

DWRF Meeting Notes - Hybrid
5/4/2022

In attendance: Cassidy Storey (San Juan Mountains Association), Derek Padilla (San Juan National Forest), Ryan Cox (Colorado State Forest Service), David Casey (SJNF), Chris Alanis (SJNF), Bruce (Short Forestry), Doug Muscanell (retired), Emma Reinemann (SJNF), Sensa Wolcott (Mancos Conservation District), Shannon Hatch (Reclamation), Becca Samulski (Fire Adapted Colorado), Robert Meyer (Mancos Trails Group), Robert Stump (Reclamation), Steve Garchar (Dolores County), Duncan Rose (Trout Unlimited, Dolores River Anglers), Jimbo Buickerood (SJCA), Katie McGrath Novak (CSU Center for Collaborative Conservation), Rich Landreth (City of Cortez), Pat Seekins (SJNF), Mike Preston (RMRI), Mike Battaglia (USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station), Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Lorena Williams (SJNF), Danny Margoles (DWRF)

- Just wrapped up Plateau Reforestation, there are extra seedlings!
- Review of Collaborative meeting ground-rules and expectations
- **Stakeholder and DWRF updates by program area**
 - Community Education & Outreach
 - Tour(s) for 2022
 - Last meeting we brainstormed about tours for this year, including an industry tour to look at industry around the area. Will be trying to meet this summer.
 - Potentially set up a tour to look at prescribed burn areas or other recently treated areas to get a sense for what
 - Outreach committee for Dolores event? Danny will be bringing that back this month, probably with Ken Charles
 - Forests and Fire Learning Series 2022 – MSI
 - June 6 & 8 from 5-7 pm in Durango at Outdoorsy on Main
 - They asked if DWRF wanted a table, does anyone want to volunteer? No volunteers.
 - Is DWRF doing anything at Dolores River Fest? Danny said he's been doing the Summerfest rather than Riverfest, if we're focusing on one festival which should we focus on? Riverfest would make sense since the focus is on the river.
 - Collaborate with Land Management Agencies
 - Info for June Salter review mtg
 - Please fill out Salter EA survey sent out by Danny! Only 6 responses received so far.
 - Kara detailing to Region 5, Pat detailing to SO, Tracy detailing as Dolores FMO, lots of temporary musical chairs
 - Resilient Forests and Communities
 - RMRI updates - Snowtopography site to determine changes in forest structure on soil and downstream effects (hoping to look at water quantity). They want to look at upper Dolores watershed as well. New sites could include upper

- ponderosa and even higher elevation, looking for a site with stream gauges and sno-tel sites to incorporate paired monitoring. Also looking at a site in Wyoming
 - Forest Products Industry Development
 - Aspen Wall Wood is awaiting word on a Wood Innovation Grant from USDA for a pellet mill
 - Collaborative Effectiveness and Sustainability
 - Grants updates
 - DWRF has new agreement with Forest Service to fund Danny
 - COSWAP funding proposal is under development
 - Ballantine Foundation Grant submitted for operations
 - Reclamation looking at a new fuels project, they probably have funding
 - Private landowners might want to join in on contracting
 - Bruce's insurance is no longer covering him doing controlled burns, this could have implications for other entities as well
 - Ken: do we want to elevate this to state DWR? How can we improve health of forest on private properties if this restricts burning that can be done on private land?
- Introduction to the Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network – Katie McGrath Novak, Center for Collaborative Conservation at CSU
 - Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network will be based out of Center for Collaborative Conservation
 - Have had discussions with collaboratives, CO DNR, USFS, CO FS, consultants, other similar networks
 - Want to connect collaboratives to one another to share stories and lessons; compile, share, and assist with funding and other opportunities (both capacity-related and project-based); compile and share topical information and current research; share collaborative voices and efforts with the public, share collaborative voices to a state policy level; help groups with facilitation and administration duties
 - Presented the CFCN at the Forest Health Council – interested in having the CFCN as a 2-way conduit of information between FHC and the individual collaboratives
 - Jimbo would like more representation from the conservation ecology side
 - Mike served on FHC, has been restructured recently. It now reports to DNR and now has more opportunity to provide input to state legislature
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program – we got the money!
 - Governance structure update and discussion
 - Ken: governance body with similar goals to DWRF with a broader perspective
 - Recommendations to the forest service, but not necessarily making decisions
 - Coordinating council is made up of chairs of a lot of different working groups - there are six standing committees with different goals
 - Trying to maintain authority of individual collaboratives and not duplicate efforts
 - Want it to be as efficient as possible, please give feedback, we want to keep moving forward to develop a workplan
- 2022 partner/stakeholder activities in 2022

- San Juan National Forest – Pat Seekins and David Casey
 - Prescribed fire
 - Focus over the next couple weeks, all timelines tentative due to unfavorable weather conditions. 8-10,000 acres identified for this spring
 - Vegetation projects – Lone Pine, Salter, Chicken Creek
 - Contractors starting to move in for the summer. Slow start, contracts went out in 2020 and then COVID. Thinning plantations based on spatial patterns. Established large trees trigger a spatial adjustment. Uneven age structure over time using what we already have. Commercial thin areas are being cut, skid, and decked. Markets are not robust, struggling to get buyers. Stewardship contracts (IRSC) are in place where the value of the timber doesn't pay for the transportation and clearing of wood. Goal is to be out of the area by 2024 so that we can get in and burn. Using lidar to identify where to cut, or where to avoid (pre-settlement trees) and adjusting boundaries accordingly. Experimenting with how to remove all material at once and dealing with small diameter timber prior to entering Boggy Draw area. Shared stewardship opportunities – maybe treat adjacent private and state lands under the same contracts. Mike Battaglia is interested in prescriptions that are being used – will email David for further discussion. Moving into Chicken Creek area.
- Fire Adapted Colorado – Becca Samulski
 - This Saturday is wildfire community preparedness day – make sure everything around your house is safe
- SJMA - Cassidy
 - Ambassadors are going to be out and around this summer all over the forest
 - Last year's pilot season was successful
- Updates postponed for a later meeting
 - *Colorado State Forest Service – Ryan Cox*
 - *Trout Unlimited – Duncan Rose*
 - *Mancos Conservation District/Mancos Watershed Group – Sensa Wolcott*
 - *Mancos Trails Group – Robert Meyer*
- Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program
 - RMRI Landscape Resilience Investment for SW CO and current approach