



San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

Meeting agenda for Friday, October 18th, 2019

Location: Meeting: Pagosa Ranger District, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Regular Meeting: 9:00 – 11:00

MEETING AGENDA

9:00 – 9:10 Welcome and Introductions

- Aaron Kimple (MSI); Al Myette (WAP); Jerry Archuleta (NRCS); Matt Tuten (USFS); Emily Swindell (MSI); Steve Hartvigsen (public); Matt Ford (Forest Health Company); Bill Trimarco (WAP); Fred Ellis (USFS); Justin Ramsey (Pagosa Area Water Sanitation District)

9:10 – 9:30 Updates – Round Robin

- Smoke and Air Quality
 - What's been helpful
 - For Rx burns, released link (?) of where to find info about smoke and fire
 - Worked with Larry Lynch to alert homeowners, used social media, allowed Forest Service PIO to field calls during burn, and setup electronic signboards
 - Signboards at Wal Mart and Piedra helpful, but would be great to have one in town if not being borrowed since 2 are used for entire forest
 - Could investigate setting up our own reliable air quality program (E-samplers, purple air) in conjunction with school to show trends and provide numbers – will have to maintain and update regularly
 - School participation is good, but we could collect the data and allow school could analyze it
 - 2020
 - Evaluate smoke outreach efforts and enhance those efforts to enhance public understanding and acceptance
 - Find better way to promote and make Hepa filters available to public and businesses
- Prescribed burns
 - ~3000 acres burned; 17,600 acres total across the forest
 - 1500 acres in Brockover in fall, 1100 acres in spring/summer w/ 4 days of smoke impacts
- In communication with Air permitting folks
- POPOA board talking about talking control of green belt in Windom
 - Let's get in touch with Alan (administrator) about this
 - *Any partners that specialize in fire/know case law in this specific scenario that can provide data/opinion to Windom?
 - 2020: Figure out and address liability issues
 - Contact: Prescribed Fire Council; Emily Hohman (Fire Learning Network); Headwaters to bring in lawyer; Alan Roth; Larry will be contacted and encouraged to join next meeting



- Will soon rewrite burn plans because of expiration and will expand to include more areas especially Kenny Flats and Rio Blanco
- Hope to begin mastication contracts in spring: Vega Lowanna and Echo Lefthand
- Conversations with Southern Ute were receptive and completed some outreach about burns recently

9:30 – 10:00 RMRI and CFLR Updates

- RMRI wants to consolidate and target money into small areas to see transformational change in 10 years then move into maintenance
- RMRI Map
 - Map intended to be test-bed, does not have to be contiguous, and, if successful, they'll carry it forward
 - This mapping effort helps us think about where/how we want to move forward strategically
 - Pagosa and Archuleta County aren't on RMRI map
 - Map *will* reflect NEPA work and not-yet-approved NEPA timber
- WUI
 - High WUI areas targeted 1st, with 160 recognized as essential corridor of community structure
 - Some essential WUI areas around Durango included
 - Lone Pine could offer development of industry that could help support work on the ground
 - Hoping to show that small diameter industry can work at Lone Pine
 - Why? –In thinking about stewardship contracts in Pagosa and investments prior and several years of joint chief funding with lots of progress on those fronts;
 - Where work occurs is heavily influenced by the kinds of funding provided
 - RMRI is funded by the federal government which will be restricted to federal lands
 - CFLR won't cover private lands initial investment from feds
 - What does that mean for joint chiefs and the application and how to build it? – Areas are prioritized
 - There are CFLR proposals for Archuleta area; Dolores has lots of requests because of small-diameter pine
 - 2020
 - Think about additional funding to monitor private lands – could fund work on private land
 - May be some benefits for us not to being included – if accepted, we must be aware that Headwaters is going to move forward independently
- Zone Map – a work in progress
 - Developed to help us think about how to be transformative in the west
 - Inspired by defensible space zones and reflective of areas each collaborative wanted to focus on when they thought about RMRI
 - Arbitrary *buffers/distances* used around community rather than zones
 - Buffers 2s and 3s butt against each other to create continuous treatment area
 - Buff 1: individual parcels are treated; infrastructure and recreation
 - Buff 2: meant to represent areas with high fuel loads in need of fuel removal that may require maintenance with fire; infrastructure and recreation



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- Buff 3: less community risk that may require just fire on ground to manage fuels mitigation; different type of work here (eg: for ecological or timber benefits) that's not relevant to what community wants directly; butts up against steeper topography and potentially higher timber ground and operation/sales
- Feedback
 - Conceptually helpful for the National Forest, can help to inform discussion about areas and strategies used for timber harvest
 - Important when talking identifying what work needs to get done
 - Can give talking point with politicians and public
 - How fire manager approaches fire
 - Can help explain decisions that are made in regard to fire and how we define them moving forward
 - Good to include probability of ignition affecting community, eg: where infrastructure may be at risk – prevailing winds, or forest type, or location
- What is objective of Zone Map in relation to Headwaters?
 - This helps us to say *where* we can best do our work best and allows us to think through where watersheds, WUI, etc. interact
 - Need to develop adaptive management strategies/framework because it's beneficial to public communication and is applicable to Headwaters but we must 1st define checklist items that are defining our work and that can help guide social aspect
- Is Zone Map a primary priority? – No, but it does offer several partners a valuable tool
- Is Zone Map preventing us and/or MSI's scientific expertise in accomplishing what we aimed to do in 2019? – No
 - Regional office asked for RMRI proposal which has taken up a lot of bandwidth
- 2020
 - If some things don't work out because it's the San Juan National Forest, there could be some spill-over to all collaboratives in the SJNF – we'll just continue to show that we can be progressive
 - Prioritizing private areas can help with support from municipalities and others
 - Need local government buy-in
 - Will update map of areas where monitoring has been completed

10:00 – 10:20 Science Talk – Mike Remke, MSI

“Familiar soil conditions help Pinus ponderosa seedlings cope with warming and drying climates”

Changes in temperature and available moisture as a result of climate forcing can dramatically change tree physiological processes and have subsequent impacts on tree growth and survival. Abiotic components of edaphic forcing might include distinct soil moisture environments, while biotic components include key symbionts such as mycorrhizal fungi, and other soil biota. In this talk I will explore the empirical evidence for the role soil plays in plant growth and also discuss how soils can be considered in ecological forestry.

- *Will present at another meeting due to today's limited time*

10:20 – 10:50 Looking Ahead

- 2019 Annual Review



- Strategic Planning
- Monitoring/Adaptive Management
- Committee Check-ins
- Education/Outreach Needs
- Community Priority Buffers/Zones

10:55 – 11:20 **Next Steps**

- Nov 15
 - End of Year evaluation meeting
 - Need to plan next budget – discuss future/other funding sources
- Dec 13 – End of year Evaluations
 - Talk about project areas to be targeted
 - Cohesive work strategy plan will be HUGE
- Jan
 - Launch End of Year Review and Report
- Feb (longer meeting)
 - Annual science meeting and review (one in-house and one for the public) – think about outreach and education associated with this
 - Adaptive management monitoring, findings, strategy, and going forward workshop
 - Data inventory of data questions associated with that data
 - Story to public: headwaters doesn't know all the answers but will modify plans based on what we know moving forward; smoke discussion would be good to include
- March
 - Strategic planning session (CFLR and RMRI to be more stable at this point)