

Four Rivers Partnership Virtual Meeting Agenda for Wednesday 23 September 2020

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Steering Committee Meeting: 1pm – 3pm

VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA

Introductions

Anthony Culpepper (MSI), Aaron Kimple (MSI), Kyle O’Neill (CSFS/NRCS), Cam Hooley (USFS), Jimbo Buickerood (SJCA), Brian Gideon (Southern Ute Tribe), Andy Hawk (Timber Age Systems), Melissa Simmons (CSFS), Adrian Archuleta (), Matt Tuten (SJNF), Amy Schwarzbach (City of Durango), Jason Lawhon (SJNF, RMRI Project Manager for CO), Connie Clemson (BLM)

Stakeholder Updates

- SJNF
 1. Southern HDs EA: Junction Creek proposed work and tour ideas
 - Landscape Restoration Project – just started scoping
 - Proposing Rx burning and very minimal thinning in small areas in Southern HDs to restore landscape and encourage diversity
 - EA and approval for Northern HDs a few years ago
 - Internal scoping
 - Potential fire-line/OHV trail – dual purpose
 - Started scoping Sept 10
 - Haven’t started EA yet
 - Goals
 - Burning project
 - Wanted to get out before changes to NEPA on Sept 14 so more time would be allowed to work on it
 - *Q: On the west side – private lands analysis on boundaries for matches that might be good to make? ~ Would be great to include if possible, scoping should help suss that out.*
 - Mix of desert shrublands/woodland to mix-con and pines
 - Much of landscape is roadless
 - Don’t have tools to use other than fire across landscape
 - Fire: most is interior of polygon, edges are mixed shrublands and PJ woodlands; Western boundary could be control-line
 - Currently writing EA, then will have another public comment period
 - *Q: Trend putting in more permanent lines vs seasonal lines for fire? ~ Depends – working up to snowline is good on certain landscapes and with some objectives, whereas it can be problematic in other places.*
 - *Q: Work in tribal lands? ~ Lots of work to the South, especially to the East around Sheep Canyon – mastication and wildfire in San Burrito over mastication blocks, as well as some pre- some post-treatments. Not much done to the West, but we need a better picture of the Southwest. Haven’t been any follow-up burnings in Sheep Canyon, but there have been*

treatments close to 1,000 acres here with mastication and another approximately 400-500 hand-thinning (lop & scatter) up to Forest Service boundary.

- *Forest Service would be happy to work with tribes where work overlaps*
- *Citizen concerns: ATV Trail was not in HD travel plan to connect these areas – hope to hear from public during scoping process!*
- 2. Junction Creek/Log Chutes
 - Funding
 - Competitive forest health funding – state and private forestry – to thin areas that generally didn't have much output, smaller diameter
 - Funding came in after stay-at-home orders, able to put together in April for thinning in Junction Creek off of Log Chutes II
 - Geography
 - ~ 70 acres with approximately 200+ BA
 - Hesitant to drop BA fast in places that are public facing, so we're taking a staged approach
 - One of densest small diameter and suppressed tree stands in the area
 - Treatment
 - Looking to take out ~1/3 suppressed trees under NEPA 2008 decision
 - Contractor
 - 1st time bidder: \$10,000/acre
 - 2nd time bidder: P&A Tree Service
 - Uses forwarder and harvester system, and Ponnse Equipment = low impact on the ground
 - Lot of work for Denver Mountain Parks and Jefferson County Open Space
 - Concerned with good outcomes
 - No tree removal just cut, skid, deck trees, and pile slash according to specifications
 - Will allow us to figure out how to get rid of wood
 - This group can have a say into how we use and transport this wood
 - Baseline monitoring on tree structure
 - Will be taking before and after photos
 - Frame up topics, have site visit while social distancing, talk about what could be done with wood products
 - Maybe sometime in October
 - Possible to start project as soon as November 2020
 - Rx Fire
 - Some desire to burn in landscape, but potentially analyzing landscape in 2021 – pine/oak in lower portion of landscape, especially, needs fire maybe even more than thinning
 - Challenge: smoke would likely move downhill
- RMRI/EIF/CFLRP

1. CFLRP (*help with funding for federal lands)
 - Made through FACA Committee but still sitting on Sonny Perdue's desk for 2nd priority and waiting on signature to carry forward
 - Will run into discussion in DC around budgets
 - Put forth CFLRPS
 - \$4mil/year over 10 years, but will be somewhat defined by DC budgetary discussions, so can't count of that amount
 - Haven't gotten official word yet
 - Make sure that we set the stage well for our work to happen across the forest
 - CFLRP extends from Pagosa to Dolores district
 - Collaboratives
 - 3 Forest Collaborative working in that landscape, as well as 3 watershed collaboratives
 - Discussions
 - Great opportunity to cooperate and coordinate with other collaboratives and bridge collaborative work
 - Pull together representatives from each of the 6 collaboratives to think about what that structure could look like
 - What are actual requirements and legal ramifications for cross-collaborative
 - What will fit what we want to do locally and together
2. EIF (*help cover private lands along with NRCS and CSFS)
 - Continues to go forward
 - Secured funding to help build interagency program for work on private lands
 - Working to help build agency to work with county, city, and potentially other partners to help fund private lands work
3. RMRI (*component to ensure we're bridging public and private lands)
 - Can tell collective story about here in Columbine District and across landscape
 - LASR program through CSFS, currently focusing on Florida River corridor
 - State Level: Forest Health Advisory Council
 - Moving from council to a coalition in coming months
 - Legislative through state legislature
 - Also talking about how to coordinate collaborative efforts across the state
 - PODS and prioritization work has been done across collaboratives
 - Some PODS 50,000 acres
 - Have already seen some great initial results from collaborative feedback
 - *Q: Next steps with RMRI and timeline? ~ Jason helping to put together the story and promote what we're doing collectively across the forest while working with the advisory network to ensure priorities for landscape are correct. We're beginning to coordinate applications for grants that will help move work forward in project priority areas. Hopefully next year we can*

begin work on the ground. Workforce development is important and how we work on private lands.

- Steering committee
 - Decision Tool
 - No modeling or making decisions
 - Once information in there, we can aggregate it aggregation and we can move b/n values and different inputs
 - Went through 4 values and developed 6 opportunity criteria
 - Opportunity Criteria: Feasibility, operability, partnership opportunity, opportunity for scale –
 - Criteria weighted, and results once finalized will be presented
 - Score can be applied to different PODS in order to help inform decisions
 - Went through and entered information
 - Identified 22 PODS of highest priority
 - Haven't dug into results yet
 - Went through each POD and created high, moderate, and low priorities for each POD
 - But if you wanted to see where water was highest priority, you can see where the top 5 PODS are, etc. – aggregate exercise using decision tool
 - Next step
 - Need input from *Advisory Network* – all of you
 - Will have opportunity to do that on your own representing organization interests or joining a different group
 - Steering committee will then have lots of detailed information
 - Will be able to see where goals exist and how they align
 - Funding opportunities
 - Initial step of seeing where 2 collaborative and steering committee honing in around shared areas – where do we have shovel ready stuff?
- Work Fair
 - Used RMRI boundary and initial areas of prioritization as a filter to see where we were at with FY21 and push things in that direction
- None of this is an overnight process and will take time
 - Slow alignment process
 - 1-3 years to make incremental decision around planning and ready projects, aligning strategies with long-term planning, but working to align RMRI CFLRP EIF and other initiatives
- Leadership Team meeting: October 8
 - Highlight successes to share with that group
 - 17 people on committee
 - State forester, regional forester, agency leads, nominated representatives for communities, water, recreation, and

wildlife; 3 representatives from each of the focal landscapes for RMRI; 1 representative for timber, science, and fire

- Map
 - <https://mountainstudies.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=2012085420834460938603b6393d2186>
 - Based on stakeholder feedback
 - Ongoing process and will be refined
 - Trying to connect the dots of RMRI and shared stewardship and stories of collective work together and amplify so everyone can use the story in a variety of areas/application
- BLM.
 1. Project lead: Ian Barrett
 2. Scoping
 - Asking response date of May 18
 3. Proposals
 - Re-enter previously treated areas
 - Treat additional 2,700 areas in and around Durango area
 4. October – preliminary EA and public comment period
 5. Main Priority Areas
 - Grandview, Animas Mountain, Florida River corridor, Forest Lakes
 6. Goals
 - Look at those urban interfaces with heavy populations, ponderosas and other species
 7. Issues with Rx burning
 - Air quality
 - Recreational impacts, especially to mountain biking trails
 8. *Q:What is private homeowner outreach looking like? ~Have done scoping project went out more broadly, mailing lists would be great to have shared. Tend to hit presidents of HOAs in subdivisions.*
 9. *Q:What is collaboration looking like? ~ Strong relationships with Chief Evans. Been talking with country commissioners and fuels managers as well.*
 10. EIF: LASR Grant for Florida – could bridge with BLM
 11. BLM works closely with CPW through wildlife biologists
- City of Durango
 1. Chainsaw crews
 2. ~1 day from being done on Phase I Powerline Project
 3. Challenge
 - Treeline of Gambel oak
 - 9-acre area right behind houses
 - Last 2 days of chipping will be using new BLM chipper – thank you!
 - Initially \$12,000/acre, but now looking at ~\$4,000/acre due to collaborative support
 - In 2.5 days, hauled off Gambel oak from first 1,000 linear feet
 - Have tested all methodology for fuels reduction methods behind houses without using fire
 - Have faced many challenges due to lack of funding and pandemic

- Make thickest, densest, largest phase of WUI treatment happen in a COVID year with \$8,000 under initial budget projections – WOW!
 - 4. Update
 - Cleanup to be happening soon
 - Outreach to homeowners about cleanup
- NRCS
 1. More funding for restorative forestry projects on private lands
 2. 3 out of 5 parties to go forward with projects
 3. Cultural resources clearing this morning
 4. Work in 502 Rd in Bayfield area

Cross-collaborative Needs and Structures

- Regardless of CFLR or RMRI, there's a need as a collaborative to develop communication systems and structures to work together on grants (ie: CFLR's)
- Thoughts on what that might look like or needs?
 - For the science and data monitoring cross-collaborative, potentially quarterly or 2x/year meetings
 - Have conceived cross-collaborative, data-sharing, biannual perhaps, but broader need for monitoring and planning development, science, data, etc for CFLR – want to keep this going – looking at November for that conversation but now potentially next year to chat about this
 - List or matrix that covers what the collaboratives need to be connecting on
 - IE: grants, science, ed/outreach, TREX training, etc. – list of pieces to touch on coordinate together
 - Conversations with 232 are different, but there is overlap in how these CFLR's are connected
 - UPDATE: CFLR proposal put in by 232 and other partners approved for award
 - National Forests: San Juan, Carson, Chama, Santa Fe, Rio Grand
 - Have some skeleton documents prior to having these conversations and will carry those thoughts over
- Can nominate a representative from each sub-committee to take part in cross-collaborative small group setting
 - Relates to skeleton documents so not every member has to be involved in every meeting

Collaborative Prioritization Update

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Communications and Outreach Plan Update

- Audiences
 - Narrowed to people living in priority areas
 - Builder associations, insurance, utilities, HOAs, etc.; us and stakeholders
 - Useful feedback
- State of the Forest Report
 - 2020 Theme: Communities

- Conducting interviews, putting together images for *Results* section
- In holding pattern until Roaring Forks draft edition is completed so that we can begin to plug and chug our information from the San Juan National Forest into the template for this year
- Forest and Fire Learning Series
 - Virtual event to be held every Thursday evening in April 2021 from 6-7 pm
 - Working out which platform will be the best for the event, will share marketing materials as they coalesce!
- Any virtual or in-person events to on our calendar
 - Co Timber Association Industry hosting event near Salida with steep, high angle harvest featuring Ponnse equipment
 - Additional info on CTI website
 - CO wildfire council meeting next week
 - Virtual conference format
- Newsletter
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- Concept Logo
 - A very big Thank You to Paulette Church for creating preliminary “logo concept art”!
 - Okay to use until updates are able to be made? ~ Yes
 - Edit feedback
 - “4 Rivers...” what? – *Resilient Forest Collaborative*
 - Change background color
 - Design geography-relevant tree species
 - Have name of collaborative and tagline above and below image
 - Add pond and oakbrush
 - Protect forest homes for people and wildlife – why deer and birds are present
 - Make circular
- Website
 - Okay for Anthony to start a preliminary website and logo for this group? ~ Yes, thanks! → Merely a landing spot for initial outreach and links to associated agencies

Meeting Schedules

- Pick a standing date for Steering Committee
 - Wednesday October 21?
 - *Might be able to line up with tour at Log Chutes site, more to come on that!*
 - Could we make, in general, a standard weekday and time?
 - Wednesdays and Thursdays are the best
 - If we want commissioner participation, Wednesdays would have to be the day
 - 3rd Wednesday/every month 1-3pm?
 - Still need input from people not in this meeting, but everyone seems to be in agreement on this regular meeting
 - Typically looking at a monthly 2hr meeting – any way schedule 1 hour meeting?
 - Standing meetings
 - SJHFHP: 3rd Friday/month

- DWRP:
 - SJ Leadership: Wednesday or Thursday, sometimes jumps around
- Pick a month for full collaborative meeting
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Finance and Grant Planning

- Anthony
 - Given Forest Service resources, Anthony can keep serving role through end of 2020
 - Conversation for Steering Committee to have or set up some kind of finance committee
 - *Q: Additional funding options? ~ A hodgepodge of things depending on which collaborative your looking at. Funding at beginning and currently: Cohesive Strategy funding for collaboratives that is winding down; Master Collaborative Agreement – earmarked for AC's time with collaboratives. How does EIF/EMRI/CFLR help coordination funding for AC's time in that role? – general funding. DWRP and SJHFHP: Danny and Dana are supported similarly from larger pot of funding, Watersmart grant and under cohesive strategy moneys. Local govt utilizes landowner that have means to bring in non-federal dollar, but can be more difficult*
- Interest in setting up a Finance Committee?
 - Great idea, but some people don't have any experience or background