



San Juan Headwaters FOREST HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership Meeting Notes for Friday, July 22, 2022

In Attendance: Dana Guinn (MSI), Julia Ledford (MSI), Aaron Kimple (MSI), Anthony Culpepper (MSI), Laura Hanna (MSI), Josh Peck (SJNF), Bill Trimarco (WAP), Bob Milford (PATC), Herb Grover (WAS), Keith Bruno (WAS), Matt Ford (Pagosa Forest Products, Clean Forest Energy), Allan Pfister (Upper San Juan WEP), Christi Bodi (Moxiecran Media), Steve Hartvigson (retired USFS), Doug Purcell (CPW), Toby Rowher (local business owner)

NOTES

10:00-10:10 Welcome and Introductions

10:10-10:30 Partner Updates

- [Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program](#) (CWDG)
 - The CWDG is funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and is intended for communities and tribes to protect themselves against the risk of wildfire. The grants can be used for two types of projects:
 - Developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans
 - Implementing projects described in an existing Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that has been updated within the last 10 years.
 - Archuleta County updated their CWPP, which opens the door for opportunities to apply for funding for projects.
 - Wildfire Adapted Partnership seems like the best applicant.
 - Applications for bigger and more extensive projects will be prioritized, so if you are applying for a CWDG please [reach out to Bill Trimarco and Dana Guinn](#) to discuss how your project might fit with an existing application.
- Pagosa Forest Products (PFP)
 - The long-term stewardship contract between SJNF and Pagosa Forest Products was terminated this spring. PFP will use a different contracting method with SJNF called BPA, which is a more traditional contract in which PFP will bid against others for projects.
 - Pagosa Forest Products applied for BPA on Jackson Mountain.
 - PFP will also apply for a BPA contract for the ASCC plots on Jackson Mountain that might be cut this fall.
 - Ongoing work:

- The property owners are expanding the already 225-acre project on Trujillo.
 - 100 acres up Fourmile will be done this fall.
 - Increasing interest from private landowners is a good source of work following the termination of the long-term stewardship contract with SJNF.
 - The Plumtaw Fire is an incentive for private landowners to justify spending the money.
- Chris Pitcher contracted to do evaluations in the Lower Blanco Area.
 - Overall, the stream restoration project was a success.
 - There are some repairs to be made to existing infrastructure.
 - How could WEP contribute?
- Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP)
 - WEP is waiting to hear back from the Bureau of Reclamation about funding for a new Coordinator.
 - Dana Guinn is currently serving as the Coordinator, after Mandy Eskelson moved on.
 - WEP has a few ongoing projects, but is mostly operating on an informal basis in the meantime.
- Mountain Studies Institute
 - Aaron Kimple, Director of Forest Programs, is moving on to work with the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes (SWERIs). His last day at MSI is today, August 19th.
 - MSI is developing a proposal with The Nature Conservancy to create a Fire Learning Network (FLN) for southwest Colorado.
 - The FLN will serve three purposes:
 - Develop capacity for prescribed burning
 - Pile burning, especially in La Plata County
 - Coordination of the SJNF Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TRES)
 - This FLN will coordinate with the Rio Grande FLN to increase learning across the state line.
- San Juan National Forest
 - There is an opportunity for Headwaters to be involved in an integrated ID team for Price Lakes Planning.
 - This will be kicked off with an intent meeting for the ID team to do some field recon and identify values and concerns for the area.
 - Big thanks to Josh Peck, the Pagosa District Ranger, for this unique opportunity!
- Pagosa area Trails Council (PATC)
 - PATC will clear 5,000 trees from trails and 95% of trails by the end of the field season.
 - This will be the third year in a row that the group has cleared this many trees.

10:30-10:45 Regional Initiatives

- [Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Program \(FRWRM\)](#)
 - Headwaters has funding from FRWRM that needs to be spent by 2024 on private lands work.
 - FRWRM was intended to backfill behind the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP) when the NRCS didn't have many of those grants available.
 - Consider where this funding could be applied within its existing geography.
 - Hidden Valley Ranch?
 - Need to think about how many projects should be funded and how big they would be.
 - Originally, FRWRM was intended to be used for on the ground implementation, but it was recently re-configured to be more flexible for coordination and planning.
 - The funding could be used for Headwaters.
- 2-3-2 Meeting
 - The 2-3-2 Cohesive Strategy Partnership hosted a full partnership meeting on August 10th in Pagosa, followed by a landscape tour and follow-up meetings on the 11th.
 - 65-70 people were involved over the two days.
 - The full partnership went on a tour to learn about Price Lakes, the Banded Peak Ranches and the Oso Drainage.
 - The focus was on water infrastructure.
 - Visiting Price Lakes and Banded Peak Ranches set the stage for a cross-boundary project in the area.
 - MSI and other partners met with the (SWERIs) to discuss potential involvement in this area. This is an ongoing conversation.
 - Folks also met to work on the development of the Rio Chama CFLRP multiparty monitoring plan.
- Southwest Colorado CFLRP
 - A full stakeholder meeting is slated for August 31st, from 2-4pm in Durango (also virtually).
 - Progress to date and approaching deadlines:
 - Each of the Committees has formed and elected a Chair
 - There are 3 at-large seats on the Coordinating Council, the governing body of the SW CO CFLRP. These will be elected at the full stakeholder meeting on August 31st.
 - The workplan is due to the Regional Office on October 4th.
 - The Science and Monitoring Committee will be developing a multiparty monitoring plan.
 - Priorities, values and desired conditions have already been described by the Collaboratives and RMRI.
 - They aren't going to reinvent the wheel. The Rio Chama monitoring plan can be used in tandem.
 - Other CFLRs have shared resources from their existing monitoring plans.
- CWDG

- [Contact Bill Trimarco and Dana Guinn](#) if you are interested in submitting a proposal.
- CWDG will fund up to \$10 million and big projects are prioritized!

10:45-10:55 SJHFHP News and Events

- Plumtaw Fire film
 - Christi Bodi from Moxiecran Media will create a film that focuses on the role of the Partnership in increasing decision space during the fire.
 - The Plumtaw area was identified by the Partnership as an area in need of work and was not previously identified as an area of concern by SJNF.
 - The film will be a solution-focused piece of visual literature to gain traction with partners, funders and decision-makers.
 - Headwaters and Christi will apply for additional funds to increase the depth of the project.
 - There will be a distribution and marketing plan for the film to get it the air-time it deserves.
- SJHFHP Mapping
 - Overlay Potential Operational Delineations (PODs) with existing priorities to align with efforts from the rest of SJNF.
 - Include WEP's top projects.
 - Will send out a draft map for review.

10:55-11:00 Upcoming SJHFHP Events and Next Steps

- Tours
 - Plumtaw Fire
 - Tentatively September 30th
 - Press will likely join and Christi will be filming
 - Jackson Mountain
 - October
 - Look at potential changes to the work plan
- Meetings
 - Finance Committee meeting in September
 - MSI is making internal changes and streamlining processes. They will have a report completed sometime in September.
 - Next SJHFHP Meeting November 17
 - Be on the lookout for a recurring calendar invite for the 3rd Friday of the month.
- Partner Events
 - Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network regional forum on September 1st in Durango.
 - The Network is part of the Center for Collaborative Conservation, housed at Colorado State University.
 - This is a new iteration of forums for this Network that is intended to connect collaboratives with resources and to each other. It will also provide the opportunity to talk directly

with Dan Gibbs (Executive Director of Colorado Department of Natural Resources) and Governor Polis.

- [Learn more about the regional forums here.](#)
- [Sign up for the regional forum here.](#)