

## **DWRF Meeting Notes- June 13<sup>th</sup> 2018, 1-3:30pm at Butler Nature Center**

### Attendees

Madison Rodriguez- HS Forestry Intern	Misty Fowlds-DWRF Assistant Coordinator
Ryan Cox – Co State Forest Service	Thurman Wilson – Retired Ecologist
Mike Preston-DWCD	Steve Garcher-Dolores County BOCC
Rebecca Samulski- DWRF Coordinator	Floyd Cook- Dolores County BOCC
Anthony Culpepper– MSI	Rich Landreth- City of Cortez
Mark Loveall- CO State Forest Service	Duncan Rose- Trout Unlimited
Ryan Cox- Co. State Forest Service	

### Introductions

Rebecca Samulski updated everyone on FireWise's new name which will be Wildfire Adapted Partnership along with her new title as Program Director. She asked the group to report on how the fire is affecting their work.

Duncan Rose gave updates around Trout Unlimited's work in which they are setting 38 sensors that will record water and air temperature. They got about 8 in and now that work is now on hold due to Forest closure.

Mike Preston will travel to Denver to meet with Ellen Roberts to engage funders. Thurman Wilson said his wife Pam is on the fire.

Madison Rodriguez introduced herself as the new intern with DWRF. She will be working on projects with the State Forest Service and will do rapid wildfire risk assessment with FireWise for the town of Dolores.

Ashley Greco was at the meeting from Congressman Scott Tipton's Office. She gave her contact information and mentioned emergency funding streams that may be available to folks impacted by the fires. They are specifically working with small businesses to provide low percentage rate loans. Certain criteria must be met. Someone mentioned loggers may have been impacted. If people have questions they can contact her at 970-259-1490 or [Ashley.greco@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ashley.greco@mail.house.gov).

Anthony Culpepper with MSI had to stop his field monitoring work and travel to Silverton where he lives has been disrupted. He mentioned they have been putting public information about fires on the website and providing interesting maps. They would like to talk about the ecological benefit of these fires, but it is too soon give the social impacts. MSI will be looking at post-fire impacts in the Hermosa drainage (they did some monitoring work in this area prior to the fire).

Rich Landreth said the City of Cortez has updated their Draft Water Conservation Plan and Drought Mitigation Plan. They will then update their source water protection plan. Becca mentioned there are funds in the DWRF Watersmart Grant that is available for the Source Water Protection Plan.

## **Fire and other Updates**

The Burro Fire had burned 2,800 acres as of 6/13 and a public meeting in Dolores was set for tomorrow (6/14). DWCD sponsored a DWRF booth at the Dolores River Festival. Mike and Misty presented at Forest to Faucets training for 45 local teachers where there was a lot of interest. DWRF will have a booth in Rico for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Firewise is doing a risk assessment for Dunton and Ground Hog.

Ken Curtis, Ellen Roberts and Mike Preston have been working on a draft description for a biomass feasibility study. They feel they do not need to focus on supply, but to focus on production and distribution. They will be talking to funders (Water Congress, Walton and Gates Foundation) in Denver on June 28th and going to a Forestry Health Advisory Committee meeting shortly after that. Becca mentioned that Dave Casey had just visited the Dove Creek Industrial Park to explore that area for wood businesses.

Anthony Culpepper and Misty Fowlds are working on the Watershed Wildfire Protection Plan. MSI now has the mapping data and is hosting the files from our models and values at risk. The next step is analysis of actions appropriate for certain areas of the watershed, which should be launched this summer. The group talked at length about who needs access to this map and that included the Forest Service. The SJNF has their own maps and Values at Risk, but they may not be as comprehensive. DWCD mentioned they need the map/data. Folks agreed there needs to be a way to print off maps from this data as needed.

## **Post Fire Emergency Response**

The group talked about post fire response and how no one is really in charge. There essentially is no chain of command and recovery communities are on their own. It was mentioned the new County Emergency Manager is part-time. The group talked about potentially going after funding to fill the gaps in post-fire needs. The group then did an exercise to identify what assets our region has for post fire recovery. Assets identified by the group included:

DWRF could be the conduit for BAER team findings

City of Cortez: Manpower, machinery, mapping, funding potential, communications

BLM, USFS, CSFS, Back Country Horsemen, Region 9, San Juan Mountains Association, Southwest Colorado Trails Roundtable, water plant operators, CSU Extension, water conservation districts, electric utilities, The Nature Conservancy, County governments, Chambers of Commerce, Conservation Districts, Landscapers, town governments

Trout Unlimited National and State: post-fire stream/ trout habitat restoration experience

Colorado Parks and Wildlife: Habitat restoration and restocking

Dolores River Anglers: Vulnerability analysis/mapping and volunteers for in-stream work

Rico Women's Club: Info

Rico Trails Alliance: Labor

Southwest Conservation Corps: possible labor for post-fire restoration, trails, plating, etc.

City, County, Colorado Road Departments: Equipment & values at risk

Natural Resources Conservation Service: support for projects for ag. landowners

Restoring Colorado's Forest Fund

Salvage Timber Sales

Local loggers: Excelsior logs for erosion

USDA drought relief loans

Small Business Administration disaster relief loans

FEMA – funding if burn gets on private lands

Colorado Tourism – help w/ branding social media during and after a crisis

Alpine Bank has a small \$\$\$ account for immediate relief for affected residents of 416 Fire

Trails for Trails in Silverton: List of trails

The group then did an exercise to identify and prioritize ways to engage the community over the next two months, leveraging the heightened interest and awareness created by fire conditions. The ideas in loosely prioritized order are as follow:

- Host a post-fire tour to look at and discuss the positive ecological effects and possible negative social impact of Burro Fire. Leverage for engagement with prescribed fire similar to the Bridging the Divide events. (25)
- Lead Forest Service field trip in late July (after forest is re-opened) with various partner presentations including SJNF of Ponderosa Pine thinning and fire plans. Make it for the public by giving them knowledge and resources to get involved. Possibly include workshop type opportunities for landowners to get to know what they can do (mitigation 101, beetles, etc.)(24)
- Use “outdoor classrooms’ in local forest types to teach interconnection of water and forests (23)
- Organize a community event to kick off the Source Water Protection Plan for the City of Cortez (22)
- DWRP take an active role in fire restoration activities. Be useful and have a lot of people see DWRP engaged, so they may want to participate and learn more about DWRP. (22)
- Create a full page news release with an infographic, goals, etc. Monthly? (22)
- Posters in restaurants letting the public know about DWRP and meetings. (21)
- Invite all interests impacted by wildfire – discuss benefits and strategies for protecting full range of values (19)
- Host a wildfire response drill. The exercise would include a written scenario such as fire moves toward Rico (19)
- Create a video on finding your role in a resilient Dolores Watershed and have as PSA at theatre, and on our website and members social media networks. (19)
- Communication of all kinds – media blitz (15)

### **Next Meeting**

TBD - Field day and Celebration of 3 Years of DWRP in late July