

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

Meeting agenda for Friday, April 19, 2019

Location: Ruby M. Sisson Library, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Time: 9:00 – 11:00

AGENDA

Action Items

- Information to be sent out about the Rio Grande Water Fund
 - Need to determine if we want to be a signatory
- Events Planning
 - 4/27 – Earth Day – Distribute flyers, stickers, etc?
 - 5/4 – Wildfire Preparedness Day – Operation Helping Hands
 - We discussed setting up maps and talking about present on upcoming projects
 - Need to confirm what our involvement is in event
 - 5/18 – Audubon Citizen Science Kickoff
 - May - Resilient Archuleta
 - Do we want to cosponsor or have representation?
 - June or Sept - Beetle Workshop
 - Need to confirm dates
 - Need to coordinate with Dan West
 - Mark Loveall to reach out to Dan
- Legislation & Permitting committee to meet and determine steps for providing comment on the Valle Seco proposal
- 2019 Success Goals , Fundraising, Marketing focus next meeting – 5/17

9:00 – 9:10 Welcome and Introductions

- Aaron Kimple (MSI), Matt Cook (MSI), Garrett Hanks (TU), Bill Trimarco (WAP), Mark Loveall (CSFS), Josh Merrill-Exton (SJNF), Kevin Khung (SJNF), Steve Hartvigsen (SJNF ret.), Al Pfister (ret. volunteer), Doug Secrist (SJWCD), Al Myatt (WAP board), Herb Grover (Weminuche Audubon), Emily Hohman (CPLA), Anne McCoy-Herald (Rep for Gardner), Anthony Culpepper (MSI), Justin Ramsey (PAWSD)

9:10 – 9:30 Updates

- a. Round robin updates from the group; major projects/plans for 2019
 - i. Kevin Khung – SJNF
 - 1. Rx Fire -50-200 acre Chimney Rock – areas previously treated
 - 2. Lot of emphasis on the Spruce fall on trails
 - a. Push to have all trails opened in three years
 - b. Proposing to have 60% of trails open
 - 3. Chimney Rock National Monument
 - a. Received funding for visitor center
 - b. Potentially start construction next year
 - 4. Farm Bill Authority – Valle Seco
 - a. Using collaborative efforts on proposed actions

- b. Want collaboratives to provide guidance
- c. Aaron: Does SJHFHP want to provide comment on proposed actions?
 - i. This could be a good action for the legislation and permitting committee
 - 1. Aaron proposes the committee meet and provide comment
- d. Garrett: Is it better to have comments from the Headwaters or as individual groups?
- e.
- 5. Valle Seco – Proposal
 - a. 880 acres of private inholding – current owner willing to exchange for 400 acres of federal property
 - b. Largest tract on Pagosa Ranger of severe winter wildlife habitat
 - c. Major wildlife corridor
 - i. Elk and Mule deer migration
- 6. Wolf Creek Ski Area – Expansion
 - a. No firm proposal currently place
- ii. Josh – SJNF
 - 1. Pagosa Creek – integrated resource contract (stewardship)
 - a. Received one proposal
 - b. Hasn't been officially awarded
 - c. Could start as early as this summer
 - d. 440 acres
 - e. Contractor working with the Blanca Mill on Trinchera Ranch
 - 2. Huerto Creek is next
 - 3. Columbine District
 - a. Salvage – tucker mill area
 - b. Spruce above Vallecito
 - c. 660 acres
- iii. WAP – Bill
 - 1. Chipper Rebate Funding and Cost Sharing Program
 - 2. CAFA program
 - a. Will be unrolling the program soon
 - b. Advertising to start soon
- iv. Mark Loveall – CSFS
 - 1. New program with NRCS/American Forestry Foundation
 - a. Land owner engagement – Provide Land management plans for private land owners
 - b. Currently working in Animas watershed – will be expanding
- v. EIB
 - 1. Identifying potential project areas
 - 2. Quantified Ventures is coming back – 5/13 – 9am
 - a. Meeting location TBD
 - 3. Looking at projects primarily around Durango area
- vi. Citizen Science – Audubon
 - 1. Around 15 interested folks

2. Turkey Springs / Fawn Gulch
 - a. Treated vs Untreated
 - b. Looking at species diversity
3. 5/18 – Saturday – field trip
4. Sampling protocol from CO Bird Conservancy
 - a. Looking at song bird community
5. Sampling in May into July
- vii. CFRI Update
 1. Monitoring on Huerto Creek or Pagosa Creek
 2. Agreement with CFRI has been initiated
 - a. Waiting to get approved by CSU
 3. Working with Marin Chambers and Matt Tuten on monitoring component
 4. Hoping to get rolling on this effort in May
- b. Becoming a Rio Grande Waterfund Signatory
 - i. Geographic region would be around the Najavo Blanco regions
 - ii. Secures funding for funding upstream forest mitigation
 - iii. Benefits could include closer communication with RGWF, could elevate recognition for our group, more signatories helps bolster their efforts
 - iv. Non-binding, doesn't cost \$
 1. Signatories say that they support watershed and forest health efforts
 - v. Do we need more information?
 1. We will send out info on the RGWF, discuss in further next meeting
- c. San Juan TREX; Prescribed fire on the San Juan NF in 2019
 - i. Currently working on a budget revision as USFS added funding
 - ii. Still confirming lodging

9:30 – 10:00 2019 Calendar Review

a. Upcoming Events

- a. Aaron: What messages do we want to carry?
- b. Steve: Do too many groups dilute the influence of existing groups?
 - i. People can't attend every meeting – Capacity issue
 - ii. Can we blend with other groups with similar messages
- c. 5/4 – Pagosa lakes property association – operation helping hands
 - i. Spring clean-up for elderly, etc
 - ii. Would be good to have our group have a presence at event
 1. We can put some maps up and present on upcoming projects
- d. 4/27 – Earth Day – Pagosa Springs
 - i. We can distribute flyers, stickers, etc
- e. Resilient Archuleta
 - i. Sometime in May – Dagmar Llewelyn – giving talk on climate change
 - ii. Should SJHFHP co-sponsor or at least have some representation
- f. We are not planning a Bridging the Divide
 - i. Is a beetle tour of interest?
 1. The group is in agreement
 2. This is a topic of interest in local community
 - ii. We could bring Dan West from CSFS to give talk at workshop

1. Mark Loveall to reach out to Dan
- iii. Need to keep snowpack in mind – Would have to be late June or we could push back to early fall
 1. Group is liking pushing back to Fall – September
- g. Bluegrass and Folk Festival Booths
 - i. Need to determine if it is worthwhile
 - ii. Lets do the June – Bluegrass Fest and determine if we want to booth the Folk fest in Sept
 1. We need to make sure we provide outreach for the festival so the festival organizers can help advertise our tours and booth.
- h. Other Messages that we want to address
 - i. Smoke issues?
 1. People don't expect smoke due to the snowpack
 2. But will be a more aggressive Rx fire season
 - ii. Watershed Conditions
 - iii. Adjusting Expectations
 - iv. Learning to Live with Fire
 1. Coexist
 2. We can't be installing fear of fire
 3. We won't log or Rx burn our way out of this
 - v. Collaboration
 - vi. Wildlife
 - vii. Shared Risk
 - viii. Who do we want these messages to reach?
 1. Public, Elected officials, Chamber of Commerce, CDC
 2. General watershed perspective – Key stakeholder
 - a. Wildlife, Rec, Ranchers, WUI, Downstream Users, Agriculture
- b. Opportunities
 - a. Present Citizen science results
 - b. Bill's Pagosa Sun Column
 - c. Schools
 - d. Public Education
 - e. Sim Table
 - f. Bring people outside – field tours
 - i. Treatment areas and controls
 - g. TRES
 - h. Herb – Has done Dendrochronology talks in the past
 - i. Chimney Rock
 - i. Viewing of Rx burn at Chimney Rock

10:50 – 11:00 **Next Steps**

- Match some dates with opportunities
- We can't lose track of the fundraising efforts
 - How can we use our activities to not only get our messages across but also provide opportunities to raise funds
- Add a fundraising/outreach component to next meeting

Committees are encouraged to plan a working lunch after the meeting to launch 2019 goals and objectives conversation.

OUTCOMES:

- Reinvigorate the SJHFHP committees
- Discuss marketing/outreach/events for 2019
- Understand how to make information more accessible to group members