

Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition Meeting
Santa Fe Fire Department Station 5 / Training Center
1130 Siler Road, Santa Fe
September 26, 2016

DRAFT Meeting Notes

In Attendance:

Bill Armstrong (USFS - SFNF)

Alan Barton (NM Forest and Watershed
Restoration Institute)

Michael Casaus (The Wilderness Society)

Porfirio Chavarria (Santa Fe Fire Department)

Donald Griego (NMSF)

Todd Haines (NMSF - Bernalillo)

Micaela Hester (NMSF)

Sandy Hurlocker (USFS – Espanola RD)

Eliza Kretzmann (NMSF/NRCS)

Eytan Krasilovsky (Forest Stewards Guild)

Erik Litzenberg (Santa Fe Fire Department)

Laura McCarthy (The Nature Conservancy)

Michael Martinez (Pueblo of Tesuque)

Paul Orbuch (USFS contractor)

Marlita Reddy-Hjelmfelt (The Red Elm)

Susan Rich (NMSF - FWHO)

Steve Romero (USFS – Pecos RD)

Eddie Tudor, Chair (NMSF)

José Varela Lopez (Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD &
NMFIA)

Action Item Reports

Report on Hubbard-Christiansen field visit

Eddie Tudor reported that WO feedback was very positive and indicates funding will be made available for work in the Fireshed. Other feedback: “strong collaborative of equals; showed broad support; solid projects; still so much to be done, need USFS to step up NEPA; presentations flowed smoothly and were not repetitive; WO folks appreciated meeting “real people” champions and seeing on-the-ground project locations.”

Jim Hubbard has announced he’s retiring, and has included the Fireshed on a list of places targeted for funding from his office. USFS is soliciting proposals from Regions for supplemental hazardous fuels projects. They’re considering values at risk, CWPPs, resource concerns and benefits, NEPA status, project status, partners and associated contributions. Santa Fe National Forest is requesting \$103,000 for project planning with Pueblo of Tesuque to complete a CE at the north end of the Fireshed. Eddie and Paul expressed concern about passing up an opportunity to fund implementation.

Communications Team survey

Alan Barton reported on responses to the survey on participation in the Coalition to date, and asked members to complete it if they haven’t yet done so.

Landscape Vision and Operating Principles

Alan Barton and Anne Bradley have been working with a small group drafting narrative describing the Coalition’s vision, mission, goals, objectives, and operating principles for inclusion in the Landscape Strategy and the Communications Plan. Clear, consistent communication is vital to getting the public support needed to accomplish implementation. Alan reviewed the draft vision statement, tagline and Operating Principles with the group. Members recommended referring to all the tools in the toolbox, including mechanical treatments, in the vision statement. Alan will email the draft document to anyone

who wishes to review it in detail. Comments should be sent back asap so the material can be incorporated into the two plans.

Task Team Reports

Landscape Resilience Strategy Task Team – Laura McCarthy reported on behalf of Anne Bradley. Now that all the value inputs have been received, Steve Bassett is incorporating those into the threats data to complete the risk analysis. Once completed, he will send a summary for all to review.

The Team agreed on a timeline:

Phase A: immediate actions (Aztec Springs and La Cueva corridors)

Phase B: 3-5 year accomplishments (Pueblo of Tesuque, Hyde Park and lands between)

Phase C: longer-term (10 years).

The group discussed the ten-year timeline, some feeling it was too ambitious, others not ambitious enough. It is meant not as an endpoint but as a useful timeframe for making a measurable difference in the landscape.

The group discussed capacity issues that could potentially affect the timeline, including USFS' limited contractual, operational and NEPA capabilities, as well as social acceptance and smoke. Members asked if this Coalition could do something to help cover some of the gaps. Eddie asked SFNF staff to clarify their needs internally and bring that information back to the next meeting. This group can lobby for needed support from the Region, if necessary, or help find other ways to move things forward.

Communications Task Team – Alan covered all Task Team topics during the Action Item reports.

Implementation Task Team – Rather than holding Task Team meetings, Todd Haines has been working individually with project managers. Todd reported the status of several projects:

- Aztec Springs - still has 24 acres to complete using severance tax funds. A work plan is being written to add NFL (Hazardous Fuels Reduction on Non-Federal Lands) funding to complete more acreage in the Aztec Springs Corridor with the Santa Fe Fire Department and Inmate Work Camp.
- Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD's Southeast Corridor NFL project – A work plan is in progress.
- La Cueva Fuel Break, Block E – Todd and Steve will meet to discuss using NMSF staff and contractors to assist with layout and marking.
- La Cueva Fuel Break, Block A – contract just awarded Friday.
- NRCS projects - some are in planning stages and some on the ground at Cougar Ridge and Apache Canyon.

Todd was asked to prepare a table listing all ongoing and planned projects in the Fireshed, identifying the projects, agency/organization, funding amount, funding source, acres and status. Todd will supply the table by the next Coalition meeting.

New Business

Pueblo of Tesuque RTRL project proposal – Michael Martinez reported that the Pueblo and Forest Service are working on the planning stage of the CE for the northern portion of the project area, then will move to NEPA on the southern portion (see first of two [attached maps](#)). The Pueblo is preparing two more proposals to the BIA (see second map). Michael thanked members whose agencies and

organizations provided letters of support for the RTRL proposal. They expect to hear back around the turn of the year.

Prescribed fire managers meeting – Eytan Krasilovsky reported that the fire managers were not ready to draw lines on a map yet, but they did identify several coarse areas that warrant further scouting and focus. The group also outlined components of a prescribed fire strategy. Next steps are reaching out to others who should be included in the conversation and developing narrative for the Resilience Strategy. Eytan will send the meeting notes to Susan for distribution.

Updates from partners

Porfirio Chavarria reported that the Santa Fe Fire Department is hosting a WUI Fire Department Exchange here next week. Eddie Tudor agreed to present at the luncheon event. Lunch will be followed by a field trip.

Jose Varela Lopez reported that the Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD and NRCS Field Office held their annual Local Work Group meeting. They decided to submit a watershed protection project focusing on defensible space in subdivisions off Hyde Park Road and continuing down into the Tesuque Valley. The local office will commit \$50,000 per year and ask the State Office to match 1:1.

Eytan announced the new website is up. Look up santafefireshed.org and send comments, relevant papers or other good resources to him or Esme. Forest Guild is working on adding project descriptions.

Next Steps/Action Items

- Email photos from the August 24 Coalition field tour to Eytan – **All**
- Post summary about field tour on website – **Eytan**
- Email draft Operating Principles to members who wish to review and provide feedback – **Alan B.**
- Bring table of all ongoing and planned projects in the Fireshed to next Coalition meeting. List will identify projects, agency/organization, funding amount, funding source, acres and status – **Todd**
- Present at WUI Fire Department Exchange – **Eddie**
- Report on meeting with RO & SFNF leadership re: increasing capacity and the SFNF's application for regional dollars – **Sandy**
- Report on next areas targeted for NEPA – **Steve R.**
- Present draft Landscape Strategy at next Coalition meeting – **Anne, Steve B.**
- Send notes from prescribed fire managers' meeting to Susan – **Eytan**
- Review new website, send comments and resources to Eytan – **All**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 18th from 2:00-4:00 p.m., same location.