



DWC Stakeholder Meeting Wednesday, August 7, 2024, 1:30-3:30pm DRAFT AGENDA

In person: Dolores Water Conservancy District – [60 Cactus St., Cortez, CO 81321](#) *Virtual:* Zoom info at the end of agenda

Agenda - ZOOM link below

Time Topic

1:30-1:40 Introductions, check-ins, meeting agreements

- Attendees: Tara Harris (MCD), Rowan Henke(MCD), Kyle Personnet (SJNF), Doug Muscannel (Muscannel Mill), Josh Braun (CSFS), Jack Gilmore (CSU,CSFS), Laurel Smerch (PCC), Tom Rice (SJNF), Nick Mustoe (SJNF), Cameron Cast (Cortez Journal), Jimbo Buickerood (at-large), Marlee Saunders (NFF), Robert Meyer (Mancos Trails, WAP), Jon Rader (SJCA), Megan Maxwell (CTIA), Steve Garchar (Dolo County), Emma Reinneman (SJNF), Celeste Moore (WAP), **Danny Margoles (MCD)**, Emily Lockard (CSU Ext), Andrew Slack (CFRI), Bruce Short (Short Forestry), Alex Handloff (MSI), Nina Williams (DWC)

1:40-1:45 Approve/amend agenda

- No additions

1:45-1:55 ~~Welcome, Amorina~~ SEPT MEETING DATE - DOES Sept 11 work instead of Sept 4

- Hired Amorina Lee-Martinez for the assistant position. She will start in September. She was born and raised in Mancos. Graduate research in history and management of the Dolores Watershed.
- **Moving September meeting: Rescheduled to Sep 11, 2024**

1:55 - 2:50 SJNF Dolores RD FY'25 Work Plan and Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) planning process

- Brief background on CFLRP legislation, goals of SWCO CFLRP proposal and structure, and review of DWC input into FY'25 SJNF work plan - Nina
 - CFLRP was established by federal legislation to fund and develop a program for collaborative input into forest planning.
 - Proposal went in around 2019 for the entire SJNF, specified working together across forest with 3 collaboratives. These strategies were defined in the proposal:
 - Mechanical Treatments
 - Rx Fire
 - Invasive spp mgmt
 - Wildlife habitat restoration
 - Retaining old growth
 - Watershed Function
 - Diverse wildlife habitat
 - Roads and trails
 - Planned Treatments (SW CO CFLRP Proposal Planned Treatments doc)
 - Hazardous fuels reduction - 373,432 ac
 - Mechanical thinning - 58,410 ac
 - Prescribed Fire - 303,022 ac

- Other - 12,000 ac
 - Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - acres treated to mitigate wildfire risk - 74,686 ac
 - Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - WUI ac - 224,059 ac
 - Invasive spp mgmt - 23,050 ac
 - Road Decommissioning - 125 mi
 - Road Maintenance and Improvement - 100 mi
 - Trail Reconstruction - 200 mi
 - Wildlife Habitat Restoration - 15,234 ac
 - Crossing Improvements - 2
 - Instream Fisheries Improvements - 5 mi
 - Riparian Area Improvements - 327 ac
 - Soil and Watershed resources enhanced or maintained - 628 ac
 - Priority watersheds improved condition class - 2
 - Stand improvement - 18,410 ac
 - Reforestation and Revegetation - 5,450 ac
 - Timber Harvest - 40,000 ac
 - Rangeland Veg Improvement - 992,663 ac
- Priority Landscape areas identified in BLOB web map, you can access data there
- Questions about CFLRP:
 - Any accomplishments on that acreage: Yes. There are progress reports. Nina can send those out. SJNF puts together annual progress reports on activities included in CFLRP.
- Presentation on Dolores Ranger District FY'25 Work Plan - Nick
 - What have you seen that are good fits for CFLRP and what could be funded elsewhere? Big picture, there is more to do with CFLRP money than there is CFLRP money to do it. What does the collaborative want to see out of the CFLRP money? Where is collab and USFS in alignment and where do we both need to chase money separately.
 - By the time we got input, USFS was further down the road in FY25 planning, so may not see much of the input incorporated early on.
 - Showing things that cost money- you will not see work that will be accomplished internally because those are not CFLRP-funded.
 - \$70,000 for DWC Collaborative includes coordinator, asst coordinator, travel and supplies
 - Lower number is what was requested, upper number represents work that could be done
 - Forestry:
 - Numerous IRSCs between \$250,000-9,750,000
 - MSI Salter Lone Pine \$40,000-75,000
 - Haycamp Common Stand Exam \$30,000-40,000
 - Discussion on overlap with Collab input to adapt CSE protocol to include old growth and large diameter oak
 - Collaborative thoughts on what to collect for common stand exam data to encompass old growth characteristics and large diameter oak
 - Large diameter oak, normally stands that are primarily oak are not examined by CSE. Get an idea of where this oak is in the Haycamp area and other portions of the district
 - Re-examine old growth stands for growth. Collect growth rates on additional older trees, even trees off plot.

- Additional aging on old growth
 - Plots in oak: Record DRC, height, and some idea of age on oak (bring a cookie back and age under hand lens). We don't have good information on growth rates of oak.
 - Why are we monitoring old growth oak? How does that info help inform management?
 - What is a mature tree? How long will it take for a mature tree to be considered old growth? How is the dry climate and soil moisture affecting old growth expansion?
 - It is important to know where the large oak is for elk calving.
 - Logging season restrictions due to seasonal elk calving closures
 - Knowing what is and isn't a concern with old growth is important for providing input
 - Collecting extra tree cores is a great idea. Defining old growth however is a difficult process. There is a lot of variation between tree age and the ecosystem services they provide. Collect data on benefits to wildlife, tree feature data, those are better at determining old growth stands. Snags, crooks, cavities, etc
 - The draft national old growth EIS could expand old growth requirements and will trigger forest plan revisions.
 - There is pressure nationally to define OG on a regional basis based on age, May not be the whole picture, younger trees can exhibit "old growth characteristics" and a 12" DBH tree can be quite old.
 - What could be added to CSE that would be cost effective and expand our knowledge?
 - **Convene working group to flesh out Collab requests for Haycamp CSE data: Tara, John R, Kyle, Jimbo, Bruce, Josh, Megan. Reach out to RMRS - Mike Battaglia**
- Recreation
 - Trail Clearing, general amount for District
 - Deerlick Trail Project - 2 mile section part of the Chicken Creek Trail EA
 - Ute Mountain Ute interpretive panel at Beaver Creek Massacre Site
 - Revisit: How can the collaborative support this project?
 - Project could use additional funding
- Noxious Weed control
 - A variety of funding levels to help ensure we aren't introducing noxious weeds post-treatment areas are priority for weed treatment.
- RMRI-Wildlife
 - No-till drilling in Sagehen with native forbs and grasses
- Engineering
 - House creek slump repair
 - Benchmark fire lookout tower
 - Cottonwood road reconstruction: unlikely to get funding next year, needs \$1M
 - Cultural resources issue: the bridge was constructed by CCC back in the day. Is eligible for Natural Historic Structure. There is a memorandum of agreement for the replacement of the bridge avoiding damage to bridge and historic culverts
 - McPhee Reservoir Road resurfacing
 - Trail Bridge Maintenance - Gold Run complete, others on the docket

- Recreation
 - Big AI Trail: accessibility improvements
 - Toilet pumping
 - McPhee 2024 ANS funding (aquatic nuisance species)
- Heritage
 - McPhee prehistoric sites shoreline stabilization
 - Protohistoric site documentation match for an NAU study
- Project Planning
 - Fisheries: Process Based Restoration Planning
 - Is any planning happening in the upper Mancos? There could be, but it is focused on the upper Dolores. Emma will check on it. NEPA is completed for projects in the upper Dolores.
 - Nina will share notes on work Clay has talked about in Mancos Watershed w Danny
 - District Prescribed Fire EA - Mixed Conifer
- Questions:
 - Note that this doesn't capture a lot of the funds coming in from other sources (i.e. CPW supports motorized trails maintenance). There are other moving parts that don't align with the collaborative
 - Are projects identified for FY26? Yes, mainly maintenance projects for 6 person trail crews, dozer work, and SCC crew that can spike out. It's all shovel-ready maintenance covered under previous NEPA
- Moving forward, we have discussed working towards developing projects together. Is this still beneficial?
 - Dolores RD is still interested
 - Collaborative thinks it is valuable. It is important to have an idea of the planning/budgeting cycle for the forest. It is useful for us to participate directly with District staff as they have time.
- Do we want to get together around our input and determine if it needs to be updated, prioritized, edited in any way?
 - It would be beneficial to create a system to review it with the appropriate people within the collaborative. There is so much in there it is difficult to determine what the priorities are.
 - Part of this was driven by CFLRP information request deadlines. We wanted to document concerns and ideas for activities to make sure they didn't get lost. Prioritizing and more specific information on certain areas would be helpful.

2:50-3:05 COSWAP II Biomass Hauling Pilot, Forest to Farm C cycling

- Interest in a Working Group to design a project to remove flammable biomass from project sites; develops receiving site(s) for biomass and pilots a local forest-to-farm carbon cycling system.
 - Small amount of funding - around \$15,000
 - Hauling off one PJ site and one Ponderosa site to one landing location (a farmer interested in composting?)
 - Hauling costs and grinding costs are high, not sure how it could pay for itself
 - People that generate large quantities of manure already have uses for it
 - Table to Farm? If people just deliver slash/branches, it is costly on TtoF to grind materials. Their business model is morphing.
 - Is there a way to think about it in the opposite direction? Haul manure to a site where grinding could occur, then an organization could compost themselves.
 - What's happening with the biochar?

3:05-3:30 UPDATES

- [Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit Durango Sept 5-6](#)
- **Laurel Smerch, PCC Forest and Natural Resources Program**
 - PCC is just starting a Forestry and Wildfire program - Laurel wants the curriculum to be informed by the real world and local expertise and needs
 - It would be great for PCC to look at requirements for USFS jobs
 - USFS timber program is looking for interns
 - Society of American Foresters Convention in Loveland in September
- **CWCB Wildfire Ready Action Plan (WRAP)**
 - RFP and schedule
 - Technical Advisory Team
- **MixedCon Rx Fire EA NEPA Pre-Scoping**
 - **Burro Fire FT Rescheduled to Friday October 18**
 - Map of Proposed Implementation areas and Rx Units
 - [Shared Research Folder](#)
 - [DWC Notes and Input](#)
- **Forest Water Working Group**
 - [Working Doc Here](#)
 - Link needs to be fixed
 - Meeting w CWCB - Water Plan planning grant possibility
- **July Bark Beetle Workshop and Field Tour**
 - Possibility for a smaller field tour in September or October, Kyle, Tara and Nina to coordinate
- **CSFS**
 - CSFS Durango office has a lot of handout materials for events/tabling

3:30 Next steps and adjourn

PARKING LOT (Future agenda items)