



Meeting notes for Friday, December 13th, 2024

Location: Archuleta County Administrative Office and Zoom

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 am

Attendance:

1. Alex Handloff, Mountain Studies Institute
2. Julia Ledford, Mountain Studies Institute
3. Bill Trimarco, Wildfire Adapted Partnership
4. Nick Olson, National Forest Foundation
5. Bob Milford, Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition
6. Veronica Medina, Archuleta County Commissioner
7. John Ranson, Archuleta County Commissioner
8. Herb Grover, Weminuche Audubon Society
9. Candace Jones, San Juan Water Conservancy District
10. Clyde Church, La Plata County Commissioner
11. Jack Harper, Archuleta County Manager
12. Robert Hill, Archuleta County Sheriff's dept.
13. Mike LeRoux, Archuleta County Sheriff
14. Adam Hirschberg, QIS Supply and Build Pagosa
15. Andy Hawk, San Juan Mountains Association
16. Robin Young, CSU Extension
17. Estevan Vega, Colorado State Forest Service
18. Megan Maxwell, Colorado Timber Industry Association
19. Laurel Smerch, Pueblo Community College
20. Roger Jensen, volunteer
21. Matt Tuten, USFS
22. Josh Peck, San Juan National Forest
23. Adam Tlachac, San Juan National Forest

MEETING NOTES

Welcome and introductions

Partner updates

- CSU Extension
 - CSU Extension is hosting a regional meeting in Pagosa in the spring
 - Robin Young will be in touch to coordinate with Headwaters about the event.

- Pueblo Community College
 - PCC is hosting its first forestry class in the spring
- Archuleta County
 - Veronica Medina was appointed to the Forest Health Council by Governor Polis.
 - The Council is working on a 30-year plan for Colorado. It will be available soon in draft form and will be shared with Headwaters.
 - The Colorado Wildfire Resiliency code has been released, including the building code update.
- San Juan National Forest
 - The monarch butterfly was just listed as a protected species.
 - The horny bat is likely to be listed as well. This might have implications for vegetation management in the Pagosa area.
 - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a map of proposed critical habitat for lynx, including a significant portion of the San Juan National Forest.
 - The map is open for comments right now.
 - This would also pose management implications for the Pagosa area.
- San Juan Mountains Association
 - Andy Hawk is the new Associate Director at SJMA.
 - The winter ambassador program will continue this year in a limited capacity. One ambassador will rotate between locations, including Wolf Creek Pass.
- Headwaters
 - The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District and San Juan Water Conservancy District both continue to support the Partnership financially.

Archuleta County Community Wildfire Protection Plan update

- Archuleta County's CWPP is due for an update next year.
 - The original plan was done through the Sheriff's department with a consultant.
 - Other small CWPPs have been done for subdivisions within Archuleta County.
- Goals and purpose of a CWPP:
 - Bring the community together around planning and actions to alleviate stress in emergency situations.
 - The development of a CWPP also builds awareness about wildfire within the community.
 - In reality, most CWPPs sit on the shelf and collect dust, but not this one. Archuleta's CWPP has been credited with bringing money and resources to the area, such as the first Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG).
- Wildfire Adapted Partnership can take the lead on the process, with the help of Headwaters coordinating a few community meetings.
 - These meetings will be separate from the monthly Headwaters meetings.
 - Will need to do targeted outreach to the Los Pinos Fire Protection District and Southern Ute.
 - There is momentum building and lots of partners are excited about this project.
 - Final products will be discussed during focused CWPP meetings.

Year in review of the Headwaters work plan

- What worked?
 - Radio interviews – need to get these started again on a consistent basis
 - Press releases in the Pagosa Sun
- What changes do we need to make? Ideas for 2025?

- o Education programming for youth
 - Could MSI or SJMA do this with their existing capacity?
 - SJMA has a new education coordinator in Pagosa Springs. Andy will get him looped in with Headwaters.
- o Outreach to historically under-represented communities:
 - New homeowners
 - Visitors
- o Implement more monitoring, but be intentional about what we monitor and what information it will bring.
 - Snowtopography is an ongoing effort in the Headwaters landscape.
 - Forest monitoring – sites to be revisited:
 - Fawn Gulch
 - Reservoir Hill – previously monitored by high school students
 - Ongoing bird monitoring through the Weminuche Audubon Society
 - Photo points – an easy citizen science project
- o Recent films have received a lot of attention (Plumtaw, watersheds). Headwaters should consider potential topics for a future film.
 - Intersection of mechanical treatments and prescribed fire.
- o Consider simplifying the name of the Partnership.
- o Table at more events like the Earth Day celebration.
- o Work with the SJNF to develop a demonstration site in the Pagosa area.