



San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

End of Year Report 2013



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Executive Summary

The San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership was established initially in 2010 to provide a venue to share stakeholder perspectives and to develop science-based collaborative priorities for management and monitoring of mixed-conifer forests on the Pagosa Ranger District (PRD) of the San Juan National Forest in Southwestern Colorado. In 2012 the group generated a report synthesizing a direction for the group (www.sanjuanheadwaters.org).

Following the release of the report the group decided to broaden its focus to

include other vegetation types and forest health issues. San Juan Headwaters has identified its current purpose as; 1) strengthening regional understanding of methods for improving forest health and watershed resilience, 2) broadening knowledge of forest conditions and needs, 3) generating viable management approaches, 4) initiating projects to address identified needs, and 5) monitor treatments to guide adaptive management practices.



To meet the defined goals for 2013 SJHFHP has hosted regular monthly meetings, special meetings around special events, outreach and fundraising opportunities. Outreach opportunities have included tours of recent burn areas, informational discussion panels, trainings around forest monitoring techniques, and presentations from regional experts. The SJHFHP has developed informational handouts, forest health monitoring protocols, and is developing a Forest Health, Wildfire Risk, Watershed Assessment and Prioritization document that will be made available to the communities in the Upper San Juan Headwaters.

The SJHFHP continues to pursue projects that address forest health concerns in the region. It has overseen treatment in Cloman Park, Pagosa Springs, developed a monitoring program to assess the impacts of thinning projects, and worked to expand treatment options into the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The partnership works with valued partners including Archuleta Firewise, Forest Health Company, the USFS Pagosa Ranger District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, Archuleta County, Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, Southwest Water Conservation District, Colorado State Forest Service, National Forest Foundation, and Front Range Watershed Wildfire Protection Group.

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership members include people and groups representing business interests, conservation organizations, local and state governments, federal agencies, recreation interests, ranchers, homeowner associations and scientists, as well as many interested citizens.

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Education and Outreach

In 2013 the SJHFHP hosted **17 events**. The events were designed to introduce the public to issues associated with forest health in SW Colorado. Included were discussion of beetle populations, altered fire regime, community impacts of wildfire, how forest health influences water resources, and monitoring forest health. These events reached an approximate total of **765 people** within the Upper San Juan Headwaters.

April

Pagosa Springs Bark Beetle Presentation: April 9, 2013 at the Ross Aragon Community Center, Pagosa Springs. Approximately **40 people** attended a presentation and discussion from Western Water Assessment on and the USFS on bark beetle infestations in southwest CO and the possible impact on wildfire and forest health.



San Juan Bark Beetles and Water Resources Training: April 10, 2013 at the Durango Public Library, Durango. The training included speakers presenting information on bark beetle infestations and water-related impacts. It was attended by nearly **60 people**, managers and private citizens.

Pagosa Springs Earth Day Table with Audubon and Firewise: April 20, 2013 Representatives of SJHFHP distributed materials and visited with community members at a table at the Annual Pagosa Springs Earth Day event.

RECENT ARTICLES

- [New Pagosa Springs Chamber Membership](#)
- [Effect of wildfire on watersheds — meeting in Pagosa Springs](#)
- [Public Invited to Discuss Management of the 2012 Little Sand Fire](#)
- [What can we learn from the Little Sand Fire?](#)
- [The lessons of Little Sand Fire](#)
- [San Juan Healthy Forests and Healthy Communities Tour](#)
- [Agencies plan guided tour of area forest](#)
- [SJFHP and USFS discuss bark beetle infestation](#)
- [Colorado beetle infestations, water supply, water quality](#)
- [Forest health partnership works to create community interest](#)

May

May Healthy Forest Tour: May 22, 2013 with a starting point at the Coyote Hill Parking Lot, Pagosa Springs. This was 4 hour tour through parts of the USFS Pagosa Ranger District that highlighted different forest treatments, burn areas. Approximately **70 people** attended.



June

Reflections on the Little Sand Fire - Community Discussion and Tour: June 18 and 19, 2013. In partnership with the Colorado Fire Restoration Institute, Southern Rockies Fire Science Network, Firewise of Southwest, CSFS, and USFS, the SJFHP offered a two day community event that included presentations and a tour of the burned area. Approximately **90 to 100 people** participated.

Forest to Faucets Teacher Training: June 22, 2013. JR Ford, Bob Frye and Marcie Bidwell gave a tour of the Cloman demonstration project to discuss how healthy forests influence water quality and resources. Approximately **20 people** participated in the program.

August

San Juan Outdoor Club: Regular SJHFHP member and USFS representative Steve Hartvigsen gave a presentation to the San Juan Outdoor Club.

Pagosa Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PROST) Task Force: Marcie Bidwell presented an update on restoration activities in Cloman Park. Approximately **20 people** were in attendance.

September

September Wildfire and Watershed Risk Discussion: *September 19, 2013.* The SJHFHP invited members of the Front Range Watershed Group to present on watershed assessment efforts. **20 people** were in attendance.

September Forest Health Monitoring Training: *September 20, 2013.* The SJHFHP held a forest health and monitoring training to help develop a Citizen Science monitoring program. Approximately **18 people** participated.

October

October West Fork Fire Complex Tour – Cancelled: A tour of the West Fork Fire Complex was scheduled for October but was cancelled because of weather.

Forest Collaborative Summit: *October 28 and 29, 2013.* Aaron Kimple represented the SJHFHP partnership at a summit of Forest Collaborative Groups throughout Colorado. Approximately **30 people** from across Colorado participated.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP): *October 29 and 30, 2013.* Aaron Kimple and Tom Grant attended a discussion of CFLRP activities and programs. Approximately **100 people** from the southwest region were present.



Volunteers Contributed Over 500 Hours

Projects

Cloman Park, Pagosa Springs: The SJHFHP has conducted forest monitoring surveys of the 120 acre Cloman Park recreation area in Pagosa Springs, CO, pre and post treatment. The study design includes additional visits in the future to continue to assess forest health conditions.



Colorado State Forest Service Restoration Grant: The SJHFHP has received funding from the CSFS to extend treatment to private lands adjacent to USFS lands. The grant provides funding to mitigate the cost of the Forest Health Company, LLC to treat private lands. Work will help boost resilience and resistance to the impacts of catastrophic fire. Treated areas will be monitored pre and post treatment using protocols developed by the SJHFHP.

Watershed Assessment: The San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP) has received a grant to review the watersheds and water resources of Archuleta and portions of the surrounding counties, assess their vulnerability to wildfire, and prioritize areas in need of mitigation or treatment. The process will include a review of the watersheds, infrastructure, and water resources associated with the region, an evaluation of watershed

characteristics, and prioritization of potential actions to reduce those threats.

Citizen Science: SJHFHP received a grant from the National Forest Foundation (NFF) to develop a forest health monitoring program that incorporates citizens as scientists. SJHFHP has provided an initial discussion and training on monitoring protocols and methods. The group has developed a relationship with teachers from the Pagosa School District and is working to develop educational opportunities around monitoring. This project will result in the development of a group of trained citizens committed to monitoring forest health conditions in the Upper San Juan Headwaters.

Finances

Income

Donations and Contributions

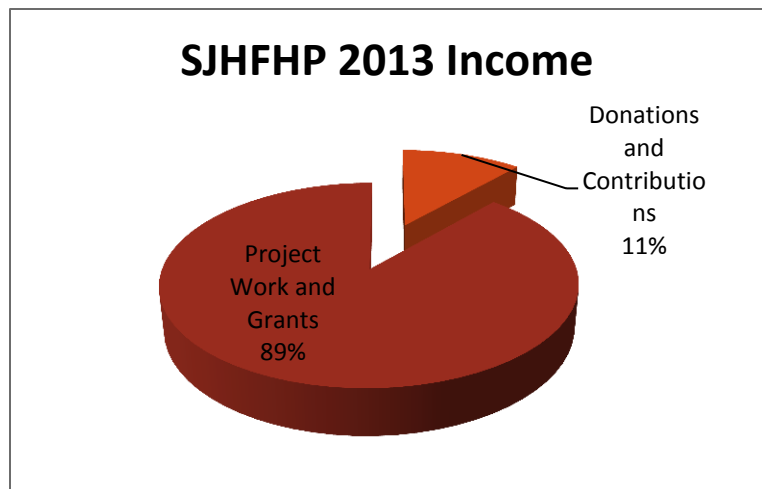
Currently the SJHFHP has received one contribution of \$2,500. The goal for 2013 was to raise \$12,500 total in donations for the organization from approximately 10 donors. Outreach efforts will continue to include the educational opportunities and phone conversations with personal contacts. Several opportunities outside of government agencies have been identified, including El Pomar and the Hershey Foundations.

Earned Revenues

The SJHFHP partnership has received five grants to fund operations and projects. The grants come from state, federal, county and private sources.

Colorado State Forest Service Grant for \$5,000 and is to be used to develop citizen science monitoring and demonstration project in the Cloman Park area.

Archuleta County Title III money comes to \$9,415.00. The money is used to help with wildfire protection planning in partnership with Firewise Communities of the Southwest.



The Southwest Water Conservation District has contributed \$10,160.00 to help with group development and wildfire protection planning as well as the assessing and prioritizing threats to the area watersheds and water resources associated with forest health and wildfire.

The 2013 Colorado Forest Restoration Grant provides \$101,181.00. This grant stipulates a 40% match of non-state funding. SJHFHP is using moneys from private landowners, federal funding, and donated services.

The 2013-2014 National Forest Foundation Grant provides \$33,423.09. This grant requires a match of non-federal dollars that has to be presented first in order to access the money. The grant funds Citizen Science programs.

Expenses

Personnel: Current expenditure includes time spent developing materials, organizing notes, and organizing events, and communicating with the membership. An additional cost comes under Director Services which includes the writing and development of grants, oversight of budget and general operations and participation/facilitation of events.

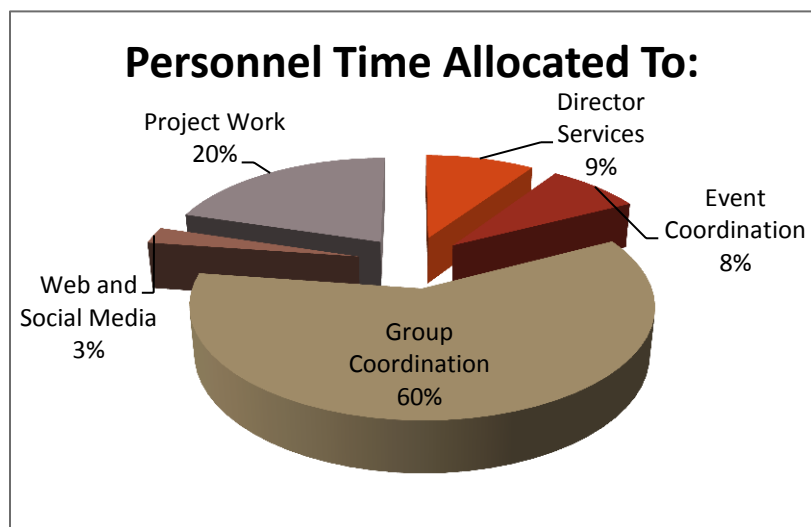
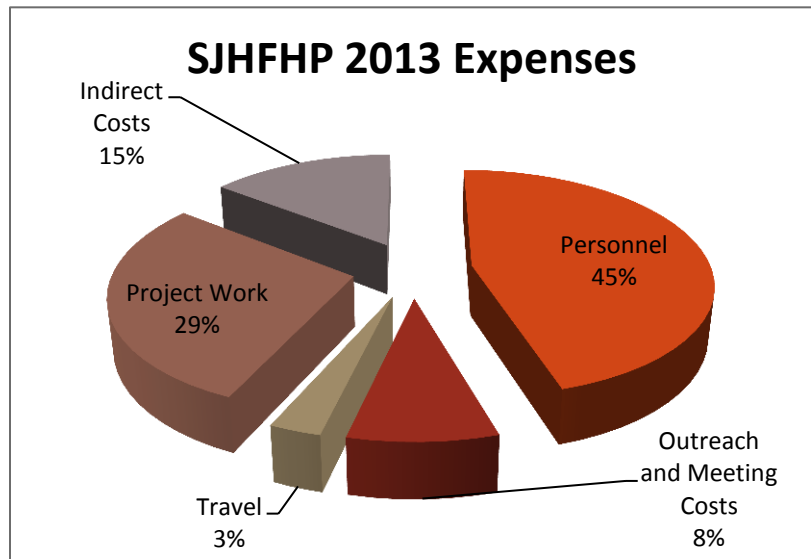
Project Work: Time has been spent on the development of monitoring protocols and hosting a monitoring training program for Cloman and future thinning projects. Projects also include the development/coordination of a group of Citizen Scientists.

Indirect Costs: The SJHFHP has hired Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) to manage the finances of the organization, provide coordination services, and help generate income. An indirect charge of 17% is added to expenses to fund those services.

Outreach and Meeting Costs: A small portion of the cost comes from the development of outreach materials and social media. Costs include the purchase of the web address sanjuanheadwaters.org and a membership to the Pagosa Chamber of Commerce. Supplies also include food and materials needed to support the events sponsored by the organization.

Travel: Travel expenses are paid at 0.55 cents per mile. It covers travel to meetings, events, and conferences.

Contracts and Services: Outside contractors have been employed from the budget for web site work and to organize special efforts for the group, including the Watershed Assessment Project.



Organizational Goals

The Goals for the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership include:

- Continued development of financial security
- Continued development of membership
- Provide educational opportunities
- Increase presence within the community
- Represent the efforts of the southwest region throughout Colorado
- Continue to facilitate projects to secure forest resilience
- Continue to facilitate an understanding of how forest health impacts water resources
- Continue to facilitate projects around securing resilient watersheds and healthy water
- Develop a group of committed to Citizen Scientists

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our funders and supporters. Without your support we could not do the work we do.



Project Funders

Archuleta County
 Colorado State Forest Service
 National Forest Foundation
 Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District
 Southwest Water Conservation District

Supporting Partners

Archuleta County
 Archuleta Firewise
 Mountain Studies Institute
 Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District
 Weminuche Audubon

Federal Partners

United States Forest Service
 Natural Resources Conservation Service

Business Partners

Forest Health Company



Get Involved with the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership!

We have several opportunities to get involved with the SJHFHP.

- 1) **Become a member**—Membership in the SJHFHP is free. We invite you to participate in meetings, upcoming events, and provide input on the work and focus of the group.
- 2) **Volunteer**—Help SJHFHP monitor forest health and study the impacts of our efforts.
- 3) **Participate in Events**—We invite you to attend our events and learn about the issues that face the place you live.
- 4) **Support SJHFHP**—Your donations go a long way to making our work possible. Please consider donating to the SJHFHP so that we can continue to offer education and outreach opportunities and work to maintain forest health.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

I would like to be a Member of the SJHFHP I am interested in Volunteer opportunities & upcoming event I am interested in making a contribution of \$ _____ to the SJHFHP I have enclosed a check ☐ I would like to pay with credit ☐

Visa/ Mastercard Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

PROGRAM COORDINATOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

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