



San Juan Headwaters

FOREST HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership Virtual Meeting Notes for Friday, May 15, 2020

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Regular Meeting: 9:00 AM – 11:30 PM (flexible for virtual meeting)

*Action Items

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES: STRATEGIC PLANNING PART 2

In attendance: Aaron Kimple (MSI), Dana Hayward (MSI), Mike Remke (MSI), Emily Swindell (MSI), Lo Williams (USFS), Matt Tuten (USFS), Bill Trimarco (WAP), Jimbo Buickerood (SJCA), Steve Hartvigsen (volunteer), Emily Hohman (TNC), Robin Young (CSU Extension), Mercedes Siegle-Gaither (CSFS/NRCS), Matt Ford (Clean Forest Energy), Herb Grover (Weminuche Audubon)

9:00 – 9:10 Welcome and Introductions

9:10 – 9:30 Updates

- NM and CO forest action plans are written and in the review process
 - Connection between headwaters in the San Juans and communities in NM
 - Acknowledgement of this area in both state plans
- RMRI is moving along
 - Building structure for governance
 - RMRI funding
 - Federal: targeted to work on west side of forest
 - Working to develop private investment for private lands
 - Hoping for more \$ in 2021
 - Local steering committee of land managers (NRCS, USFS, BLM, CSFS and areas of interest: wildlife, water, WUI and recreation)
 - Collaborative leaders will provide oversight as an advisory team (Anthony Culpepper, Danny Margoles, and environmental and industry groups – possibly Jimbo Buickerood and Dave Sitton)
 - Aiming to keep this local
 - To interact with a state process
 - may be connected with state forest health advisory council
 - connectivity between shared stewardship, RMRI and state forest action plan

- Columbine Resilient Forest Collaborative has a name: Four Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative
- CFLRP proposals
 - FACA committee will meet June 22-25
 - Decision likely in July
- Partner Position Changes
 - Lindsey Hanson now the renewable resources officer for the SJNF
 - Anthony Madrid new supervisor for Apache-Sitgreaves?
- Possibility of a tour
 - Jackson mountain
 - Rita Daniels SJNF intern for 2020 summer and graduate student at NM Highlands to offer support in Jackson Mountain communications
 - Impact of climate change on local forests – this will be a drastic visual difference! Will be able to go into and out of Tx areas, be sure to leverage!
 - Great opportunity to showcase what we're doing!
 - Wait later in the summer or to fall (Aug/Sept)
 - Presentation on Climate Change study by a representative: Tie Pagosa into a larger story and highlight local showcase
 - Looking at a non-tx, then tx area are effective tours
 - Likely wait until June to see some Tx, good opportunity
 - Moving equipment out to Jackson now, also a contractor working under Forest Health Co this year
 - Opportunity for future bike touring
 - Digitally guided tour development is in planning stages
 - A resource for education and outreach into the future
 - Get people out in the woods however possible
 - Pre and Post Photos
 - Photopoints
 - 3D camera for uploading shots to google earth – showing before and after on the website (JR to look into this)
 - Cloman Park as another possibility for a tour
- Jackson Mountain Goals Overview
 - 3 task orders for dry mixed conifer (historically pine and Douglas-fir)
 - White fir growing in those stands since the 70's has created a dense mid-overstory throughout residual pine and ladder fuels
 - Work aims to remove white fir, break up canopy continuity, and reduce ladder fuels
 - ASCC is one of the task orders (National Study, PI at CSU)
 - Range of Tx and control to be studied long term
 - Reducing density all the way to opening up the forest and managing for more fire adapted drought tolerant species like ponderosa pine and oak

- Mike Battaglia at RMRS just got a grant for doing additional vegetation measurements of oak (\$120,000)
 - Most initial work was focused on Conifers
- White fir is one of the least fire adapted species in the area
 - Over last 100 years many White fir have grown
 - Fire suppression part of this change
- Do we have before photos of Jackson Mountain, so we can also do after photos?
 - Oak monitoring will include this component
 - Get wide angle photos, aerial images, panoramic photos from road
 - Look for Steve H. photos
 - Matt T. to work on more photos
 - Opportunity to bring this to those who can't visit the sites
- Education and Outreach
 - Signage and other sharing about operations
 - Communication opportunity
- Operations will move fast
 - Using a different logging system, some whole tree skidding and piling of slash then removal
 - Objective is to treat the acres in a faster way
 - Operator uses Douglas-fir and White-fir at mill, not typically used by Forest Health Co. so a good partnership
 - Moisture content of chips is a challenge for Forest Health Co., but being able to chip out of a landing will generate data about moisture content of wood chips from a piled, staged area vs. a downed tree

9:30 – 9:45 SJH Landscape planning meeting April 24

- See report for full overview
- Planned work
 - Fuels
 - Silviculture and Timber
 - Southern Ute forestry
 - Wildfire Adapted Partnership
 - NRCS and CPLA for private lands
 - PAWSD
 - CPW information about possible partnerships
 - TREX opportunities
- Opportunities for collaboration to follow up on
 - Map on SJHFHP website to be updated
 - Showcase of mixed conifer management possibilities demo project in Upper Blanco in 2021
 - TREX on tribal lands
 - Connecting private and public lands for biomass removal and contractor coordination

- Possibilities of hauling and depositing forest materials for use at a centralized location
 - Landing zone for material distribution being explored by WAP and Resilient Archuleta
- Critical watershed protection in the Four Mile drainage and in Turkey Springs with help of USFS, NRCS and WAP working across boundaries (ongoing)
 - 4-mile intake is critical infrastructure, can we do more here?
 - Mitigation along the road to improve access in the event of wildfire
 - Work here remains a priority
 - CE to look at ladder fuels and fuels continuity for 4-mile road and the road to the intake to be completed early this summer and work to move forward
 - Addressing needs and concerns of our partners
- Funding and support for forest health treatments that have significant wildlife benefit from CPW
- Goats needed?
 - Possible fire hazard reduction use pilot project
 - CSFS/NRCS to connect with CSU Extension about this opportunity

9:45 – 10:15 Strategic Planning: Group Goals and Vision

- Is the document still relevant to us?
 - What might we want to change to make our group as effective as possible?
 - Community relevance
 - Service to ecosystems
- Mission and statement of purpose /values and messaging (p. 1)
 - Is the mission statement too long, is the 1st sentence enough?
 - Agreement, second sentence of mission is covered in the following goals and objectives (agreement)
 - First sentence pretty well describes what we do
 - Maybe shorten even this
 - Fold second sentence into the strategic plan somewhere else
 - Mission, statement of purpose, goals, objectives, vision?
 - Not a vision in this plan, do we want to create one?
 - Statement of purpose has some of visioning component, fold it in here? Rename statement of purpose as vision?
 - Statement of purpose is also potentially a good sentence for mission
 - Keep it simple
 - Remove statement of purpose and make it the mission
 - Mission is stated in statement of purpose
 - Use verbiage under the mission and disperse it under goals and objectives
 - Work on a vision statement

- Mission vs. Vision
 - Mission: What we want to get done, how we want to interact with the community. What we do and our approach (here is how we accomplish and realize that future)
 - Vision: Once we get our work done, what does the world look like? Desired future condition (this is what we want/what does success look like?)
 - Statement of Purpose: how does it differ from a mission? Talking points, and elevator speech about SJHFHP, explanation of involvement
- Plan is to shorten, possibly add vision, differ between vision, mission and statement of purpose, then review
 - Statement of purpose to become mission
 - Develop a vision
- Edit and present to group for review in June or July
 - May need additional support
- Goals and Objectives (P 1)
 - What have we accomplished, what is missing?
 - Defining goal and objective
 - Goal: broader statements about what we want to move forward in our community, desired result (like a vision within each project)
 - Objective: more measurable, specific and measurable things a group does to achieve goals (akin to mission, steps taking to get there)
 - Each objective listed should be paired to at least one of the defined goals
 - Education seems to be excluded from mission, vision and goals
 - Somewhat addressed in objective 1
 - Seems to be missing
 - Part of strengthening regional communities, integral to everything
 - **Make it more explicit, add a goal that is specifically education**
 - An informed citizenry about how forestry and watershed health impact our community
 - Objectives are what we want to do to achieve that informed citizenry
 - It's important to headwaters and we do a lot of this work
 - Different types of education: brochures, tours etc.
 - Education is inherent in many of the objectives
 - Goal = awareness, objective = education
 - **What are the goals and objectives for each committee?**
 - Reach out if you see missing or misplaced goals or objectives
- General Principles and Values (P 2-3)
 - **Infrastructure at risk not called out here**
 - We focus our efforts in areas that have values at risk
 - Think this through more completely, if we are working with partners, we want to hold ourselves accountable to those partners

- **Bullet point to be drafted**
- Have done monitoring and evaluation of work, doing new looking at spruce fir and cool moist mixed conifer
 - **Lessons from monitoring to carry to greater body of sci literature**
 - **Include advancing research and info contributions to inform other efforts**
- Resilience shows up frequently
 - Some information, (**white paper**), where the concept of resilience as it is incorporated into the strategic plan is explained and/or defined
 - **What do we mean by resilience?**
 - Before it was “sustainability”
 - This discussion is important because it will help us define objectives and what success looks like (vision discussion)
 - As we work to define resilience, can we use other words or concrete terminology to communicate
 - Value in discussion context
 - Guides support and investment in management and environmental assessment decisions
 - How do we know if and when we have exceeded the capacity of a particular forest site or region to resolve itself once disturbed?
 - What are we measuring?
 - Bounce back from what?
 - Is change acceptable given the values we’ve expressed?
 - What qualities do we want and how do we measure them?
 - **Develop of shared definition of resilience for SJHFHP**
 - Many different ideas about what resilience is
 - Come to an understanding before assuming those we talk with define it the same as the SJHFHP group, or even that definitions within the group are the same
 - Resilience in different vegetation types
 - What is it in a ponderosa pine forest versus a spruce-fir area?
 - What capacity for disturbance do systems have historically and in the present?
 - This is an important conversation to have as a collaborative
 - **White paper about resilience in mesic mixed conifer forests**
 - This conversation is happening in all collaboratives
 - Let’s look into the more recent research and incorporate this process into our collaborative discussions
 - **Monitoring and Research Committee, Science Committee task**
 - **Ensure usefulness for decision making process**
 - **Identify a list of questions we need to answer for ourselves instead of, or in addition to a list of definitions**

- “What does resilience look like in a Ponderosa Pine system?”
 - White Paper
 - Identify what words we need to have shared definitions for
 - In the whole strategic plan document (see DWRF model?)
 - Working definitions for our collaborative, reference document
 - Lower priority compared to other things
 - Projects and outreach are more important
 - NEPA, environmental assessment
 - Shared definitions to help us think through defining desired conditions
 - Everyone has a good concept of what we’re striving for and why when we’re going into a project and considering a successful end result
 - Historical Range of Variability is also important for defining resilience and working through this process
 - As a group, how do we interface with scientific literature
 - Design and decide on monitoring protocols based on desired future conditions
 - Tied in with resilience
 - A continued discussion to incorporate into planning and work
 - Follow up on this and condense to practical application
 - A task for the science committee
- Messaging and Program descriptions (p. 3-5)
 - Group Messaging statement
 - Describes what the group is about
 - Use of many “undefined terms”
 - How useful is this language for community engagement and communication?
 - Program descriptions not discussed at this meeting, review at later date
 - Landscape scale approach, on the ground projects, forest products
- Culture of Consensus (p. 7)
 - Collaborative approach works and is to continue
 - Finance committee members are signatories to approve agreement with MSI
- Primary “face” in Pagosa specifically for headwaters
 - This has been a gap
 - Can be to our detriment when conveying importance of headwaters to locals
 - Consolidate public facing activities into one or a small group of people
 - Explicit person to contact
 - Dana to take on this role
 - Relationships and networking

- 50% of time at MSI dedicated to SJH, part time coordinator
 - Willing to take suggestions and opportunities
 - Connected to the success of this group
 - Does the group think she is the right person to take on this role? Taking on more and more responsibilities
 - Lead on Education and Outreach
 - **Be more aggressive about her being the primary contact and a presence**
 - MSI employee perhaps not furthering objective of community awareness of the value of SJH as an organization
 - Wear both hats, but prefer a SJH business card! Communications and signature line is all SJH
 - Not independent from MSI, but together with MSI
 - Provide feedback to Dana as needed, in service to this group
 - **We can do a better job of branding, let's have more Pagosa centric branding**
 - **Dana to connect with Matt F. about branding, suggestions and opportunities**
 - Discuss with Aaron also
 - Aaron transitioning from role of coordinator
 - Aaron to continue involvement
 - Management of tasks and setting boundaries
 - Dana as key contact, coordinator for SJHFHP
 - Ensure support system is in place
 - This is a good discussion to continue with the education and outreach committee
 - MSI to stay involved
 - Incorporate science, information to decision making
 - Committed to SJHFHP for the long haul
 - MSI as a hub = value!
 - Access to resources
 - Goal is for the group to be relevant, do good work and remain relevant to the community
 - Ensure group represents the local community: who is the right person to lead the group
 - SJHFHP has advanced many opportunities and has had many successes
 - SJH deserves attention and commitment
 - Natural progression from Aaron to Dana in coordinating role
- Funding
 - We need local support!
 - County government interface is a priority for SJH
 - How can we approach the county?
 - Presentation at a work session

- Work to present in June to get ready for 2021 budget
 - WAP, SJHFHP, NRCS
 - **Move forward together to ask for funding**
- Other funding opportunities
 - Cohesive strategy dollars up July 2021
 - **Seeking support and additional finance committee members**

10:15 – 10:20 Break

10:20 – 11:20 Strategic Planning: Operating to Meet our Goals

- Committee Structure
 - **Committee document to be updated**
 - **Participation requested from whole partnership for committees**
 - If we are moving initiatives forward, who are the ideal contacts, who can respond and on what timelines
 - **Who are the committee leads and what are their responsibilities?**
 - Communicating with committee members, recruiting members, pushing on events and managing volunteers
 - Connecting goals and actions
 - Need to refine and adjust to be up to date
 - Do we have the correct committees set up to accomplish our goals and objectives?
 - Is our structure effective?
 - Do the committees cover all of our bases?
 - **Actions and goals need to be updated, to be done in committees**
 - **Committee leads to take charge, then re-present to the whole group**
 - Planning/Tx/Proposal evaluation
 - Needs a leader
 - Matt T. would be good, to touch base in a few months
 - Currently spread thin
 - **Dana to email the group and ask for a primary contact**
 - The right people are on the committee
 - Not much has been done outside the annual planning meeting that coordinates work on the ground
 - Interplay with science
 - Events and Outreach
 - Should the lead be the coordinator?
 - **Yes, Dana to take on this role**
 - **Bill T. to remain involved**
 - **Add Robin Young to committee**
 - Education and events to be one category
 - Marketing/Community presence to be another category or task force

- Doing important work, want to ensure that its visible in the community!
- Change name to Education and outreach
 - Events as a subtitle
 - Marketing as a new and separate committee?
 - Community messaging
 - Use the logo and other group assets better and more consistently
 - Marketing under ed and outreach with a small task force to support
 - To try this structure and re-evaluate if needed
- Do we need additional members for this committee?
 - Herb (move from Planning Tx and Proposal to Ed and Outreach), Robin, other members to be solicited
 - Add more members and participants
 - Engage a broader group not involved in day to day operations, but who wants to participate in a specific role
 - Ideal number of people to gather as a team to be effective is 4-6
- Finance
 - Matt Ford to remain primary contact for finance committee
 - Operates when needed
 - Plan for quarterly meetings for a quarterly review, try to get back to this
 - May need to get active NOW for fundraising
 - Large and Small Donation groupings: consider contributing
- Legislation and Permitting
 - Lead by someone from Pagosa?
 - Was originally dealing with state level legislation
 - Local issues also come up, Bill Trimarco follows closely
 - Not the most active committee, active as needed
- Science
 - Anthony involvement on committees, given commitment to “Columbine Collaborative” as a coordinator
 - Have another point of contact, Mike Remke?
 - Internal MSI discussion – could it be someone that isn’t from MSI?
- Important to set recurring times and dates for committee meetings
 - Create a meeting schedule for committees (Dana), allow for adjustment and consider appropriate timing
 - Standing meetings on calendar for committees

- 2 per year, with flexibility, note need to meet more depending on season and current projects
 - Updates on work, accountability
 - Avoid letting things slip through the cracks and support one another
 - An entry point to involve and invite other stakeholders with public communication about these meetings
- Exploring ways to communicate committee work out to the whole group
 - Who is the audience for what information?
 - Brining committee updates and work to the full group
 - How do we communicate important information out to the public?
- Volunteers and community engagement (p. 7)
 - Not discussed at this meeting, to be addressed in the future
- What partners are missing?
 - Not discussed at this meeting, to be addressed in the future

11:20 – 11:30 Closing, Next Steps, Other Business

- Website input requested
- Agreement with MSI to be finalized by May 30
- 2020 Bird Monitoring
 - On schedule to get started Memorial Day weekend, monitoring points have been remarked
 - Orientation sessions the end of this week
 - Matching the number of volunteers from last year (~20)
 - Video about last year is available (headwaters fb, MSI fb, to embed on headwaters website also)
- SJHFHP Timeline Construction is in progress
- Situation Assessment from CLTL students is complete
 - Helpful feedback for the partnership
- WEP public meeting to be held May 28
 - More intentional SJHFHP involvement to be explored
- Digital Communication Platforms
 - An opportunity to continue using for the SJHFHP
 - Can we increase attendance and engagement this way?
 - Minimize travel costs
 - Blended meetings, quarterly in person?
- Newsletter is in progress
 - Forum for committee info
 - Updates
 - To be sent to PLPOA with their news blasts
- Way to go headwaters!