



**San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership
Virtual Meeting Notes for Friday, January 22, 2021**

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Regular Meeting: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

In attendance: Dana Hayward (MSI), Aaron Kimple (MSI), Emily Swindell (MSI), Mandy Eskelson (MSI), Herb Grover (Weminuche Audubon), Jimbo Buickerood (SJCA), Doug Secrist (SJWCD), Bill Trimarco (WAP), Mercedes Siegle-Gaither (NRCS/CSFS), Larry Lynch (PLPOA), Matt Tuten (SJNF), Matt Ford (Forest Health Co), Steve Hartvigsen (retired), Ed Miller (Montezuma County SW Roundtable, Inter Basin Compact Committee), Caleb Stotts (CPLA)

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

9:00 – 9:10 Welcome and Introductions

9:10 – 9:45 Updates

- Collaboration and Public Participation SJNF
 - Spectrum of Public Participation SJNF internal document intended to guide how they approach and hold themselves accountable for public communications
 - 4 Levels of Interaction with different aligned actions
 - Collaborative facilitation feedback at a January meeting
 - Still a draft document
 - SJNF interested in what's already working and how they can integrate those processes so we're all speaking the same language
 - SJNF employees attending 3-day workshop through University of Wyoming (Haub School of Environmental and Natural Resources Ruckelshaus Institute) first week in April led by Dr. Jessica Western (CFLRP round 1)
 - FS working on shared understanding of processes across the agency, in concert with RM Region Strategic planning staff
 - Funding for collaborative facilitators to participate in training March 2-3, more to come
 - Funding drives the Agency, will this work be funded and supported moving forward?
 - Is this a National effort?
 - SPP and IAP2 comes out of International Association for Public Participation. Connected to efforts in Region 2 and SPP spectrum being discussed and utilized by other national forests and examined by the RMRS
 - National USFS recognition that working with local stakeholders and collaboratives is necessary.
 - Figuring out how to create culture of collaboration between FS and local collaboratives and how to align initiatives that come from higher federal and regional levels with local input

- SJNF has 3 forest collaboratives + watershed collaboratives and it will be important to define interactions, space and culture
 - Beyond the check box on grant applications
- CFLRP
 - Call for pre-planning participants
 - Goals (rough outline)
 - Develop plan to attract and retain 3rd party facilitator to lead stakeholders in developing governance structures for CFLR
 - Deciding how to fund position, writing PD, putting out RFP, selecting facilitator
 - Pre-planning participants become stakeholders along with others after this is accomplished
 - Think through how we work together and with Forest Service to get work done on the ground through activation and implementation of the CFLRP
 - Please fill out Doodle Poll or volunteer directly to help with this effort, first meeting to happen during 1st two weeks of February
 - Valuable to have a Headwaters representative in addition to Dana
 - Mark Loveall expressed interest in the CFLRP and wants to get CSFS involved.
- Outdoor Restoration FORCE Act and Joint Chiefs Legislation
 - Small group met earlier in January, notes and feedback sent to John Whitney on Jan 21, passed along to legislative team
 - Building relationships so we can advocate for local interests and needs at various levels of government
 - No longer outdoor Restoration Forest Act, new name forthcoming
 - Goal is for this act to be part of the upcoming infrastructure package associated with the new administration
 - Criticisms
 - Didn't directly address Joint Chiefs and cross boundary work
 - Separate Act being worked on that addresses Joint Chiefs (later)
 - 3rd piece of legislation specifically for CFLRP (later)
 - If codified in law, all of these will work together in service of forest and natural resource management initiatives
- 2-3-2: Request for SJH landscape prioritization process and description at Jan 27 meeting
 - Headwaters to give a brief overview describing prioritization processes and descriptions of focal areas including *How* and *Why* specific parts of our landscape are a priority
 - Dana to send an all call to partners to request specific information to bring forward
 - Rio Chama CFLRP prioritization includes our landscape
 - Some of the work may already be done in the 2-3-2 footprint and CFLRP project footprint
 - Incorporate our prioritization processes and locations into the larger landscape

- Partners working together to do the right work in the right places and the landscape and tell the story of that work
- Pagosa District will have 2 CFLRP projects happening at the same time
 - Must think about 2 different engagements
 - Rio Chama in Northern NM and Rio Grande NM (4 Forests)
 - Anything outside of SE quadrant of district will be tied into SW CO CFLRP (3 districts, 1 forest)
 - Unique set of processes with, in some cases, completely different set of stakeholders
 - RMRI not happening directly on Pagosa District, removing some complexity, to align somewhat with SW CO CFLR
 - Important for stakeholders of this group to bring forward desired outcomes and sense of what we want to accomplish through both of these programs as we move forward.
 - What is our message and what are our goals? SJH wants to see x, y, z change on the landscape
 - Headwaters group needs to think through CFLRP, desired work, monitoring, and outcomes
 - Critiques from CFLRP Review Panel: almost none of CFLRP proposals described what they wanted to accomplish different than what we were already doing
 - Important to think about where we want to be in 10-12 years?
 - CFLR Infrastructure spending objectives
 - Have we strategically considered where to integrate roads and trails into the work we know we want to do?
 - We consider Tx objectives as a group, but may need to consider where we want to emphasize infrastructure development or maintenance based on what is best for the community
 - Roads are a good jumping off point to show County Commissioners and officials the benefits our collaborative brings to the community
 - When and where can we align interests?
 - Roads facilitate Tx that requires wood removal, and roads need to be maintained
 - Forest management + Road maintenance considered together
 - Infrastructure spending for roads and trails in both CFLRS, but unclear how this will play out on each as infrastructure is expensive
 - RC will be especially interesting with 4 Forests sharing the resources
 - SJNF received ~1.5M from Great Outdoors Act for work on Piedra Road (last FY) to support Agency work in this area
 - Opportunity to show multiple benefits: road, recreation, resource for infrastructure spending makes us competitive. Link roads to forest health objectives

- to attract more funding and resources
 - Travel Analysis Plan (completed years ago) looks at every segment of every road in the forest, available online
 - Uses, needs to maintain, decommission, build, type of vehicle use
 - A roadmap to provide guidance and intention
 - Often aspirational because it costs so much money to accomplish objectives outlined in the plans
 - Multiple use will make us more competitive for meeting objectives in the travel analysis plan by leveraging CFLR funding
 - Is there an established method for prioritizing use of available future funds? If there is discretion, how can Headwaters provide input and bring forward community needs
 - Interaction, structure, decision space
 - Complex interactions and prioritization processes
 - Identifying outcomes and defining what success means will lead to goals associated with road investment and allow us to build a monitoring plan that measures success (social, economic and ecological wellbeing)
 - Need to develop process where place-based collaborative groups are engaged in prioritization processes and applications
- Partner Updates
 - IBCC and SW Basin RT (Ed Millard)
 - Colorado airborne snow observatory workshop
 - ASO flights give a good idea of snowpack
 - Cloud Lidar picture of forest structure
 - Tool to better understand forest water nexus
 - Dave Moser doing work on Rio Grande using these technologies
 - Different modeling options
 - Use of Lidar data to start calculating forest openings and wildfire impacts on snowpack and SWE
 - Coming up at Roundtable and among other stakeholders, these technologies are a start at getting a more comprehensive understanding of the interaction of forest structure and SWE
 - Pilot program being done in Roaring Fork area
 - ASO been going to different basins
 - Denver Water trying to figure out funding for more flights in SW CO and the Western Slope.
 - Need to do work to optimize modeling
 - Dolores and San Miguel is week in this area. Gunnison is further along
 - Biggest problem: lots of funding needed for these flights.
 - Team in Gunnison working cross-collaborative modeling
 - Weminuche Audubon (Herb Grover)
 - 2020 Christmas Bird count

- 70+ volunteers (increase of 20), a tremendous turnout
 - 67 species, ~1500 birds counted
- Pagosa Wetlands Partners (committee of WA)
 - Paying attention to land use policies in Pagosa to ensure wetlands along SJ River Walk are not adversely affected by proposed development, engagement with city council
 - If interested in this initiative, contact Herb as this group would love to benefit from your expertise
 - Article in the Pagosa Sun (published Jan 21) is a great introduction to this group.
- Keith Bruno and Jean Zirnhelt are good contacts for Pagosa Wetlands
- SWIF - Southwest Wildfire Impact Fund (Aaron Kimple)
 - Model to be used across the region, continues to evolve
 - Leveraging local investment and offering opportunities to do more work on private lands
 - Legislation going forward to state of CO
 - SWIF exploring using CO Water Power Authority to hold a bond. Have had authority to do this for forest health work for ~10 years that hasn't been tapped into yet. Authority ends 2023 so legislation is being put forward so they can continue to be eligible to hold bonds
 - Authority being drafted between LPC, City of Durango and other partners
 - Special Forest Districts
 - Work on private lands and forests district by district
 - Focus on private lands work and private lands partners (e.g., WAP)
 - Considerations of how to manage implementation
 - Working through some prioritization in concert with RMRI and other partners, especially involving cost-benefit analysis of where work will be most productive
- Upper San Juan Water Enhancement Partnership (WEP) (Mandy Eskelson)
 - Watershed assessment preliminary results from project partners Lotic Hydrological and San Juan Conservation District to be available soon
 - Waiting for data and interpretation
 - Partner input and ongoing data and information needs
 - Hoping to share with general public at meeting at end of March
 - Headwaters partners and Pagosa Wetland Partners will be important audiences to reach
 - Would like to inform Headwaters about Phase III project goals this spring
- SJCA (Jimbo Buickerood)
 - Administration change impacts
 - Not seeing any significant changes thus far relating to Dept of Ag and FS (mostly DOI and EPA)
 - One Department of Agriculture change with impacts in AK
- PLPOA (Larry Lynch)
 - Continuing to plan work with owners on forest health and thinning in PLPOA
 - Continuing work with WAP
 - Working with PAWSD regarding potential water restrictions, drought conditions, and dam infrastructure issues/challenges

9:45 – 10:00 2020 EOY Review

- Reflect on 2020, looking forward into 2021
 - Same questions posed in 2020 as in 2019, as well as years prior for comparison
 - Raw data will be made available to all partners
 - Consider ways to improve internally and working with partners, also factor in outside challenges
 - Sample size
 - 2019: 6 respondents
 - 2020: 6 respondents
 - Feedback valuable regardless of the number of respondents
 - The Group Advanced its Mission
 - 2019: avg = 4.3 stars
 - 2020: avg = 4.2 stars
 - Group Meetings and Activities Moved our Initiatives Forward
 - 2019: 4.3
 - 2020: 4.2
 - How do we take 4.2's and move them to a 5? Where are we lacking in moving our mission and activities and meetings forward?
 - Out Project Work Advances Group Goals
 - 2019: 4.8 stars
 - 2020: 4.5 stars
 - Feedback
 - Getting through the pandemic will help
 - Surveys valuable, and if we're falling short, self-reflections help us think through what we can do better
 - Always feel free to reach out with insights about what we can do better to ensure we stay relevant and move our initiatives forward
 - Top 3 Success
 - 2019: CAFA, Education, Collaboration
 - 2020: CFLRP, Weminuche Audubon partnership, improved budgeting process and timing, CAFA, legislative activities, Jackson Mountain Tour
 - Top 2 Organizational Assets
 - 2019: Aaron, diversity, partners, collaboration
 - 2020: members, science engagement, partners, diversity of stakeholders, cooperation and civil discourse
 - Feedback: Dana's focus on facilitation is valuable, not having one person's name demonstrates balance and organizational health
 - How Did We NOT Meet Our Goals?
 - 2019
 - Rx fire
 - Unfinished watershed assessment
 - Monitoring, evaluation and sharing of data
 - Did not increase new partner participation
 - Failed to secure financial support from local government
 - Did not get far enough along with CFRI/CSU
 - Did not coordinate well between committees
 - 2020
 - Not enough community outreach (COVID)
 - How can we be creative and innovative in outreach,

but also not swing so far in a direction and dedicate too many resources to new modes of communication that may have diminishing returns post COVID

- How can we change our behavior to meet some of our goals, after we evaluate and make sure we want to stick with the same ones. Consider capacity and what we are able to control
 - WEP and Headwaters discussing newsletter info opportunities
 - WEP may develop an ArcGIS Story Map in Phase III projects, allowing WEP to offer some support to Headwaters for outreach
 - Not enough independent fundraising
 - Need to broaden local outreach and build membership
 - Committees were not fully engaged
 - Limited public outreach and education (COVID)
 - Need more funding
- Top 2 opportunities
 - 2019: Education, Funding, Branding
 - 2020: CFLRP, Funding, Science engagement, CO State Forest Health Advisory Committee, Grants, WUI work
 - Framing involvement with CFLRPs
 - Monitoring was not called out
 - Partners to Add or Involve More
 - 2019: Audubon Rockies, San Juan Outdoor Club, Pagosa Peak Open School
 - 2020: Pagosa Springs, Southern Ute Indian Tribe
 - Both Years: Archuleta County, CPW, Pagosa Fire Department
 - Quarterly report to BoCC? Brainstorm with Steve H. about continued county engagement. If you have actionable ideas to build relationship with county, reach out.
 - Introduce Warren Brown to our initiatives and mission
 - Goals for Annual Review
 - 2019
 - Reflect on past successes
 - Concise end of year report to share with partners
 - More community science
 - More public education and engagement
 - Better understanding of future opportunities
 - Look at finances relative to multi-year spending
 - 2020:
 - Honest feedback
 - Strive for continuous improvement, especially when it comes to public funds
 - All partners participation
 - Provide valuable input
 - Ensure other SJNF collaboratives benefit from SJHFHP experiences
 - Realistic 2021 goals
 - Reflect on successes and challenges
 - Learn something new

- Continued involvement
- Should we open the survey back up and target specific partners that didn't have a chance to respond? Important to also include those who have an outside perspective
 - Survey is still active. More information strengthens it, but we'll also take what we can get. Will send out another reminder to rope in more participants.

10:00 – 10:15 2021 Budget and Action List

- 2021 Action List
 - Align funds available to actions and activities
 - Did we miss anything? Prioritize something that should not have been?
 - Other Facilitation: add education and outreach, also include member thank you's
 - Final Cohesive report to document accomplishments, share stories and make recommendations for applications of similar funds in the future.
 - Value to other collaboratives, the USFS, investors, consider audiences
 - Lessons learned from SJH
 - SJH will have an opportunity to review the report, and you may be involved in creating it as a partner.
- 2021 Draft Budget Discussion and Approval
 - Approval granted by partners present
 - If you need more time to review the budget or have questions, reach out to Dana by next Friday January 29
- 2021 MSI agreement and IDC rate
 - Updated agreement to be sent to MSI Board President, MSI ED and SJH finance committee signatory to formalize agreement between Headwaters and MSI for 2021
 - Please contact Matt Ford with any feedback or questions about the agreement
 - The indirect rate for 2020 decreased by less than a 10th of a percent compared to 2019
 - Designated by federal government, Matt Ford can provide an outline of this process if partners are curious

10:15 - 10:45 2021 Science Forum

- We value incorporating science into our group values, operations and actions, so it's important for us to share and discuss scientific data coming from our landscape
 - More of an internal event this year vs. last year
- 2020 field season monitoring results
 - Mixed conifer data from Pagosa Creek and Huerto being processed and is at an intermediate point as work with CFRI is being done
 - Analysis incomplete at this time, forest inventory analysis data to be used here also, report available summer/fall
 - Current conditions/ pre-Tx data (out Plumtaw road just west of Williams Reservoir)
 - Contracts are awarded, operator out of Salida, operations to start spring 2021 beginning on Pagosa Creek, then moving to Huerto
 - To monitor post Tx
 - Currently a baseline about cool moist mixed conifer is available for presentation and discussion, compliments data collected at ASCC sites in 2020 (both apply to mixed conifer forest types)

- ASCC is also pre-Tx
- Spatial heterogeneity, patterning and mosaics
 - Groupy/clumpy concept
 - Mike Remke willing to produce a literature review
- Other topics of interest
 - Monitoring protocols and any recommended changes
 - Is our monitoring collecting the data we want to evaluate to answer the questions we're asking?
 - What are the right things to monitor, are we monitoring the right things?
 - CFRI perspectives
 - Outcomes and questions to think through future monitoring programs. What are our specific questions (build monitoring program around this)
 - Forest restoration and water, current status of the literature outside of our landscape
 - Make resources available, what literature exists? Shallow dive to start
 - TNC created an initial white paper on this topic
 - Lots of opportunity to explore this topic more
 - Sarah Goeking synthesis is a good starting point
 - MT study looking at forest structure and snow accumulation and retention
 - More modeling needed locally to capture complexities, applies to whole CO River Basin also
 - Can we design forest treatments that improve water cycling without harming other interests?
 - Engineering, science and politics all challenging in this area
- Goal is to schedule the forum in early March, more details to come

10:45 – 11:00 Closing, Next Steps, Other Business

- Turkey/Devil Creek scoping reminder (Comments due by Feb 1)
- Jackson Mountain recreation development opportunity
 - DUST2 funds from BoCC to look at developing a recreational trail system on Jackson Mountain
 - FS interested in exploring the opportunity, no commitments made yet
- Online presence, Newsletter in February
 - Working to connect with POAs and other distribution channels
- Strategic plan update
 - 2020 work, but updates continue
 - Part of general coordination
- Dana to make her workplan available to the full partnership
 - Based on the budget and action items

