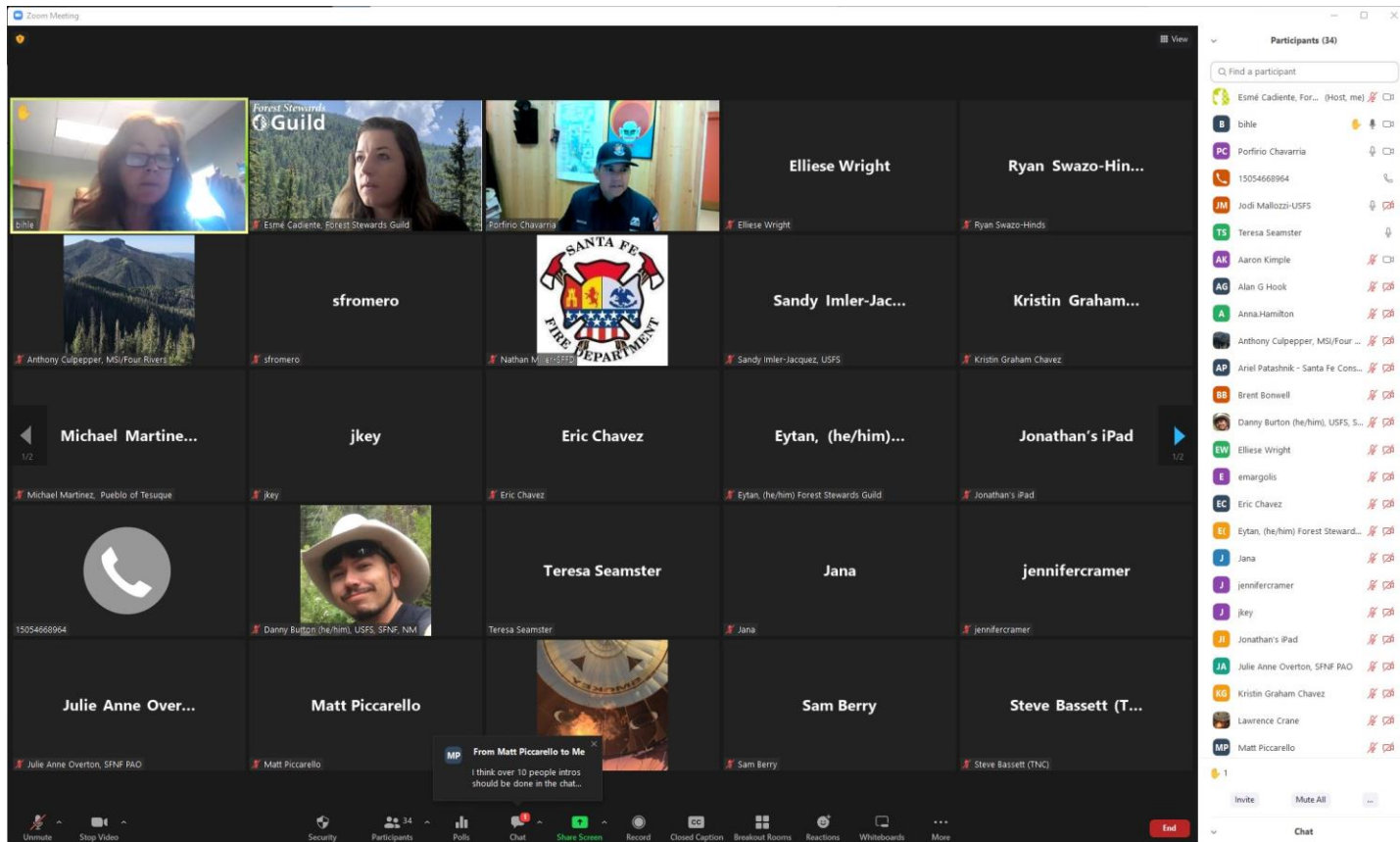


## 7/21/2022 GSFFC Meeting Agenda

10:30 – 10:40 Quick Introduction



10:40- 11:00 HP/CC update

- BAER Team Assessments
- Objectives & Status

11:00 – 11:30 SFMLRP

- Background
- Status and reasoning for withdrawal

11:30-12:00 Next Steps/ Discussion

- Contacts/Communication needs
- Reengaging with Community
- Pacheco & Hyde Park project updates

Discussion notes:

Beth Ihle: With H/CC fires, the SFNF is in a tough position, SF County Commission voted unanimously to request the FS to do an EIS. Essentially that was a vote of no confidence and they represent the voters and opinions we cannot ignore. People don't differentiate NEPA from implementation and this plan has the word prescribed burning in it. We don't want to drag this project through the mud that we're going through right now. We don't want to lose this project and this necessary work. Now we're asking folks, what is the moment to re-issue the decision? We'll need to take objections again and we can handle that. When is the right time to put the project back out for public consumption and what do we need to do to get to that right time.

Matt Piccarello: is the FS going to put out an EIS or put the decision back out for public comment?

Beth I: at this point we don't need to do an EIS, the analysis doesn't warrant it but at this moment, we want to understand how we can get to a place where we can rewarrent the decision.

Alan H: what form of support are you looking for in comms of this process?

Beth I: we need to be able to hear from SF County Commission that we have support.

Anna H: You all know I am supportive of this work. It's not just a PR issue, it's a technical issue about the criteria and the basis on which these decisions are made. one of the things the H/CC illustrated is that the info used to make a go no go decision is outdated and the factors that are used to consider when and how to burn need to be reexamined. Clearly didn't account for current drought conditions and other environmental decision that have progressed over the last 5 or 10 years. That fire was started on a redflag day. A risk assessment is needed now that takes into account current conditions.

Jacob: Replies to Anna that he is aligned with Commissioner on technical matters.

Anna replies that she wants those technical changes to be updated in the next phase of the EA

Anna H: it alarms me to think that you are thinking about re-issuing the EA the way it stands. If you are thinking about re-issuing after examining all these other factors and new information, that would be a sincere response.

Nathan: get it out there asap, it needs to happen.

Alan H: The City wasn't represented when this decision was pushed through

Anna Hamilton: the City doesn't need to have representation in the County's decisions. The data wasn't sound. The correct kinds of data and analysis need to be included

Alan H: you're discounting the risk assessments that have gone on. That has been part of our process all along. I might agree with you on protocols and the how these Rxs have been implemented.

Anna – The risk assessments are separate from the EA, and the EA needs to account for the technical aspects of drought and climate change

Teresa: I am a great supporter on the SFMLR but I have a different slant. I have 2 suggestions that may be helpful to SFNF. This is not about PR. The public is not stupid, they truly understand NEPA. Let's turn

this into a learning experience. Yellowstone is a good example. I would suggest that the public would respond favorably if the FS did an analysis at what burned, maybe another risk assessment and look at burned acreage and how that may reduce future problems in that area and then look at a non burned area to compare. Then look to leneros to manage. They don't do rx burning they take the slash out. Particularly in high risk areas and the lenero approach may be beneficial and welcomed.

Matt P (from the chat): To clarify, Rx fire is not excluded from lenero programs. It is just not the purview of leneros to do Rx fire. Those treatment areas have piles in them that need to be burned.

Ellis M: decreasing the short term risk of fire only increases the long-term risk. All tolls need to be on the table, but I think it's clear that without fire to ultimately remove all the biomass you still have a risk. If a NEPA is approved, it doesn't mean that all the option in the NEPA will occur. Most people would feel more comfortable right now with thinning but thinning sets up for fire. Thinning can happen and keep us moving forward and it doesn't mean that Rx is going to happen any time soon but it would set us up for the potential to do others things later on like prescribed fire. I think the public will get this, if you approve an EA that has thinning and Rx, it doesn't mean that we will use rx right away. Moving forward, where does Rx stand within the agency in the future year or two, what's the vision and the second, it shat the process with the EA? can it get paused and then signed in three months or does it need to get re-issued and go through the process again?

Beth Ihle: implementation pause. Expecting review report from chief in august and we will have to integrate that. We cannot go back to business as usual. We understand the ramifications of what has happened. Once we withdraw the decision and its up to our discretion to decide if we will re-issue as it was or add an analysis. This today is really good stuff. This discussion is what a lot of people would want to have in a larger context.

Ellis M: So, to clarify, right now it's withdrawn and there is no chance for an approval 3 months later and it would need to go back for public comment?

Beth I: yes, it's withdrawn. At some juncture we will need to reissue the decision notice and make it available for objections again. At a minimum.

Anna H: Many good points; would it be possible to add information to the project description that gives an indication of how decisions on which tools to use would be made?

Jacob Key: We can't rearrange fuels by thinning, the risk is still there.

Sandy IJ: It would need to back through another Objection filing process

Eytan: The RGWF and the FSG have been supporting the leneros and it's great, but it's less than a postage stamp and it's one tool at a certain scale when you have roads and flat ground and easy access. It doesn't bypass the ecosystem process of fire. I agree we are 140 years behind and our window is closing on having these opportunities [to use Rx as a tool]. I'm personally behind having a signed decision but I appreciate Anna's H points about drought analysis and incorporating new info. The technical fixes to eytan, lie in the burn plans and the silvicultural prescriptions.

Matt P: Thank you, Eytan, for highlighting the importance and role of burn plans in relation to NEPA. I believe burn plans and the operational side of fire is where the changes we are discussing need to occur.

Alan H: I agree Matt and Eytan

Porfirio: this is a good robust convo. Thank you. I feel like I understand the Forest's position in withdrawing the current decision and I would push for re-issuing the decision. We can add new science and additions to the analysis that have been brought up because of the CC/H and climate change and what has happened. I'm in favor of continuing prescribed burns. There's clear evidence that these forests need fire and we need to figure out to address this before during and after. The City of SF worked with the wildfire research center and we did 940 home assessments. Then back in June last year [2021] and we sent surveys out to those houses and we got back half about how people perceive their risk. In that survey we asked questions about, are wildfires a healthy part of the ecosystems and 87% said I agree. How acceptable is thinning on these lands? 99% said they agree it's important. This is before CC/H but people were in support. There was a high level of support for forest management.

Julianne: Thank you for sharing those numbers on public sensing, Porfirio. That is critically important info.

Eytan: Thanks Porfirio. Fascinating data points from the WiRe effort.

Teresa: Thank you Porfirio for highlighting the biggest "risk" that firefighters have to consider which is life & property. Much more stringent requirements for development in or near the WUI would reduce that risk.

Ellis: Let's be careful not to conflate the lack of climate change being incorporated into the HP/CC fire and the incorporation of climate change in the current EA. I just quickly searched the EA and "climate change" is everywhere in the document and was considered. As Eytan said, burn plans are where changes will happen and need to happen.

Beth Ihle: Do we know if the current vegetation conditions around Santa Fe are contributing to homeowner insurance policy costs? (see chat. Answer is yes and people are being dropped).

Anna H: To Beth's question, in the past many insurance companies did (and may still) take conditions around the home, and even in many cases require fire-wise treatments to continue insurance. But it is also the case now that many insurance companies won't provide insurance in some WUI's regardless.

Porfirio: Beth, yes insurance companies are using wildfire risk to deny renewals and force homeowners to reduce vegetation in and around Santa Fe.

Julianne: And ALL of our rates are going to go up.

Michael – Tesuque's ancestral lands and sites were negatively impacted by HP/CC, and all the watersheds in the Fireshed are ancestral to Tesuque Pueblo, not just Rio Chupadero and Rio Tesuque. The SF River is our ancestral home. I'm speaking from a forestry standpoint, not Tesuque government. let's not point the fingers but right was wrong for the people impacted. Wildfire is part of the landscape. Rx is a must and we need it. Look back to the medio fire and how the Pacheco treatments helped. We need to go forward with this and we need to keep implementing it. Mother nature threw us a curveball but that doesn't mean that we give up and stop everything that is going on. Who would have predicted 60+mph winds for 2-3 months. This was an event that was out of the ordinary. Now we know what to look for and prepare. Treating these Rxs as a wildfire with personnel is a great idea. We do have to change some things. We cannot always rely on scientific data, traditional knowledge is important.

Jacob Key: We're hearing from you that the need is still there and that's the message we need to get out.

Matt P: the way forward for RX fire is shared ownership on these decisions, even in an informal way. The more the community can feel shared ownership will best. For example, this call could have happened before the decision to pull the decision notice was made, which would have brought more voices into the decision.

Jacob Key: More ideas about how to go forward? Now's a good time to brainstorm.

Esmé: Beth mentioned that this discussion is what a lot of people would want to have in a larger context. Is that something that we (the Coalition) would want to support? We have facilitated things like that in the past. How does the Coalition wish to engage in further communication to the public about this to secure social license for such projects?

Jonathon Frenzen: The USFS needs to provide the Fireshed with talking points that indicate that their models and assumptions supporting go/no decisions are being reviewed. To borrow the Navy's terminology, we are "standing down" and coming back with a new and improved approach to Rx burns which will ultimately be resumed when the review and conditions allow.

Jacob Key: we are going to send out those talking points and summary of this meeting

Beth I: just to clarify, we don't have this all ironed out. This is a dialogue.

Anna H: this is a hard conversation and I have respect for all of you. I want to make sure its clear that I support and recognize the need for this work going forward.

Ellis: I fully support burning this fall.

Beth: copy all. We will be evaluating all of the discussion today and inviting more engagement. Also copy on the models and evaluations request.

Alan H: Around SF we have been delayed for three years now already to MSO and COVID and I want to note that in understanding the importance of that all.

Lawrence Crane: from a forestry standpoint, we need to proceed carefully with Rx burns the best way possible because it is the best too so whatever we can do on our end to support this let us know.

Sandy IJ: Thank you Esme. You hit some key points with where we need to go with our potential next steps and ideas moving forward. Community outreach is very important. Thank you to the group as a whole for the great discussions and support. I am personally looking forward to continuing these discussions and our work together.

Porfirio – Let's reconvene to see what the end of the 90-day pause brings and then see what the end of the pause means for the SFNF.

Alan – agrees with Matt and wants to bring in Mayor and Councilors to weigh in. He also offered an opportunity to gather at a SJ/Chama Contractors Association field meeting.

Anna replies that she appreciates the dialogue and Alan's offer to join the San Juan Chama Contractors Association at the tour etc.

~ Meeting adjourned. ~