



Meeting notes for January 19th, 2024

Location: Timber Ridge Clubhouse and Zoom

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 am

Attendance: Alex Handloff (MSI), Bill Smith (MSI), Matt Ford (Pagosa Forest Products), Bob Milford (Pagosa Area Trails Council), Tim Haarmann (Banded Peak Ranch), Veronica Medina (Archuleta County Commissioner), Grant Breeden, Rob Hagberg (San Juan Water Conservancy District), Doug Secrist (San Juan Water Conservancy District), Bill Hudson (Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District), Dana Guinn (Forest Stewards Guild), Bill Trimarco (Wildfire Adapted Partnership), Matt Tuten (USFS), Adam Tlachac (San Juan National Forest), Josh Peck (San Juan National Forest)

Attendance (online): Estevan Vega (Colorado State Forest Service), John Rader (San Juan Citizens Alliance), Julia Ledford (MSI)

MEETING NOTES

Welcome and introductions

Partner updates

- Mountain Studies Institute
 - New Forest Program Director, Bill Smith
 - Bill received his masters degree from Colorado State University and a PhD from the University of Montana.
 - He most recently worked as a professor at the University of Arizona, where he did lots of work with proximal remote sensing (the use of sensors mounted on towers). He also worked with drones, which can be used in addition to on-the-ground monitoring techniques like forest plot monitoring and snowtopography.
 - He is excited to be working at MSI in an environment where science is applied in meaningful ways.
- Wildfire Adapted Partnership (WAP)
 - The Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) project is in motion.
 - Received an extension from Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) because the previous project fell through due to the landowner's health.
 - This project will reimburse two property owners for wildfire mitigation work on their properties.
 - The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)'s ACT NOW program is accepting applications until March 1st for work on private lands.
- 2-3-2 Partnership
 - The 2-3-2 Partnership is hosting a meeting on February 7th in Abiquiu, New Mexico.

- The meeting will be focused on adaptive management processes.
- San Juan National Forest/US Forest Service
 - Adam Tlachac participated in a reforestation training last week, which brought up several interesting ideas about assisted migration, planning for future climate scenarios and improving resilience in our forests.
 - A new nursery is opening in Mora, New Mexico, as a partnership between several universities that will fill an important gap for reforestation in the 2-3-2 landscape.
 - If there is ever an interest in starting small-scale nursery in or near Pagosa, Pagosa Forest Products has peat that could be used.
 - Kevin Khung, previously the District Ranger on the Pagosa Ranger District, will become the Director of State and Private Forestry in Region 2.

Reflecting on 2023

- Julia and Alex wrote and submitted an annual report to the San Juan National Forest.
 - The annual report will be summarized and shared with the Partnership.
 - Include pictures and infographics.
- What were the most impactful meetings, events or conversations?
 - All the tours were great. We should continue to think about how we remain engaged between tours and meetings.
 - Headwaters has had a big impact on the development of the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) and WAP's application was the only project selected in southern Colorado for the first round of funding.
 - It says a lot that people on the Front Range are talking about Headwaters, given it is in a remote and sparsely populated part of the state.
 - There are lots of grant applications (for any available grant) coming from this area.
 - The Headwaters Partnership has used grant money responsibly by adding monitoring to projects and showing the impact of the funding. This ultimately leads to more grant dollars.
 - We share our successes well and we are willing to talk about what challenges we are up against and what kind of resources we need to overcome them.
- Challenges
 - On-the-ground communication in Pagosa.
 - The new work plan outlines tasks to improve communication.
 - Need to establish more private and local funding sources for the Partnership
 - There is an open invitation to present to the Board of County Commissioners to request funding from Archuleta County.

Setting goals for 2024

- Potential tours
 - Recent fires: Chris Mountain or Trail Springs
 - Talk about decision-making during the fire event.
 - The Trail Springs area is part of a research study about forest health and fire, which adds another layer to the conversation.
 - FRWRM project
 - CSFS will be trying out new equipment

- Bring back Bridging the Divide (meeting with Rio Grande National Forest and SJNF), or start a new “Bridging the Forest.”
- Regeneration in the West Fork burn scar (which is now more than 10 years old).
- Host a joint meeting with the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership

Headwaters fact sheets

- A set of fact sheets is in development for the Headwaters Partnership in compliance with the Southwest Colorado Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), which is seeking information on priorities in each of the three-place based collaboratives that are nested within the CFLRP’s landscape.
 - The CFLRP has developed a set of desired future conditions (DFCs), which can be viewed [here](#).
 - Headwaters has delineated a set of priority areas called BLOBs (broad landscape opportunity boundaries).
 - The Partnership has been developing priority DFCs within each BLOB, which will be shared with the SJNF and used for planning projects in fiscal year 2025.
- The fact sheets are ready for review by the Partnership before being submitted by the SJNF for planning. Alex will send them out in an email.