



San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership Meeting Agenda & Notes for Friday, November 15th, 2019

Location: Pagosa Ranger District, Pagosa Springs

Regular Meeting: 9:00 – 11:00

MEETING AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Introductions 9:05 – 9:15

Special welcome to Dana Hayward. MSI's new Partnership Coordinator for the Forest Program.

Aaron Kimple (MSI); Becky Hermann (volunteer); John Porco (SJWCD) Keith Bruno (Rockies Audubon); Doug Secrist (SJWCD); Matt Ford (Renewable Forest Energy); Jerry Archuleta (NRCS); Herb Grover (Weminuche Audubon); Matt Tuten (SJNF); Emily Swindell (MSI); Al Pfister (SJWCD); Steve Hartvigsen (SJNF ret., volunteer); Bill Trimarco (WAP, Resilient Archuleta rep.); Emily Hohman (Nature Conservancy); Lo Williams (SJNF); Fred Ellis (SJNF); Dana Hayward (MSI); Mike Remke (MSI)

Updates – Round Robin 9:15 – 9:35

- TREX
 - 2019
 - Was a good experience and good opportunity for people to learn
 - Learned, smoke-wise, what we can do better – Hepa filters, community outreach/education
 - 2020
 - Will move forward with another event
 - Will look for additional funding (MSI)
- CAFA Grant
 - Almost wrapped up for the year – 1 more request for treatment
 - Total in 2019
 - 44 acres completed
 - Almost all 1 acre lots in Aspen Springs on 19 different parcels
 - Deadline: **Jan 6**
 - Upper Animas Valley grant and potential for Upper Blanco
 - Bill, Matt, Jerry, and hopefully Caleb and Mark can be brought into this one – should have conversation by beginning of December
 - CAFA grant could fund grant for work on private land – need RCPP, but process can be a lot of work



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- Smoke
 - Current smoke in the air
 - From Jicarilla Reservation, some from Pargin Fire
 - Is affecting Piedra
 - Purple Air numbers are accurate at low end but can double or triple numbers at higher end – useful but not reliable
 - State proposing to change acreage limits – offers opportunity to get same amount of work completed in less time
- \$1,500 from Nature Conservancy dedicated to Headwaters for next year

RMRI (Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative) and CFLR (Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program) Updates 9:40-9:50

- RMRI
 - 7 proposals total
 - In presentation, we concentrated on communities and corridors
 - Decision will be made **Dec 9**
 - Be prepared for future critiques
 - Should consider during strategic planning period
 - Will revisit how we want to reach consensus and move forward
- CFLRP
 - 2 CFLRP's
 - One goes through 2-3-2 Region
 - San Juan Restoration Program
 - Have completed 30% of all documents needing to be present in one form or another
 - Moving into 60% all docs need to be present in one form or another coming out **Thurs/Fri November 21/22**
 - There's 1 week to read, review, and offer comments
 - Comments will be brought back to group **1st week of Dec**
 - If successful with CFLRP:
 - Looking at using some funding to put into roads that'll facilitate a lot of restoration on, for example, Piedra Road *and* fire
 - Something to build community appreciation
 - Timing will be optimal

2019 Finance Update 9:55 – 10:10

- Finance Committee
 - Matt Tuten, Matt Ford, Doug Secrist, Anthony Culpepper, Aaron Kimple, Mike Remke
- Under budget
 - 1st two quarters of the year



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- Some reserved unrestricted funds remain which were drawn heavily upon because of shutdown 2019 and will end the year substantially up ~\$14,000 in reserves – gives good leverage for events in 2020 (food, door prizes, refreshments, etc.)
- CAFA
 - At 115% of budget for personnel
 - Met 49% of budget for contractors
 - Dollars spent
 - ~\$40,000 for sub-contractor work
 - ~\$964/acre for sub-contractor
 - \$4,397 for travel, ~\$98.5/acre
 - Normally estimate about \$2,500/acre
 - Reasons for costs: Mastication equipment + handwork, terrain
 - Must finish work by beginning of September with a potential 1yr extension from FS
 - Aspen Springs and Lower Blanco need work
 - 2020
 - Have \$5000 from LPEA chipper rebate across 5 counties = ~1mo of work

Upcoming outline 1010-1030

- December
 - Will review documents and 2020 budget
 - Plan for meetings in January, February, March
- January
 - Finalize 2020 budget
 - Go over needs and activities
- February
 - Can address: Are we structured properly for future work
 - Science committee/updates
 - Science Forum
 - Invite all collaboratives
 - Present results of monitoring efforts
 - *GOALS*
 - Good opportunity to think about who's on the science committee
 - Mike Remke and Anthony Culpepper committed to getting data turned around
 - May be good opportunity to bridge group activities with science and align our activities with science on the ground
- March
 - Strategic Planning
 - Almost 6 years since we went through that last
 - Review of committee members
- Beginning of 2020
 - High Value Risk Assessment and PODS coming out of forest
 - Can incorporate into how we think about our work
 - Science-driven monitoring
- San Juan National Forest



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- Science Committee
 - 5-6 folks knowing regional science of Southwest Colorado
 - Can help evaluation of what's happening on the ground
 - Can help bring information to collaborative and how to use that information for adaptive management strategies
 - Scientists can bring in the science they know and we can discuss how to incorporate the science into planning
 - Invite all collaboratives for Science Forum in February
- Must speak with 1 voice as projects increase across the San Juan Mountains
- Cross-collaborative component important

10:05 – 10:30 **End of Year**

- 2019 Annual Review
 - Survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BPZ7VCQ>
 - Have until Monday November 25 to complete
- EOY Review
 - Should MSI still be fiscal agent?
 - Think of additional people and organizations to invite
 - We look at this every year
- Strategic Planning
 - Do something to the West rather than “Bridging the Divide” again – maybe “Bridging the Forest”
- Committee Check-ins
 - Science Committee Members for Headwaters
 - Aaron Kimple, Steve Hartvigsen, Matt Tuten, Herb Grover, Anthony Culpepper, Mike Remke
 - Education and outreach needs
 - Must follow up on those needs
 - Science and technology group to help inform broader science of the San Juan Mountains
- Education/Outreach Needs
 - Past Events
 - Bridging the Divide, evening at Library, and others
 - Future Events
 - Should be more local and mention to “customers” at Aspen Springs
 - How/Where
 - Creative Education and Outreach includes *knowing* our audience
 - Might need travelling roadshow – people rarely come to you
 - Choose one type of group
 - Eg: 2020's specific targeted audience is recreational *OR* ranching community, etc.
 - Potential events
 - Community bike rides to discuss prescribed fire
 - Community backcountry skiing to show beetle kill



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- Could include ATV club, Outdoor club, etc. in other events
- CPW has expressed interest
- Include secondary youth, other stakeholders, and San Juan Mountain Association
- Legislative (as needed basis)
 - CFLR – Bennet wanted to put more money into it but didn't receive as much traction as hoped for
 - Some hope with passing of DD Bill, that we can encourage waterworks to include forest work
 - Environmental Impact Fund
 - Lot of work to do still (CRCNS, CSFS, WAP)
- *GOALS*
 - Map what calendar will look like for 2020
 - Engagement in what and why we're doing what we're doing

10:30 – 11:15 **Presentation: Weminuche Audubon Chapter 2019 Bird Monitoring**
Herb Grover

- *Weminuche Audubon Society Citizen Science Bird Monitoring Project, 2019 Progress Report*
 - Team
 - Volunteers and dedicated birders
 - Over 400 volunteer hours completed
 - Retired physicians, scientists, engineers, etc.
 - Objectives
 - Effects of fire mitigation on bird community composition and structure
 - Promote increased understanding among volunteers
 - Give opportunities for improve birding skills for volunteers
 - Help volunteers gain better of how field studies are conducted
 - Strengthen sense of community among chapter members
 - Sites
 - Fawn Gulch
 - Masticated in 2016
 - 140 points, 840min
 - Jackson Mountain
 - Untreated site ~ 75years
 - Terrain differences
 - 100 points, 600min
 - Turkey Springs
 - 1st week of June: Rx Fire (at time starting study)
 - 100 points, 600min
 - Methods
 - 3 loops with 5 points each
 - Points ~ 75m from each other and ~75 meters from boundaries
 - ID bird by site or sound in 5-6 minutes 6am-10am
 - Point-Quarter Method



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- Totals
 - 340 points, 2040 minutes
- Results
 - Tree Density
 - Turkey Springs
 - Gambel Oak almost absent after Rx-fire, more of understory shrub
 - Ponderosa pine in parentheses
 - Ponderosa pine
 - Dominant tree at all sites
 - Similar DBH at all sites
 - Gambel oak
 - Jackson Mountain: 33% at points
 - Fawn Gulch: 20% of sites
 - Jackson Mountain
 - Most complex plant community, then Fawn Gulch then Turkey Springs
 - Birds
 - Most unique species: Fawn Gulch
 - American Robin most common across all sites
 - Diversity (H')
 - Most diverse: Jackson Mountain
 - Least diverse:
 - Community Similarity
 - Most similar: Fawn Gulch
 - Least similar:
 - - correlation bn tree density bird species richness
 - + correlation bn tree size and bird species richness
 - Gambel oak presence important
- Takeaway/Overall
 - Greatest favorable feeding habitat for greater range of species: Fawn Gulch
- Final Thoughts
 - Fire: short-term reduction in abundance but recover in few years
 - Richness and abundance decline with long-term absence of fire/thinning
 - Patchiness/landscape heterogeneity favors resilience of bird community (in response of fire and thinning)
- What to do with report?
 - Represented on headwaters and/or MSI websites
 - Citizen science journal perhaps