



San Juan Headwaters

FOREST HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership Virtual Meeting Agenda for Friday, April 17, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting – Join via Zoom (link distributed via email to Partners)

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

VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA: STRATEGIC PLANNING PART 1

9:00 – 9:10 Welcome and Introductions, Zoom Use

In Attendance - Aaron Kimple (MSI), Dana Hayward (MSI), Emily Swindell (MSI), Herb Grover (Audubon Rockies), John Porco (Volunteer), Bill Trimarco (WAP), Emily Hohman (TNC), JR Ford (Pagosa Land Company), Tim Leishman (San Juan National Forest), Matt Ford (Clean Forest Energy), Robin Young (CSU Extension), Mercedes Siegle-Gaither (NRCS/CSFS), Keith Bruno (Audubon Rockies), Justin Ramsey (Pagosa Water), Jerry Archuleta (NRCS), Doug Secrist (Volunteer)

9:10 – 9:30 COVID-19 Updates

- Aaron Kimple (MSI)
 - FACA Committee for CFLRP selected
 - Shows that they are prepared to make decisions, which is good news
 - Hopefully decisions will be reached soon
 - Applications in for Rio Chama and San Juan areas
 - CSFS and NMSF
 - Continue to make progress on their Forest Action Plans that should be completed sometime in June
 - RMRI
 - No funding source yet
 - In the process of designing governance and processes
- Tim Leishman (USFS)
 - Have been delayed in some work, but will get back in the groove on Pagosa and Columbine districts next week
 - Filed projects and logging, are good to go on Jackson Mountain and Coyote Lake
- Jerry Archuleta (NRCS)
 - Moving forward with work, just slower than normal
 - Field work going forward and thinning continuing
 - Projects won't be approved and start until June or July or August
- Mercedes Siegle-Gaither (NRCS/CSFS)
 - Can now have 2-3 people conducting forest inventories
 - Conducting Zoom meetings with landowners
- Bill Trimarco (WAP)
 - CAFA program (low income mitigation)
 - Open again, no responses yet
 - Completing 1 project now from last year
 - WAP
 - Admin shut down, can't do any work
 - Maybe doing site visits again through Fire Dept on donation basis
 - Headwaters logo on assessment sheets? – Yes!

- Robin Young (CSU Extension)
 - Have been in the office and volunteering with the Archuleta County COVID information call center
 - Great work going on with Food Coalition 4 Archuleta County
 - Statewide CSU
 - On hold until May 17th, possibly June 30th
 - Working virtually but will hopefully return to face-to-face interaction in June
 - Programming and 4H on hold, not sure what's happening with County Fair but will follow suit with rest of state
- JR & Matt Ford (Pagosa Land and Clean Forest Energy)
 - Moving forward with contracts and projects
 - Bringing in other companies to help with Jackson Mountain, projected to start April 27
- Keith Bruno (Audubon Rockies)
 - As there is no set date for when schools will be back in session, May programs are not happening
 - Audubon Rockies follows Audubon National protocol which has cancelled all summer camps through June
 - **Hoping bird monitoring will move forward**
 - Keith to offer a birding-by-ear segment in May
- Emily Hohman (TNC)
 - TREX cancelled for spring
 - Moving forward with TREX planning for the Fall
 - Taking risk management approach and coordinating with Brad Pietruszka (USFS San Juan NF Fuels) about doing TREX in Pagosa Springs in the fall

9:30 – 9:45 Agreement with Mountain Studies Institute

- Review of updates to the agreement
- Annual agreement processes
 - Finance committee as signatories representing the SJHFHP
 - MSI has been working to ensure changes in the agreement accurately reflect the partnership and we want to make sure this group is comfortable with the finance committee being reviewers and signatories
 - Ensuring that the agreement is up to date and all information is current
 - Finance committee discussion, solicit additional members
- SJHFHP group discussion
 - *Group response: Yes*
 - **Next steps – agreement to be signed for this year by finance committee, MSI ED and board member**

9:45 – 10:15 Strategic Planning: Looking into our Past

- Overview of strategic planning process
 - Extended process that will span beyond just this meeting
 - Using old strategic plan as our guiding document today
 - what's working and what needs adjustment going forward
 - Though this group has been in existence since 2009, you have something valuable to add to this group regardless of the amount of time you've been involved
 - General functionality (to be worked on in May)
 - Committee structure, specific goals and jobs

- Website update sometime in June that will require some maintenance
- Timeline activity: Key moments/points in the evolution of the SJHFHP: to be compiled into a full, digital timeline.
 - Identify why these are pivotal including categories, context, and core values
 - ***Events without a specific timeline, unknown date, or that are ongoing***
 - Forest Service organized a meeting with Thurman Wilson and Tony Chang (CFRI's 1st involvement) where JR presented information on biomass and, as a group, it was discussed what we wanted to do in Pine forest, not just Mixed-Conifer.
 - Harris Sherman (Colorado DNR, Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA) site visit helped get traction in Region 2
 - Annual spring planning sessions
 - Ability to show we were/are working together to address community issues on a landscape scale and across boundaries
 - PSHS & other citizen science initiatives
 - Involvement from PSHS students on Res Hill resulted in the 1st buy-in from the county and the town
 - Southwest Water Conservancy District funding
 - 1st \$10,000 to get us going and helped showcase the importance of forest, fire, and, watershed issues and their connectivity
 - Fires and Natural drivers
 - Sand and West Fork as well as regional and country wide fires drew funding and attention
 - Bark beetle outbreak
 - Science
 - A lot done through Forest Service partnership
 - Mapping: wildfire severity, resources at risk, forest-type, smoke (this map should be highlighted in newsletter!)
 - Sites and tours
 - USFS put together 4 sites and outlined Tx to do in those areas as well as water resources involved
 - Kick started public involvement
 - Planning and prioritization around key watersheds and resources allowed for connectivity and specificity
 - Helped secure joint chiefs
 - Reservoir Hill
 - Took time in bringing it to the community; ed and outreach really moved this project forward
 - Signage
 - Bluegrass information and tour
 - Fire Science Network video
 - Turkey Springs
 - Demo – 1st time we agreed what was acceptable in Pine Forest; demo given as a part of Julie's work which included soil compaction issues and results before/after
 - Gave confirmation work could be done without compaction being an issue
 - Environmental groups and partners decided that a saw component was favorable after this demo
 - Chris Mountain: 60 people in 20 cars

- Citizen science
 - Connectivity with local government
- 4 mile project
- Bridging the divide x3
- Public Smoke-talk
- Cloman Park
 - Monitoring programs
 - initial cuts were key
- *Events with specific timelines and dates (pair and compare with timeline)*
 - 2009
 - Established as Mixed Conifer Working Group
 - 2010
 - 1st CFLRP opportunity presented; discussion that the group wasn't ready; inspired group to do leg work to ready themselves for next CFLRP
 - 2012
 - Pagosa Area Long-Term Stewardship award
 - 2013
 - Became SJHFHP (formerly Mixed Conifer Working Group)
 - 2015
 - Joint Chiefs Project
 - Jim Hubbard and Vicki Christianson invited to tour cross-boundary work and soon thereafter cohesive strategy dollars were secured
 - Planning and prioritization of key resources and watersheds we wanted to work in helped secure Joint Chiefs
 - Bridging the Divide #1, to the west (after West Fork Fire)
 - Four Mile Tour after West Fork Fire
 - Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change at Jackson Mountain
 - 2016
 - 2017
 - Bridging the Divide #2, to the east
 - South Fork Site Visit – West Fork fire started on Pagosa Ranger district, then jumped the divide
 - Built relationships into the future and shared discussion and education of what the West Fork Fire event meant to our communities
 - Rio Grande Water Fund investments in the Blanco and Navajo Basins
 - Anthony's presentations to the Colorado Native Plant Society
 - 2018
 - Low Income Mitigation Program (CAFA)
 - RCPP investment in the Blanco Basin
 - 2019
 - Bridging the Divide #3, back to the west
 - Beginning of monitoring partnership between Headwaters/USFS/MSI
 - Huerto Creek a culmination of Forest Service work with MSI and mixed-conifer management and work with CFRI

- Fall TREX
- June: Initiation of Bird Monitoring project with Weminuche Audubon and Audubon Rockies
- CFRI collaborative evaluation
- Bark Beetle Talk & Tour with Dan West and Amy Lockner
- Turkey Springs
 - Fire mitigation tour
- Anthony's presentation to the Weminuche Audubon Society
- 2020
 - CFRI collaborative evaluation
 - Science Summit meeting
 - Working with CSU students to complete a situation assessment for the collaborative
- 2021
 - CFRI collaborate evaluation

10:15 – 10:20 Break

10:20 – 11:20 Strategic Planning: What now?

- Reflection on short, intermediate, and long-term outcomes from 2015 strategic plan
- Action items in **dark red**
 - Short-term
 - 1. Treat acres on the ground in areas around vital community resources
 - WUI
 - These areas have been prioritized for treatment
 - Have done a great job here and around Stevens, 4-Mile, ditches and reservoir areas
 - **Could do more around water resources**
 - Water resources
 - Fourmile diversion has become a priority for the Forest Service as it's a vulnerable and difficult reach
 - **Acres above Dutton ditch should be on our radar *short term or intermediate goal moving forward?**
 - *Have we moved the needle forward on this and is it still important to have this in our plan? – Yes*
 - 2. Make the community aware of the threats of wildfire
 - Community = Pagosa area and surrounding communities
 - Ongoing effort
 - Most people are aware of the risk
 - **Work more on communicating and emphasizing the connection between watershed health, forest health, and fire**
 - Social license and engagement - **must develop a strategy for keeping the public engaged even in wet years with low activity**
 - Headwaters plays a role in this, **but teaming with “partners”, like Resilient Archuleta and WAP, can help keep community awareness high**
 - Field trip series and **adding more opportunities to get folks in the field keeps us on track with this outcome**
 - ***FUTURE short-term goals**

- Do a better job at marketing and creating awareness of our organization to maintain relevance
 - Continuous maintenance with treatments
 - How do we figure out what gets prioritized every year
- 3. Identify priority areas for securing vital community resources
 - 1 and 3 seem related
 - #1: doing the work on the ground
 - #3: identifying area
 - Short-term goals have become a roadmap because they haven't changed
 - Led to some work on private lands
 - Annual evaluation process has intended to keep us up to date on this goal, but maybe a more structural/formal review on a regular basis is in order
 - Gives water district voice to FS
 - Start **wildfire awareness in schools** early
 - Getting information across to teachers; i.e., incorporating more of this topic into the Forests to Faucets workshop is critical
 - *Do we feel accomplished in this and do we want to keep planning and meeting about where work occurs on the ground? – Yes*
- 4. Identify issues associated with treatment
 - This goal was created when we were thinking of Reservoir Hill and the potential roadblocks to treatment rather than outcomes, so it's a subset of #1, doesn't need to be a main goal anymore
 - For Res Hill, data presented to stakeholders earned us the social license to prioritize and complete more work in the town of Pagosa
 - Bird communities
 - One of the objectives of the bird monitoring project was to address an impression by some that treatments had a negative impact on bird communities
 - Our findings indicate that this is not a concern over the mid to long term, only right after treatment (if at all)
 - Key point: we don't need #4 in this area any longer
 - #4 is more of a process than a short-term goal
 - **Replace** with a deliverable/something more specific like increasing focus on educating partners
 - Plus: **add monitoring post-treatment**, i.e. Turkey Springs & birds
- 5. Establish a collaborative process
 - Done well internally but **we need wider reach and engagement in community**
 - Agreed: we've done well getting major players and organizations to talk to each other, but our **weakness is community outreach**
 - Need to **recruit more diverse stakeholders** locally

○ **Intermediate**

- 1. Reduce the intensity of wildfires in identified priority areas
 - Challenging because we won't know until fire returns to that area

- Densities have been reduced, but more work could be done
- Seems that #1, #2, and #3 are all the same thing, and they all still need work;
 - These points almost on par with short-term goals and can be adjusted/geared towards a more general notion of developing resilience (sort of summed up in #3)
 - Prescribed fire stays as #1, but could reduce Intermediate Goals to 3 or 4 bullet points
 - #1 #2 #3 could be combined into scientific/quantifiable processes of success
 - Reword to more explicitly highlight the need for social license
 - We'll never be done identifying areas to reduce wildfire risk but making a connection to potential impact on fire danger is a good piece to improve upon
- Should look for **scientific data** that could suggest we've reduced severity of future wildfires based on the work we've completed
 - **Monitoring need**
- This group should continue to work to mitigate the negative impacts of prescribed fire to the community
 - Education
 - Hepa filter programs
- 2. Protect water resources and water quality (combine with 1)
- 3. Transform the community to make it more resilient (combine with 1)
- 4. Demonstrate the need for more advanced treatments (i.e. prescribed burns)
- 5. Assist with the development of wood harvest economics
 - In better shape now than in 2015
 - Still work to be done, especially in **finding outlets for Ponderosa pine**
 - Would still like to see **more small-scale industry**
 - **Not quite ready to take off the list – maybe this turns into some short-term specific goals for wood harvest**
- 6. Have an established collaborative group of land managers and community representatives

○ **Long-term**

- 1. A community awareness of the challenges of living with wildfire in the southwest
 - Successes here speaks to the continued relevance of this group, our maintenance in education and outreach, and maintenance of collaborative processes
- 2. An established process for vetting the needs and concerns of the community
 - **Not a robust "Community Representative" group involved**
 - Resilient Archuleta trying to fill this role but maybe need to achieve more through one of our partners
- 3. An open dialogue of issues with treatment and wildfire and water quality
- 4. An established process for continued collaboration
 - *Continue to expand partners? - Yes*
 - **Diversify funding sources**

- We don't want to forcefully broaden our group
- We're a group independent of federal control and must be perceived as so

- **NOT ADDRESSED AT APRIL MEETING** (for May)
 - Outputs and Outcomes: What are we measuring and how
 - Mission, vision and value
 - Culture of Consensus

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

- Land managers planning meeting for SJH geography to occur late April
 - Friday April 24th
 - Using an updated reference map, we'll look at work is slated for this year, where there are challenges and projects overlap, and opportunities to collaborate
 - Will bring map back to group with discussion points
- Website input requested
 - Looking into home page and how navigation tabs are organized
- Newsletter to come in May, request for content
 - Bring whatever content you'd like to share with group, personal *or* professional
 - IE: virtual training for bird work
 - May be forwarded and posted in PLPOA newsletter and/or website
- CLTL students to produce examination of partners and committees including strengths and opportunities for growth
 - From CSU: creating final report on our partners, structure, and how they feed into each other
- Virtual Earth Day celebrations and activities in Pagosa
 - More information on Resilient Archuleta and Headwaters page
 - Spread the word!

- Resilient Archuleta – 3 great virtual opportunities to celebrate
 - Monday April 20, 6-8pm: 1 CoCoRaHS presentation (community weather network) Peter Goble will be giving talk about weather monitoring
 - Wednesday April 22, 6-8pm: Steltzer talking about climate virtually

- Friday April 24th 6-8pm: live showing of films originally at GGP film festival

Zoom Information:

Mountain Studies Institute: Forest Health Program is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: SHJFHP April Meeting

Time: Apr 17, 2020 09:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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