



San Juan Headwaters

FOREST HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Friday, July 17, 2026

Location: Archuleta County Administrative Office, 398 Lewis St, Pagosa Springs, CO

Meeting time: 9:00 – 11:00 am

Attendees:

Matt Tuten: USFS

Matt Ford: Headwaters oversight committee

Rob Hagberg: San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD)

Adam Tlachac: USFS

Bill Trimarco: Wildfire Adapted Partnership (WAP)

Andy Hawk: San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA)

Ashley Carruth: SJMA ED

Brooks Letchworth: SJMA

Josh Peck: USFS

Bob Milford: Pagosa Area Trails Coalition/Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition
(PATC/PARC)

Caleb Stotts: Chama Peak Land Alliance (CPLA)

Christi Bode: media

Keith Bruno: Audubon Rockies

Herb Grover: Weminuche Audubon

Caleb Marucci: Colorado State Forest Service

MEETING AGENDA

9:00 am - 9:15 am: Welcome and introductions

9:15 am - 10:15 am: Partner updates

Caleb (CSFS)

- Progress is being made on filling a new forestry position funded through a Good Neighbor Authority agreement that will work out of the Pagosa Ranger District.

- The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) proposal is currently open and due in late August.
- Partners were encouraged to identify private landowners with "shovel-ready" forest management projects who are already familiar with NRCS programs or have existing forest management plans.
- Roadside mastication work funded through Good Neighbor Authority remains in the procurement process and timelines are still being finalized.

Herb Grover

- 100 species in wrapping up 8 years of bird monitoring

Caleb Stotts

- \$5 million grant, need new match sources (non-federal),
- Projects for grant would include forest thinning, watershed protection, El Vado, Brazos Canyon up to Navajo and Blanco Basin

Bob Milford

- Continued success of seasonal trail crews.
- Trail maintenance and tree clearing continue throughout the recreation season.
- Installation of additional restroom facilities at high-use recreation areas has significantly reduced garbage and sanitation concerns.
- Additional grant funding will be pursued to continue restroom operations and maintenance.
- Partners were reminded to submit outstanding letters of support for pending grant applications.

Josh Peck

- Cade Mtn public feedback responses, only 5, no feedback from anyone in this group
- Great meeting with HOA
- Tribal meetings, all positive response, concerned about metallic minerals in La Plata Canyon
- Blanco Basin road treatments in ongoing for a fuel break, treatment across boundaries
- Flood recovery projects out for bid due Aug 13, West Fork is still priority
- Buckles Road is finished, new gravel
- Agreements are still problematic, no control of money outflowing to partner orgs, more complicated than it ever has been, restricted what can be used for match, flexibility in match being pulled back '27-'28 HW funding
- Matt Tuten: there will be higher level oversight of how funds are used

Brooks Letchworth

- finished up Gateway caging,
- 2nd week of summer camp next week, spots still available

- Trail ambassadors: presence at trailhead almost every weekend, end of august two weekends still open,
- Interpretive hikes ongoing
- Gearing up for fall programming

Andy Hawk

- Thanks to Josh and PATC and SJOC for trail ambassador program, Joe Tedder in particular, reach out to greater SJMA network
- Introducing Ashley new ED

Bill Trimarco(SJCD and WAP)

- Continued implementation of Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) work.
- Approximately **\$70,000** remains available for projects in Archuleta County under the current grant, with roughly two years remaining in the grant period.
- Education continues to be an important component of defensible space work, particularly helping homeowners understand appropriate vegetation management and post-treatment maintenance.
- Staff continue planning for potential funding adjustments if previously anticipated federal funds are reduced.

Adam Tlachac

- Annual Tribal Consultation meeting was successfully completed with strong participation from Tribes and local partners.

Discussion focused on:

- Active forest management
- Fuel breaks
- Protection of communities and infrastructure
- Water delivery systems
- Landscape-scale collaboration
- Ongoing San Juan National Forest planning efforts

Feedback from participating Tribes and partners was overwhelmingly positive.

Rob Hagberg

- SJWCD had some changes, Candace Jones is no longer president, Randy Cooper is now president, singular focus is on reservoir
- Still in mitigation with PAWSD
- Moving offices

Matt Ford

- Presented to association board of realtors
- Now they're having education day and have asked to present

- LPEA in support of WRAP doing roundtable, Ashley ED from WAP will attend and maybe Matt and Monica
- Working through three-phase power to sawmill, received grant through community development block grant, environmental assessment stage, generator has been down for 4 days and delayed, 2 weeks of downtime crushes a small business

Matt Tuten

- Shoutouts to SJMA running visitor centers this year, selling permits through their system which is way better
- Shoutout to NFF for partnering for Buckles Lake project, will be helping with Williams campground, restore rental cabins in Dolores

Keith Bruno

- 3 different location bird monitoring with 15 points visited at least 10 times
- New species this year in new locations
- Bioblitz huge success! 50 registrants, 300 species, 800 observations, do it again in a different location outside of wetlands and Rez Hill
- Four Mile Ranch also needs volunteers! K-4 ecology program, last week of August is training

Christi Bode

- Comments on rio grand winter travel plan due end of this month
- Folks on other side of pass want to do a screening in Del Norte
- Working on Gateway Project video with WEP, August 19th at Liberty Theater
- Working on PBS documentary, 30-minute film about Colorado's climate and water education focused on k-12
 - Montezuma, cortez, Dolores, Roaring fork Valley, Greeley and Denver
 - Aug 27th in Durango screening
- Andy: Aug 4th Rocky Mtn PBS doing film about CT

10:15 am - 10:40 am: WRAP application summary

Funding

Current funding includes:

- Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Water Plan Grant application (approximately **\$420,000** requested)
- Required matching funds from multiple partners
- 2-3-2 funding
- \$10,000 La Plata Electric Association grant
- Pending El Pomar Foundation request
- Additional leveraged partner contributions

The Partnership expects to learn the status of the CWCB Water Plan Grant in **September**.

Project Timeline

If funded:

- Work will begin after grant execution.
- Consultant procurement (RFP) will begin following award.
- Technical team development will occur during fall and early winter.
- Hydrology and other technical expertise will be recruited as part of project implementation.
- Full project work is expected to begin following grant contracting.

Regional Coordination

- The Dolores Watershed Collaborative is currently the furthest along in implementing a WRAP.
- Early lessons from that effort—including post-fire watershed assessment following the recent fire scar—will provide valuable guidance for the Upper San Juan effort.

10:40 am - 10:45 am: Field trip summary (Josh Peck)

- HOA presentations continue to receive positive responses.
- Community members remain supportive of proactive forest management and wildfire mitigation.
- Public concerns largely focus on implementation timelines rather than opposition to treatment itself.
- Continued education remains important for maintaining community support.

10:45 am - 10:55 am: Film screening summary & future opportunities (Christi Bode)

- Aspen Springs community
- WAP ambassador Stephanie
- Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust reached out to do a screening “Sip and Science”
 - Screening last week of August
- La Plata Fire Wildfire Council came to screening could maybe help shepherd the film
 - Andy can put a plug out

10:55 am - 11:00 am: Future field trips/event planning (Monica)

- Other film screenings?
- Monthly coffee hangs?
- Funding from Lily!
- Project with Fungal Solutions
- Reminder about WEP movie AUG 19, 7pm
- 1-on-1 meetings signup with Monica