



Meeting notes for Friday, February 21st, 2025

Location: Archuleta County Admin. Building, Pagosa Springs and Zoom

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 am

Attendance:

1. Alex Handloff, Mountain Studies Institute
2. Julia Ledford, Mountain Studies Institute
3. Andy Hawk, San Juan Mountains Association
4. Caleb Marucci, Colorado State Forest Service
5. Estevan Vega, Colorado State Forest Service
6. Clarissa Dukeminer, Colorado State Forest Service
7. Bill Hudson, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District
8. Bob Milford, Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition
9. Adam Hirshberg, QIS Supply and Build Pagosa
10. Herb Grover, Weminuche Audubon Society
11. Ian Hopkins, National Wild Turkey Federation
12. Claire Rapp, Colorado Forest Restoration Initiative
13. Karissa Courtney, Colorado Forest Restoration Initiative
14. Alan Hook, City of Santa Fe Water and San Juan Chama Contractors Association
15. Caleb Stotts, Chama Peak Land Alliance
16. John Kappelman, citizen
17. Craig Saunders, citizen
18. Carl Young, citizen
19. Rob Hagberg, San Juan Water Conservancy District
20. Bill Trimarco, Wildfire Adapted Partnership
21. Kailey Felch, Wildfire Adapted Partnership
22. Luz Salinas, Forest Stewards Guild
23. Christi Bode, Moxiecran Media
24. Veronica Medina, Archuleta County Commissioner
25. Jack Harper, Archuleta County
26. Emma Metcalf, Bureau of Reclamation
27. Josh Peck, San Juan National Forest
28. Adam Tlachac, San Juan National Forest

MEETING NOTES

Welcome and introductions

Collaborative decision analysis opportunity from Colorado Forest Restoration Initiative (CFRI)

- Researchers at CFRI are evaluating how collaborative groups use decision support tools (PODs, for example).
 - Which tools have been used in processes that led to successful outcomes?
 - How do folks find sources of information and decision support tools?
 - How are the tools being used?
- CFRI will hold a 1.5-hour focus group with Headwaters partners to understand a decision that was made and how decision tools were used.
- Headwaters will choose one project to focus on for this study. Some options are:
 - Fourmile/Plumtaw
 - Jackson Mountain EA
 - Cloman Park
 - Reservoir Hill
- This provides an opportunity to tell a success story in a different way and learn more about what makes this group successful in decision-making.
 - The Partnership could replicate the process to analyze additional projects after the CFRI focus group.
 - There is interest among partners in looking at projects that weren't successful.

SJHFHP Updates

- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update underway
 - A small group is meeting to get the process started.
 - A public meeting will be held in May.
 - All six counties in the San Luis Valley will be updating their CWPPs in the near future.
 - Opportunity for knowledge sharing – re-start Bridging the Divide?
- Reservoir Hill management plan
 - A small group is moving this process forward for now. This is still in the early stages of development.
 - There will be opportunities for the full group to get involved later on.
- Colorado Forest Health Council visiting Pagosa April 29-30
 - Veronica Medina is organizing a tour for the Council to showcase work in the Headwaters landscape.
 - JR Ford's work – before and after visualizations
 - Plumtaw film
 - Other ideas? Contact Alex Handloff and/or Veronica.
- Field trip ideas for 2025
 - May: Plumtaw/Fourmile site visit for future project with the San Juan National Forest
 - June: Weminuche Audubon Society bird monitoring at Fawn Gulch (post-prescribed fire)
 - Late summer/fall: Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC) site on Jackson Mountain
 - Hidden Valley private lands work recently completed through the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) grant

- Pursuing funding for work in the Fourmile Watershed through the Wildfire Ready Watersheds grant
 - Funding comes from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)
- Interested in joining the Oversight Group for Headwaters? Contact Alex!

Priority Landscape Fact Sheets update for 2025

- There is a renewed interest in this prioritization effort to inform the CWPP update.
 - Think about how this resource might be used to attract funding in the future.
- Can this prioritization effort be tied into another planning tool, like PODs?
 - There is a POD network for this area. It needs some work.
 - BLOBs were used for this effort, which was initiated by the CFLRP, because PODs are too fire-focused.
- Price Lakes
 - Change name to Navajo and Blanco watersheds
 - Change boundary to watershed boundaries
 - Work with Caleb, Josh and Bill on where exactly the boundary should be
 - Elk migration corridors
 - Trailheads: Opal, Fish Creek Blanco River
 - San Juan Chama Project Diversions
 - List percentages of Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Jicarilla Apache's drinking water that comes from these diversions.
- During a future meeting, we do a prioritization exercise with physical maps to expand on this effort.
 - Need fire staff at the table.

Regional mapping update from Julia

- There is momentum building to align mapping efforts across the Southwest Colorado and Rio Chama CFLRPs, building on the mapping resource that Headwaters maintains.
 - Identify areas for future cross-boundary opportunities
 - Identify gaps
 - Learn about what is happening in this landscape
 - Celebrate accomplishments
 - Reporting
 - Leveraging funds
- Reporting/data gathering will happen in the fall, in line with reporting timelines for CFLRP and RMRI.
 - Headwaters can continue the Mapping and Planning effort in the spring, or move it to the fall. Maybe we need to reassess the function and purpose of this meeting.
 - SJNF outyear planning happens in April

Partner updates

- Chama Peak Land Alliance
 - Federal grants are opening back up!
 - Moving forward with new Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) proposal in New Mexico
 - Hoping more BIL funding will open up.

- San Juan National Forest
 - The Columbine Ranger District is hoping to do some prescribed burning in the southern HDs next week.
 - Aspect burning (southern aspects that are snow-free)
 - Will put smoke into Pagosa.
 - JR Ford's company just completed work in the Turkey Springs/Brockover area.
 - Hosting a volunteer tree planting event in the Mill Creek Basin area this spring.
- Wildfire Adapted Partnership (WAP)
 - WAP is on their last leg after losing federal funding
 - WAP is owed \$1 million for work that has been completed on a grant in Archuleta County – not sure if that money will ever arrive.
 - Restructuring and trying to get emergency funding
 - Will try to continue outreach and education in Archuleta, but most on-the-ground treatments will grind to a halt.
 - Can use an older grant in the Pagosa Lakes greenbelts (SFA WUI).
 - Some projects will be able to move forward on HWY 84.
- San Juan Water Conservancy District
 - Feeling optimistic about their position
 - Looking at doing further engineering site studies to learn about permeability and feasibility of a reservoir.
 - Hosting a joint meeting on March 25th at the Pagosa Center for the Arts.
- Timber Ridge
 - Identified about 40 lots that need mitigation work.
 - Over \$70k has been spent on mitigation in the neighborhood.
 - Hosting a meeting in April to educate residents about wildfire.
- Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition
 - Applied for a grant (\$200k) to help clear trails
 - The Pagosa Ranger District lost trail crews
 - Moving forward with the development of a recreation plan for the Pagosa area.
- Build Pagosa
 - Haven't had funding issues
 - Reach out to Adam Hirshberg if you are interested in getting involved with Build Pagosa.
 - There is interest in getting students involved with trail work in the future.
- San Juan Mountains Association
 - MSI and SJMA are hosting a Snow Science and Social event at Wolf Creek Pass on March 22nd – a great family activity!
- Weminuche Audubon Society (WAS)
 - Analyzing data from the sixth year of bird monitoring.
 - The number of species at the thinned site on Jackson Mountain was about the same as other sites, but the number of birds was down 20%.
 - WAS is looking forward to another year of monitoring, particularly at Fawn Gulch, which was treated with prescribed fire in the fall.
- Colorado State Forest Service
 - Doing as well as they can for the time being!
- Archuleta County
 - Commissioners approved the County's first ever strategic plan

- Focused on creating a transparent public process and being better partners with everyone.
 - Information will be visible on a dashboard.
- o Veronica Medina is meeting with the insurance commissioner, Michael Conway.
 - Show the Headwaters mapping efforts to track forest restoration treatments across the landscape
- o Attending a legislative day at the capital in Denver to highlight what federal money has been used for in terms of fire mitigation and forest health.