



Meeting notes for Friday, April 19th, 2024

Location: Archuleta County Administrative Offices and Zoom

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 am

Attendance: Julia Ledford (Mountain Studies Institute), Anthony Culpepper (Mountain Studies Institute), Matt Ford (Pagosa Forest Products), Candace Jones (San Juan Water Conservancy District), Herb Grover (Weminuche Audubon Society), Dana Guinn (Forest Stewards Guild), Bill Trimarco (Wildfire Adapted Partnership), Bob Milford (Pagosa Area Trails Council), Larry Lynch (Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association), Christi Bodi (MoxieCran Media), Andy Spall, Adam Hirschberg (Studs Lumber Company), Danyelle Leentjes (Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership), Estevan Vega (Colorado State Forest Service), Ian Hopkins (National Wild Turkey Federation/NRCS), Josh Peck (San Juan National Forest), Adam Tlachac (San Juan National Forest), Matt Tuten (USFS)

MEETING NOTES

Partner updates and staffing updates

- Headwaters updates
 - Bob Milford and Matt Ford had a successful and productive visit to Aspen Springs, where they discussed opportunities for fire mitigation.
 - Aspen Springs doesn't have an HOA and there isn't a great way to contact everyone that lives in the area (no email list).
 - Homeowners are willing to do work on their properties.
- Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition (PARC, formerly Pagosa Area Trails Council)
 - Applying for a Regional Partnerships Initiative (RPI) grant through Colorado Parks and Wildlife to develop a recreation plan for the Pagosa area.
 - Asking for \$150k to hire a facilitator and develop the plan.
 - PARC has received lots of enthusiasm and support from the community so far, including many letters of support.
 - Headwaters will provide a letter of support for their application, which is due April 30th.
 - Julia and Alex will draft the letter and share it with the Oversight Committee before sending it to Bob.
 - This is the same pot of funding that San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) accessed to develop the Southwest Colorado Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (SCCORR) planning effort.
- Christi Bodi is creating a series of short videos about the headwaters of the San Juan River for the San Juan Water Conservancy District.
 - This will be a broad overview intended for the general public. Topics will include:
 - Water supply and the connection to forest health

- Water uses and needs
 - Threats and solutions
 - The videos will be solution-focused.
 - Headwaters partners may be asked to be featured in the video series.
- San Juan National Forest
 - There is potential for prescribed fire in the Turkey/Brockover area with a burn window in early May.
 - Closed on the V Rock property near Buckles Lake.
 - The SJNF is working with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) to deconstruct fencing.
 - This project has been a huge success and the SJNF is grateful for their partnership with RMEF.
 - Dana Guinn and Josh Peck will be speaking on a panel during the Wildfire Consortium on May 16th, 2-4 pm. Contact [Dana](#) for more information.
- Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP)
 - Working on a restoration project along the San Juan River, from Conoco to Day Lumber.
 - Although all land along the river is private, they are undergoing a NEPA process because they are utilizing federal funding.
 - Received \$1.1 million in grant funding.
 - The project will create low-flow channels utilizing process-based restoration, erosion mitigation and planting native species.
 - The result will look very different from the town stretch, which is designed for recreation. However, the result will have secondary benefits for recreation.
 - The goal is to create a healthier and more resilient river.
 - A public meeting about the project will be held on May 23rd. Contact [Candace Jones](#) for more information.
- Build Pagosa is hosting an auction on May 10th at the Community Center.
- Weminuche Audubon Society (WAS)
 - Just completed the report and video for the 5th year of bird monitoring.
 - Counted 88 bird species, many of which are in decline.
 - Many bird species breed in this area. If they are more successful breeding here, they are more likely to survive elsewhere along their migratory path.
 - Our habitat quality here is important for biodiversity along the entire extent of these species' migratory paths.
 - Gearing up for this summer's monitoring season.
 - Will continue monitoring at Turkey Springs depending on the prescribed fire.
 - Retiring the Fawn Gulch site.
 - Creating a new site on Jackson Mountain.
 - WAS will host a volunteer training in May.
- Wildfire Adapted Partnership (WAP)
 - Programs are up and running and Bill is swamped with site assessments.
 - CSU Extension is doing a landowner workshop series every Tuesday
 - Pueblo Community College got a two-year grant to fund forestry programs in this area
 - Basic wildfire training is available and FREE to the first 20 students to sign up.
- Pagosa Forest Products
 - Mulching on Reservoir Hill for the Town of Pagosa Springs utilizing funding through WAP's Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG).

- There will be a 2-3-2 Partnership meeting on May 15th in El Rito.
 - All Headwaters partners are welcome to join!
 - There will be a focus on rural workforce development and a tour on the west zone of the Carson National Forest to look at the fire mosaic and watershed restoration planning.
- Dana Guinn accepted a new position with the USFS to administer CFLRP nationally. The new job starts in June, and the Forest Stewards Guild will hire someone to fill her position.

Mapping and planning

- Who's work is missing from the map?
 - NRCS
 - Seems to be lacking capacity, especially after Kyle O'Neill left.
 - Contact Ian Hopkins
 - NRCS data will capture work that Pagosa Forest Products is doing.
 - Colorado State Forest Service
 - Estevan Vega sent shapefiles to Julia and she will add them to the map.
 - Southern Ute
 - Call Brian Gideon (he may be on leave)
 - Tri-State
 - Contact Curtis Hartenstine for data showing mitigation along powerlines.
 - WAP
 - Alex Graf is preparing shapefiles for Julia.
 - This will include PLPOA's work on common-space lands.
- Pagosa Forest Products
 - Completed 70 acres of work along the Fourmile Road.
 - Completed a mulching project in Trujillo with the NRCS.
 - Will be working in Hidden Valley on the FRWRM project this summer, which includes 40 acres of thinning and mulching.
 - This is part of several connected efforts that tie together mitigation work across several parcels.
 - MSI may do some drone monitoring at this site.
- Aspen Springs
 - Implementing landscape-scale work in Aspen Springs is very difficult because of the patchwork of land managers (private, BLM, Southern Ute, State Trust, SJNF), but this presents great opportunities for cross-boundary work.
 - We need to work slowly and intentionally with this community.
- Turkey Springs
 - Some areas are under contract.
 - Looking at this area spatially and temporally, it is like a kaleidoscope of polygons. Projects shift over time and through implementation, and it may be important to share that part of the story too.
 - Consider making a map that shows time and space, and how project areas change over time.
- Mapping resources like this are very helpful for communication and outreach.
 - The Southwest Colorado CFLRP is thinking through how to scale up this mapping effort to include all of southwest Colorado.

- The real key to resiliency is relationships between people. The shapes on this map represent relationships and success.
- Add layers to the web map that default off, but that the user can turn on, including wildlife habitat and migration corridors, monitoring locations, infrastructure, etc.
- Is wildfire risk actually decreasing? Is the work we are doing effective?
 - Are there areas where we want to start monitoring in the future?
 - The USFS has the quantified wildfire risk assessment, which can begin to answer these questions.
- CWCB's [Wildfire Ready Watersheds](#) grant applications are due in September.
 - This could be a funding opportunity for Headwaters to enable further prioritization and planning efforts.
 - MSI has worked with CWCB in the past, and both Headwaters and the 2-3-2 have considered applying for this grant in previous cycles.
 - Chris Sturm, from CWCB, offered to come down to the area to talk with partners about the grant.
 - It is worth building a relationship with Chris and thinking about how we can work together to do something great, rather than just asking for money.

Closing and next steps

- 2-3-2 Partnership meeting in El Rito, New Mexico on May 15th
 - Contact Julia Ledford (julia@mountainstudies.org) for more information.
- Headwaters and Fore Rivers joint tour of the Dry Lake Fire on May 17th