



Meeting notes for January 17, 2025

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. Herb Grover, Weminuche Audubon Society
4. Edward Bulloch, San Juan Watershed Group
5. Nick Olson, National Forest Foundation
6. Stuart Handloff, volunteer
7. Kailey Felch, Wildfire Adapted Partnership
8. Abe Proffitt, San Juan National Forest
9. Jack Harper, Archuleta County
10. Clarissa Dukeminier, Colorado State Forest Service
11. Megan Maxwell, Colorado Timber Industry Association
12. Caleb Stotts, Chama Peak Land Alliance
13. Robin Young, CSU Extension
14. Roger Jensen
15. Estevan Vega, Colorado State Forest Service
16. Christian Testerman
17. Matthew Vigil, Bureau of Reclamation
18. Kathleen Voight, Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
19. Bill Trimarco, Wildfire Adapted Partnership
20. Adam Tlachac, San Juan National Forest
21. Josh Peck, San Juan National Forest
22. Adam Hirschberg, QIS Supply
23. Bob Milford, Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition
24. Rob Hagberg, San Juan Water Conservancy District
25. Joe Tedder, San Juan Water Conservancy District
26. Craig Saunders, Pagosa homeowner
27. Andy Hawk, San Juan Mountains Association
28. Matt Tuten, R2 U.S. Forest Service
29. Brandy Richardson, Rio Chama CFLRP
30. Danielle Leentjes, Upper San Juan WEP
31. Keith Bruno, Audubon Rockies

MEETING NOTES

Welcome and introductions

SJHFHP updates and call to action

- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update plan of action
 - Meeting in February to work on the CWPP
 - Prepare for meeting by reading the existing plan
 - Focus on what work needs to be done - what needs to be updated?
 - Alex worked with Bill Trimarco to identify people to participate in this meeting. If you would like to participate, please contact Alex.
 - Future meetings will involve larger groups and will seek input from the broader community.
- Reservoir Hill management plan begins
 - The work will begin today - understanding what needs to be done, examples to learn from
 - Broader meetings to come
- 2-3-2 monitoring plan feedback opportunity
 - The Monitoring Committee has reached out, asking if we would like to provide input on the [existing monitoring plan](#) for the 2-3-2 landscape.
 - If you are interested in providing feedback, contact Alex.
 - There is also a need for additional participation on the Monitoring Committee from the Pagosa area. Contact Alex if you are interested.
- 2-3-2 meeting in February
 - Joint meeting with the Rio Chama Congreso
 - February 28th: 2-3-2 Partnership meeting
 - March 1st: Rio Chama Congreso
 - All events held at the Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu, New Mexico.
 - If you aren't on the email list and would like to attend this meeting, contact Alex.

Conversation with Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT)

- CCALT and the Steamboat Front WRAP
 - Office in Del Norte is set to re-open in the next few weeks.
 - Land trust that works state-wide to conserve Colorado's western heritage and working landscapes for the benefit of future generations.
 - 800,000+ acres in conservation easements
 - Largest land trust working in Colorado
 - Land trusts and conservation easements
 - A tool to conserve working lands
 - Conservation incentives
 - Support rural communities and economies
 - Agreement to protect natural resources
 - A perpetual partnership
 - Keep working lands in working hands
 - Yampa Valley Conservation Partnership
 - Merged with Yampa Valley Land Trust in 2019
 - Landscape-scale conservation work
 - Northwest Colorado Advisory Committee

- Additive Conservation Program
 - Focused on providing value to landowners/landscapes after the property has already been placed in an easement
 - Conservation easements are just the beginning
 - Ongoing investment in restoration, management, and improvement of agricultural and ecological values
 - Financial and technical partnerships

Partner updates

HB25-1078. Working through general assembly.

Struggling with grant match. Looking at other ways to get grants besides grant match. Things in lieu of actual cash.

On 30-year plan. Matt Tuten was part of it. Really a vision of what forests are going to look like. Very aspirational. Where we want to be.

MATT

- Meeting with conservation districts, USFS, NRCS, others to build awareness of who's doing what. Big issue, coming up with matching funds. Big issue. People don't know what they're doing so it's hard to invest. Part of the team is to share who's doing what and why and to track.
- Working with Katie McGrath-Novak. Interagency forestry team. Hoping to grow. Matt wants to stay in touch on that.

BOB

- PARC has started.
- GOCO will now have \$10 million a year for RPIs, not necessarily through cities/counties.

ANDY

- Snow science and social. Adding wolf creek pass to their routine. In March.

ROB HAGBERG and JOE TEDDER

- Involved with lawsuit with PAWS.
- Interested to get PAWS out of partnership because they are financially stressed. Still looking at creative ways to do that. Ways to monetize the property, solar farm.
- Film release. Third video is on risk to our water. Really be focused on the science of the risk. Really focused on fire. People from SJHFHP will be approached. What can I do was the main question from audience.
- SJWCD, maybe a joint project to get WRAP funds. Maybe that's the place to connect. Talk to Danny Margolis about the WRAP stuff and get them connected.

BILL TRIMARCO

- NRCS put in \$81 million. EQIP Act Now. Lot of work in Archuleta and La Plata. Been slogged down but good now.
- 780 acres. 422 structures. \$592,000 spent.
- PCC. Workforce development grant. Basic courses happened in Pagosa. Spring 25, foundations of forestry course, forestry field tech course.

- TROUBLE FILLING THE COURSES. AND GETTING INSTRUCTORS
- Talking about harvesting program and defensible space.
- Apparently the CDC got grant for doing CDL courses.
- Is it for foresters or truck drivers or contractors or fire fighters?
- Need to loosen the reins on what is an instructor

JOSH

- Jackson Mountain decision got signed yesterday. Additional vegetation management work. That's happy for Josh.
- Working with NRCS. Focus on Pagosa related to join chiefs proposals. Has borne fruit and intern will come over. Maybe Turkey Springs to build proposals.
- Josh will be reaching out to Bill.
- Threatened and endangered species world. Open comment period for critical lynx habitat. Significant on Pagosa Ranger Dist.
- Monarch butterfly and bumblebee upcoming in the next year. Currently treat them with same process. And then more on the horizon. That will provide more challenges. Tree bats. Future years of things.
- Fire landscape: At record high for fire risk. 2018 trajectory it seems. Different this year, not great news.
- [Josh Kurz did a great article about this year compared to other years.](#)
- [LA Times Pyne and Cohen article is good.](#)

VERONICA

- Strategic plan will be debuted next meeting. Vision for this is to have community input on plan. Big goal. Need community input. Debut is at 1:30pm.
- Working on a policy resolution for vets. Anything that SJHFHP thinks to have a policy resolution on? Veronica going to DC in march and presenting.
- Ideas for the Forest Health Council and comments on their 30-year vision