



## San Juan Headwaters

FOREST HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

### In Attendance

Aaron Kimple (MSI), John Taylor, Emily Hohman (Now TNC Fire Learning Network), Jerry Archuleta (NRCS), Shawn Blackman (Forest SUIT), Jim Friedley (BIA SUIT), Tim Haarmann (Banded Peak/CPLA), Matt Tuten (SJNF), Al Myatt (WAP), Herb Grover (WAC), Bill Trimarco (WAP Archuleta Co), Doug Secrist, Luke Dittrich (CSFS), Mike Remke (MSI), Anthony Culpepper (MSI), JR Ford

### Round Robin Updates

- TREX: 39 participants, a few locals, lots of CO participants; San Juan will be starting to burn next week; TREX will likely be the 6000 acre units (VP/Pargin) and Brockover; CO Prescribed Fire Counsel will be hosting meeting during TREX;
- NRCS: Kelly working on smoke collection over ID; AK bring her back to Pagosa to present; possibly a new forester for Archuleta; finished southern half of Res Hill
  - Need to tell the story of the remainder of the Res Hill work; post meeting tour in Sep with the Sun
- BIA/SUIT: 700ac Pine Tree managed fire, took place in Tx units that we up for Rx; worked with SJNF on the 577 fire as managed, there were a few areas that the Tribe was not ready to burn; new Rx in Cabazon soon, Sandoval is planned to meet acreage; concern with move to dry conditions. Retreatment up in Aspen Springs. Jim will be retiring in the fall.
- Banded Peak/CLPLA: Tim wishes he was retiring. CLPLA transition, looking for a new ED. Looking at the possibility of partnering with a larger landowner group. Significant mastication work. Burn plans are being developed, 1000ac+ on Banded Peak. Nick Dolechezk working with CLPLA.
- San Juan: New DR on the Columbine, new priorities on the Columbine with the new DR; working on the Huerto Stewardship Contract; MSI has been monitoring; field tour with CFRI to look at objectives; working with salvage up on Sand Bench; 300ac of pine thin off of Buckels Lake Rd (Coyote Creek); JR is still in Echo Canyon, pos move to West Fork CG or to Fawn Gulch this fall; harvest in Pagosa Ck and Huerto next year
- WAP: new report; excited about the interaction/presentation with the county commissioners
- WAC: overview of the citizen science effort; 20 participants and 350+ hours of volunteer time; Fawn had the greatest number of unique bird species; and the “control” Jackson was the least; at Turkey Springs Rx was concurrent with study.
- WAP/Archuleta : Chipper rebate program is still going strong; cost sharing program is finished; there was a significant decrease in interest prob due to low fire severity year; joint proposal for Achuleta county with WAP/SJHFHP the work of WAP/SJHFHP/NRCS \$17m fire suppression cost savings and \$466m of property



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protection savings in the last 10 years by our groups. The FPD is looking at fire prevention grants to assist with Headwaters. The FPD is going to try to get the town and county together. Title 3 funding mystery, the Sun tracked down that the Finance Director has been deterring the County from applying.

- Need to meet with town, county, FPD to plan next steps.
- CSFS: moving into forest ag season; new good neighbor in Montezuma; work on an extension of the CAFA by moving target area or increase on minimum income requirement; tree farm committee at the Sidel tree farm 40-50 participants. Blain was the logger of the year.
- JR: air quality permitting is still hung up by lack of capacity at the state level.

### **CFLRP Update:**

- The original CFLRP authorization was in 2009 and is ending, Uncompaghre Plateau and Front Range are the two in CO
- A collaborative is needed; in 2009 there was none but we have several now on the San Juan
- The CFLRP was reauthorized in the 2019 Farm Bill
- Tier 1 (what has been analyzed via NEPA) and Tier 2 (next round more the what and who stage) proposals
- Only for Federal land but can be used as a match.
- We are a priority for Region 2 to be used across the entire San Juan; aiming for the max \$4m/year
- The southern portion of the Pagosa RD is being pulled into the Region 3 “Rio Chama” proposal
- If the Tier 1 proposals are given a go by the Region, then Headwaters will need to engage with the Tier 2 development and how the collaborative will work with a final CFLRP.
- Typically, these are used to fund the removal of biomass; but the San Juan is looking to use this funds at supporting infrastructure and to support target tx to support more Rx fire; projects that are tied to habitat improvement for San Juan cutthroat; perhaps more Stewardship on the west side of the forest
- Invasive weed tx mand monitoring is outlined in both proposals; this would be an opportunity to fund weeds Tx.

### **EIB:**

- Final report out by the end of the month
- Leaning towards a revolving fund model

### **CAFA Update:**

- 30ac of properties to finish up
- New 8.5ac treatment that are connected to other Tx that has/is occurring.
- There is a wave of applicants when ads are run but none in between.



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- MSI/Headwaters/CSFS have a strategy to expand and move forward next year (bigger geography and increased income level).
- On target for the 30-40 acres per year
- There is a CAFA grant running in Forest Lake north of Bayfield
- 20 acres are near Indian Land Rd, Jerry is filling in with NRCS (Oak Hill Ranch)

### **Preparing for Rx Fire and Smoke:**

- Map and flyer as outreach tools
  - o No smoke is the best but we other smoke (dark) should be avoided. But the white smoke is while not healthy is better than the dark alternative.
  - o Soften the carcinogen messaging
  - o Is the message more the “control” of smoke with Rx as opposed to the randomness of wildfire.
  - o With larger landscape scale burns will be more impactful with smoke (more random) than smaller Rx.
  - o How to address managed fire?
  - o Messaging on smoke or messaging on Rx fire?
  - o FLN in Ashland is working on similar outreach tools.
  - o Why are we willing to take the risk of Rx and its smoke vs other? Is this a mitigation tool to prevent or change the quality of smoke with wildfire?
  - o Justification of one smoke over the other.
  - o Rx is the “Least Bad” option with smoke.
  - o Two messages: Rx and smoke.
  - o Need to have a format for the website.
- HEPA Filter
  - o Pagosa will be taking the smoke from all Rx in the region
  - o Mary has 4 filters from Stewards Guild
  - o San Juan Basin Health is the likely manager for filter loaning program. Connect Emily with Brian Devine. Work with San Juan for info with press releases with Rx. 970-264-2409 local
- Smoke Map
  - o Mike is working on the automation
  - o We would need to add local Rx manually but can be done as need basis
  - o We need to make sure that the site is shared.
  - o Optimized for mobile platforms.
  - o “Twitter” post type formatting



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### **Next Steps:**

- Bring Kelly back to speak on smoke again
- Dan West beetle tour in Sep
- Kevin Kung has expressed need for tour with fire. Engage with burn bosses.
- Anthony to present in the fall on engagement with DWRF in the NEPA process
- Next year presentation/tour on the mixed con work; possible tour to the Notch Ranch
- Connection between water and forest, and with water infrastructure; SMP co-tour. Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership.
- 04 Sep, Resliant Archuleta, with WEP, at 1800, Dan Brennan presentation

## **San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership Meeting agenda for Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Location:** CSU Extension Office, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

**Time:** 9:00 – 11:00

### AGENDA

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

9:10 – 9:30 **Updates**

- a. Round robin updates from the group; major projects/plans for 2019
- b. TREX

9:30 – 9:45 **CFLRP**

9:45 – 10:00 **CAFA**

10:10 – 10:40 **Preparing for smoke**

10:40 – 10:50 **Information Needs and Upcoming Events**

10:50 – 11:00 **Next Steps/ Items for next meeting**

### OUTCOMES:

- Updates on current projects and programs
- Inform group about recent land management proposals for San Juan
- Update on the CAFA effort and projects completed
- Discussion on preparation for smoke and TREX
- Identify educational opportunities