



# San Juan Headwaters

## FOREST HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

### Notes for SJHFHP 11/15/2024

**Attendance (21 total): Alex Handloff, Josh Peck, Roger Jensen, Bob Milford, Joe Tedder, Shannon Kaelin, Danielle Leentjes, Adam Hirshberg, Doug Call, Adam Tlachac, Keith Bruno, Matt Ford, Bill Trimarco, Haley Perez, Julia Ledford, Clyde Church, Nick Olson, Melissa May, Stuart Handloff, Abe Profitt, Veronica Medina**

Introductions/Ice Breakers: what is your favorite thanksgiving tradition?

Josh Peck:

- Context on how best to engage with HW on upcoming projects, been talking with Alex
- Sharing what happened last year with outputs like what they track: numbers, figures, miles
- What is currently being worked and how
- How much will the money availability change with new president?
- Very unsure, Expecting FS to get less money as a conservative fiscal figure, we need to be prepared for reductions for staff and project funding. Only purchasing necessary things. The hope is to talk about the back end of projects and hopefully adapt

Presentation: Pagosa District Ranger: Fiscal Year 2024 state of the union

### **2024 Priority Projects**

Don't necessarily align with forest or regional priorities, ask is to plan around these priorities

- Collaborative engagement
- Vegetation management program timer and fuels
- V rock parcel purchase
- First for land exchange
- Jackson mtn veg monitoring planning
- Price lakes in

### **2024 money Investments**

- 75-80% accurate for 2024 money investments for projects
- Had a lot more planned, but did not get spending authority to actually get goals met
- Spent about 3 million dollars on this district last year give or take
- Question: where is v rock located? A: Later in the presentation
- Q: What the land acquisition a trade or purchase? A: was a purchase
- Looking at inholdings to keep the WUI off the landscape. Land and water conservation funds would not have made it without the process of purchasing the land
- Depending on size and complexity, NEPA is not necessarily needed
- Collaborative support: the money we sent to Headwaters for the most part to support facilitation of this group but was also shared with park



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- Put extra money into Conservation Corps interns to support uncertain funding in the next few years.
- 250 K planned for invasives and did not get to execute project

### 2024 Outputs

- CFLR Metrics – the things they care about
- Recorded about 10 K CCF in timber volume sold.
- Good amount of invasive treatment
- 1,840 WUI acres treated
- Danielle: stream habitat- where was that? Maybe decommissioning projects near Wolf Creek
- This all comes from FS reporting rules. They might not look quite right, but categorizing metrics can be difficult – reporting can be difficult to understand
- Just a snapshot of outputs
- Side note: CDT Facebook group was stoked with the Pagosa Area

### Story portion/Map:

- Timber: Map of all locations we are sending wood products to in our general vicinity 10 locations
- Finding use for all material coming off the forest for many different products, robust working circle not selling to a lot of large purchasers
- Considered localized wood markets
- 6x6 materials that go into the Denver market, woodchips to ABQ, Company out of Montana bought from us because of the Douglas fir need

Awarded 2 projects this year:

- the griffin stewardship contract ASCC contract
- The Boon creek timber sell went to Bill More out of Espanola

### Photo slide:

- Left picture, South Sandy off Mosca road picturesque logging photo – one sale that is active this year – local operator out of Chama – success pattern is more localized
- Pictures on the right: Kenny flats area – Bill Moore Operations – Small family operation, success keeping small operators here – theory for managing timber is to diversify the program to sell different streams of products
- Multiple different contracts and sites, natural regen
- Ordering seedlings for enrichment planting to help diversify tree stands but do not generally cut and wholesale

### Wildlife:



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- One of the things given to the FS is the new species of butterfly – silverspot butterfly- specific to bog violet on host on this specific flower- had to reassess the project looking for bog violets
- Found flowers on Jackson Mountain, Piedra guard station
- Continuing surveying for these insects and flowers
- Every 5 years BHS surveys with CPW – lot of hiking and backpacking about a weeks worth of FS time to help with this project.

### Recreation:

- Trail clearing from burned trees on the trail
- Funding to work on turkey springs guard station – hope is to be able to rent out when completed
- Someone showed up and cleaned up the guard stations not FS related
- Status on cabin in Monument Park: needs work like Turkey springs, 3 sites are WIP

### Rec and Heritage:

- Planning for major lunar standstill event at Chimney rock – working with partners and small groups to build out public events
- Testing livestream and visuals – trying to film the rise of the moon
- Paving from HW and loop is the goal – maintenance can be challenging
- 3 more events next year if you missed it this year
- Done quite a bit of travel consultation for upcoming projects
- Meeting regularly with Jicaria Apache – making connections and building opportunities for both parties working together in the future
- Took Ute mtn and southern Ute tribal historic preservation officers/ team to see what comes out of the East fork project and how to respect tribal partners and hopefully opening avenues to get additional work done

### Range Program:

- Monitoring vegetation conditions where cows are, where they are grazing – Gap in where we saw fire go away – is there connection of the value of grazing in communities that are affected by fire?
- Working with NRCS to put in a new stock pond
- New Fence being installed – being adopted by some permittees, getting some good reviews in SE corner of district – Starting to pick up steam in other parts of the district.

### Lands:

- Structures and fences on VRock property needed to be removed- Only major freestanding parcel that was not owned by FS
- Transmission Line from LPEA – projects upcoming similar to this transmission line



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- Have to respond to these projects as priority as they come up
- Fires:
- Snow ranch fire in June – Prescribed burn 430 acres in this area, great affects by removing oak brush and putting fire back into the landscape.
- Do not have a lot of opportunity to reenter fire into the landscape but huge win for FS to get this project completed
- Vaughn Gulch prescribed burn- relatively few complaints this year
- Put on trajectory to burn again in few years to have consistent maintenance cycle
- Facebook presence was positive to understand Rx fires were happening – building more education pieces into this process – morning/midday updates
- What happened to Rx burn on the west side of PS? Still planned, conditions are not ideally met by topography – Brockover/turkey springs area

### **VIS:**

- Smokeys 80<sup>th</sup> bday – big event at library
- Working with partners to do geologic tours to connect us to community
- Improvements at bridge campground – wanted a full redesign getting new gravel, new picnic tables, replaced a lot of cattleguards, new toilet at Piedra river trailhead and redid parking lot – funding from Hinsdale county
- Willams – similar project

### **2025 Priority Projects:**

Outlined different projects for Pagosa district:

- Collaborative engagement
- Veg mgmt. program (timber and fuels)
- First for land exchange
- Navajo Blanco Integrated Fire Planning
- Sustainable Community recreation plan
- Another year of major lunar standstill
- Large landscaping plan at Chimney Rock
- East Fork Corridor Mgmt. planning
- GAOA projects

### **2025 Planned investments:**

- Not realistic numbers- but it is in the plan if we get the money, we can spend it
- How much of the district is being managed with pods? Turkey springs landscape is for sure being managed by pod – potential operational delineations
- Use Pods in prescribed fire planning



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- Relatively new thing for forest management
- Outside of turkey springs – a lot of work to do
- Pods are less present on public lands
- Recreation wants: trail clearing, OHV trails, actual tread and rebuild work, CG improvements,
- Dilemma with E-bikes at Turkey Springs - pedal assist are considered motorized vehicle that is not permitted on trails

### **2025 planned accomplishments:**

- Projections for upcoming year: not exactly accurate but planned

### **Map:**

- Been working as district, click on info on projects that are happening around the area
- CFLR boundaries
- The map is not currently available outside of ARCGIS Forest service

What do you all need to see of projects on the front end?

What to do to get the plan done:

Sheriff offered something but then took it away

Have a history of not caring about wildfire

60-80k with story maps, could update using 3-4k which is sufficient to get things done

Needs to happen in 2025

SJHFHP may pursue Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) support through both volunteer and financial means. This would mean that in an innovative way, the CWPP would be supported by SJHFHP, not the county. This would be a non-customary, yet potentially groundbreaking way to support these documents without having governmental support.