

Columbine Forest Resilience Partnership

Meeting agenda for Friday, October 18th, 2019

Location: Public Lands Center, Sonoran A/B, Durango, CO

Regular Meeting: 1300 – 1500 (1-3pm)

MEETING NOTES

Welcome and Introductions, 13:00 - 13:10

- Aaron Kimple (MSI); Emily Swindell (MSI); Mike Remke (MSI); Anthony Culpepper (MSI); Bill Baker (retired ecologist); Danny Margoles (DWRP); Amy Schwarzbach (City of Durango); Luke Bahn (NRCS); John Miles (Beaver Creek Ranch); Ryan Cox (CSFS); James Semino (Columbine District, USFS)

Updates, 13:10 – 13:40

- Group Updates
 - City of Durango
 - 2 grants submitted for initial fuels mitigation in WUI
 - CSFS: to pay for sawyer work; <\$1200/acre but realistically ~\$12,000/acre; there's difficulty accessing city parks
 - Durango Fire Protection District: prioritized different zones in WUI and areas that haven't been addressed in a long time
 - CSFS
 - Pre-announcement: DFPC, hiring fire crews to work with CSFS
 - USFS
 - Draft decision finished: Gouldy Mountain 8000 acres; CFLR still winnowing down areas for projects; SE corner of CFLR map (HD Mountains) there's a prescribed fire on the docket and planned work has been coordinated with the Southern Ute tribe who are supportive of this work; some prescribed fires planned south of HWY 160 (Saul's Creek) in Colorado roadless areas
 - Beaver Creek Ranch
 - 150 acres of fire mitigation lined up
 - MSI
 - Fire & Forest Learning Series continues
 - EIF: out in draft form on MSI website; figuring out how to fund cross-boundary projects
 - New hire: Dana Hayward will mostly be working on Pagosa-side
 - Working on "Zone"/Buffer-zone Map
- RMRI
 - THANK YOU to everyone!
 - Steering Committee with Forest Service, Wild Turkey Federation and others
 - Submission: Oct 31 by 5pm
 - Presentation: Nov 13th
 - 8 total proposals
 - Focused on fuel and fire
 - Initial work must begin on Forest Service lands and if good work is demonstrated (~25-30% private land) Forest Service funds will be leveraged to secure additional private funds that will fit into work – Joint Chiefs funding would include federal and private lands
 - \$5.52million/year (guestimate)
 - \$1million/year for municipal and private lands

- \$2million/year for Forest Service lands
 - \$1.54million/year for investment, including capacity
 - \$400,000/year for education and outreach
 - \$400,000/year for science and monitoring
 - Funds won't be static
 - Map
 - Expanded to district lines in the east
 - Connected to Dolores polygon based on Ponderosa Pine zone in order to do effective work
 - “Communities & Connectors” important piece – HWY 160 corridor, powerlines
 - Developing industry to do the work (eg: small diameter wood and timber removal)
 - NEPA review is on northwest end
 - Set up map to facilitate work that will encourage prescribed and managed fires to burn effectively and safely across the landscape
 - No Archuleta County because of needs and concerns to make transformative change across the landscape but powerline corridors included
 - Water component included
 - Lemon, Vallecito, and McPhee Reservoirs
 - WUI is part of the map
 - Recreation opportunities
 - Concerns
 - WUI
 - Western Dolores Watershed – shouldn't be on RMRI map
 - Response
 - There is a contested timber sale; NEPA cleared prescribed fire; small diameter industry
 - Readiness factor driving the boundaries: one of 1st areas we could begin work
- CFLR
 - Restricted to Forest Service lands with a broader spectrum of work
 - Timeframe currently undetermined because of realistic scope of work
 - More information will be circulated within the coming weeks

Facilitator RFQ Review and Discussion, 13:40 – 14:00

- Approximately \$14,000 available
- Received 3 responses
 - *Stacey Beough: Strategic by Nature
 - Presents a greater breakdown of hours
 - Has networked across CO in forest and water, in AZ too (Cross-Watershed Network)
 - Has done a lot of ground work in Dolores
 - Charles Curtin: BioCultural Connections
 - Champions networking
 - Kyle Hanson: Timber Age Systems
 - Would like to have involved in at least discussions going forward regardless
 - Was at Cross Collaborative meeting
- What is the end-product we want from this person?
 - A facilitator with experience in science and business
 - Someone who already knows and understands our work, our goals, our service areas, and can use terms/jargon specific to our collaborative
 - Something to consider: there can be a fine line between institutional knowledge and fresh ideas

Next Steps for the Collaborative, 14:00 – 14:30

- Next big meeting
 - Strategic Planning: January or February 2020
 - Consider: most partners will soon be going on break – 1-2 meetings before 2020, but does this get us to completion by end of Feb 2020? Probably not
 - **March: Strategic Plan**
 - How does this sound?
 - Good thing, especially with work going on for RMRI and CFLR
 - Update in January or February will be provided
- How do we track progress; 2019 Review?
 - To be clear: “2019 Review and Looking Forward”
 - Colorado congress and senate
 - Request for additional funding for CFLR
 - Generally they fund big initiatives that trickle down to us
 - Legislative money hard to come by and it’s important to build local, municipal relationships
 - Think about electric associations (currently very aware of forest health conditions) and other networks
 - LPEA
 - Vegetation management updated in 2018
 - Included in NEPA to maintain powerlines and infrastructure on Forest Service lands
 - Would like to bring LPEA in and work with them to educate public
 - Survey/EOY Review Questionnaire will be circulated
- Goal setting for 2020 and beyond
 - Working with Stacey
 - Hope to streamline projects
- Meeting schedule
 - End of January with our bigger group
 - Hope to have more input on RMRI and CFLR by then and have a better idea of Strategic Planning effort
 - Bring LPEA in to work with us and learn about their work on powerlines in the community
 - Would like to make into a partnership
 - Butch Knowlton has been a part of this group before and will be a part of the discussion going forward