

**Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest (DWRF) Collaborative
Stakeholders Meeting
January 5, 2022
dwrfcollaborative.org**

The meeting was conducted via Zoom. Present were:

Bruce Short (Short Forestry, LLC); Doug Muscanell; Mike Preston (RMRI Steering Comm/Weenuchu' Development); Patt Dorsey (National Wild Turkey Federation); Alex Graf (Wildfire Adapted Partnership); Chris Garner (Mancos Conservation District); Dan Koffberg, David Casey, Derek Padilla, Jason Lawhon, Emma Reineman (San Juan National Forest); Duncan Rose (Dolores River Anglers, TU); James Reiman (Montezuma Land Conservancy); James Deitrich (Montezuma County); Jimbo Buickerood (San Juan Citizens Alliance); Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District); Mike Remke (Fort Lewis College); Mike Battaglia (USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station); Molly Pitts (Colorado Timber Industry Association); Phil Ayers (Southwest Colorado Cycling Association, WAP); Rich Landreth (City of Cortez Water); Ryan Cox (Colorado State Forest Service); Robert Myer (Mancos Trails Group); Anthony Culpepper (Four Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative; Mountain Studies Institute); Aaron Kimple (Mountain Studies Institute); Danny Margoles (DWRF Coordinator)

Notetaking: Aaron Kimple

Program Area Updates

Community Education & Outreach:

Danny is pulling together E-newsletter. Please send Danny content.

Derek presented the wood for life program. Program to remove wood and deliver to Chinle. Have 10K from backcountry snowboards. Working with NFF. Plowing out a deck and delivering next week. Want to expand to wood from private lands.

Collaborate with Land Management Agencies

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program update: The CFLRP Governance Meeting will be January 12, 9:00 to 12:00. Email came from Samuel Wallace. Peak Facilitation is leading the dialogue. Important to have strong collaborative representation. No new news on CFLRP project funding.

Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative updates: RMRI sent out the save the date. Hosting a meeting to discuss projects. January 13, 2:00 to 4:00. Meeting for all. Jason acknowledged that a lot of work has occurred in the RMRI landscape.

- February 17, There will be a PODS strategy meeting. Meeting will focus on identifying specific actions, activities, and barriers within the priority PODs identified through stakeholder input last year in order to achieve mission/goals of RMRI values.

Resilient Forests and Communities

- Ken Curtis – snow levels. In better shape than a few weeks ago. Approx 50% of peak. Sharks tooth is close to normal. Still more to come.
- Aaron and Patt – Forest Health Council. Hosted an initial meeting before the holidays.
- Infrastructure Funding. The leadership team is building a response. Molly was told that there will be a round table in late January early February. Years 1 to 3 already committed.
- Ryan Cox – New State Forester in place. Matt McCombs
- David Casey – Updated on RESTORE grant SJNF received from 2020. Seeding in critical habitat. Had to find an NGO to complete the project– Used SCC. 4 weeks worth of work. Another 2 or 3 hitches in coming year.
- Bruce – Completed Reddit Ranch thinning. Piles are burned. Back in 10 to 15. Borders Chicken Creek.

Forest Products Industry Development

- Aspen Wall Wood is submitting a Wood Innovation Grant/Community Energy Grant application towards a pellet mill. This pellet mill will help with biomass utilization and developing a new commercial product.

Collaborative Effectiveness and Sustainability

- James Deitrich, Natural Resources Coordinator for Montezuma County, has now joined the DWRP Coordinating Committee
- Grants updates
 - RESTORE grant. Will hear in March.
 - City of Cortez small grant for general operations
- Aaron – Funding for coordination under infrastructure funds will likely emerge

Mike Remke, Fort Lewis College and Mountain Studies Institute - Mixed Conifer Knowledge Synthesis Presentation

https://cfri.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2021/12/Remke_etal_2021_Mixed-Conifer_Final_lowres.pdf

- Mixed conifer are diverse and complex. There is a spectrum of composition and stages. Management should embrace complexity.

Discussion:

Bruce Short – need to look to species of interest.

David Casey – Impact of western spruce budworm? – Not a lot of info. Operates during warm/ wet periods. Shaded understory (White fir). Could open canopy to address movement. Depends on species of interest and stand.

Robert Meyer – Does age influence vigor and response to budworm? Some recommendation to open canopy. Jimbo clarified that Robert was referencing bark beetle.

David Casey – there is an outbreak of budworm in areas of the Dolores District that results in mortality.

Ken Curtis – Areas of further study – points of less clarity. What does this mean for management? What are our current conditions? What are our goals? Different approach for different stands.

Mike Battaglia – New challenges and management come with climate change. Monitoring can help inform next steps and adaptive management. What is your desired condition?

DWRF End of Year Review & Survey Discussion

- 17 folks reviewed
- The averages lose some of the nuance
- Feedback - more involvement needed/desired from Ute Mountain Ute/ rec/ towns
- Large range and discrepancies in question about collaborative trust
- Molly – Do we know who responded and if they represented more than one person?
- There is a lot to learn from this and there is a need to dig deeper on specific topics/questions to keep learning and advancing as a group.
- Danny can help with outreach. Everyone needs to work on trust.