

Dolores Watershed and Resilient Forest (DWaRF) Collaborative

Meeting 13

2-1-2017, 1:30-3:30 at Dolores Water Conservancy District

Rebecca Samulski, Aaron Kimple, Amanda Brenner, Greg Kemp, Eric Janes, Bruce Short, Doug Pickering, Norm Bircher, Rich Landreth, Duncan Rose, Ken Curtis, Jimbo Buickerood, Celene Hawkins, James Dietrich, Ken Quigley

Jim Worrall was unable to come down from USFS office in Gunnison to present his forest susceptibility to climate change research, but we are hoping to do that sometime in the future.

Discussion and exercise on why we are all participating in DWaRF. Some common themes included:

- Participants value healthy ecosystems and clean water. Water health is important to forest health and the economy.
- Believe we can accomplish more if we build relationships around watershed issues.
- Has a deep seeded belief that forestry is good, and is concerned about the watershed and having clean water. Also, how fire suppression has affect the area.
- Live here and are interested in maintaining a good quality of life.
- Productive jobs are important. Long term and sustainable jobs that the industry can provide - Restoration jobs that and improve ecological functioning of the watershed.

Announcements

- The Journal did a story on the wildfire risk assessment for DWaRF that Brad Pietruzka presented at our last meeting. Becca will continue tracking media coverage for the group.
- Open Standards for Conservation next week will be postponed for a couple of months to allow Becca to care for her mother.
- Today was the due date for healthy water consortium grant. Becca and Aaron decided that it wasn't going to work this year. Not competitive enough yet.
- If a grant opportunity comes up, notify Becca.
- Ken mentioned a USDA watershed grant and he will find the specific [Grants.gov/](https://www.grants.gov/) link to send Becca.
- Aaron brought up CO SB17-050, a bill to blend two wildfire mitigation grant programs in the state of Colorado that would authorize the funding for 5-7 years. It is important that the state of Colorado step up on supporting wildfire risk reduction efforts. Aaron will be writing a letter in support on behalf of the 2-3-2 collaborative. Combining the grand could mean a lower funding level, but it will secure it for more years and return Colorado risk reduction grants to CSFS. Dept. of Natural Resources is in support of the grant

programs being combined with CSFS, as Madeline West has requested Aaron to testify on behalf on the bill. Becca can send out information on that if DWaRF wants to support it moving forward.

- Jimbo mentioned a state resolution up for consideration to support research on biochar. This might be something to pay attention to. The resolution has several sponsors and probably will not need additional local support to get through.
- Duncan Rose mentioned that CWCB has put out their in stream flow list. Is this group interested in weighing in on in-stream flow rights? This is done annually. Ken Curtis expressed that these are very controversial in the water world, and there are no streams in our watershed on the list because DWCD has followed this closely. The group agreed that these controversial water issues don't have much relation to the work we are trying to do to protect the watershed from wildfire impacts.
- DWCD is leading the charge at McPhee on keeping out aquatic nuisance species, especially the zebra mussels. CPW has not had funding for adequate boat inspections for several years. Water folks are initiating local PR wherever they can, Facebook, Twitter on a larger scale. There was discussion about how DWaRF could support the project. DWCD wants to have a workshop on the invasive issues. DWaRF may be able to be showcased as an effort sustain recreational water use even while some recreation opportunities may be temporarily closed to protect water resources from invasive species. Becca also mentioned that invasive species could be an important consideration for our Water Fund work.
- Celene asked about a coordinated effort to discuss water issues with decision makers or if groups should make separate presentations. The group discussed that there could be an opportunity for a special work session on Dolores Watershed issues.
- The Colorado Senate also issued a memorial (SJM 17-001) to encourage the US Congress to fund wildfire response without compromising other forest management activities.
- Bruce will electronically share a symposium document he has from the RMRS.

DWaRF goals 2 & 4

The group continued with an exercise to set 18 month objectives for the goals 2 & 4 that we didn't focus on in the September meeting.

Becca started by reviewing a few of the objectives that the group had already laid out:

- Emphasis on getting work done on private lands and the Forest Service will focus on doing work on their side.
- Targeting the head waters of the west fork Groundhog area
- Developing the fire and post-fire assessments into an action plan
- Developing an outreach plan

Goal 2: Demonstrate that a healthy ecosystem and healthy economy are compatible goals. Assist industry in scaling up harvesting and processing applying best management practices.;

Goal 4: Prepare for the potential outcomes of a “catalyzing event” such as a severe wildfire and post-fire erosion and flooding, including identification of critical resources and values at risk. Pre-plan and build relationships and communication to support an effective response.

The group developed objectives in teams, with six participants focused on the industry goal and six focused on the response goal. Participants brainstormed what the group or they individually could do in the next 18 months to reach the goal, starting individually with ideas and then working in pairs, then as the whole group for each goal. Each group reported out the work that they discussed. The whole group gave feedback and additions, and Becca incorporated these objectives and tasks into a [DWaRF work planning document](#).

To wrap up the meeting, Becca asked for assistance with a contract for the AGWA team to do the post-fire erosion and sediment modelling. Ken Curtis agreed to help if he was provided with a scope of work.

Notes taken by Amanda Brenner, finalized by Becca Samulski