



San Juan Headwaters

FOREST HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership Virtual Meeting NOTES Friday, May 21, 2021

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Regular Meeting: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

In Attendance: Dana Hayward (MSI), Aaron Kimple (MSI), Emily Swindell (MSI), Tim Haarmann (Banded Peak Ranch), Bill Trimarco (WAP), Bob Milford (Pagosa Area Trails Council), Emily Hohman (TNC Fire Learning Network), Doug Secrist (San Juan Water Conservancy District), Jerry Archuleta (NRCS), Keith Bruno (Audubon Rockies), Matt Ford (Forest Health Co.), Matt Tuten (SJNF PRD Silviculture), Helen Katich (Senator Hickenlooper SW Representative), Ed Millard (Montezuma County SW Round Table SW rep on IBCC), Nick Olsen (SWCC), Joshua Peck (SJNF PRD Ranger), Lo Williams (SJNF)

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

9:00 – 9:15 Welcome and Introductions

9:15 – 10:00 Partner Updates

- WAP
 - FRWRM proposal
 - State grant process for fuels treatments
 - Latest application via WAP was expanded to cover Hwy 184 corridor (small divisions + larger acreage work)
 - If fuels work completed to standards, private landowners reimbursed 40%
 - Expanded because new CAFA grant for this area was denied
 - Added capacity for larger acreage to supplement EQUIP funding
 - Letters of support from SJHFHP + other partners
 - CAFA
 - Low Income Program operated for last 3 years
 - 12.5ac parcel to be completed once mud has cleared, very thick with small diameter and oak brush
 - One more small job in aspen springs, have until September
 - Low-income mitigation for free
 - Wildfire Preparedness Month
 - WAP Webinars
 - 2 webinars for realtors
 - 2 for general public
 - Upcoming Monday May 24: 12-1pm: “Defensible

- Space”
 - CSFS has updated guidelines **update Resources tab on Headwaters website*
 - Chipper Rebate Program
 - 50% rebate for costs of chipping associated with mitigation (5 counties)
 - Cost Share Mitigation Program open to residents of Pagosa Lakes
 - Spread the word!
- Weminuche Audubon
 - 2021 Summer bird monitoring starts tomorrow, May 22
 - Trainings earlier this month got team set up to monitor in Fawn Gulch, Turkey Springs, and Jackson Mountain
 - ~25 active volunteers
 - Open invite to Headwaters partners to join in the field
 - Bird species inventory opportunities and expansion
 - Working with Tim Haarmann at Banded Peak
 - Jimbo Buickerood with SJCA for work in the HDs
- Pagosa Area Trails Council
 - This year
 - CPW Grant
 - Work with SCC crews, have already started clearing trails
 - Additional funding from Rocky Mountain Region and SJNF
 - Ordered new signs for trails and junctions
 - San Juan Outdoor Club
 - Adopting part of CDT, work with Ranger District to clear and repair trails
 - Ranger district needs more horses, raising funds to restore herd
 - <http://pagosatrails.org/>
 - Try to update and add trails
 - Can add comments regarding fallen trees, etc.
 - Water sample with local ranger district at West Fork; 12 trips to sample Rainbow Hot Springs in summer 2021
 - Connect with Rob Lambert
- San Juan TREX
 - Signed SPA for funding for another TREX/cooperative burns
 - Tied to TNC Master Participating agreement, so good through 2024
 - If more funding becomes available, can amend
 - Agreement supports another formal 2-week TREX or cooperative burn
- SJWCD + PAWSD
 - Jointly own property east of town intended to develop off-stream water storage project (ongoing)
 - 2023 PAWSD and SJWCD will take over ownership of properties (has been tied up in lease agreements with previous owners, up in 2023)
 - Mgmt. of properties: CPW recently announced initiative to ID potential state park sites

- Doug Secrist to submit CO State Park nomination with PAWSD board support
 - On Hwy 160, near Weber
 - Unique opportunities: basin for reservoir, river access, campgrounds, hiking trails
- SW Wildfire Impact Fund
 - SWIF
 - Continue to think through association with LPC and City of Durango with potential to grow other partners and build a model that can be carried elsewhere
 - Originally more partners engaged, now have reduced partners, and working closely with them to think through putting investments into private lands planning and work
 - Setback with elections: new councilors, county commissioners need to be oriented
 - Governor Polis signed bill that allows local communities to define forest special mgmt. areas and work with comm to address and work in those areas
 - Partly influenced by SWIF work
 - Seeing special working group between county and city to talk about how to proceed with SWIF model
 - Tx model and plan
 - Using HVRAs (Highly Valued Resources and Assets) model from CFRI
 - Refining for local application to figure out how much money to invest and where
 - Question: treatment model and strategies originally had gaps. Will there be a public facing document to see changes that have been made from the original?
 - Report forthcoming
 - Original critiques were about legitimacy of \$/acre estimates for Tx types and the amount of Rx fire in the plan, which the community may not be ready for
 - Rx fire continues to come forward as an important tool
 - Think through mastication and small diameter biomass utilization also
 - Biomass and small diameter material continue to be big question marks
 - Model showing combination of thinning + Rx fire + other treatments to be most effective
- SJNF
 - Turkey Springs EA
 - Comment period has ended, thank you everyone for feedback
 - Overall positive reaction to project
 - Brockover Mesa

- 2020 Prescribed fire in 2020
 - Fire effects ideal, reduced potential for crown fire
 - Potential site for field tour
 - Jackson Mountain
 - EA in the works that will include trail work and veg management as high priorities
 - Active operations
 - Harvesting in Jackson Mountain
 - Hwy 84 Buckles Lake Rd near NM border
 - Pagosa Creek operations beginning
 - Field tour in 2019
 - Upper Piedra (log trucks on Piedra Rd. most of summer)
 - Mastication in Upper Blanco/Lefthand Road and Echo Canyon Road
 - Oak brush and white fir
 - CPLA is funding forestry work in Navajo and Blanco Basins this summer
 - Mastication in Banded Peak in Price Lakes Road area (oak)
 - Banded Peak has contract with Montrose mill, hope to have 400-500 semis of logs coming off ranch this summer
 - Potential work on FS side adjacent to Banded Peak work, Tim and Matt to discuss
 - Rx Program wrapping up for spring
 - Accomplished 400ac on Pagosa district
 - Successful Rx season overall, didn't finish all targeted acres but made progress
 - Lightning fire in Pag Springs ~1/10th ac, managed quickly
 - Partnerships
 - Agreement season is done – April 30 end of this in R2
 - Renewing agreements, funding secured
 - Exception: master agreement with FLC
 - SJNF hasn't historically had a paper agreement with FLC, but have worked with FLC informally in the past
 - Working on largescale agreement to help with programming and other opportunities
 - Taking place over next 6mo
 - New gap funding for headwaters work just finalized – very appreciative of that support!
- NRCS
 - Contractors in woods
 - Projects in Fourmile close to Hidden Valley and Echo Canyon Ranch
 - ~30 mgmt plans for forest mgmt work in Archuleta County
 - Personnel
 - Forester stationed in Durango can also help in Archuleta County
 - Kyle O'Neill starts next week – fully transitioning to NRCS
 - Jerry Archuleta has a new position
 - Moved to area office, less direct involvement with Pagosa

Moser (NM USGS), Seth Mason (Lotic Hydrological), Abby Burk (Audubon Western Rivers Coordinator)

- Want to choose folks with most experience with our forest types and elevations
- Banded Peak working with Ryan Webb (UNM) and Bureau of Reclamation to install instrumentation on the ranch to quantify the impacts of forest treatments on water availability
 - Dave Moser has been in on this too
- Gunnison RT had forest water nexus presentation recently, lots of interest
- Good opportunity to bring commissioners into discussion more

10:00 – 10:30 SJHFHP News

- Welcome Joshua Peck, new Pagosa District Ranger
 - Looking forward to meeting everyone and hearing thoughts and concerns about public lands
 - Reach out via phone or email to schedule a meeting or just chat
 - Joshua.p.peck@usda.gov; 970-264-1520 (O) 928-707-9992 (C)
 - From Cortez, CO started FS career on SJNF on Dolores District; Forestry school, Black Hills NF forester in Spearfish South Dakota; Medicine Bow-Routt Forest in WY; deputy district ranger in Flagstaff; now here on the San Juan
- Earth Day outcomes
 - Saturday April 24 2021, Pagosa Springs Earth Day Fair
 - Bill Trimarco and Dana Hayward in-person event with WAP pop-up and table
 - Lots of interactions with public, positive event
 - More engagement than other outreach events, 100+ people
- Legislative
 - Senator Hickenlooper Meeting Friday, May 14
 - SJHFHP represented along with DWRF, 4Rivers, SJCA, Timber Age Systems, FLC President, Ellen Roberts with SWIF, county commissioners from San Juan, San Miguel, Ouray, Hinsdale, La Plata, Montezuma, Dolores
 - Apply pressure to the county for missing this meeting with talking points
 - Bill is on work session agenda on Tuesday
 - We are doing a good job and leading the way for collaboration here in the SW
 - Helen Katich overview
 - Spirit of collaboration in the SW stood out to the senator
 - Commissioners come together with forest experts to problem solve
 - How do we bring back direct asks to ensure they're handed to legislative staff in DC
 - Circle back with asks about how congressional work can support what we do here in SW CO

- Thank you for clear asks
 - Thank you to senator for participating and to Helen for organizing
 - Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Act of 2021 introduced Thursday, May 13
 - Thank you to Headwaters partners for review and quote in support
 - Senator Bennet working to enshrine Joint Chiefs funding and programming into law to offer more consistent funding
 - Much of the interest and energy Senator Bennet had for putting bill forward came from Pagosa visit Fall 2020
 - Successful Pagosa Joint Chiefs project in 2015
 - ORPA Outdoor Restoration Partnership Act also moving forward
 - Thank you to Headwaters partners for review
 - Need to identify defensible space as funding need
 - SRS funds
 - Proposal asked for collaboration support
 - FS CSFS under shared stewardship
 - We all acknowledge the need for collaboration, need fiscal support to deliver on that
 - Local groups and community members is where rubber hits the road! Local groups activate funding and make it productive.
- Funding and Budget
 - Q1 Finance meeting a success
 - Move some funds in CAFA for defensible space work
 - Mixed conifer synthesis in progress and to be completed summer 2021, report late summer/early fall 2021
 - Town of Pagosa Springs (ToPS) request, FRWRM set up, CAFA funds, cash, NFF, other funding
 - Haven't heard back yet, but hopefully WAP and SJHFHP will be funded by ToPS
 - FRWRM
 - North of town properties
 - Working to set that up
 - WAP put in a proposal for highway 84 area and Headwaters provided a LOS, as opposed to expanding current project
 - Cash account looking good
 - Planning cash flow and donations to keep funding for a 50% coordinator each year at the end of the year
 - NFF Matching Awards Program; on-ground stewardship work in Bayfield and Pagosa Springs
 - Must be public lands and *quantifiable*
 - DUE: June 9
 - Value-added aspects to get highest consideration:
 - Meadows and invasives, forest health, watersheds
 - Programs/projects are integrated
 - Improvement of outdoor experience for visitors
- Education and Outreach summer planning to move forward
 - Cycling and hiking tours, funding for curriculum development
 - Get committee together to plan this and other events

10:30 – 10:45 June meeting/tour planning

- 100% support to meet outdoors in June
- Tour opportunities and/or meeting location
 - Viewing intersection of work on the forest and other community values
 - Work is occurring across the district in all forest types and at all elevations (pine to high elevation spruce-fir)(fire, mastication, harvesting)
 - Opportunities to see harvests
 - Jackson Mountain
 - lot of work with variety completed since last summer
 - Intentionally target specific interest groups (county/town staff, parks and rec, recreation community)
 - Most action and dynamic changes
 - Engage recreation folks: PATC, SJOC, OHV etc. (BCH, other)
 - Cater tour topics to get people involved. Get more general community understanding of what we're doing, where were doing it and why, that's a win!
 - DUST2 tourism committee funds for trail planning
 - Buckles Lake Rd
 - Lower elevation, similar to Kenny Flats area, not as much to see because it's a smaller project
 - Preparation for contract in Upper Rito if want to see this
 - Brockover Mesa
 - Especially post-burn to review fire effects
 - At end of summer will be able to see completed work in Pagosa Creek
 - Lots of ongoing monitoring in this area
 - August/September

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

- Written feedback for San Juan Science Network Proposal
 - Sent via email, still open for feedback
- Mixed Conifer Synthesis to be ready for Partners late summer
 - Forthcoming
- CFLRP Key Indicators feedback opportunity Friday, June 4, 9am-11am
 - June 4, 9-11am: Partner feedback meeting **tentative meeting time*
 - This meeting is replacing the May 24th meeting
 - Template for feedback forthcoming
 - Stakeholder feedback on monitoring, based on CFLRP projects in our area how do we want to quantify over time
- Review doughnut framework concept
- Cross-collaborative funding in process, RFQ to be distributed
 - 3rd party facilitator TBD start date mid-July
 - Governance and communication structure development
 - Have submitted proposal to LPEA

Meeting End 11:05am

