

Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest Collaborative

Agenda

Wednesday, June 5

Expected Outcomes

- Update on strategic planning process and follow-up questions
- Update on DWRF program areas
- Stakeholder updates – know what’s happening in the area
- Make plans for DWRF summer/fall outreach activities

Action Items Highlighted

Attendees:

Danny Margoles, DWRF Coordinator
Stacy Beagh, Strategic By Nature
Bill Baker, retired fire ecologist
Sonny Frasier, Town of Dove Creek
Mike Preston, Dolores Water Conservancy District
Anthony Culpepper, Mountain Studies Institute
Ashely Downing, Wildfire Adaptive Partnership
Alex Graf, Wildfire Adaptive Partnership
Ann McCoy, Senator Gardner
Rebecca Samulski, Fire Adapted Colorado
Jimbo Buikerood, San Juan Citizens Alliance
Duncan Rose, Trout Unlimited, Montezuma Land Conservancy
David Casey, San Juan National Forest
Selwyn Whiteskunk, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council

Updates:

Watershed Wildfire Protection Framework - Danny M.

- Name will be changed to **Wildfire Risk Reduction Framework**
- USFS has still not released the Highly Valued Resources and Assets model. Going to move forward on the Wildfire Risk Reduction Framework as much as they can without that. **All: Let Danny know if you are interested in being involved in a working group to move the Framework project forward.**

On the ground activities: (Danny M.)

- DWRF is still in communication of doing a **project south of McPhee** along the irrigation canal on Bureau of Reclamation property. Looking for matching funding from other interested parties. USBR is looking into any additional NEPA clearances. Anticipating treating 20-40 acres.

Timber Industry Working Group: (Mike P.)

- Environmental Impact Bonding discussions have been happening on the Columbine and Dolores region. Trying to figure out what to finance to make an impact on the ground. The lead group, Quantified Ventures, is hoping to do a feasibility study to see how strong an opportunity the bonds could be as a tool for financing projects. The Working Group is proposing that they protect the power grid – the coop level power lines are at risk because they are wooden poles with inadequate right of ways as compared to major transmission lines which aren't as vulnerable. Biomass power also came up for discussion with a goal of exporting power rather than pellets based on infrastructure limitations. The due date to the feasibility is the end of August. Funding from the Walton Family Foundation.
- Working on a fiber utilization study to understand what can be produced, cost/revenue potential, etc. The Working Group will be figuring out how sequence next steps given the bonding discussions and business planning that is going on with the new industries in the area.
- Colorado State Forest Service is proposing to do a literature review of the work that has been done on the fiber utilization study so that the data can be built upon not duplicated.
- Becca has been looking at the state/national level fiber studies that could be used as an example. At a policy level, there might be opportunity to create incentives to promote timber products or bioplastics. **Becca will send the information she's gotten on this initiative.** She thinks the new West Fork Fire Station could be a good option for biomass heat production location.

All working groups are open for involvement – if you're interested, let Danny know!

Outreach: (Danny)

- Danny represented DWRF at the Dolores River Days last weekend. He spent a lot of time discussing the prescribed burns that are upcoming.

Funding: (Danny)

- Received a Ballentine Foundation Grant for \$1,000
- Did not receive the National Landscape Conservation Collaborative grant award.
- Next steps are to move forward with a fundraising plan as part of the strategic plan process.
- Need to move forward on other aspects of WaterSMART, expect a report back on the path forward for that grant.
 - Consider asking the stakeholders to help financially support coordination of DWRF.
- **Danny and Ashely will look into if the GoFundMe is still live on the website or will create a donate button.**

Strategic Planning: (Stacy)

- Draft strategic plan to be presented in July with a draft sent out ahead of time.
- A small work group of Jimbo, Duncan, Anthony, Derek, and Danny are working through a draft vision and associated metrics. Trying to balance DWRF's role of coordinator and find metrics that already exist and are already being collected.
 - Becca suggested that the group should look into the community resilience aspects as well and will look into how other areas are doing this (e.g., treatments in the WUI vs. development in the WUI as a measure as to whether the treatments are keeping up).
- The Coordinating Committee is evaluating organizational structure options for DWRF.

Updates/Near-Term Events:

- **Boggy Draw Prescribed Fire – this Saturday – Monday**; watch for Danny's email updates and let him know if you're interested by tomorrow.
- Wildfire Adaptive Partnership **chipper rental rebate** (up to 50%), contact WAP for site assessments as well.
- San Juan Headwaters is hosting a **prescribed fire tour on June 21st**, open invite to DWRF, let Anthony Culpepper know. ½ Day Tour starting around 9 a.m. at Turkey Springs Trailhead.
- Columbine Collaborative effort is moving forward, kick-off – full **Columbine Collaborative meeting on July 11**. Having conversations between collaboratives about cross-coordination and sharing messaging.
- **Mountain Studies Institute developed a draft monitoring protocol** that can provide common approaches across SW forests.
- Duncan explained that the **Upper Dolores Stream Protection Working Group** comprised of USFS, DWCD, CPW and TU is moving forward. Assessing the vulnerability of trout on 44 streams to six different disturbances (e.g., erosion, stream temp, flooding, human development, etc) and are creating a list of protection tools. The goal is to match the conditions with the list of protection options and use that to work off of. Working on building their data – e.g., Over 70% of the last three summers stream temps were above critical condition. Attributing the increase to travel time of the stream (length) and increase temperatures. This data will inform native trout strongholds and practical management actions.
- Jimbo explained that **Timber Age Builders** got funding from USDA and are working on test products to design buildings that use waste wood, decrease construction waste, etc. (e.g., effective, greener, cheaper). Jimbo will let us know if there is a presentation organized at the Green Business Roundtable.
- Dave explained that the **Lone Pine EA second draft (as opposed to final) will go out** in a few weeks for a 30-day comment period. USFS incorporated comments on the Lone Pine EA, provided more detail, etc. The reason is that there is push back-potential litigation being pursued by the Center for Biological Diversity.
 - Prevents cutting being done in the area for a whole year and expect to see intense beetle activity this year.

- The tour is open to the Center for Biological Diversity and it is hoped that they engage and interact locally. USFS is hopefully that the meetings will bring all the issues out front so that they can be addressed.
- **Lone Pine field trip scheduled on 6/18** – will tour proposed sites and previously treated sites. **Please let Danny know if there is anything particular you'd like to see on the field trip in the next few days.**
- USFS is striving to learn from past projects and apply those lessons to the EA.
- Ariel survey for beetle extent will be conducted in July to show last year's impact. Should be available in September.

Summer Calendar: (Danny, brainstorm)

<p>PAST</p> <p>Site Tours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lone Pine ● Boggy ● Lake Canyon ● Butler Corner ● Adam's Ranch ● Joe Moore ● Milwood <p>Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bultler Corner Beetle Workshop <p>Direct Outreach to Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DRBA ● Empire Electric ● County Commissions <p>Community Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● River fest ● Rico 4th of July ● Trivia night at Dolores River Brewery ● OktoberForest 	<p>NOW – CURRENT AND DESIRED</p> <p>Site Tours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lone Pine ● Lower irrigation system/USBR property and down (forest to faucets tour) ● Old growth throughout the watershed ● Dan West Insect Headwaters Tour, could be extended to other communities (late Sept.) <p>Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beetle workshops ● MSI Forest and Fire Learning Series to expand to other communities ● State of monitoring between forest treatment and water (work with MSI, not any local work on this) ● Jim White presentation on the impact of 416 on trout and Burro on Bear Creek ● MSI – impact of metals greater on 416 than Gold King <p>Direct Outreach to other Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dolores River Boating Advocates -info on forest health in map <p>Community Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OktoberForest – engage community groups earlier – start with a planning committee now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to increase attendance
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance DWRF maps to include “brewshed” • Coasters can help at breweries – website, call to action, where to donate • Farmer’s Market • Escalante Days • 4th of July in Rico • Dolores River Fest • Outreach at put-ins • Movie screening and panel discussion
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Mike suggests that DWRF needs to really refine the story and message to ensure consistency and tie the narrative to site-specific restoration. Then align the events with the story.

- Tell the story of how the Collaborative works together and what impacts the group is having and that need the community to engage.
- Work with the newspaper – invite them to field trips – and KSJD, things get archived so it can be a resource for a while.

Consider backing off on the OktoberForest event this year – instead find a way to engage people with the map. Potential to host a forest to faucet tour – to show people where the water goes.

Wrap-Up and Next Steps:

- Danny will keep people in the loop on the prescribed fire tours.
- Next meeting July 17th 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.