



San Juan Headwaters

FOREST HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Meeting Agenda & Notes for Friday, January 20th, 2023

Location: Pagosa Ranger District Office 180 Pagosa St. Pagosa Springs, CO (Hybrid Available)

Meeting time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Attendance: Dana Guinn (Coordinator, Mountain Studies Institute), Julia Ledford (MSI), Anthony Culpepper (MSI), Laura Hanna (MSI), Alex Handloff (MSI), Bill Trimarco (WAP), Dick Ray (Backcountry Horseman and Colorado Outfitters Association), Ian Hopkins (NWTf), Tony Baker (San Juan River Village), Keith Bruno (Audubon Rockies), Caleb Stotts (CPLA), Mike Remke (FLC), Dave O’Keefe (San Juan River Village), Kyle O’Neill (NRCS), Matt Ford (Pagosa Forest Products), Mike Battaglia (RMRS), Danny Margoles (DWRf), Bob Milford (Pagosa Area Trails Council), Jimbo Buickerood (SJCA), John Rader (SJCA), Adam Tlachac (SJNF), Josh Peck (SJNF), Lo Williams (SJNF), Kevin Emde (SJNF), Matt Tuten (USFS)

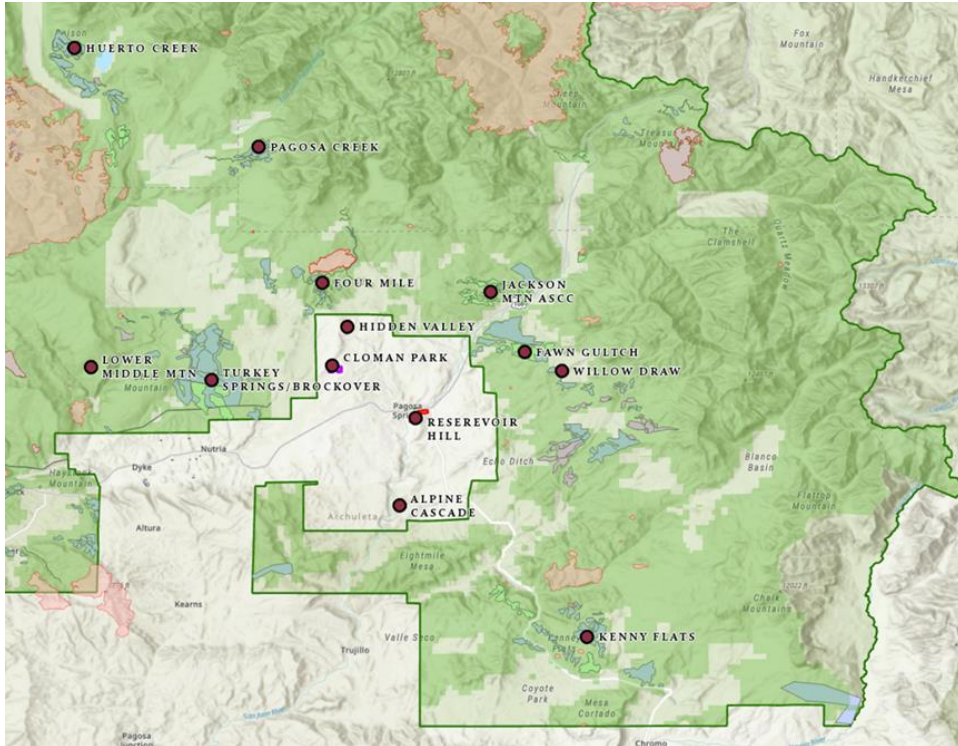
MEETING AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and introductions

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

- Overview of research and monitoring to date
 - o Types of monitoring
 - Implementation monitoring: did the contractor implement the treatment like they were supposed to?
 - Effectiveness monitoring: are the effects of the treatment what we expected?
 - Most of the monitoring that has been done in the Pagosa area has been effectiveness monitoring
 - Monitor values such as wildlife, invasives, range issues, soil and community attitude
 - Tied to a set of desired conditions, which usually comes from an EA
 - o Monitoring helps us understand if we are actually helping to reach those desired conditions or not
 - Ecological monitoring: how did the ecosystem respond to the treatment?
 - More long-term, in-depth questions.
 - o Monitoring is not research
 - Think about what questions we are asking and what level of precision we can get
 - Don’t monitor just for monitoring’s sake
 - Will get data that doesn’t produce any answers

- Monitoring is low-budget, researchers can get tons of money for their projects
 - o Many different tools and methodologies
 - Ground cover
 - Fuels
 - Want to make sure that everything we measure is tied back to values that were identified and articulated in desired conditions
 - Site photos: a picture is worth a thousand words



- o Brockover/Turkey Springs, ASCC, Pagosa Creek, Huerto Creek, Fawn Gulch, Kenny Flats, Fourmile (Shared Stewardship and Joint Chiefs), Lower Middle Mountain
 - Looked at the soil impacts post-implementation at Middle Mountain in 2019
 - With support from Julie Korb at Fort Lewis
 - JR Ford did work at Fourmile and Cloman
 - Joint Chiefs work with Fred Ellis
 - Lots of mastication
 - Turkey Springs and Brockover have had prescribed fire and monitoring has been done for pre- and post-treatment
 - Pagosa Creek, Huerto Creek
 - Started to ask some big questions: how did treatments affect the landscape?
 - Worked with CFRI to create a more robust monitoring protocol
 - o Developed the MSI Space Station protocol
 - Now being used for monitoring on the Dolores District
 - Designed to be able to add modules as needed
 - Works well in the mixed conifer ecosystem
 - Monitoring protocols need to be adaptive

- Don't know how effective the monitoring protocol has been for Pagosa and Huerto because post-implementation monitoring hasn't been done yet
- o Cloman Park, Res Hill, Hidden Valley Ranch, Alpine Cascade Ranch
 - Monitoring in Cloman Park for outreach and education
 - Attempted to develop a citizen science monitoring program
 - Josh Kurz has done work on Reservoir Hill
 - Private land participation in Hidden Valley
- o The Weminuche Audobon Society (WAS) has conducted extensive bird community monitoring across the Pagosa area
- o Reports from monitoring efforts over time can be found on the Headwaters website
 - Don't have interim report for Huerto and Pagosa Creek, since monitoring is not complete

	Location	Protocol	Tx Type(s)	Tx Year(s)	First mon. visit	Last mon. visit
USFS	Fourmile	Transect photo/line/PCQ; Space Station beta test; CFRI	Overstory; small dia.	2013	2013/14	2014/15; partial 2019
	Turkey Springs/Brock-over	Point photo/line/PCQ (w/ char)	Mastication/Rx fire	Mx 2015; Rx cont.	2015	Full 2017; post Rx 2020
	Fourmile	Point photo/line/PCQ	Mastication	2015/16	2015	2017
	Kenny Flats	Point photo/line/PCQ	Mastication; overstory	2015/16	2015	2017/18
	Fawn Gulch	Point photo/line/PCQ	Mastication	2015/16	2015	2017
	Willow Draw	Point photo/line/PCQ	Mastication	2015/16	2015	2017
	Pagosa Creek	Space Station	Overstory	2020	2019	2019
	Huerto Creek	Space Station	Overstory	2021/23	2019	2019
	Jackson Mountain ASCC	ASCC	Overstory	~2024	2020	2020
Non-USFS	Alpine Cascade	Soil compaction, PCQ/fixd (15 m)	Overstory	2012	2011	2012
	Cloman Park	Transect w/ PCQ; early cit. Sci.	Overstory; small dia.	2013	2013	2015
	Hidden Valley	Transect w/ PCQ	Overstory; small dia.	2013	2013	2013
	Reservoir Hill	JD's class, early transect	Overstory	2010s	2014	

- 2023 Research and monitoring questions and needs
 - o Huerto Creek has the longest history
 - Planning was done in 1997
 - Got contracted and never completed

- Has been under contract for years with a mill in Montrose
 - One of the most productive contractors in the whole state
 - Industry challenges
 - Graying workforce, not a lot of young people coming in
 - Capacity challenges
 - Complicated forest, ranging from spruce-fir to ponderosa pine
 - Hopefully treatment will be complete by fall 2023
 - Post-implementation monitoring to follow
- o Pagosa Creek planning done in 2010
 - Went through the NEPA process, never got completed
 - A key objective of this project is to provide forest products
 - Different from objectives of the previous 10-20 years
 - Wanted to make sure that efforts were sustainable and reached goals
 - Not a lot of people were doing this at the time
 - o No treatment on this landscape since the 1970s
 - Working hard to ask the right questions
 - Worked with folks from the University to make sure they were asking the right questions and checking their assumptions
 - Treatment completed in 2020
 - Contractor was able to move the product
 - Went to Huerto next, couldn't finish that project because they couldn't find people to transport product
 - Learned a big lesson in industry economics
 - Needs post-treatment monitoring this summer
 - Initially thought that monitoring for both projects would be done together, but Huerto Creek never got completed
 - o Will cost more to monitor these separately
- o Brockover/Turkey Springs
 - Due for post-implementation monitoring this summer
- o Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC)
 - Site on Jackson Mountain is one of 14 other sites across the US and Canada
 - Other sites being installed in Colorado
 - o Gunnison National Forest
 - o Colorado State Forest in spruce-fir
 - Measure the full ecosystem response to treatment and climate change impacts
 - o Want to bring in other interested parties who can collect information about other ecosystem components
 - o Will be tracking meteorological data
 - The goal is to provide managers with approaches to incorporate climate change impacts into their management
 - o See long term impacts of climate change
 - This is a collaborative research project with land managers, researchers and scientists
 - o Headwaters can ask Mike Battaglia if there is any other data we want to collect at the ASCC sites

- Collected pre-treatment data in 2014/15, shrub measurements collected in 2020
 - If the treatment isn't done soon, we will need to do another round of pre-implementation monitoring
 - Soonest that it will be cut is Fall 2024
 - There will be time to gather pre-treatment data on other ecosystem components this summer and next summer
 - Three different treatments along a gradient of adaptation strategies
 - Each about 25 acres in size, 4 replicates of each
 - Small scale, but robustness will give inferences about mixed conifer
 - Protocols for monitoring are similar across all different sites so they can all be compared
 - Considering the use of new technologies/remote sensing to be used in concert with monitoring
 - Wade Tinkham and Mike Battaglia from the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) are talking about how drones can be used, and if we can pull it off.
 - How can Headwaters help make that decision?
 - Reservoir Hill
 - Resubmitted NFF grant proposal for funding on Reservoir Hill and other projects
 - Josh Kurz's class is well set-up to continue monitoring on Reservoir Hill
 - Hoping to connect with the Town of Pagosa Springs to talk about the ongoing plan to manage the area
 - Southwest Basin Roundtable approved proposal for additional funds for snowtopography network

Communicating Priorities

- Promote model for the Pagosa Ranger District
 - Introduction
 - PROMOTE is a landscape model
 - Already in development for the Rio Chama CFLRP
 - Rio Chama CFLRP covers part of the Pagosa Ranger District
 - Building in a little bit of a buffer area to cover ripple effects of the CFLRP
 - Now covers all of PRD
 - Landscape-scale model that integrates climate data and the 10 “Pillars of Resilience”
 - Assesses landscape conditions across chosen pillars
 - Pillars are modular, don't have to use all of them
 - Rio Chama is using all 10 pillars
 - Assesses management strategies
 - Identifies priority areas
 - Example: Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative
 - 2.4 million acres
 - Compared to Rio Chama, which is larger than 3.81 million acres with the buffer
 - Incorporates 6 out of 10 pillars
 - Forest resilience

- Fire dynamics
 - Fire-adapted communities
 - Biodiversity conservation
 - Carbon
 - Economic diversity
- o Outputs:
- Conditions and recommendations
 - Adapt: departed now, within target future
 - Monitor: within target now, within target future
 - Transform: departed now, departed future
 - Protect: within target now, departed future
 - Impact score from -1 to 1
 - What areas:
 - o Fall outside of our desired conditions
 - o Can be treated to meet desired conditions
 - Unit prioritization
 - Ranks assigned by impact score
 - TCSI used HUC-12s (small watershed)
 - Rio Chama will also be using HUC-12s
 - Could use any boundaries
 - Very impressive maps
 - <https://sierranevada.ca.gov/what-we-do/tcsi/>
 - northcoastxy.com/tcsi/#
- o The State of New Mexico did a separate prioritization exercise with HUC-12s, extends into southern Colorado
- Will be interesting to compare the outputs, coordinate efforts in high priority areas
- o What we will need from you
- Future and ongoing projects
 - “Local” data
 - Laura will provide more information about what “local” data looks like, and what she needs specifically
 - Local socioeconomic data
 - Local water quality data
- o If Headwaters is interested in employing PROMOTE, there will be decisions to make about:
- Desired conditions
 - Can use Rio Chama’s desired conditions or come up with our own
 - Pillar selection
 - Rio Chama is already using all 10, can use fewer if we want
 - Units
 - Can use HUC-12s or different units
- o Next steps
- [Contact Laura](#) with any questions

- Jackson Mountain EA comment period and engagement
 - o Scoping period open until February 23rd
 - o View the [virtual tour of Jackson Mountain](#), created by MSI staff to share community experiences and knowledge surrounding the variety of activities on Jackson Mountain
 - o Check out the [SJNF story map](#) for more details on the proposed actions.
 - o How to submit a comment:
 - [Submit a comment through the SJNF website](#)
 - Attend the public open house on February 2, from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Ross Aragon Community Center, South Conference Room, 451 Hotsprings Boulevard in Pagosa Springs
 - Mail your comments via USPS or sent via courier (UPS/FedEx) to: *Pagosa Ranger District – Jackson Mountain projects, PO Box 310, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147*
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)
 - o Southwest Colorado CFLRP
 - Working on communication structures, protocols
 - Dana represents Headwaters on the Coordinating Council, which governs the CFLRP
 - Communicates concerns and perspectives of Headwaters
 - o Rio Chama CFLRP
 - Has a different structure than the Southwest Colorado CFLRP
 - The 2-3-2 Cohesive Strategy is the single collaborative entity named in the proposal
 - The Executive Committee of the 2-3-2 acts as the governing collaborative body for the Rio Chama
 - Working on developing a multi-party monitoring plan
 - Interested in learning more? Tune in to the February 8th 2-3-2 meeting in Taos, New Mexico 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
 - Join via Zoom:
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87557115051?pwd=dVIMNWEvRTNHVWZLYklqZCt0aWdpZz09>
 - [Contact Dana](#) for a calendar invite, including the physical location of the meeting and the agenda
- Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program (FRWRM)
 - o Mercedes Siegle-Gather and Dana worked on a FRWRM proposal in 2020, received funding
 - o WAP has been doing work
 - o CSFS will do pre- and post-monitoring on these projects
 - Free of charge to us, something that CSFS wants to do on this project so they can learn and understand the effectiveness of their grant program
 - o Funding runs out in spring 2024
 - o WAP is working with NRCS to devise a plan for 200 acres of private property to use the last of the FRWRM dollars
 - 2 properties by the airport
 - Were interested in EQIP but weren't eligible, glad they got FRWRM
 - 60% reimbursement for 60 or 70 acres

- This is a lot for private lands work
 - Close to town
 - Adjacent to landowners who have also done work
 - Close to Cloman Park project
 - Strategic placement
 - General technical report (GTR) 310 specs on at least one of the properties
 - How many trees come out
 - Radical change to the Ponderosa landscape
 - Extensive thinning
 - Typically, property owners are reluctant to remove that many trees
 - Access is an issue
 - Hopefully the project will be done this summer
- Community Wildfire Defense Grants (CWDG)
 - o Waiting to hear back about proposal
- 2023 mapping and planning meeting
 - o Dana will be scheduling meeting
 - Difficult meeting to plan because everyone needs to be there
 - o Land managers send spatial data to map efforts across the landscape
 - o Has been effective to coordinate cross-boundary efforts
- Events
 - o 2-3-2 Meeting Feb 8 in Taos, NM
 - [Contact Julia](#) if you are interested in attending
 - o [Rio Chama Congresso](#) February 25th at the Ghost Ranch, near Abiquiu, New Mexico
 - Hosted by San Juan-Chama Watershed Partnership
 - Great way to make connections, build community, understand challenges and opportunities across our landscape
 - Working to blur the state line
 - o [CO Wildland Fire Conference](#) April 12-14 in Fort Collins, CO
 - o [Cross Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop](#) May 2-4 in Fort Collins, CO
- Partner Updates
 - o Wildfire Adapted Partnership
 - Working on FRWRM projects
 - [Story map](#) up and running
 - Numbers from 2022 in Archuleta county
 - 81 site visits
 - 68 acres treated with reimbursement money
 - o Within 200 feet of homes and driveways
 - Directly protected 24 homes
 - Worked on a few green belts – community projects
 - o Pagosa Lakes
 - o Protected around 60 homes with community projects
 - WAP applied for Community Wildfire Defense grants for fuel reductions, capacity support to pay Bill Trimarco
 - o NRCS
 - Signed new contract with landowner on ActNow funding for sunlight subdivision, close to Fourmile

- One of the only offices in the state to receive funding from this influx of federal dollars
 - Another full-restoration GTR 310 style project
 - Close to other projects, piecing together projects across the landscape
- o Fundraising
 - Dana will appear before the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) board to ask for continued support for Headwaters
 - Will also appear before the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) board to ask for continued support
 - Big thanks to Tim Haarmann and Banded Peak Ranch for their continued support
 - Also thanks to Matt Ford for his support
 - Any other ideas for financial support?
 - o Film about Plumtaw Fire will be premiered at the beginning of Wildfire Awareness Month (May)
 - Part fundraiser, part community education
 - Panel of people to talk about forestry and watershed work happening in the area and how they can get involved
 - Also planning to show the film in Durango
 - o Riff Raff Brewing having their 10th anniversary party on May 20th
 - Non-profits invited to table and fundraise
 - Headwaters will have a table

Wrap up and Next Steps