



Meeting notes for Friday, March 17th, 2023

Location: CSU Extension Office/Archuleta County Fairgrounds Western Heritage Events Center, 244 US HWY 84, Pagosa Springs

Regular meeting: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Attendance

- In person:
 - Dana Guinn, *MSI, Coordinator*
 - Matt Ford, *Pagosa Forest Products*
 - Robyn Young, *CSU Extension*
 - Adam Tlachac, *San Juan National Forest*
 - Matt Tuten, *Region 2 USFS*
 - Tim Haarmann, *Banded Peak Ranch, MSI Board member*
 - Adam Hershberg, *Studs Lumber Company*
 - Josh Peck, *San Juan National Forest*
 - Bill Trimarco, *Wildfire Adapted Partnership*
- Virtual:
 - Julia Ledford, *MSI*
 - Alex Handloff, *MSI*
 - Laura Hanna, *MSI*
 - Estevan Vega, *Colorado State Forest Service*
 - Bob Milford, *Pagosa Area Trails Council*
 - Herb Grover, *Weminuche Audubon Society*
 - Roger Jensen, *retired forester*
 - Veronica Medina, *Archuleta County Commissioner*
 - John Rader, *San Juan Citizens Alliance*

MEETING NOTES

Welcome and introductions

Southwest Colorado and Rio Chama CFLRP 2023 Projects

- CFLRP framing
 - Proposals and legislation
 - [Contact Julia Ledford](#) for copies of the Rio Chama and/or Southwest Colorado CFLR proposals

- The CFLRPs are specific to [legislation](#) passed by Congress and is intended to serve communities that are informed by collaborative land management recommendations.
 - The CFLRPs are available as a funding source and are available for this Partnership to utilize when and where it makes sense (on USFS lands).
 - Southwest Colorado CFLRP
 - Extends west from downtown Pagosa Springs to the Dolores Ranger District.
 - Governed by the Coordinating Council which is made up of:
 - Chairs of each of the 6 subcommittees
 - A representative from each of the 3 place-based collaboratives
 - 3 at-large representatives
 - This is year two out of ten years of these CFLRPs.
 - These processes will continue to improve.
 - The first few years of the CFLRPs will be heavily influenced by USFS planning, and more collaborative engagement is expected in the future.
 - Headwaters has been consistently involved in planning processes on the Pagosa District, so these projects shouldn't come as a surprise to most partners.
 - The focus of this discussion was driven by the Southwest Colorado CFLRP as the Coordinating Council and the Projects and Places Committee wade through the initial phases of project development and review.
 - The Coordinating Council directed the Projects and Places Committee to develop a tool to review projects.
 - The SJNF prepared a list of planned projects for 2023 for each District to present to the local collaborative group.
 - Josh Peck, the Pagosa District Ranger, will present the list of projects slated for 2023, funded by the Rio Chama and Southwest Colorado CFLRPs.
 - The Partnership will provide a gut-check about the planned projects to make sure that the projects are in line with the objectives of the CFLRP.
- Overview of 2023 Rio Chama projects and discussion
 - Funding is split between the four forests and collaborative facilitation (Forest Stewards Guild and MSI)
 - \$600k split evenly between the four forests this year
 - 2023 projects funded by Rio Chama CFLRP:
 - Hand thinning along the Valle Seco Road
 - \$20k for a conservation corps
 - About 2 weeks of time
 - Hand thinning, piling, firewood sources
 - Opal Lake
 - \$115k
 - Improvement of existing trailhead which sees a lot of use and has a heavy footprint of disturbance
 - Parking improvements
 - Sanitation improvements
 - Invasives treatment at 8 Mile Mesa
 - \$75k
 - Where mastication was completed last year

- SJNF mapped weeds on private lands, working with the County to treat on both sides of the fence
 - Road reconditioning of the Porcupine Road
 - \$425k
 - Graveling
 - Will support the timber sales along Mill Creek and Nipple Mountain
 - Road improvements benefit recreation, access in the case of a fire start, timber sales, etc.
- Other projects on the Pagosa Ranger District that are meeting the 2-3-2/Rio Chama objectives through other funding mechanisms:
 - Halfway Kenny timber sale
 - Rito Dos timber sale
 - Echo Canyon/Mill Creek prescribed burning
- The next landscape for planning will be in the Price Lakes area.
 - Manageable area of SJNF land that drains into the Little Oso, and then through the Oso Diversion.
 - Will work with landowners across the fence that are ready to treat.
 - The private ranches dwarf the chunk of public land in the Price Lakes area.
 - Josh wants to have an integrated ID team and a cross-jurisdictional planning effort.
 - This is the next step we need to take in Shared Stewardship.
 - Acknowledging that the Forest Service has a small slice of this pie.
- Overview of 2023 Southwest Colorado projects and discussion
 - Leftover funding from 2022 will fund some of these projects.
 - 2023 projects by the Southwest Colorado CFLRP:
 - Invasives
 - \$150k total for invasives this year
 - Target all invasive species but focus on a few (knapweed, thistle, etc)
 - First Fork Road on the west side of the District
 - Planned \$35k along the road corridor, trailhead, and along the trail
 - Jackson Mountain
 - Along with fuels and vegetation work
 - Focused effort to treat weeds throughout the treatment area
 - Mineral and Archuleta County agreements
 - Typically treat along road corridors
 - Williams Creek to Poison Park road resurfacing and reconditioning
 - \$725k
 - Supports timber sales in the Sand Bench/Mosca country
 - Provides access to vegetation management projects
 - Trail maintenance across the Pagosa District
 - \$20k for conservation crew
 - SJNF is short in seasonal staff, so this work will be hired out to a conservation crew
 - Vegetation projects

- The West Fork IRSC long-term stewardship contract will be re-offered
 - \$300k
 - Blanket purchase agreement contract
 - 170-200 acres
 - Turkey Springs
 - \$500k for continued fuels treatment
 - Mastication contract, 1,200 acres
 - Plan to facilitate continued prescribed burning
 - Collaborative funding for SJHFHP
 - \$75k
 - The Pagosa District is unique because they sell timber to big mills and smaller, mom-and-pop mills.
 - There is a need to continue producing a variety of products, not just pine.
 - Internal projects on the Pagosa District (not funded by the CFLRP)
 - Hand thinning and piles around PLPOA and Aspen Springs.
 - The Williams Divide South long-term stewardship contract will be re-offered as a timber sale.
 - Looking at addressing recreation in the East Fork.
 - This will be a long planning effort after Jackson Mountain.
 - SJNF is going through their work fair right now to develop their program of work for fiscal year 2024.
 - This is a good point to engage with SJHFHP about upcoming projects.
 - Can have this discussion at next month's Partnership meeting.
 - Process review
 - Each CFLR has their own set of desired future conditions.
 - Both sets were cross-walked with the Forest Plan(s).
 - These projects weren't a big surprise to Headwaters partners because they have been consistently engaged in the SJNF planning process.
 - It is unclear exactly how projects are reviewed and recommended for the Southwest Colorado CFLRP.
 - More clarity will come after discussions within and between the Projects and Places Committee, the Coordinating Council and the place-based collaboratives.

Monitoring

- 2023 monitoring
 - ASCC
 - 6-8 weeks; 112 plots
 - Supported by agreement with RMRS
 - MSI has the agreement through 2025.
 - MSI is hiring a field crew to support this monitoring.
 - Needs a crew lead that knows botany.
 - Positions will be announced by the end of March.
 - If you know anyone that might want to apply for this position, contact [Julia Ledford](#).
 - Forest inventory, understory, photos, invasives
 - Shrub monitoring completed in 2020

- Monitoring ecosystem processes and monitoring the effects of climate change.
 - More robust than effectiveness monitoring.
 - UAS aerial monitoring (drone monitoring) test site for mixed conifer
 - Multi-year contract will be released next year.
- Pagosa Creek
 - 2-3 weeks
 - Post-treatment monitoring
 - Funding source pending
 - Pre-treatment data review and QA/QC
 - Project effectiveness monitoring based on project intent and desired outcomes.

Planning and events

- Plumtaw Film event in May
 - ~8 minute film
 - Want to show the film in Pagosa on May 17th, the one-year anniversary of the fire start.
 - Will also show the film in other towns.
 - Lots of interest in the film within the 2-3-2 landscape.
 - Potential speakers for a panel discussion:
 - Brad Pietruszka
 - Mike Remke
 - Perspective of long-term planning from the USFS
 - Boots on the ground perspective
 - Community tie-in
 - Ecosystem science
- San Juan-Chama Project (SJCP) Contractors Association meeting in September
 - Group of folks that receive water from the SJCP diversions on the Pagosa District.
 - Newer group, formed to lobby in the water space.
 - Collects fees from water users.
 - Interested in working with the 2-3-2 Partnership, specifically around management of lands above the diversion.
 - Relationships are still forming.
 - The Contractors Association is hosting a meeting in Pagosa on September 14th and 15th.
 - Wants the 2-3-2 to help facilitate the meeting.
 - This is a good event to invite County Commissioners, Forest Supervisor, etc.
- 2023 Bird Monitoring season begins in April with trainings.
 - Hoping to plan a tour for the Partnership to participate in bird monitoring efforts.

SJHFHP and partner updates

- Partner updates
 - Wildfire Adapted Partnership
 - Website live April 10th for site assessments
 - Free
 - Home hardening
 - Chipper rebate program
 - End of April film panel of wolf issues and discussion
 - April 24th

- Colorado Aspen Association
 - Want to host a meeting in southwest Colorado
 - Working with Matt Tuten to plan the meeting
 - 30-40 people
 - 1-day meeting and tour
- SJHFHP Finance update
 - Headwaters cash: \$31,603.12
 - USFS SJNF Agreement 2022-2023: \$11,947.97
 - Other funding:
 - \$76,681 remaining in FRWRM (end date 4/1/2024)
 - Funds some of Bill Trimarco's time and will provide money to contract work for implementation.
 - \$77,187 remaining in RMRS ASCC
 - \$1,675 remaining in the Southern Rockies Fire Science Network fund
 - USFS SJNF Agreement:
 - Funded for 2022-23 at \$50,000, end date 6/3/2023 (23% funding remains with 21% time remaining)
 - Agreement modification in the works for 2023-24
 - Dana scheduling Finance Committee meeting

Closing and next steps