

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

Meeting Notes for Friday, September 21, 2018

Location: Pagosa Chamber of Commerce

Time: 9 am – 11:00 am

Next Meeting: October 19, 2018: Ruby Sisson Library 9am-12pm: Project planning & evaluation meeting

Action Items

- Track down Jason Sibold's research about beetle kill and fire, any consensus to share with public?
- Check in on Reservoir Hill Signs
- Share 1 pager from Bridging the Divide, made by Western University
- Science committee to meet
- Emily, Matt, and Jerry meet about Join Chiefs funding

9:00 – 9:05 **Welcome and Introductions**

Attending: Aaron Kimple, Herb Grover, Anthony Culpepper, Tim Leishman, Steve Hartvigsen, John Taylor, Emily Hohman, Al Myatt, Doug Secrist, Jerry Archuleta, Tim Haarman, Matt Ford, Sarah DeMay, Laurel Sebastian, Justin Ramsey

9:05 – 9:45 **Updates from the partners**

- a. USFS (Tim Leishman)
 - a. Four timber sales in operation: Echo Canyon, aspen sale E of Pagosa, Wolf Creek Salvage, Beaver Meadows/Trout Creek Salvage; Vegetation management delay with the Horse Creek Fire; Turkey Rx burn delayed further due to Horse fire
- b. NRCS (Jerry Archuleta)
 - a. Considering Joint Chiefs proposal for Upper Blanco area- Sept. 28th is deadline, need to touch base with Emily & Matt; 35 2019 EQUIP applications; Vaga la Juana- public private 500 hydro-axe treatment project; new supervisor in the area: Cody Robertson; 416 Fire "What's Next" meeting a success; finished up Disaster Survey Report around Hermosa- can proceed with emergency watershed management projects
- c. CPLA (Emily Hohman)
 - a. Great meeting (40 ppl) in Blanco Basin in August to show work done on the ground; more people expressing interest; collaborating w/ Bill Trimarco (FireWise) to distribute work to fitting organizations, meetings to come to strategize how to best serve/treat that area;
 - b. San Juan TRES postponed till next year, but cooperative burning involving TRES coaches on Saul's Creek/Yellow Jacket Rx fire continued mission of shared resources and cooperative work
- d. WAP: WILDFIRE ADAPTED PARTNERSHIPS- (Al Myatt)
 - a. Wildfire Adapted Partnership is new name for FireWise -501c3 shift
 - b. Wildfire Ambassadors training next Tuesday; Attended meeting in Crested Butte, including workshops on working with landowner; Becca Samulski is shifting to Fire Adapted Colorado, hiring new DWARF facilitator

- e. SMP Stream Management Plan (Aaron Kimple)
 - a. Meant to include all stakeholders (water users); forest health included
 - i. San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership is public name
- f. CAFA (Aaron Kimple)
 - a. Aspen Springs mitigation work has continued, will grow next year
- g. PAWSD (Justin Ramsey)
 - a. Mandatory drought restrictions not implemented despite reservoir level trigger; will rework drought management plan based on conversations this year; did recently decide on a 6% rate increase starting in January
 - b. Aaron: maybe we should consider forest health funding with rate increase
- h. 2-3-2 Cross Boundary Meeting, October 15th & 16th
 - a. To bring together leaders to educate and promote collaborative forest and watershed health work
 - b. Small invite list for main meeting, but meeting with greater partnership network on **Monday, October 15th at Tequila's Taqueria at 5:30pm**
 - c. Schedule attached. Will break into CO and NM groups to start, then reconvene by midday at Oso Diversion Dam
 - d. State foresters, regional foresters, senators' representatives, maybe Hickenlooper

Other Updates/Notes:

- a. Cohesive Strategy dollars not tied to a specific pot of money, not for implementation as much as strategizing and facilitation; Joint Chiefs a structured proposal process requiring NRCS and USFS participation for cross boundary work
 - a. New Cohesive Strategy: "Shared stewardship across landscapes"
- b. Do we know how beetle kill impacts fire risk and intensity? Jason Sibald did some research in the Weminuche- Can we find that?
- c. Symposium on Climate Change Solutions on October 30th at Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis College, 6:30-9:00 evening session
- d. 416 Fire- SJNF allowing natural revegetation; lack of monsoons helping avoid flooding now

9:45 – 10:00 Prescribed Fire Activity

- a. Private lands- hard to find Rx fire time with hunting season. Tierra Amarilla hoping for November, Forest Stewards Guild All Hands All Lands initiative working in NM- could be extended to CO with additional funding
- b. Sal's Creek and Yellow Jacket- over 5,000 acres burned; possible to enter 6,000 Piedra unit, but probably postponed next year.
- c. Yellow Jacket unit on the news in Albuquerque about aerial drone ignition... did it happen?
- d. Able to do bigger burns only after other thinning or burning work – can we aim for that model in Pagosa to sell to the public that we are covering a lot of acres – easier sell than 100 acres.

10:00 - 10:15 Finances

- e. Matt Ford met with Carolyn Moller at MSI about finances, will report out next meeting with a quarterly report
- f. Still open to more people on the committee!

10:15 – 10:30 Recent Events

- a. Bridging the Divide:
 - a. 100 people across two events (90 and 55)- successful.

- b. Should it be Headwater's "big event" when we're working on the other side; can we focus on another event to address Archuleta County?
- b. Folk Festival: tour numbers were low- maybe we can rethink that part, but tabling was successful

10:30 – 10:35 **Citizen Science Program**

- a. Being piloted in Columbine District, but can be applied in Pagosa Springs; incorporates GIS mapping with students
- b. Pagosa Open Lands school also in preliminary stages of developing long term monitoring of stream health (and maybe forests)

10:30 – 10:55 **Setting the stage for evaluation and planning into the future**

- c. Dutton Timber Sale is a great potential project- could be revisited. Would protect Dutton Ditch in Fourmile area, near property, popular driving loop, lots of data by forest service already done, mostly mixed conifer with some pine and spruce
- d. Series of focused meetings needed: planning presentation with SJNF looking closely at maps, Education Meeting, Science & Monitoring Meeting
 - a. **October 19**, 9am-12pm, 3 our targeted planning meeting
 - i. What has been accomplished (prioritization, projects etc.)? How do we move forward & build upon that work?
 - ii. Bring maps: previous work completed, FS maps of other projects:
 - iii. Organizational 360- Al Myatt's daughter helps with strategic planning- how to utilize local measurements and data.
 - iv. Steve H.: SJNF could map all areas treated in GIS (have lots of that) with time signature – would help see what type of reentry or new entry each project would be
 - v. Jerry Archuleta has used mapping with the SJNF a lot- would be helpful to extend that to our whole area.
 - b. **November 16** meeting: education opportunities targeted meeting (including cit sci).
 - c. **December 14?**: Budget meeting