



# The Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition

## Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition Quarterly Meeting January 19, 2022

### AGENDA

#### #1 meeting objective: partners sign on to the Resilience Strategy

Zoom meeting: <https://tnc.zoom.us/j/98855780394>

Notetaker: Rachel Bean

**1:30 – Welcome and Introductions – (Anne Bradley)**

**1:40 – Introduce Sandy – (Anne Bradley)**

**1:50 – 2:20 – Sandy Imler-Jacquez presents opening comments (Sandy Imler- Jacquez)**

“Good morning, I’d like to start this morning by sharing with you the Forest Service’s mission and purpose. Many of you may have or may not have heard our mission and purpose, but I’d like to share. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Our stewardship work supporting nature in sustaining life is our purpose. One of the ways the Santa Fe National Forest is meeting our agency’s mission and purpose is by working in collaboration, through the coalition, with our community and partners and connecting people to the land and one another.

The Coalition has been a huge player in how the SFNF meets our mission and purpose. I started working on the Forest in 2015 and I believe the Coalition began in 2016. There was a lot of excitement and enthusiasm around the prospects of the Coalition and the partnership and the exciting work we were going to achieve around the fireshed.

Since conception, we’ve signed two NEPA decisions and were successful in litigation. We are currently a couple months away from a third decision at the landscape level. Collaboratively, we’ve held many public meetings, work closely with our communities surrounding the fireshed and built bridges over gaps in understandings or misunderstandings. There have been field trips, site visits, congressional and chief visits. This is a HUGE deal. The SFNF and the success of the fireshed—to date—would not be possible without the coalition.

On the implementation side, we’ve treated hundreds of acres through thinning and burning. Through various funding opportunities and resources made possible by the coalition partners, including the Tesuque Pueblo, Forest Guild, Santa Fe County and the City of Santa Fe. We’ve also had boots on the ground from these various entities to make implementation successful.

These are hundreds, soon to be thousands of acres, over the next 10-15 years that will help restore and make the SF mountains more resilient to catastrophic wildfires and protect our wildland urban interface and infrastructure. That’s hundreds, if not thousands of homes protected. We’ve already seen the benefits and scientific proof that the treatments can work with the Medio Fire.



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As we move forward and get this next NEPA decision signed, we look forward to continuing the great work of the Coalition. Implementation will be most successful with continued public outreach (Wildfire Wednesdays, burn notifications, coordinated efforts of boots on the ground).

Monitoring is also key to our success. Not just to document our successes, but also to adjust or fine tune treatments and practices. We need a strong monitoring plan. A plan that brings partners to the field to help monitor. Opportunities to bring opposing views together to share and see what each other sees. I envision us building on the success of the past few years as we roll through implementation.

I have reached out to see if we (the FS) can provide funding to help support a coalition manager in the short term. I hope to continue to share resources across boundaries and enhance each other's treatments. A prime example is the pile burning that occurred in Pacheco Canyon on FS lands and the Vigil Grant on Tesuque Pueblo lands. We successfully burned 240 plus acres of piles on FS lands and another 111 acres of piles on Pueblo lands. Resources included FS personnel, Santa Fe County, City of Santa Fe, Tesuque Pueblo and Santa Clara Pueblo, and Forest Guild personnel.

We are also in the process of hiring a new Fireshed/NEPA coordinator. This position will be able to help fill some of the gaps that the previous coordinator (Hannah) filled, including help with facilitation and coordination of meetings, field visits, etc.

We need the continued support and collaboration of all partners. I want to emphasize the importance of the City and County resources. As we treat closer to boundaries that support will be needed now more than ever as people hear chainsaws and see smoke closer to their backyards. Continued training opportunities for all boots on the ground across agencies. Continued public outreach, visits, and continued connecting people to the lands. Getting students into the fireshed, similar to some of the work/field trips already occurring in the watershed.” - *Notation provided by Sandra Imler Jacquez*

### NEPA Timeline:

- Finalizing the EA and drafting the DN/FONSI
- Hopefully starting objection in the next few weeks
  - o This is a 45-90 process
- Sign decision
- Implementation following decision

### Personnel:

- New Forest and District Leadership
  - o Debbie Cress-Forest Sup
  - o Beth Ihle- Deputy Forest Sup
  - o Sandy Imler-Jacquez-Espanola District Ranger
- Coming changes
  - o New Fireshed coordinator
  - o Retirements/turnover in district fire personnel

**2:20 – 2:50 - Discuss signing of the Resilience Strategy (Anne B. and Esmé Cadiente)**



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- A look at the documents that were sent to the Coalition including the sign-on statement, the Strategy, and the [operating principals](#) for what it means to be a partner vs. advisor.
- Questions and discussion
- Who is ready to sign?
- Mike asked if Tesuque Pueblo can be highlighted on all the maps. Clarified that Vigil Grant is the correct name. Anne asked if we need to send a formal letter to the Governor to sign the Coalition Strategy and Ryan SH confirmed that we should. They will draft the letter and send it to us.
  - Alan Hook said the City would also like to receive a letter from the Coalition requesting a signature. We already had a resolution back in 2016 so I think a legislative process might be easier in the fact that if we move forward, our support via resolution may just be an amendment to an existing resolution. So, in some ways, that would be the legislative support by the full council and then a letter of support by the mayor. I'd be happy to share that resolution with the county. - *paraphrased from Alan Hook*
  - Mike Fuelner - Anything that we've needed signatures on we have to go through the complete process through the county manager's office and whether it needs to go to a resolution I don't know. But I believe there are county commissioners that would support all this. The process that it goes through, for chief Lindsey I need to make sure I give her enough info and make sure she understands. We are 20 people short right now. My sidekick Remy is going to be a helicopter pilot. If this document can be signed by a lower official but otherwise it has to go through legal. A more complete packet would be great. - *paraphrased from Mike Fuelner*
- Ellis Margolis is ready to sign.
- Mike Feulner said a signature would have to go through the County Manager's office.
- Debbie Cress – Supportive of signature from the FS. Has visited with Michiko and Sandra Imler Jacquez and is ready to sign on behalf of SFNF and R3. For the record, a letter requesting a signature would be good to show a pathway that we followed to get to a signature.
- Park Service – Karl Cordova, we don't need to be a signatory at this time, we would just ask that you ask us how we can stay involved. Bandelier is the lead for fire management. I'm just here for info.
- Kristen NRCS – I think that any kind of key staff or key information would be great, we have a lot of acting positions. Background info for us as much as possible and we can move forward with other things in the future.
- Nathan Miller – SFFD – I talked with new chief and he said to send it to the city legal dept to see if we can sign for it. We want to get some legal language to make sure we can sign it. It's going to be a lengthy process as I outlined back in October.
- Alan Barton – We are ready to sign.



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- Theresa – this will have to go to the Rio Grande chapter for signature. Anne offered to provide a request letter.
- Anne – We can develop a sign on packet including, Operating principles, resilience strategy, what it means to be a signatory document, and letter from the Coalition that pull out the key points. Anne B said, “If you have specific notions of what would be helpful for your leadership to hear from us regarding the letter or packet please let us know.”
- Mar would like to sign on to the Coalition as a partner and sign the Strategy.

### 2:50 – 3:05 – New Chair nominations for 2022 - (*Anne Bradley*)

#### Past Chairs:

2021	Anne Bradley	TNC
2020	Alan Hook	City water dept.
2019	Eytan Krasilovsky	FSG
2018	Ryan Swazohinds	Pueblo of Tesuque
2017	Eric Litzenburg	City fire dept.
2016	Eddie Tudor	State Forestry

- Anne – re: her retirement schedule – she'll be full time ending at end of February then part time work for a few months beyond that. We need to be thinking of a new chair for the coalition. It's really an all-hands on deck position but we do need something that can do the facilitation of the meetings and write request letters for the coalition. Are there any questions about the job of the chair and are there any nominations? We have had co-chairs in the past to help balance the workload.
- Nathan Miller SFFD – are there duties and responsibilities outlined for the chair? I don't know if I am qualified for this position (chair) but maybe we can help with that. We might have a new position that could potentially fill this role.
  - Anne – Yes, that info is on the website and in the operating principles of the resilience strategy.
- from Mar RH regarding the Chair position and partner sign on: I can't this year, as I'm on a contract that's unclear of whether it continues but I'm happy to support the chair and take some of the administrative load off, if that helps. I would like to sign on as a partner, though.
- **Anne and Esme followed up with Nathan after the meeting and he nominated Porfirio Chavarria as the Chair.**



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**3:05 – 3:15 – Set a date for the April get together that was discussed in the last meeting -**  
*(Porfirio C. and Anne B.)*

- Anne – maybe April? Hyde park and share a meal? Does anyone have any thoughts about this?
  - Nathan Miller – with everything going on now maybe we should wait another month before planning to see how things go?
- Alan – Todd Haines suggested Glorieta as a location. It would get us further east. It would be good to see all the work they've done out there.
- Mike Feulner – I agree, Glorieta would be a good location.
- Debbie Cress - The Forest can support planning for an outdoor event in that timeframe. I think basic planning now is a good idea and we can always cancel if the situation isn't improving.
- Mar - If we're talking about all the way down to April, it might be okay. February should show a decrease
- Anne – I will start outreach to Glorieta and John Malvig about hosting this get together. Would be good to invite the public to view the projects at Glorieta. Maybe April the 11<sup>th</sup>?
- Esme – We should avoid double booking with 2-3-2 collaborative meeting on April
- Teresea Seamster - You're right that public parks will probably have limits on gatherings - so Glorieta Camps sounds great.
- Mike Martinez – we may have training with BIA for red cards the week of April 11-15<sup>th</sup>.

**3:15 – 3:25 – Updates from partners – (All)**

Debbie Cress – welcoming Beth Ihle with the Forest Service.

Dennis Carril – EA is about to get signed. Still some life to the Joint Chiefs award. We thought it was the last year for funding but it looks like they are going to extend it and we have shovel ready work with work happening in FY23. It will take this coalition to continue getting the work done to address things like smoke and on a highly visible and recreated in landscape.

- Mike Feulner – What is Kerry Jones' role now?
- Dennis, he's the new Josh Hall. His role will be liaison role between FS and air quality and helping with messaging and complaints we get on smoke. Now that we have the vision, let's get smoke monitors out there and get some baseline data. The complaints we get focus on a little piece that is part of a larger issue. My thought is we establish permanent monitors on cars, wildfire, prescribed fire, wood stoves etc. When you compared wildfire to rx fire to managed fire it would help inform analysis and planning.
  - Mike Feulner - You can use county stations as locations of these monitors
  - Nathan Miller – City stations also available.



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- Dennis – Excellent, thank you both. These conversations will be happening soon. We want to do this right so we will be deliberate and take our time with this process.
- Esme - AQ monitoring is also a priority for the multiparty monitoring plan, I would like to be included in these further conversations.
- Alan Hook – Suggested the Christus as another potential location for smoke monitors. Let me know when the Kerry H. and the air monitoring group gets together, Dennis, I'd like to continue our participation at City of SFe Water. Mentioned a smoke management plan that they could “dust off?”
  - We are doing our budgets now and it would be good to get the conversation started by the fall so we can line up our legislative process for an agreement between the City and SFNF. The agreement will expire December at the end of 2023.
  - Dennis – My take is it would be good to have a discussion about this in the fall to make sure we have a plan for the agreement moving forward.
- Teresa Seamster - Smoke is a critical issue for Sierra Club - thank you so much Dennis for your suggestion on monitoring AQ.
- Julie Ann-Overton - Chantelle Heric(?) is our new public affairs officer for the SFNF. She's available to assist with the comms committee.
- Alan – New hires at NWFRI, we hired Staci Matlock is our new public information coordinator. In October we hired a new vista volunteer Eleanor miers, working mostly in the Jemez mts and will be working with our collaboration group and working with Elliese. We are also looking for a collaboration manager. Someone to work with collaboration and a background in human dimensions or related field.  
<https://nmhu.peopleadmin.com/postings/7270>
- Nathan Miller - We are looking to hire two temporary WUI assistants to help Porfirio. We are also in the process of hosting jobs for our wildland seasonal staff.  
[Link here.](#)
- Dennis Carril – We are going to get a cooperative agreement with Atalaya so we can get them involved in Rx fire more. I want to talk with the County so we can also work with them on Rx fire. We are formalizing these agreements so we can reimburse them for their efforts. We are going to get more fuels positions on the Santa Fe. We are starting to take it seriously to build up our staff with this new infrastructure bill. So keep an eye out as those advertisements come up.



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- Anne – We are hiring for a forest and watershed manager. We are also looking at hiring a fire position. TNCs role in fire has been the cooperative model and building opportunities for multiple parties to get together.

### Other:

- Alan – What is the timeline after signatures for implementation for the SF Mtns Resiliency project?
- Sandra – we are in process of finalizing EA. We still have to go through an objection process. We have to work through those objections before we can sign. There is also possibility for litigation. Hopefully we start in the summer.
- Anne – We also have a project for post-fire restoration. We are in our 3<sup>rd</sup> year doing climate adaptive reforestation projects. Wildlife conservation society and are actively work with highlands, Tesuque, bandelier to see what we can do to address restoration. We'll be doing planting in spring or fall on the Espanola district. State of NM UNM, NMSU and ??? have signed an MOU to support a reforestation institute for NM so we can target the right kinds of trees and plant them in the right places.

### 3:25 - Set next meeting date – (*Anne Bradley*)

- Esme - Sometime in April. Maybe the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in April
  - Anne – Field visit vs virtual.
  - Alan – the 19<sup>th</sup> would be better than the 21<sup>st</sup> for me.
  - Anne – if virtual same time. Placeholder for the 26<sup>th</sup>.

### 3:30 p.m. – Adjourn