

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

Meeting Notes for Friday, October 19, 2018

Location: Meet at Pagosa Library

Time: 9 am – 12:00 pm

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

Action Items:

- Setting the stage for evaluation and planning into the future
 - November meeting focus: Education Opportunities
 - December meeting focus: Budget
- Refine prioritization maps – create web map of identified priority treatment areas
- Science committee to meet 11/2
- Explore costs of potential climate station – Discuss group interest next meeting
- Finance committee to meet

9:00 to 9:10 Welcome and Intros

Attending: Aaron Kimple, Steve Hartvigsen, Matt Ford, Justin Ramsey, JR Ford, Fred Ellis, Sophie Quinton, Herb Grover, Al Myatt, Bill Trimarco, John Taylor, Matt Tuten, Anthony Culpepper, Laurel Sebastian, Matt Cook

9:10 to 9:40 General Updates

- Finance committee to meet soon – nothing new to report now.
- 2-3-2 Cohesive Strategy Partnership Cross Boundary Tour
 - Included representatives from CO & NM Senators and Representatives
 - Highlighted local efforts in the Pagosa Springs area:
 - Aspen Springs, Powderhorn Subdivision, Turkey Springs, Banded Peak Ranch, Wolf Creek Pass, Blanca Mill
 - Question or takeaways from tour?
 - Additional funding secured?
 - No
 - Is 232 just a facilitating body or are an organization that can organize work on the ground?
 - What value does the 232 provide that local groups don't?
 - Should the 232 prioritize project work areas or just support partner efforts?
 - Using TRES crews for Rx fire or managed burns
 - JR Ford: biomass sales needs to be local (can't haul it far for it to be economically viable). Concerned that landscape scale projects under 232 wouldn't benefit the local communities that the smaller collaboratives are supposed to support.
 - Matt Ford: If 232 has larger presence, how does that effect smaller larger collaboratives? Should 232 coordinate or conduct local collaboratives?

Headwaters should identify and communicate what desired local on the ground outcomes.

- Matt Tuten: There was emphasis on physical projects that are cross boundary but thinks there is more value in discussing similar projects with partners across boundaries but keeping the work within each partners boundaries.
 - Success of Headwaters needs to be shared – we can help 232 learn from our successes. What are the things smaller collaboratives aren't able to do that 232 could do? (e.g. incentivize lower diameter biomass regionally)
- Aaron: There is an interest in planning and prioritizing projects across a large landscape but there will a need to coordinate with the smaller collaboratives. 232 offers shared messaging, opportunity to bring funding in. Aaron was invited to talk at regional forester meeting to discuss local collaborative groups
- Al Myatt: Maybe work on a pilot project that has consensus agreement and work the details out.

9:40 to 10:00 Frame Map Activity and Objectives

10:00 to 11:00 Current plans for work on the ground

- **USFS Presentation**
 - **Matt Tuten: USFS priority areas**
 - Priority Areas
 - WUI
 - Water infrastructure
 - Strategic fuel breaks and fuels treatments
 - Navajo/Blanca watersheds
 - Need to managed fire in that rugged landscape
 - **Goals:** include to facilitate the use of fire on the landscape, minimize impacts of high severity fires
 - Support efforts on private lands
 - Supporting forest management economy
 - Forest products industry
 - Support broad base of contractors
 - e.g. forest health company
 - Puts local people in the economy
 - Use best available science
 - need to be transparent
 - Be a leader in this
 - Don't ask who is doing this, just do it.
 - Tx informed by what we locally value
 - Always learning
 - There isn't a perfect way to manage the forest, we are always learning how to do things better.
- Mechanical Harvest Projects
 - Salvage of dead spruce

- Time restraint
- Wolf creek pass, porcupine, sand bench
 - Mixed Conifer
 - Pagosa Creek
 - Mixed severity fire regimes, 40-80 year fire interval. Harder to manage later. Water infrastructure nearby
- WUI
 - 4000 acres under contract
 - Echo canyon area
 - Jackson mtn area
- **Fred Ellis - Rx Fire**
 - Brockover Mesa
 - Still 3500 acres identified to burn
 - Weren't able to get in and burn this year
 - Fawn Gulch / Willow Draw
 - 2000 Acres
 - Mill Creek
 - Rio Blanco Big Branch Blue Creek
 - Planning on 4500 acres
 - Goals
 - Establish fuel breaks
 - Managing natural ignitions
- Questions:
 - Dead trees fall over and are hard to manage, why?
 - Cost and effort to work in those stands (jackstraw conditions). The time to manage those stands is before the trees fall. Extra fuel loading of dead trees can add to the severity of fire.
- **PAWSD – Justin Ramsey**
 - Concerns: Fire damage to water infrastructure , sediments clog filter.
 - Fires most likely in summer when water usage is highest, shutting of diversion would be a big deal.
- **JR and Forest Health Company**
 - Delays biomass operations
 - Currently working in echo canyon and then Jackson Mountain
 - Jackson Mtn – adapted silviculture for climate change project
 - Researchers out of CSU
 - 4 study design blocks
 - Each block = Control, Resistance Tx (thin from below), Resilience Tx (promote fire adapted species and reduce density) Transition Tx (favoring fire adapted species and reducing density).
 - Pre and post monitoring
 - National Effort

- JR (Forest Health Company) is doing the treatments – conventional logging operations would not be able to do this.
- **Bill T: Private lands - Priorities**
 - Aspen Springs – CAFA grant
 - Big push next year – hopefully can get 60 homes treated in next few years
 - Trying to create as much defensible space as possible
 - Funding to treat 90 homes
 - Questions
 - Do we have a lot of contractors?
 - Bill – Yes, there have been some newer contractors – need to do another work shop to educate contractors. A lot of the prescription is up to the contractor.

11:00 to 12:00 Map Exercise/ Priority Project Areas

- 2 groups, come up with three short term priority areas and three longer term priority areas. Discuss barriers and discuss funding sources.
- Both groups identified:
 - Turkey Springs – continued work around Dutton ditch and PAWSD infrastructure
 - Aspen Springs – short term priority
 - Fourmile
 - Upper & Lower Blanco
 - Pagosa Creek/Williams Divide/Plumtaw Rd