

DOLORES WATERSHED RESILIENT FOREST (DWRF) COLLABORATIVE

Wednesday, November 7, 2018, 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Dolores Water Conservancy District, 60 Cactus St., Cortez

Expected Outcomes:

- Get introduced to Danny Margoles, our new DWRF Coordinator
- DWRF and stakeholder updates
- Check in on interests, opportunities, and gaps
- Overview of Aspen Wallwood and logging operations
- Next steps (log hours)

AGENDA		
Topic	Process	Time
Start-Ups	Agenda, rules, roles, brief introductions including why you're engaged and what you bring to the collaborative	15m 1:30 PM
Updates	Stakeholder updates (Aspen Wall Wood/ excelsior progress, Aspen scoping, watersheds conference, OktoberForest, AIM grant proposal for forest health economics VISTA and Fiber study, upcoming grants, Aspen Scoping)	60m 1:45 PM
Revisiting opportunities and gaps	Share notes from 2015 – Add to the challenges and information gaps (sticky individual thoughts, group review and reflection on progress towards closing the identified gaps.)	30m 2:45 PM
Wrap-Up and next steps		15m 3:15 PM
Adjourn		3:30 PM

Next Meeting: December 5th

Notes from Sept. 22, 2015

What we bring to the table – existing capacity, Opportunities, complimentary initiatives, etc.

DWCD: *Contacts/ customers – water user awareness; experience; financial; leadership; longevity; interagency relationships; willingness to communicate and cooperate with industry*

BOR: *Cooperation with USFS and DWCD on issues in and around McPhee*

CSFS: *Technical expertise; on the ground forestry assistance on private lands; Grant \$; Wildfire Hazard mitigation info, Wood utilization and marketing assistance; Good Neighbor Authority; conservation education and outreach*

Dolores Fire: *Support and education. Everyone looks to Fire departments first for help.*

SJNF: *Headwaters of most tributaries are on NFS lands; 4,000 acres of Ponderosa Pine units ready for treatment; Embarking on High Value Risk Analysis for Dolores and Columbine districts starting this Fall; Fire Plan w/ emphasis on W.U.I.; Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA); Farm Bill; existing watershed risk and treatment/restoration efforts; **Targets:**12,000 ccf (500-750 acres) for thinning in Pine, aspen or spruce; mechanical treatment of 500 acres of pine/oak/ year; Prescribed burning of 1-2,000 acres/yr*

Mountain Studies Institute: *Supports similar effort – San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership; has science, monitoring, education and facilitation skills and connections; experience with watershed assessments; ties to Colorado Forest Restoration Institute; Good at grant writing and fund-raising; already helping to support the spruce beetle initiative*

Montezuma County: *Local government brings political support; Eligible for some money and subsidies as pass through or recipient; can help make connections to industry; some planning and coordination support; policy development; some tech support, including mapping*

FireWise of Southwest Colorado: *Seed funding to facilitate three meetings of the group before December, 2015 through our role as a Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Hub organization (1 of 17 across the nation with Nature Conservancy, NFPA, USFS/BLM support); community connections, educating residents to take action to keep properties safe; tours; grant writing; interest in sustaining and promoting partnership; homeowner /landowner incentive programs;*

San Juan Citizens Alliance: *Experience working in collaborative groups addressing resource management issues on SW Colorado public lands including SJHFH Partnership; Field experience examining timber harvesting and fuels treatment operations and sites subsequent to such operations;*

Ability to add conservation perspectives including carbon cycle and climate change elements; General knowledge and interest in staying current with most recent forestry related research

What outstanding information gaps, capacity or resource shortfalls, challenges or threats do we know about?

Challenges out of our control

- Insect and disease issues in addition to wildfire threats to forest
- No major local catalyzing events/ large wildfires lately
- How future will look – climate, insects and disease, etc. how fires may change in response

Scaling up will be a challenge;

- Lack of a collaborative group in the area- Build partnership to cooperate on pilot efforts
- Limited forest product industry, especially for ponderosa pine, to utilize and pay for wood products, no long-term industry stability, lack of capacity and transportation infrastructure;
- Limited forest products markets/ demand for local products
- Slope- topographic and other practical constraints to commercial timber harvest
- Community education and outreach - Make the public more aware of the danger of what could happen and work to get support from them
- People that don't want to see or support timber harvest or thinning
- Limited manpower, need a way to fund activities, including personnel; Limited CSFS and USFS personnel
- Planning/ NEPA efforts take time
- Inadequate funding from current sources to treat on a large scale; Limited grant money – Need funding to pay for stewardship or service contracts where we can't sell products
- Need mapping support and targets

Information gaps:

- Which treatments should get highest priority? Highest risk areas to McPhee? Prioritize risk areas feasible for treatment
- Where can we treat?
- What is industry demand and capacity?
- What is potential local market for wood products?
- How can we get community buy-in?
- How will we monitor progress of our efforts and success of treatments?
- GIS data for private lands not as good as on Natl. Forest lands
- Relevant info and data is scattered across different agencies and governments