

Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition

Quarterly meeting

New Mexico State Library, Pinon Conference Room

July 19th, 2023, 10:00 – 12:30

Meeting called to order: 10:02

Agenda:

10:00 Introductions (Sage)

10:10 SF Mountains project update:

- A Town Hall was held on June 8th to discuss project progress.
 - White Pine restoration was identified as a major concern.
 - Jacob is working on creating a mailing list for Town Hall attendees.
- Decisions regarding the Santa Fe mountain lands were discussed.
- Implementation plans include containment lines on the headwaters of the Tesuque creek after September 1st.
- Working with Laurence on a non-fund agreement for thinning the northeast unit in Tesuque next year, specifically focusing on small diameter thinning without cutting white pine trees (thinning of 9 inches and below).
- Small diameter thinning planned for Glorieta camp, with extensive work scheduled for a few years in the future.
- Tesuque burn plan is completed and will be discussed with BIA for approval, including burn piles on aspen ranch covering 650 acres.
- A heritage survey is planned for the west side of Glorieta next summer.
- Lidar plots will be used with historical stand densities for fire behavior models developed by Los Alamos.
 - Funding from USGS will be used for next-gen fuel models with lidar, and simulations are running in Jemez. This will create 3D models of plots in Tesuque units and may reveal new fire windows.
 - Data gathering will occur in the summer, and the models will take some time to develop.
 - Blog posts about the project, FireTech, and QuickFire will be written for the public.
- Districts will brief the forest supervisor on burns approved for the fall before engaging the community. Winter burns will also be addressed separately.
- The agreement with the city of SF will expire next fall, and there is still funding available for use.
- The team is considering connecting with the "CAVU" youth group.
 - <https://cavu.org/>

10:25 Fireshed Administrative coordination

- The Guild hired a Fireshed coordinator (Alyssa) through the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)

10:30 Committee Updates + Communication strategy discussion for SF Mountains project

Monitoring/implementation updates

- Jacob is the chair of the monitoring/implementation committee, but they are currently facing some funding issues as the funding is set to end in September.
- Jacob is actively working on securing a grant and exploring the possibility of obtaining funds from the Joint chiefs, with a proposal due by August 4th.
- The goal is to extend the current agreement for an additional 2 years, after which the coalition will need to find alternative sources of funding.
- They are also open to collaborating with schools and youth groups for potential opportunities.
- There is a focus on developing a community engagement monitoring plan that emphasizes community involvement and community science.
- The monitoring plan is expected to be finalized within the next 2-3 weeks, and the Forest Service (FS) is conducting its monitoring separately.
- Independent research is being conducted related to soil health in the SFMLRP, is working on gathering and pre- and post-treatment data will be gathered with approval from SFNF
- SFNF has approved researchers from Sierra Club and WildEarth Guardians to collect soil samples in the SFNF to analyze fuel moisture, soil moisture, mycorrhizal fungal samples and soil aggregation. Results will be shared with SFNF and the public when available.

Communication committee updates

- A Black Canyon tour has been completed.
- On June 21st, there was a screening of the Elemental film followed by a panel discussion. Porfirio attended and engaged with the public during the event.
- Discussions were held with representatives from "The New Mexican" regarding different types of writing materials, including day-to-day content, newsworthy articles, and "explainers" pieces. It was suggested to increase the frequency of writing and consider creating a series of articles.
- The coalition plans to establish a partner page on their website to highlight collaborations.
- Efforts are being made to develop an outreach and events calendar.
- There is a conference scheduled in November related to cohesive strategy.
- The coalition aims to create a list of communication goals that align with their mission and put together a compilation of stories to share with the public.
- There will be a timeline provided with information about the next fires, and the communications committee will play a key role in disseminating this information to the public.
- The treatments and monitoring aspects of the project will span multiple years, and more clarity on the timeline is expected after the August meeting.
- Plans include reaching out to individuals or groups already involved in monitoring activities to write a story about their experiences.

Executive committee discussion

- There is a realization that current practices do not fully align with the existing Operating Principles (OPs).
- The intention is to amend the current OPs to better reflect the coalition's current practices.
 - The primary goal is to formalize the leadership structure within the coalition.
 - The idea of having "terms" for leadership positions is not favored.
 - The aim is to streamline the focus of the coalition and make meetings more productive and targeted.
 - There is a suggestion to consider including a member of the public in the leadership structure.

- Additional discussions are required to address financial issues.
- Decision-making processes will involve sending out proposals with a time limit for response, and members' willingness to sign on will demonstrate their support for the decision.
- The committee will meet every other month, and the coalition will meet quarterly, as strategic planning is considered essential for the coalition's success.
- Porfirio motioned for the development of an executive committee, and Sandy seconded the motion.
 - The motion received majority approval.
 - The team to design the executive committee will include Porfirio, Eytan, Mori, Esme, Sandy, Ariel, Matt, Allen, Jacob.
 - Alyssa will be responsible for coordinating the group.

12:10 CWDG update

- The Guild is still waiting for funding to be allocated.
- There is a plan for strategic outreach to underrepresented communities as part of an ambassador program.
- Coordination with the city is needed to establish HHA (Home Hazard Assessment) protocol.
- Funding will be directed towards vegetation work.
- The mitigation efforts will be carried out in phases, with the first phase happening in year 1.
 - Years 1 and 2 will focus on education, outreach, program structure development, and implementing HHAs (Home Hazard Assessments).
 - Years 3 to 5 will be primarily focused on treatment activities.
- The Guild is working closely with the state to establish necessary agreements.
- They are drawing insights from existing cost-share programs and wildfire adapted partners.
- Ambassadors will play a role in recruiting participants for monitoring, and Mateo will be involved in this aspect of the project.

12:30 Meeting Adjourned

- Next meeting planned October 18th, same location