



## Four Rivers Resilient Forest Collaborative Monthly meeting

**Date:** Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 am

**Location:** MSI Office and Zoom

**Attendance:** Anthony Culpepper (Coordinator, Mountain Studies Institute), Julia Ledford (Mountain Studies Institute), Alex Handloff (Mountain Studies Institute), Andy Hawk (Phoenix Recycling), Paulette Church (Falls Creek Ranch), Elicia Hildebrand (Table to Farm Compost), Kyle Hanson (Timber Age Systems), Alison Layman (La Plata County/WWPF), Christy Curd (La Plata Open Space Conservancy), Clyde Church (La Plata County Commissioner), Bill Smith (University of Arizona, Mountain Studies Institute), Jimbo Buickerood, John Radar (San Juan Citizens Alliance), Sarah Burch (San Juan Citizens Alliance), Bob Milford (Pagosa Area Trails Council, SWCO CFLRP), Noah Daniels (SJNF), Toby Cook (SJNF), Sheryl Gunn (SJNF), Derek Padilla (BLM)

### MEETING NOTES

Welcome and introductions

Partner updates

- San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership
  - Field tour tomorrow at a property near Chimney Rock
    - Private lands forest restoration project by the NRCS
    - This project is unique for the property owner's willingness to greatly reduce basal area.
    - Open to the public, including Four Rivers.
    - A tour brief will be made available after the tour.
- Phoenix Recycling
  - Visited the Beaver Meadows salvage operation to brainstorm ideas for managing the biomass left over from this project.

- What would it take to get enough equipment up there to manage the biomass in an economical way?
- La Plata County
  - The updated community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) has been signed and approved.
    - The [CWPP](#) can be found on the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) website.
    - There will be a meeting on November 30th to review accomplishments and determine how to complete goals and strategies that have not been met this year.
  - Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP)
    - Completed wildfire mitigation in the Songbird HOA lands, the Timberline HOA lands and the Ute Pass HOA lands.
    - There are 20 piles in Ute Pass to be burned this winter.
    - Work just began at Edgemont with ~30 acres completed so far, and ~100 acres to go (to be completed in the next two years).
  - State Wildland Inmate Fire Team (SWIFT)
    - Funded through the COSWAP grant to do roadside fire mitigation.
    - Working in the Rafter J subdivision this week. If they finish at Rafter J, they will move to the Buck Highway (also depending on weather).
    - Completed roadside mitigation on County Roads 213, 310, 218, 115 and 117.
- San Juan National Forest (SJNF)
  - Junction-Falls Creek Integrated Resource Management EA (J-FIRM)
    - Will send the scoping document out for review by the end of November.
  - Durango-Northwest Recreation Plan
    - Nick Glidden, the District Ranger, is doing tribal consultations this week.
  - Prescribed burning
    - Broadcast burning
      - 1,000 acres burned in the southern HDs
      - 800 acres burned in Beaver Meadows
      - The SJNF is done with broadcast burning for the fall
      - Prepping units for spring burns in the HDs and Vallecito-Piedra area
    - The SJNF will be burning piles from now on.
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
  - Prescribed burning
    - Done with broadcast burning on the west side
    - Piles to be burned in Edgemont and Grandview
  - Completed the Grassy Mountain GNA
- Timber Age Systems
  - Installing full insulated panels
  - Built a library for the Battle Rock Charter School, and completed the installation in one weekend
  - Building a house to send to New York
    - Passive House certified
  - Three Springs pilot home
    - This will be the largest insulated structure that Timber Age has built
    - 3 beds, 2.5 baths
  - Timber Age can give a presentation to Four Rivers in the future about their projects
- Table to Farm Compost
  - Picking up wood chips from the Pine River project

- Small scale, but every little bit counts
- Falls Creek Ranch
  - Ongoing project with FireSmart
    - 20 acres of ponderosa, juniper and oak clearing on the eastern part of the ranch
    - Very steep terrain
    - Separating the crowns horizontally and vertically
- San Juan Citizens Alliance
  - Hosted a stream restoration workshop in September
    - The presentation is available online
    - Low-tech process-based restoration (LTPBR) isn't just beaver dam analogues.
    - Featured a presentation about a private lands project where restoration byproducts were used for LTPBR.
- Forest Health Council
  - [2023 annual report](#)
  - The Forest Health Council has an upcoming meeting in Salida and will visit the Poncha Pass project and learn about Envision Chaffee County.
  - Clyde Church, La Plata County Commissioner, serves on the Forest Health Council.

#### CFLRP priority landscape update

- [The projects flowchart](#)
  - Local collaboratives identify priorities and specific landscapes for work.
  - Then, the local collaborative determines the alignment with the desired future conditions and project goals using the priority evaluation tool and create priority CFLRP polygons and target DFCs within the polygons.
    - We are here
  - Local collaboratives work with SJNF staff to identify projects and activities that can be completed in the upcoming year.
  - Based on the priority polygons, the SJNF begins planning for areas that don't have NEPA.
  - The Projects and Places Committee evaluates the recommendations from the collaboratives and then passes those recommendations along to the Coordinating Council.
  - The SJNF takes those recommendations and integrates them into the work plan. Implementation begins.
  - The Science and Monitoring Committee evaluates treatments and provides feedback for future management. The Forest Byproducts Committee evaluates treatment and provides feedback for future projects.
- Each collaborative generated a list of priority areas and compiled information about the projects and values in each of those areas.

#### Priority landscape refinement (BLOBs)

- Broad landscape opportunity boundary (BLOB)
- Merge the Junction Creek and Durango Northwest polygons
- These BLOBs will inform what we are doing and where we are going.
  - Prioritizing areas where the deliverables and accomplishments of the CFLRP might occur.
  - To maintain funding, we have to be meeting objectives across the whole landscape.

- Treatments that meet our DFCs are really what we are going to take credit for.
- Collaboratives should be empowered by their BLOBs and what is important about their BLOBs.
  - This level of collaborative planning doesn't happen everywhere!
- We want a pipeline of work for the whole 10 years of the CFLRP.
- Are we as concerned about where funding is coming from as we are about just getting the work done, regardless of where the money comes from?
  - Who's job is it to worry about this? The collaborative or Projects and Places or the SJNF?
  - How do you prioritize one BLOB over the other?
    - If you just look at the BLOBs that fit into the CFLRP's goals and objectives, there will probably be one or two that stands out over the others.
- Next steps:
  - Identify priority areas within the BLOBs – Julia and Anthony
  - Throw darts at a map
    - Can this be done virtually?
  - Generate symbology on maps

Next meetings:

- November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023