

DWRF General Stakeholder Meeting – 11 Jan 2023

DWCD and Zoom

Participants

Danny Margoles – DWRF Coordinator; Brian Rose – Region 9; Steve Garchar – Dolores County Commissioner; Molly Pitts – CO Timber Industry Association; Derek Padilla – Dolores RD – District Ranger; Bruce Short – Short Forestry LLC; Duncan Rose – Dolores River Anglers TU; Rich Landreth – City of Cortez; Lo Williams – SJNF Partnership Coordinator; Helen Katich – Western CO Director Sen Hickenlooper; James Dietrich – Montezuma Co Natural Resources; Chris Garner – Mancos Conservation District; Keith Fox – Local Resident; Mike Preston – Ute Mtn Ute Development Corp; Doug Muscanell – Ret; Anthony Culpepper – MSI/Four Rivers; Mike Wight – San Juan Mtns Association; Robert Meyer – Mancos Trails Group; Emma Reinemann – SJNF Dolores RD NEPA Planner

Stakeholder Updates

- 1) Collaborating with land management agencies
 - a. CFRLP Coordinating Council update – review of program wide desired conditions developed by the Projects and Places and Sci and monitoring committees – most of these are in the 90% complete range – the Coordinating Council also discussed the develop the structure/process to use these general desired conditions to advance CFLRP goals. The CoCo did not get through their entire agenda on this topic and will regroup on 31 Jan. there is a need to make sure this is complete by the time the SJNF goes through its 2024 work fair (~April 2023).
 - b. The CoCo also discussed the scope of a facilitator to run CoCo, projects and Places, and general meetings. A bid will go out soon for a 1 year contract.
 - c. Question from Helen re how CFRLP monies are allocated for the next few years:
 - i. The SJNF has a scope of work for FY23 and there is still some sorting of what is funding that scope (CFRLP, RMRI, Base, etc.)
 - ii. Years 1 and 2 (FY22/FY23) there is not a lot of input from the collabs but with years 3-10 being led by the collaborative effort
 - d. Project and Places will be developing a set of criteria for funding; House Creek within Salter EA has been put forward as a trail for these criteria
- 2) Monitoring Update – upcoming in February mtg
- 3) Legislative Updates
 - a. Sen Hickenlooper – taking a break to reflect on the successes of the past two years – IJJA and Inflation Reduction Act funding – it is ‘go’ time for all things Farm Bill and they will be supporting the work of Sen Bennett in this process, can set up small group meetings to discuss Farm Bill priorities.
 - b. Danny M and Dana Guinn helped developed some questions for the record on the IJJA for community access to those funds
- 4) Molly Pitts – timber prices are coming down but inflation has driven costs up for operators; contractors are looking for “cheaper” wood; fortunately our market is not driven primarily by 2x4s but dimensional timber does drive a lot.

5) Funding and Agreements –

- a. \$4000 from the City of Cortez
- b. Waiting on word for FRWRM grant with MCD
- c. Working the SJNF to develop a new scope of work for 2023 with updates based on stakeholder priorities; outreach and education capacity being one of the prime areas; this could provide capacity for a VISTA; working to enhance representation for partners who are not regularly at the table (UMU).

Local Forest Products

Presentation by Brian Rose, Region 9 Economic Development District

- Highlights of CO Timber Industry
- Who is region 9? Serve the five counties of SW Co along with UMU and SUIT tribes;
- Role – help local govt execute their economic strategies; looking for opportunities to be additive; create, retain, attract businesses to the Region. Know what kinds of business are needed and will be successful. Sharing of networks. Grant writing services. Helping track economic data across the Region (data can be hard to drill into specifics due to time delay and limitations)

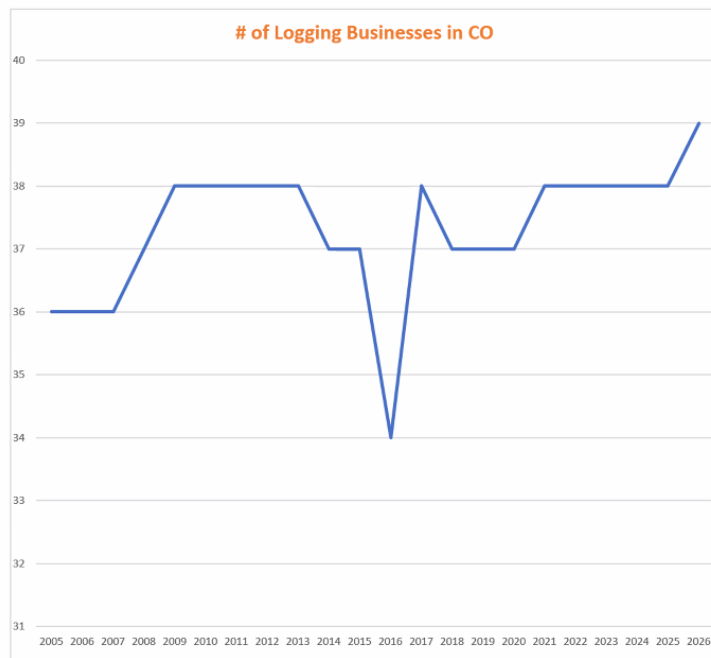
Total no. of business in ‘logging’ – State level data

Businesses

The number of logging business in CO has grown 5.5% from 2005-2021.

Since 2016-2022, the industry has seen an 11.1% growth in number of businesses.

Projected number of business to grow 2.7% by 2026.



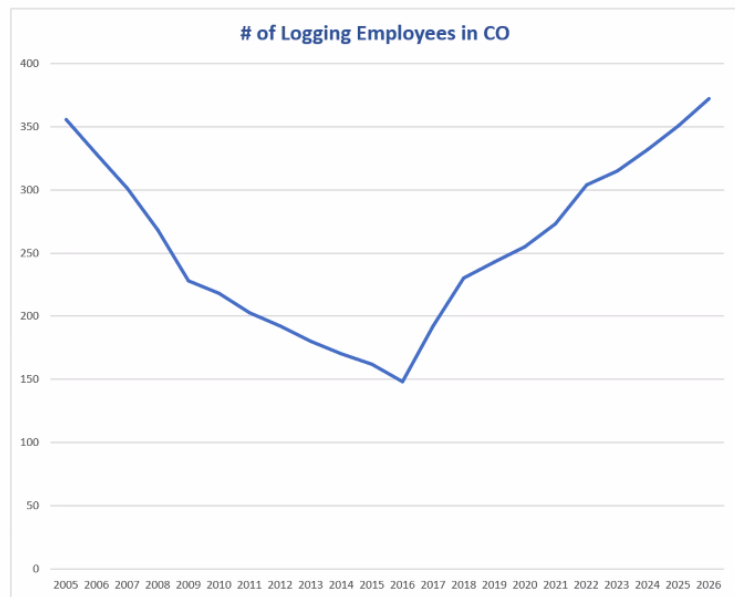
State level ‘logging’ jobs

JOBS

Workforce reduced 58.4% from 2005-2016 (-208).

From 2016-2021, we have recovered 125 jobs. & there has been an 84.5% increase in employees.

Projected 5-year growth from 2021-2026 of 99 jobs for a 36.3% increase.



- Roughly \$15k increase in wages from 2005-2021; ~\$2.3 increase in wages across the CO industry

Sold and Cut Volume

Production- Cut and Sold Totals

US Forest Service- Annual Cut and Sold Totals (Rocky Mtn Region)						
Forest	Sold Volume (MBF)			Cut Volume (MBF)		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Arapahoe/Roosevelt	10758.69	13725.12	3697.57	10652.25	7019.97	10211.93
Grand Mesa/Uncompahgre	38236.97	24269.83	18056.53	34283.1	29854.51	31425.33
Medicine Bow-Routt	8311.26	8292.72	5064.3	20964.5	24500.32	11047.24
Pike-San Isabel	13720.91	10943.65	11574.43	6092.96	9282.21	7569.9
Rio Grande	9752.44	11480.16	10552.5	14550.12	12272.9	9228.01
San Juan	42648.02	34203.99	37500.13	19714.1	22718.09	20321.21
White River	5485.11	21959.52	10378.33	13299.74	14793.81	25502.04
Totals for CO	128913.4	124874.99	96823.79	119556.77	120441.81	115305.66
Nebraska	48.8	195.54	154.04	307.7	34.4	44.8
South Dakota	53618.97	50975.49	47271.31	79971.91	65174.05	52511.8
Wyoming	39305.91	64685.64	49549.13	50110.44	58181.85	30465.44

Conversation – how to bring in appropriately scaled industry to reflect timber volume and forest by-products (POL, etc.)

End of Year Survey

Discussion focused on quantitative and qualitative annual survey results. See subset of slide below. Opportunities for 2023 includes both action items for DWRf to pursue and areas that would be valuable for collaborative learning.

Bruce Short commented that DWRf is in a transition period – no longer forming and figuring the best avenues to focus on executing the mission and spend time/energy. Danny agreed, highlighting current efforts that DWRf is supporting and engaging (such as COSWAP), while not leading.

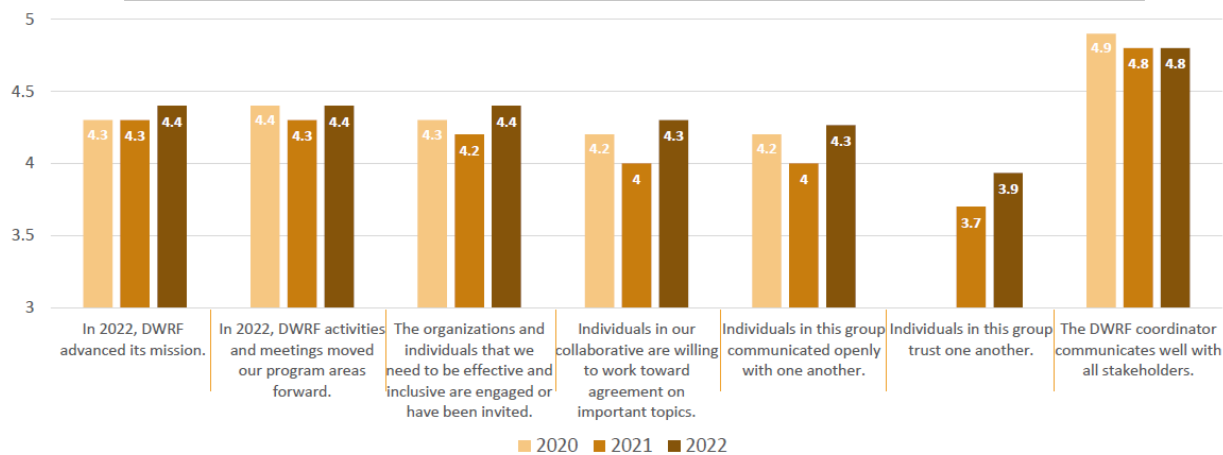
Discussion on the importance/need for expanding DWRf outreach and engagement activities.

Discussion of opportunities to help advance citizen science and community engagement/support. DWRf will be coordinating/supporting an upcoming workshop on community wildfire mitigation. Robert Meyer offered to help develop the idea for an in-person community/business mtg/event.

Discussion about the possibility of expanding DWRf conversations to forests/ecosystems upslope from the ponderosa pine zone, where the majority of conversations have focused to date. Ken Curtis expressed interest, since that is where the majority of snow/water accumulates. Duncan Rose expressed interest in discussion/learning about forest-water connections upslope for ponderosa pine zone. Mike Preston expressed support and indicated that DWRf is now in a position that it could consider focusing on ecosystems that are more sensitive and possibly contentious. Ken Curtis, Danny, and others will continue discussing and will bring back considerations/opportunities for advancing this discussion to a future stakeholder meeting.



Quantitative Survey Results



Top Successes by Program Area

- Education/Outreach
 - Field Trips – Industry tour
- Resilient Forests & Communities
 - Private lands work
 - **COSWAP** coordination
 - **Snowtopography** monitoring
- Collaborative effectiveness
 - Ongoing monthly stakeholder meetings
 - Increased representation on Coordinating Council (Ag and Recreation)
- Collaboration
 - Science/Monitoring
 - **Snowtopography** expansion
 - Soil disturbance monitoring in **Chicken Creek**
 - Large landscape initiatives
 - **CFLRP** – Governance development and ongoing engagement
 - RMRI engagement
 - Follow-up discussion focused on Salter Environmental Assessment
- Forest Products Industry
 - Industry tour

Top assets

- Diverse and committed stakeholders representation across interest groups and sectors
- Coordinator
- Reputation
- Meetings
 - Hybrid option
 - Regularity

Ways we did NOT meet goals

- Continue to focus on and develop outreach
- Trust between stakeholders/entities is still an issue
- Hybrid meetings are a challenge
- Engagement of specific interests
 - Timber industry, recreation community, Town of Dolores

Top opportunities for 2023

- Education and Outreach
 - Enhanced community presence and active education/outreach
 - Through events/workshops, media, online, signage, etc.
- Resilient Forests & Communities
 - Private lands/community protection work
 - Increase focus on private lands mitigation
 - Continue to bring in new funding and for implementation in priority areas
 - Continue COSWAP engagement
 - LEARNING: Continue focusing on climate change and carbon storage
 - LEARNING: Consider implementation opportunities through BIL and IRA
- Forest Products Industry
 - Cross-laminated timber?
 - Continue building relationships
- Collaboration
 - Monitoring/adaptive management
 - Data collection and interpretation
 - Citizen science
 - Continue and keep expanding snowtopography
 - Continuing proactive EA/NEPA engagement
 - LEARNING: Think beyond ponderosa pine zone and consider water yield gains from higher elevations
 - Collaborative Effectiveness
 - Additional/enhanced partner engagement
 - Continue building industry partner relationships
 - “Replacing” participants that have moved on/retired
 - Continue developing stakeholder trust
 - LEARNING: Examine successes and failures of other regional collaboratives and share

Effective meetings

- Hybrid meetings are mostly effective
- Annual in-person meeting? Expect periodic in-person attendance?
- Adjust introductions? Shorten?
- Get a better camera? – Get an OWL?
- Encourage use of camera
- Challenge with changing meeting dates

