

8/3 DWRP Stakeholder Meeting

1:30-3:30pm

Attendance

Odin Francious – Friend of Bruce Short; Bruce Short – Short Forestry, LLC; Samantha Torres – WAP; Derek Padilla – District Ranger, Dolores; Rich Landreth – Water Manager – City of Cortez; Mike Battaglia – USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station Molly Pitts – Executive Director, CO Timber Industry Association; James Dietrich – Montezuma County Natural Resources; Michael Preston; Christy Garrou – Public Affairs Specialist – San Juan; Steve Garchar – Dolores County Commissioner; Dana Guinn – MSI, San Juan Headwaters FHP; 232 Cohesive Strategy Partnership; Pat Dorsey – National Wild Turkey Federation; Mike Remke – Fort Lewis College; Jessie Pearl – The Nature Conservancy; Ken Curtis – Dolores Water Conservancy District; Danny Margoles – DWRP Coordinator

1. Introductions
2. Agenda Overview
 - a. Snowtopography – Exciting partnership, DWRP and agricultural research station in Tucson
 - b. COSWAP
 - c. Debrief DWRP tours
3. Stakeholder Responsibilities/Expectations
 - a. Participate in a way that builds trust
 - b. Participate with facilitator – no side conversations
 - c. Easy on people, hard on ideas
4. Collaborative updates
 - a. Community programs
 - i. WAP ambassador meeting next Tuesday
 - ii. Patt- Oct 4/5 RMRI leadership and partner meeting in Durango
 1. Patt will send out more info and can add to email list
5. MSI monitoring (soil disturbance)
 - a. Following implementation work at Chicken Creek
 - b. Will repeat monitoring this year and EOY thereafter
 - c. Forest ambassadors – San Juan association
 - d. Mid September – need large enough group to complete in one day
 - e. Thoughts/questions/interest?
 - i. Bruce Short interested
 - ii. Derek Padilla suggested Sept 15
 - iii. Molly – 4 Rivers collaborative and CO collaborative MTG 15th
 - iv. Danny – 15th won't work – follow up with date
6. Salter Lessons learned Document
 - a. Danny and Lo developing
 - b. Processed/basic framework for collaboration future projects – People/expectations
 - c. Useful tool for supporting collaborative processes going FW
 - d. Molly – Salter lesson – need data up front
 - i. Danny – What specific data do we want up front?
7. USFS Mature + old growth definition update

- a. Open for input through mid-august
 - b. Did anyone participate in webinar? Thoughts?
 - i. Patt- Webinar addressed setting up ecological framework that will work for all ecosystems. Challenging to apply to all forest types.
 - ii. Molly- industry perspective – concerned – questionable to use one definition. Thinks definitions should apply at forest level. Salter example – sometimes it is necessary to cut mature trees to reach desired conditions.
 - 1. Against universal definition
 - iii. Patt – single definition is confounding – old growth and mature forest are different things
 - iv. Mike Battaglia – Old tree removal dependent on ecosystem. Not one simple answer. What is end goal?
 - v. Derek Padilla – Executive order from President
 - vi. Mike Remke – DWRP using old growth definition from previous forest plan
 - vii. Pat – 5 questions forest service is looking for input on
 - 1. 1 and 2 = what should be included in definition?
 - 2. 3 and 4 = what can be done to improve resilience?
 - 3. 5 = what should be excluded?
 - c. Danny – Would it be valuable for DWRP to respond?
 - i. Molly - deadline extended 15 days. DWRP should provide feedback – should come from local level
 - ii. Interest in helping
 - 1. Bruce Short
 - 2. Milly Pitts
 - 3. Steve Garcher – Would like to be involved with county perspective
 - 4. Mike Battaglia – On the fence regarding involvement, involved on federal level. Happy to look at DWRP input. Emphasize difference between old/mature trees and mature stands
8. James – CWPP Update
- a. Final draft being circulated now
9. September 115 – CO Forest Collaborative Network Regional Meeting
- a. Katie Novak leading
10. DWRP Funding
- a. Webinar for Community Wildfire Defense Grant
 - i. Aug 8 at noon
 - ii. All lands aside from Federal eligible for funding.
 - b. CFLRP (Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program)
 - i. Review Charter adopted June 2022
 - ii. Background/Purpose – Founding legislation
 - 1. Covers entire San Juan National Forest and some private lands to South.
 - 2. Priority – Ponderosa pine and warm/dry mix conifer
 - 3. General goals – social, ecological, economic
 - a. Effective forest byproduct utilization
 - b. Thinning/fuel breaks/large tree and old growth retention

4. Structure
 - a. Coordinating council – chairs from committees
 - i. 9 ex officio seats – agency personnel, 2 local tribes, WAP, entertainment and fun committee
 - b. 3 community seats
 - c. 3 forest collaboratives across landscapes
5. Voting members must participate in 75% of meetings
6. Guiding expectations for participation – resolve concerns
7. All meetings open – can participate in committees
 - a. Dana, Molly, Patt, Ken, Jimbo, Mike Remke, Keith Mosure (RMRS), Paulette Church (WAP), Lo Williams (Forest Service), UTE mountain UTE tribe rep
8. Should DWRF participate in this capacity?
 - a. Bruce short – Obvious yes, risk becoming La Plata County Centric. DWRF participation can counter
 - b. Ken Seconds
 - c. Molly thinks DWRF has to be involved
 - d. Mike Battaglia – Involvement should represent DWRF, no conflicts of interest
 - e. Molly Pitts – Representative should be actively involved in DWRF
 - f. Bruce – Representative needs to be able to commit to time necessary
 - g. Ken – Representative within DWRF of CFLRP activities
 - h. Molly – lots of opportunity for committee involvement
9. Timing – Planning on meeting 8/4 – Plan larger stakeholder meeting end of Aug/early September
10. Volunteers or nominations for DWRF Rep?
 - a. Mike Battaglia – nominating Danny
 - b. Bruce Short – Already on Committee – Nominating Danny
 - c. Molly – Opportunity after a year to change
 - d. 5 finger vote – unanimously in favor of Danny as DWRF rep

11. Snowtography

- a. Plot program / Beta test site last year at Chicken Creek
- b. Lower elevation site – Thinned v unthinned forest
 - i. Compare moisture/ snow depth / snow water equivalent
- c. Jessie
 - i. Snowpack changing – how can we help through forest management?
 - ii. Goal is to scale up program to CO basin wide
 1. New sites installed this fall
 - a. Beaver creek – ponderosa pine
 - b. Lizard head – sub alpine fir site
 - iii. Hope is 20% increase in stream flow
- d. Danny – applied, simple approach

- e. Molly – tie in ski resorts? Insect/disease impact?
 - f. Patt – timing?
 - i. Jessie – 3 years for average/typical baseline to be established
 - g. Mike Battaglia – site selection/design/set up
 - h. Patt – using pizometers?
 - i. Jessie – No, deep soil moisture
12. COSWAP Update and Scope
- a. Mancos conservation district submitted proposal
 - b. Reducing wildfire risk to lives, homes and critical infrastructure
 - i. Prioritizing private and UTE mountain UTE lands
 - ii. Priority zones – cross boundary work
 - 1. Summit lake and Jackson Gulch
 - c. Partners - Mancos conservation district, DWRF, WAP, Ute mountain Ute
 - d. Challenge – MZ county likes to do own work
 - i. Dispose of slash through burn piles
 - 1. Insurance issues with burning
 - 2. Danny – DFPC plans to support burning on private lands
 - e. D space work – community scale
 - i. Larger fuel breaks
 - f. Danny – Leverage COSWAP \$ for future funding
 - i. Molly – FMRWM Grant - \$13MM
 - 1. Capacity grant – allows purchase of equipment
 - ii. Derek Padilla – fills gap in private land component
 - 1. RMRI – cross boundary coordinating
13. Debrief now or next meeting?
- a. Next Meeting
 - b. Danny summary:
 - i. CFLRP group
 - ii. Last minute thoughts?
 - iii. Upcoming meeting – Sept/Oct – partial field day? Meet at Dolores Library?

Notetaker: Samantha Torres

Notes reviewed by Danny Margoles