- Will retain dense areas for lynx and snowshoe hare
- Higher up, they will do smaller patches to avoid windthrow
- This will be a new experiment that we learn from- can teach others too!
  - There are 120,000 of mixed con on forest, this is a 500 acre experiment.
- Contractors will have some responsibility to clean up small diameter
- Jackpot burning: medium piles- not as dangerous as broadcast burning here, but doesn't create huge weed patches on huge burn pile either (hopefully)
- With stewardship contracts, the local forest gets to keep the money instead of sending back to main FS office
- Hoping to use profits for trail maintenance to boost community buy in, or pay for a winter ranger to keep people safe in the backcountry!