

Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition
April 14, 2016
Santa Fe Fire Training Center, 10 am – 12 pm

In attendance: Eddie Tudor (NMSF), Carmen Austin (NMSF – Las Vegas District), Andrew Frederick (NMSF), Michael Casaus (Wilderness Society), Jose Varela Lopez (SFPSWCD/NMFIA), Mark Allison (NMWA), Zander Evans (Forest Stewards Guild), Porfirio Chavarria (SFFD), Krys Nystrom (Wildfirenetwork), Ryan Swazo-Hinds (Pueblo of Tesuque), Paul Orbuch (CWSF/USFS), Laura McCarthy (TNC), Greg Gallegos (SFFD), Marlita Reddy-Hjelmfelt (EMCampNM/VOST), Carol Johnson (NMWA and UPWA), Todd Haines (NMSF – Bernalillo District), Micaela Hester (NMSF), Eliza Kretzmann (NMSF/NRCS), Sandy Hurlocker (USFS – Espanola RD), Jon T. Williams (USFS – SFNF), Steve Romero (USFS – Pecos/LV RD), Alan Barton (NMFWRI)

Action Items:

- Send edits to the Mission doc and the Roles doc to Eytan or Zander at the Forest Guild by Friday, April 22. A line about roadless areas will be included in the values section.
- Communications Team: meet to determine the details of the public meeting (presenter, format, confirm date, measurable goals, etc.), send out in the next few weeks to the full group.
- Implementation Team: will meet as a group; create a spreadsheet of funding opportunities to share with the larger group.
- Map of priority areas (Aztec Springs, areas around Hyde Park): email out to Coalition email list (Greg, City of SF was the original source for these maps)

Mission and Roles Documents: The first item of business was to discuss the Mission and Roles documents edited by the Forest Stewards Guild. Inclusion of roadless characteristics in the values section was discussed. Some felt that inclusion seemed somewhat specific, while the existing included values are more general. It was mentioned that the policies related to the Roadless Rule would be part of any project description, and will be followed as will any other policies during implementation. After discussion, the group decided to include a mention of Roadless Areas in the values section of the document. Other edits (non-substantive, please) to the documents are to be sent to the Forest Stewards Guild by April 22 (see action items).

Structure of the Group: The structure proposed at the last meeting and captured in the Roles document were discussed. It is proposed that this larger group (the Coalition) meet about quarterly, while the smaller committees (Resilience Strategy, Communication and Implementation) carry out the main tasks of the Coalition.

Communications Team: The group then discussed outreach and communication items. The team is currently planning a public outreach meeting on May 12 (subject to change) at the Santa Fe Convention Center. There was some concern that this date may be too soon; the team will determine this. The meeting will have an open house format, with a presentation of what a “fireshed” is, the main goals of the Coalition, and why this work is important to Santa Fe and surrounding communities. The importance of ensuring a good, concise message as a coalition was emphasized.

- The term “Fireshed” and using it for this coalition was discussed. While there is some concern that it may provoke fear, it is a term that elicits questions and leads to conversations about wildfire. The members decided to continue to use this term for our efforts. If it becomes problematic, then we have a communications issue and will need to determine how to move forward at that time.

- The public meeting will be a good “test” of the term Fireshed. Marlita mentioned that she has a team related to public outreach and fire that would be interested in “watching” the meeting to gauge the reaction so that they may learn from our efforts. She mentioned there are “people in the wings” willing to assist with this effort. The Communications Team will consider this offer.
- Setting up social media sites for the Fireshed were discussed. For our first event, it was decided we would get the message out through our existing media accounts rather than creating new accounts for the Coalition at this time, as we are unclear how they would be kept up over time.
- The group discussed the inclusion of “high level” officials, such as from the USFS, reps from the Mayor’s office, etc. Some felt it was important to have these types of decision-makers included and present, and others did not see that as high priority with this audience. The group decided that high level officials may be invited, but will not be main presenters.
- It was mentioned that with all of the USFS Forest Planning Rule meetings, this public outreach event may be confused; the Communications Team will keep this in mind.
- It was mentioned that it may be better to have the public meeting before fire season really hits.
- Clarity is needed on how public input and concerns will be integrated into our efforts, for example the Mission/Vision statement and values – this will be determined by the team.
- The Communications Team needs to determine the detailed format of the meeting, and decide if the May 12 date is still feasible; they also need to determine who will deliver the public presentation and who will facilitate the event. Measurable goals will also be identified.

Implementation Team: The team has identified members (Todd H., Andrew F., Dave S., Jordan S. and Laura M.). They are going to meet as a group soon. They are working on a spreadsheet that lists all types of funding and when RFPs are out, etc. It will also list the types of resources available to do the work, such as County fire crews, the NMSF inmate crew, the NMSF Returning Heroes crew, Youth Conservation Corps, Pueblo and Tribal crews, etc. The group will send out the spreadsheet to the Coalition when it is available. Assisting other groups in successfully fundraising was mentioned as a potential future role of the Coalition, as well as tying our efforts to CWPP updates so we play an active role in those living documents.

Funding for Fireshed Projects: Eddie mentioned that there is funding coming for Fireshed projects but that the details are still being finalized. It was discussed whether or not fire season may affect this funding; Eddie did not anticipate that.

- The call for WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) grants is coming out at the end of this month if anyone wants to apply.

Resilient Strategy Team: The team is working with maps over the next few months. They will work on getting visuals together to present to the Coalition.

Other Updates:

- Jim Hubbard from the USFS (the National lead for State and Private Forestry) is interested in visiting New Mexico in June, and would like to see the Coalition, meet key folks and see how the collaboration is working. He will likely spend a day here.

Next Meeting: June 2016, time and date to be determined based on Jim Hubbard’s potential visit.