

Four Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative
Monthly meeting



Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 am

Location: Zoom

Attendance: Anthony Culpepper (Coordinator, MSI), Alex Handloff (MSI), Julia Ledford (MSI), Laura Hanna (MSI), Dana Guinn (MSI), Steve McClung (CPW), Alison Layman (WWPF/La Plata County), Paulette Church (Falls Creek Ranch), Andy Hawk (Phoenix Recycling), Jimbo Buickerood (SJCA), John Rader (SJCA), Monique DiGiorgio (Table to Farm Compost), Kyle O’Neill (NRCS), Alex Graf (WAP), Ryan Cox (CSFS), Mary Monroe (Durango Trails), Christy Curd (La Plata Open Space Conservancy), Molly Pitts (Colorado Timber Industry Association), Travis Bruch (SJNF), Tim Leishman (SJNF), Eric Herchmer (SJNF), Clay Kampf (SJNF), Nick Glidden (SJNF), Noah Daniels (SJNF)

MEETING NOTES

Welcome and introductions

General stakeholder updates

- San Juan National Forest (SJNF)
 - Wheels are rolling on the Grassy Mountain Shared Stewardship project
 - Funding is in place
 - Could be a contentious process with homeowners in the metro district
 - Be strategic and deliberate with communications
 - Ongoing hauling on the Baldy Mountain salvage sale up Beaver Meadows Road
 - Snow has halted additional activities, quiet time of year
 - Tim Leishman will be starting new job with the Payette National Forest on January 30th
 - Adam Tlachac (Timber Management Assistant on the Pagosa RD) will attend Four Rivers meetings in Tim’s place and will also take over a lot of his work
 - Searching internally for someone to fill in behind Tim
 - Big shoes to fill!
- National Forest Foundation (NFF)
 - Nick Olson hired as a Program Manager for the area
 - Will be a quarterback of the Grassy Mountain project

- La Plata County
 - Developing a web map to be used by the public to learn about projects in their area
- Standing updates
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)
 - Andy Hawk serves as the Four Rivers representative on the Coordinating Council
 - The Projects and Places Committee and the Science and Multiparty Monitoring Committee are working jointly to finalize desired conditions that will serve the whole CFLRP for the remaining 9 years
 - Still in the beginning of this CFLRP – creating processes that will guide us through the next 9 years of the Project
 - The Coordinating Council will discuss a tool for evaluating and reviewing projects on January 31st
 - The Projects and Places Committee plays an important role in deciding how individual projects are prioritized and recommended to SJNF
 - A tool is needed to help decide which projects will align with the CFLRP legislation and Charter, and should receive CFLR funding
 - The Charter describes interaction between groups: *“The primary source of CFLRP projects will be the three place-based collaboratives: Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest Collaborative, San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership, and Four Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative. These collaboratives will develop projects together in collaboration with the SJNF and their own diverse stakeholders and members. The place-collaboratives will identify project-specific desired conditions and assess project alignment with the CFLRP mission and geographic boundary prior to submitting it to the Project and Places Committee using the Project Summary Form.”*
 - Andy needs feedback from Four Rivers to bring input to the Coordinating Council:
 - What feedback do we need to take from Four Rivers back to the Coordinating Council as it relates to this screening process and any tool to be used?
 - For example, some elements of JFIRM might go through this process to receive CFLRP funding. Not all of JFIRM will be eligible for CFLR funding
 - If you have other ideas or feedback, [contact Andy Hawk](#)
 - [Jimbo Buickerood](#) is also a good resource for questions and feedback for the Coordinating Council, as he is an elected at-large member of the Council
- 2023 Finances
 - MSI working with SJNF on next agreement for funding for Four Rivers
 - Looking to expand the funding base to support this collaborative and cross-collaborative engagement for MSI staff to be involved with the CFLRP
 - Four Rivers is also looking for non-federal funding
 - Need a few folks to work on a finance/budget spreadsheet
- La Plata Meta
 - La Plata County is revising the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

- Grant obtained by Wildfire Adapted Partnership (WAP) to revise the CWPP
- Process is co-lead by Ashley Downing and Alison Layman
- The current CWPP hasn't been utilized or revised since 2006 – very outdated
 - Impacts the ability to apply for grants
- Rough draft was distributed this week, collecting feedback by Friday, February 3rd
 - Feedback will be incorporated into a presentation and draft that will go to the Board of County Commissioners
- The Meta group will be discussing the draft at their meeting on January 26th, 9:00-12:00 pm at the La Plata County EOC
 - The Meta group involves any organization or agency involved in wildfire mitigation, forest health, land management, or land use in La Plata County
 - Foster coordinated efforts across the county
 - Identify gaps
 - [Contact Anthony](#) if you are interested in attending the Meta meeting to discuss the CWPP revision, and/or if you would like to review a draft of the CWPP
- Junction-Falls Creek Integrated Resource Management (JFIRM) EA
 - Splitting the EA into two parts: vegetation and recreation
 - SJNF is in the process of scheduling a tribal consultation meeting in June to engage tribes
 - Will likely host a public meeting in February
 - SJNF is hoping that Four Rivers will have a table at the event
 - ID team is working on incorporating comment responses from the scoping period
 - Received a lot of comments that will be helpful as they go back to the drawing board to sculpt the actions
 - FS veg data from stand exams is moving toward the silviculturist, who will make decisions about vegetation management
 - Tim Leishman, who is the project lead, is moving to Idaho
 - Searching internally for someone to fill in behind Tim

Wood by-products utilization in La Plata County

- Presentation by Monique DiGiorgio, Table to Farm Compost
 - Table to Farm is a curbside composting company
 - Operating since 2016
 - 900 customers
 - Located at a farm north of Elmore's Corner on CR 236, right in the heart of the Four Rivers geography
 - Unique opportunity to divert waste
 - The use of compost on the ground sequesters carbon and saves water, promoting soil health
 - Working with SJNF to develop a wood bank in La Plata County
 - Expanding their operations to be able to include woody biomass in their facility
 - Use carbon and nitrogen to make the compost
 - Have more nitrogen right now, need carbon!
 - It is a dream to plug in to wildfire mitigation and carbon recycling

- After 3 years of permitting and state funding, Table to Farm now has a Class III composting facility, which is regulated by CDPHE
 - Also permitted by La Plata County with a Class II permit
 - Can scale up to 18,000 cubic yards of compost
 - Not permitted to be open to the public like a landfill
 - Need a coordinated effort to take materials from the public
- Applied for the Fertilizer Expansion Program, a huge grant through the USDA
 - Although it isn't official, it looks like Table to Farm will receive funding
 - Minimum amount is \$1 million
 - SJNF wrote a letter of support
 - Shovel ready
 - Will pay for all of the equipment needed to process woody biomass
- What Table to Farm needs from Four Rivers
 - With the opportunity to process woody biomass, there are still challenges
 - Table to Farm is conveniently positioned within the WIIN and COSWAP landscapes, and nearby other locations where biomass will be hauled from
 - Becomes hard to justify hauling biomass when it is greater than 20 miles away
 - This is an age-old problem
 - Is there a way to reduce the amount of biomass before it is hauled?
 - Mobile biochar kiln?
 - Co-location of a wood bank
 - Sources of biomass
 - NRCS does a lot of mastication and chipping on private land within hauling distance to Table to Farm
 - Can't recommend that landowners take their biomass to Table to Farm, but can point toward different opportunities for utilizing the biomass that comes off their property
 - Landowners would definitely be interested
 - WAP works directly with lots of contractors who are on the ground trying to figure this out
 - Connect with those contractors, hear their ideas
 - WAP usually holds a meeting in the spring where they connect with contractors, hear their needs, present various programs from WAP
 - Several other grants coming online soon
- [Contact Monique](#) with follow-up questions: monique@tabletofarmcompost.com

Logo revision and website progress

- Four Rivers [website](#) under construction
 - Draft [home page](#)
 - Similar formatting to other Collaborative websites
 - About us, mission/vision, meeting notes, outreach materials, integrated interactive map
 - Need photos and videos from the Four Rivers geography
 - If you have ideas about what you want to see on a website, [contact Alex Handloff](#)

- Logos options:



- Feedback
 - Really like the tree and the river
 - Like the bottom-left corner but with a blue background
 - Important to have the “Resilient Forest Collaborative”
- Alex will pick a few options and send out for a vote from partners

Wrap-up

- February meeting
 - February 16th, 9:00-11:00 am, location TBD
 - Will discuss priorities
 - Four Rivers and Recreation
 - How this group might play contribute to some of the recreation planning on the San Juan, and whether or not that is appropriate
 - Sub-committee/working group?
 - Connect with Nick Glidden