

**Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition
Meeting Notes
January 31, 2019**

Eytan Krasilovsky called the meeting to order and led introductions.

In attendance:

Carmen Austin (NMSF-Las Vegas)
Alan Barton (NM FWRI)
Hannah Bergemann (USFS-SFNF)
Sam Berry (FSG)
Marc Black (Arthur Black Chimney)
Anne Bradley (TNC)
Esmé Cadiente (FSG)
Porfirio Chavarria (SFFD)
Jacob Davidson (NMDGF)
Mike Feulner (SFCFD)
Tim Fowler (SFFTS)
Greg Gallegos (SFFD)
Kris Graham Chavez (NRCS)
Todd Haines (NMSF - Bernalillo)
Alan Hook (City of SF Water Division)

Sandy Hurlocker (USFS – Espanola RD)
Sandra Imler-Jacquez (USFS-SFNF)
Jan-Willem Jansens (Ecotone)
Nick Jarvis (NMSF)
Greg Kaufman (Pueblo of Tesuque)
Jennifer Kilbourn (Arthur Black Chimney)
Eytan Krasilovsky (FSG)
Luke McLarty (USFS)
James Melonas (SFNF)
Andy Otto (SFWA)
Susan Rich (NMSF - FWFO)
Steve Romero (SFSF – Pecos RD)
Ryan Swazo-Hinds (Pueblo of Tesuque)
José Varela Lopez (SFPSWCD)

Action Item Updates

Sam Berry reported that the Fireshed Ambassador Program has 12-15 people transitioning to working in neighborhoods. They're setting up subject-specific events for National Wildfire Awareness Day on May 4th. Sam and Esmé are collecting and producing materials and website resources for ambassadors.

Susan Rich reported that Katie Withnall from FWRI is contacting project managers to determine what kind of help they need to utilize the NM Vegetation Treatment Geodatabase (a.k.a. "NM Opportunity Map"). This important tool will enable us to track and spatially depict projects that are completed, underway and planned within the Fireshed.

Sam Berry will use the data Katie collects to build the GSFFC story map. It will elaborate on specific collaborative projects in the Fireshed.

Task Team Reports

Communications Task Team

Alan Barton reported that the communications team will be producing 5-minute videos on six priority topics, coordinated with briefing papers. They'll do more in-depth videos on some topics. The 6 include:

- WUI & Fire-Adapted Communities
- Desired conditions
- What is a Fireshed? What is GSFFC?
- Fire behavior and history
- Municipal watershed/water supply and quality
- Smoke

They discussed messaging categories (long-term general messaging, seasonal messaging, and project-specific messaging that focuses on one community or part of the Fireshed) and messaging styles (short catch phrases, videos, talking points for interviews and op-eds).

Hannah Bergemann described plans for a series of [Santa Fe Brewshed Science Talks](#) on new research topics to help engage the general public starting this spring.

Esmé Cadiante announced that FSG is putting together a [film-and-panel series](#), including a reshooting of Era of Megafires (Spring), Uno de los Nuestros (Summer), and West is Burning (Fall). They're also organizing mini-seminars targeted to individual communities; pedicab and bus advertising; and partner events like tabling at the grower's market. Esmé brought examples of a mailer offering free site and hazard assessments and an invitation to join the Fireshed email list.

NMHU is hosting reading groups on 2/26, 3/26 and 4/23 to explore links between human and forest communities.

Anne Bradley and Zander Evans will speak as guest presenters to Professor Blanca Cespedes-Gonzalez's class at NMHU.

Implementation Task Team

Todd Haines distributed and reviewed the project status spreadsheet. Members provided information regarding individual projects:

- Greg Gallegos reported that the Aztec Springs pile burn went well, with no smoke complaints.
- José Varela Lopez reported that 35 of 135 targeted acres have been treated at Glorieta Camps. Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD has another landowner signed up and is seeking referrals to other interested landowners. They've encountered an issue with many of the original 24 withdrawing over concerns about thinning requirements being too drastic. The goal is to treat 200 acres by the end of this year. **Action Item** – *work with Ambassadors and community teams on ideas for outreach to landowners, such as demo forest, video with landowner interviews.*
- Nick Jarvis reported that Hyde Memorial State Park has 100 acres cut with nearly 60 acres ready to burn. Options include working with Luke at SFNF and with the All Hands All Lands Burn Team.
- Ryan Swazo-Hinds and Greg Kaufman reported that Pueblo of Tesuque continues working on projects as weather allows. They will concentrate on the east side of Aspen Ranch this spring; have a 500-acre prescribed burn planned; plan to treat 39 acres on the Vigil Grant this year; and are proposing to treat the interior of that block afterwards. The Pueblo has signed a new agreement with BIA. They are proposing to treat their portion of Pacheco South in coordination with SFNF.
- Steve Romero reported Both Block A and Block E are now complete. It will be followed by firewood collection this year and prescribed burn next year. Steve thanked city crews for their work on those projects. Todd noted the added advantage of keeping city crews on full-time instead of losing capacity with seasonal staffing.
- Hannah Bergemann reported that SFNF completed 140 acres of thin and pile this fall at the Hyde Park Project. Contractors will resume work in the spring. SFNF is working with NMDGF to do more

thinning and line prep in Pacheco Canyon using Pittman-Robertson funds. Crews are planning to burn 500 acres (originally scheduled for last fall) in the spring if conditions permit.

- Anne Bradley reported that a draft burn plan for Aztec Springs Phase 2-3 is done. TNC and Santa Fe County FD are hoping to get started this spring.
- Alan Hook provided a map and list showing the acres treated and dollars spent to date on work in the municipal watershed. The City originally targeted 890 acres, but conditions in the lower watershed allowed much higher numbers – over 4,000 acres. They’re looking to do an amendment to extend funding, and plan to do a new contract to continue work over the next four years.
- Kris Graham Chavez reported that NRCS continues to fund private land projects through regular EQIP program and the North Central RCPP. They are not shown on maps due to privacy provisions.
- Progress on the proposed Santa Fe Mountain Landscape Resilience Project was delayed due to the federal shutdown.
- This winter’s snow may provide a good opportunity to do a prescribed burn in the upper watershed.

Landscape Resilience Strategy Task Team

Anne Bradley described what PODs (Preliminary Operational Delineations) are and how they’re used in planning ahead for fire suppression. The Santa Fe and Carson have identified PODS on national forest lands and would consider extending lines outside the forest boundaries if partners are willing.

The Task Team is contemplating which activities may be priorities within the different Fireshed focal areas. They are also looking at whether/how some PODS and focal areas may intersect, in terms of management units. The POD concept could provide a tool, based on real data, to help explain to the public what we’re trying to accomplish in the Fireshed.

Jan Willem-Jansen reported that a working group will meet in March to discuss the possibility of extending POD delineations in the Wilderness Gate area.

James Melonas reported that Rocky Mountain Research Station fire scientists will assist SFNF with a first cut at coloring in PODs before the upcoming fire season. Fire managers will hold a practitioners’ meeting to get up to speed on PODs and discuss what the considerations are. Then they’ll meet with RMRS to provide input from local fire managers, with the aim of extending the lines out.

New Business

Sam Berry reported on plans for Wildfire Awareness Week. Activities will start off with a movie and replicate some of what Porfirio did last year. New push this year is having the Fireshed Ambassadors lead mini-events in their communities.

Jennifer Kilbourn and Marc Black presented on their Wildfire Mitigation Clearinghouse feasibility study. They are hoping to bring in the “home services” small business community – businesses that provide services tied to wildfire mitigation and biomass utilization – to become additional Fireshed Ambassadors. Jennifer provided a copy of the [PowerPoint presentation](#) and invited GSFFC members to send input. Marc will send out a survey.

Announcements and Updates

Kris: NRCS is awaiting announcement of 2019 RCPPs. If they haven't gotten enough people signed up by the deadline, they'll extend the application period. Eytan will add information about NRCS programs and contacts to the website.

James: The Southwest Region expects a decision on the Joint Chiefs proposals in the next 2-4 weeks.

Alan H.: PNM is restarting trenching for fiberoptic lines up the municipal watershed. Work between Agua Sarca and McClure will be underway through March.

Sandy: USFS agreed to an expedited hearing on litigation regarding the Pacheco and Hyde Park Projects. They're working on a response to a filing that came in from plaintiffs in January.

Hannah: A new book exploring policy, practice and social science insights from the CFLRP Program will be coming out soon.

James: Thanked partners for working together and keeping momentum going through the federal shutdown. Sandy thanked partners for help with the open house. SFNF is aiming to catch up and get a draft Forest Plan out this spring, in conjunction with the Cibola and Carson National Forests.

Eytan: The Rural Voices for Conservation annual meeting, held in Santa Fe this year, went well. Discussions about the Fireshed landscape during the field trip resonated with participants. They also gave positive feedback on GSFFC's website and resource materials.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 17, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the Santa Fe National Forest Supervisor's Office conference room.