



DWRF Stakeholder's Meeting
Wednesday, August 9, 1:30-3:30pm

Participants: Doug Muscanell (retired); Elizabeth James (Wildfire Adapted Partnership); Tara Harris (Mancos Conservation District); Jim Broderick (Triple JR); Anthony Culpepper (MSI); Bruce Short (Short Forestry LLC); Sheryl Gunn (San Juan NF); Tom Rice (SJNF); Jimbo Buickerood; Nick Olson (National Forest Foundation); Dani Gregory (SW Colorado Cycling Association); Robert Meyer; Ken Curtis (Dolores Water Conservancy District); Ronnie Curley (MCD); John Whitney (Senator Bennet representative); Megan Maxwell (CTIA); Danny Margoles (DWRF)

Stakeholder and DWRF updates by program area

Collaborate with Land Management Agencies

- Sheryl Gunn – The San Juan National Forest is committed to collaboration for the long term. The agency is needing to take a step back to some/many conversations due to the Salter litigation, but understands and is committed to the values of collaboration.
- Ken Curtis: What are current fire conditions on the SJNF?
 - o Tom Rice – There has been a lot of lightning recently. Columbine and Pagosa Districts have been able to utilize ignitions for fuel treatments/ecological benefits. The lightning ignitions in the Dolores District have all been near valued timber sale areas so have been suppressed, but there may be more chances to come.
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
 - o Danny – The CFLRP Coordinating Council discussed working with and addressing challenging participants and behavioral expectations for participation. There is a strong need for diverse and challenging views/participation, but also respectful behavior.
 - o Anthony Culpepper – CFLRP Projects and Places Committee is requesting collaboratives to identify priority areas to support recommendations
 - o Jimbo Buickerood – CFLRP money isn't only available for vegetation management. There are stream restoration projects that could be a good fit.
 - Danny – There has been interest expressed to put together a stream restoration tour and could be connected with visiting snowtopography monitoring site.
 - o Danny - DWRF will be working to ID priority areas across boundaries
 - Ken – what are CFLRP funding boundaries?
 - Danny – On the SJNF, but priority area identification will include other land ownerships
 - o General collaborative interest in better understanding what current NEPA there is within the district. Locations, project goals, available actions, etc.
- Monitoring update
 - o Anthony – Lone Pine monitoring is actively occurring. Crews are conducting both pre-implementation and post-implementation monitoring at sites.
 - o Plots are monumented with rebar
 - o
- Legislative updates from John Whitney
- Mancos Conservation District private lands forestry program
 - o New forestry program coordinator – Tara Harris – is working with landowners on forestry projects – right now working with ~8 landowners on projects to fund through COSWAP



- Tara - Funded through Coalitions and Collaboratives AIM grant and Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program
- Danny – Regional Conservation Partnership Program application submitted
 - John Whitney – The Farm Bill may be able to streamline the RCPP program and process

Updates on Salter

- Danny – DWRWF has finished a letter to the San Juan Citizens Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity, and the San Juan National Forest that strongly recommends pursuing settlement negotiations.
- Discussed the contents of the letter. [Letter can be found here.](#)
- Waiting on boards from different organizations/towns to consider and sign prior to sending. Thank you to the working group that crafted the letter. Thank you to Bruce Short for providing a skeleton of ideas.
- There are indications that the different parties are interested to negotiate, which is a very encouraging sign.

Collaborative expectations, communication, needs moving forward

Below are comments/thoughts presented by different stakeholders at the meeting

Were/are the right people at the table and participating in DWRWF conversations?

- All participation is voluntary and it's hard to always have the "right" participation
- There were collaborative limitations due to recreation not being as integrated as would be ideal
- For such a long and complicated process with the Salter EA, there needed to be more explicit integration between DWRWF working group meetings and the stakeholder meetings
 - Not everyone followed the Salter EA development very closely and there could have been more opportunities to bring the larger collaborative group along with the discussions/concerns that were expressed in separate meetings.
 - Keep more of a focus on which issues are or are not getting resolved
 - Knowing how parties of unresolved issues were feeling is really important. DWRWF needs to structure conversations to support this, but also those parties need to directly express concerns during meetings.
- Recommendation for DWRWF to better track objections, making a list available to the group. Break down the concern and the response more clearly to support clearer collaborative dialogue and opportunity for recommendations.

Do we openly and freely communicate with one another?

- It is important to be frank and to the point
- Who do you represent? Are you speaking individually or as a representative of an organization?
 - Some people are more able to speak more directly than others
- Concern expressed that the collaborative did hear about or discuss objections until after the decision was release.
 - Recommendation to have discussed all of the objections in detail within DWRWF
- Feeling expressed that everyone needs to be more forthright
 - Feeling that the collaborative did not hear important information early enough and with adequate time to consider prior to formal actions within the NEPA process.
- We can't address the above feelings without the SJNF present in discussions.



Complex collaborative discussions

- We need to get better with time management in meetings and make sure we give adequate time to the topics that we need to discuss. Recommendation to reduce the updates portion of stakeholder meetings and possibly move to emails.

Next steps

- Focused conversation on trust, communication, and directions in the context of the Salter litigation prior to the next stakeholder meeting.