



## Meeting notes for Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**Location:** Archuleta County Administrative office, Pagosa Springs

**Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 am

**Attendance:**

1. Alex Handloff, Mountain Studies Institute
2. Julia Ledford, Mountain Studies Institute
3. Joe Tedder, San Juan Water Conservancy District
4. Rob Hagberg, San Juan Water Conservancy District
5. Monica Nigon, San Juan Water Conservancy District
6. Veronica Medina, Archuleta County
7. Herb Grover, Weminuche Audubon Society
8. Kailey Felch, Wildfire Adapted Partnership
9. Bob Milford, Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition
10. Stuart Handloff, Alex's Dad
11. Caleb Stotts, Chama Peak Land Alliance
12. Christi Bode, Forest Stewards Guild and Moxiecran Media
13. Estevan Vega, Colorado State Forest Service
14. Clarissa Dukeminier, Colorado State Forest Service
15. Danyelle Leentjes, Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership
16. Brandy Richardson, Rio Chama CFLRP
17. Adam Tlachac, San Juan National Forest
18. Josh Peck, San Juan National Forest
19. Anthony Garcia, San Juan National Forest
20. Matt Tuten, U.S. Forest Service

## MEETING NOTES

Welcome and introductions

SJHFHP updates

- 2-3-2 Partnership meeting in Pagosa, May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) community meeting May 20<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) film premiere
  - Third in a series of films made by Christi Bode.
  - Seeking input from the community about the CWPP update, which will likely be completed by June or July.

- o Headwaters is coordinating with adjacent counties that are also updating or writing a CWPP.
- San Juan Water Conservancy District event on March 25<sup>th</sup> about the impacts of a potential call on the San Juan River for our watershed.
  - o Free, at Pagosa Center for the Arts.
- The Southwestern Water Conservation District is hosting its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Water Seminar on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - o At Sky Ute Casino in Ignacio
  - o \$60 registration fee
  - o Alex will speak on a panel!
- Rio Grand State of the Basin, March 29<sup>th</sup>
  - o Christi Bode is moderating a panel on forest health
  - o Free, at Adam State University in Alamosa
- Headwaters applied for the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole grant application
  - o The Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) also applied.
  - o If awarded, Headwaters will need to attend community concerts in the summer.
  - o Headwaters applied and wasn't selected last year.
- Join Headwaters' Oversight Group
  - o Participation needed

Breakout groups to work on the Priority Landscape Fact Sheet update for 2025

- Looking through the lens of the Archuleta Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Changes and additions
  - o Adjustments of BLOB boundaries
    - Turkey Springs should include more of PLPOA
    - Aspen Springs should cross the highway to include the whole subdivision
    - Potentially split Plumtaw and Fourmile
    - Extend Navajo/Blanco to include Kenny Flats and Buckles Lake.
      - Elk migration corridor
      - Buckles Lake area is extremely important for the Jicarilla Apache Nation
      - There is a timber economy in this area
      - Dispersed use along the Buckles Lake Road for hunting, fall foliage and trails
    - New BLOB: Valle Seco/Eightmile Mesa
      - Wildlife habitat
      - WUI: lower Blanco Road, Loma Linda, Holiday Acres
      - Comms. Tower on Eightmile Mesa
      - POD boundaries
      - Grazing
  - o Priority BLOBs
    - High priority:
      - Turkey Springs – risk of fire spreading into town
      - Aspen Springs – lots of work to be done
      - Navajo/Blanco – drinking water for New Mexico
      - Fourmile – drinking water for Pagosa
    - Moderate priority:
      - Plumtaw

- Echo/Mill/Lefthand
  - Jackson Mountain
- Low priority:
  - Two Forks – not a lot of opportunities for treatment
- o Aspen Springs
  - Outreach from Headwaters hasn't been very successful in the past.
    - Reach out to the County Commissioner who is responsible for this area.
    - Wildfire Adapted Partnership has done a lot of work in Aspen Springs.
    - We could approach the community with a tangible opportunity, such as a fuel break, instead of trying to convince people of a diffuse risk.
  - Or, we could partner with a different organization who already has a relationship with the Aspen Springs community.
    - Pagosa Community Initiative – direct lines of communication with families.
    - We can't just expect them to come to us and join our sphere of forest health.

#### Partner updates

- Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition (PARC)
  - o Approved for a Colorado Parks and Wildlife grant for \$196k, in addition to \$140k that was fundraised.
  - o Plan to hire trail crews for the next three years.
- San Juan National Forest
  - o Working on ~500 acres of treatment in Turkey Springs
    - This is the first project to move forward since December.
    - Getting more contracts out for vegetation management.
- San Juan Water Conservancy District
  - o Film premiere on May 20<sup>th</sup>
    - Previous films focused on the value of snow and who uses the water from the San Juan River. This film is about the risks to the watershed posed by fire.