

**Santa Fe Cohesive Strategy Meeting
February 22, 2016
DRAFT Meeting Notes**

In attendance:

Carmen Austin (NMSF – Las Vegas District)
Porfirio Chavarria (SFFD)
Sharon Elias (NRCS – Santa Fe)
Andrew Frederick (NMSF)
Greg Gallegos (SFFD)
Todd Haines (NMSF – Bernalillo District)
Micaela Hester (NMSF)
Sandy Hurlocker (USFS – SFNF)
Eytan Krasilovsky (Forest Guild)

Eliza Kretzmann (NMSF/NRCS)
Erik Litzenberg (SFFD)
Laura McCarthy (TNC)
Susan Rich (NMSF - FWHO)
Steve Romero (USFS – SFNF)
Eddie Tudor (NMSF & SFCS Chair)
José Varela Lopez (Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD & NMFIA)
Jon Williams (USFS – SFNF)

Eddie Tudor opened the meeting with a round of introductions and a summary of actions taken to date. Eddie will be meeting with USFS national and regional leadership at the Chief's review on March 2nd.

Landscape Strategy Core Team Report

Eliza reported on the two Landscape Strategy Core Team meetings. The first was mostly process oriented, with members providing background information, discussing core team structure, roles and timelines. The core team is responsible for writing the strategy narrative, producing final map products, and drafting the outreach plan. Additional individuals may be called on as part of an 'extended' team to provide needed information and review draft documents. The core team intends to have a landscape restoration strategy ready for signatures by late August. The team will also develop a communications strategy. Forest Guild is hosting a public website: http://www.forestguild.org/SantaFe_Fireshed. A community outreach meeting is tentatively planned for April 14th, location to be determined.

Action Item Reports

Porfirio reported that the city council adopted the Santa Fe Fireshed resolution at its January 27 meeting. He pointed out that Cohesive Strategy Group is not limited to those boundaries, and can expand or modify the landscape targeted for our purposes beyond what's shown on the city's Fireshed map.

The CFRP proposal team submitted an application for a three year planning project: landscape-scale assessment for priority project areas and public engagement process; identification of at least 5,000 priority acres for biological and cultural assessment; and scoping process for 2,500 acres proposed for treatment.

Sandy reported that USFS can use an insect and disease categorical exclusion on up to 3,000 acres as long as it is in an area at high risk for insect and disease and it uses a collaborative process. Cultural and biological assessments are still required with CEs.

Susan reported that Bryan Bird could not attend today but he thanked the group for inviting WildEarth Guardians. Erik reported that the Mayor and governing board are very interested in and support this group's work. Other invitees were Sharon Elias from NRCS, who has joined the group, and Michael Casaus of the Wilderness Society and Mark Allison of The Wilderness Alliance, who attended the Core Team meeting.

Updates/Next Steps

The group identified areas already on the books and others needing more planning. They named some potential "early adopter" project sites.

- Hyde Park, approximately 1,200 acres - Parts of the 2006-07 EAs for Black Canyon/Hyde Park are still valid, but the wildlife part will need to be redone. Vicki Christianson toured here last year.
- Aztec Springs corridor, approximately 800 acres – Includes TNC property and partially-treated city land, adjacent to USFS treatments

- CFRP area, approximately 2,500 acres with 1,200 available sooner and 1,300 out-year because of needed assessments
- USFS La Cueva Project, 600 acres NEPA ready
- Private lands, approximately 250 acres in the Southeast Santa Fe-Glorieta corridor
- The southern end of Pacheco Canyon was identified as another out-year area.
- There are 2,000+/- acres upstream of Tesuque being considered for a tribal treaty rights project.

Of these, close to 2,800 acres are now or will soon be ready for funding. At an average cost of \$1200/acre, a total of \$3.3 million could potentially be put on the ground.

The group discussed possible funding sources.

- Hazardous Fuel Treatments on Non-Federal Lands program (NFL) – federal funds flow through State Forestry for work on private and non-federal public lands, up to \$300,000/project. An RFA is out now. Applications are due 3/21/16.
- Landscape Scale Restoration program (LSR) – federal flow-through grants up to \$300,000/project. Applications due late summer. Competitive west-wide.
- 2016 Capital funding – \$2.5 million from the state Water Project Fund, must be applied on public lands.
- Water Trust Board – look into FY2017 funding for eligible watershed projects.
- “Hubbard” restoration funding – how to apply and how it can be used is still unclear. Eddie recommended planning a field trip for Jim Hubbard and Vicki Christianson in May, after the public meeting and roads dry out, and work on securing other funding before then.

Greg will draft an NFL proposal from Santa Fe Fire Department for work in the Aztec Springs corridor. Jose will work with SWCD’s partners on a NFL proposal for the SE Santa Fe corridor. There already are residents doing work on their own, and others who would likely sign up on a waiting list for a cost-share program.

Members discussed the importance of having local support at the March 9 city council meeting and April 14 public outreach meeting.

Santa Fe County Commission may consider a companion Fireshed resolution.

The group asked Eddie Tudor to continue as Chair.

Action Items

Before March 4th:

- Small workgroup (Greg, Laura, Susan, Jose) prepare draft maps and narratives for potential project areas at Aztec Springs and Southeast Santa Fe corridor

March 4 Core Team meeting:

- plan for April 14 public meeting

Before March 14th:

- Eddie will contact Jim Hubbard.

March 14 - next meeting of the SFCS Group

Location is the Santa Fe Fire Department Training Center, 1130 Siler Road (at the corner of Siler Road and Agua Fria Street).