

## DWRF Stakeholder Meeting 20220601

In person: Danny Margoles (DWRF Coordinator), Lo Williams (San Juan National Forest – SJNF), Derek Padilla (SJNF), Laura Hanna (Mountain Studies Institute – MSI), Anthony Culpepper (MSI), Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District), Bruce Short (Short Forestry, LLC), Doug Muscanell (former mill owner), Abe Profitt (SJNF)

Online: Mike Remke (Fort Lewis College), Molly Pitts (CO Timber Industry), Aaron Kimple (MSI), Travis Bruch (SJNF), Rebecca Samulski (Fire Adapted Colorado), Daniel Godwin (Ember Alliance), Alex Graf (Wildfire Adapted Partnership), Dave Casey (SJNF), Rich Landreth (City of Cortez), Robert (Mancos Trails Group)

## UPDATES

### Rx Fire Updates

- USFS pause/moratorium
  - o Chief Moore instituted a 90 day pause due to escapes in NM, with the Hermit Fire now being the largest in NM history, this is a time to review policies and protocols, making sure we are using the most up to date science
  - o No impact presently locally due to it not being the “season” in the San Juan
  - o Spring Rx was not possible due to weather conditions, and not making prescription
  - o Fall is our season but there is often the limiting factor of resources being used elsewhere; ramp up is typically in late Sep and Oct.
- Messaging from CO Rx Fire Council
  - o State wide and nation wide it is important to know this is a USFS standdown;
  - o There is a learning culture in the Rx fire community
  - o BLM, DFPC, and others are not standing down and we can see burning still where conditions are met. Still windows for broadcast burning in Colorado
  - o We need to be cognizant to the social license issues; fall Council meeting will be centered around social license.
  - o The public does not always recognize the “color of the helmet” but we are all working together.
  - o Need to keep working towards Rx fire objectives
- Discussion
  - o Bruce - More and more insurance concerns for burning on private lands; burn windows are becoming narrower (hours not days); cannot maintain licenses due to insurance rate increases. Will not engage in Rx burning even though certified by Colorado due to loss of all liability for the company.
    - Daniel – this is a policy focus for the EA and CO Rx Fire Council, there is not silver bullet and there would need to be a Federally backed pool, CO there is a move to float a bill that would establish a claims fund for certified burners to mitigate risk for insurers. This is an issue not just in the US. If we do not scale up,

then we cannot scale up on pvt lands, there needs to be a fix in insurance to meet our cross-boundary objectives. SE US is leading these efforts due to higher density of pvt lands and pvt contractor burning.

- Insurance providers seem to have an information gap with the gross negligence coverage of the state level certifications.
- Molly – do we anticipate that existing burn plans will need to be revised, ie. revised to meet any new requirements
  - There is no indication or knowledge beyond the public letter from the Chief
- Lo – from the PIO standpoint there has been more fear associated with fire post 416 and Burro; the public is increasingly worried; there has been a push from some in the public to go into full Forest closure for some time this year.
- Aaron – from NM, they are really looking at burn windows and placing limitations on spring windows

#### OTHER UPDATES

- July field tour – (July 13<sup>th</sup>, meeting at Aspen Wood Products at 9am) – focused on wood products industry – current operations, challenges for biomass utilization, current steps
- DWRP, 4Rivers, Headwaters will be co-hosting an intern with the SJNF to help support events for the collaboratives and coordinated outreach.
- Aspen Wall Wood received the Wood Innovation Grant
- COSWAP was submitted with MCD for mitigation efforts around Summit Lake and Jackson Gulch everything from the Home Ignition Zone to large scale mitigation.

#### SALTER EA - COLLABORATIVE REVIEW

- Reminder of timeline, refer to timeline doc, and lots of engagement from pre-scoping; field tour in Boggy Draw, Chicken Creek rec tour, and old PPP sites
  - Several Questions – climate change; and associated with and without the work; the severity and ecology of the RH pinebeetle; and questions around the ecological effects of diameter caps or not (20in vs. 26in)
- An agreements docs was developed with the SJNF on how to engage with this EA.

#### *Stakeholder Concerns – Not the What but the How*

- How to learn as we move forward into future engagement?
- How lessons learnt can be used across SW Colorado?

#### *SJNF Salter Review as a Case study by SJNF*

- Lo connected to UWyo with the CPNR certification program; how we can reflect on past collaboration for future collaboration; Jessica Western put on a workshop/training for SJNF and collab stakeholders (early 2021).
- AAR of the Salter collaborative process to learn how to better engage across the other Districts
- Focus on the methods and tools to communicate; survey was sent to stakeholders

Feedback from Survey and coordinating committee was synthesized in a review document (basis for today's conversation).

### *What does successful collaboration look like?*

Assessing is based on how we actually work together.

- Ref Danny's summary
- Ref IAP2/NFF Spectrum – Communicate -> Consult -> Involve -> Collaborate
- Add to List
  - Molly – Tackling the hard conversations and issues; ideally with resolution; but successful collab enables the discussion proactively
  - Becca – Adaptive management is a product of successful collaboration; moving forward work that is better than the NAA and used AM to improve what we are doing; moving forward and adjusting as we go
  - David – working through and committing the time to work through the hard topics
  - Bruce – we want to do something -> how to do them -> the effects on the ground -> adapting to those effects -> propose, discuss, and implement activities that move us towards our mission statement; “enacting our mission statement” of promoting forest community and resilience.

### *Public Participation Training Process (Lo's handout)*

- Timing – Early and often
- Resources – how much can you really communicate (time, personnel)
- Responsibilities
- Criteria for success and evaluate accordingly
  - These tools can be utilized by the collabs and not just the Agency, eg. “when do we engage in a field tour”, “when open public vs. stakeholder”

### *Salter Successes (ref doc)*

- Bruce – reminder that the reason for NEPA is to include the public in management decisions; question for Derek, “how did it go, did you get the public input needed to make a sound decision?”
  - Yes, changes were made in the final decision based on the input from stakeholders; without the collab we don't know if all this would have been captured via a normal/formal NEPA process. Rec groups and Town of Dolores, brought in the conversation.
- Lo – variety of opportunities to engage in the process (tours, presentations, reviews, “in the weeds”, basic public outreach) “Salter was a big step forward on collaboration because of these opportunities “
  - Ken – Who tied to wilder general public
    - Danny was circulated to the general stakeholder list
- David – lots of influence in the development of the descending order of choice; and extra “check points” on the list; Rec input for Boggy was a success, eg. pre-implementation check list and how this moves into the contracts for implementation

### *Salter Challenges*

- Bruce – as a long term member of the community has been the shift in the diversity of stakeholders (ranching/logging to rec/retirement ) the PPP and now DWRF has brought this into focus; the way the we interact with the forest has changed dramatically; the diversity of stakeholders was a challenge and the expectations of those interests.
- Becca – clarifying how amendments/revisions are made based on input; several of the challenges can up because of lack of knowledge on how these changes were made; lack of transparency in these changes. Does a response to one player impact the overall effectiveness of the project? Rec input is an example of these non-transparent adjustments
  - o Investment in the back and forth outside of the formal NEPA document, eg iterative back and forth. Help hone in towards the middle in the front end.
  - o David – feedback is needed to the larger group, meeting space, we allow enough time to understand the changes.
- Robert – AM is the most important part, Salter EA was ongoing while the Turkey Ck sale was ongoing; the impact of the discussions were not make apparent until after the objections; buffer in the Boggy draw is a result of the objections but then bringing stakeholders together; bring those objections into future EAs .
  - o Derek – reach out to targeted groups, get input, and bring back to the group

Expectations around Project Development (What were our expectations on the IAP2 full co-development to just communications) concerns over the project being “mature” when brought to the table.

- o David – we worked hard with the collab on Lone Pine and feed into Salter.
- o Mike – can feel as if “fully baked”, and where it stands out is in the large tree retention, a binary of yes or no with cap, no opportunity for a new alt with removal under certain conditions, collab can be helpful for the Forest.
- NEPA/Forest Plan Primer sessions
  - o Example – lack of large trees as called out in LRMP

### *NEXT STEPS*

- o Develop a lessons learned document regarding Salter and associated documents to support and build on collaborative engagement with future projects
- o Develop process for DWRF making formal recommendations

