

Fireshed Coalition Quarterly Meeting

January, 26th 2023

Tesuque Casino

Participants (see sign in sheet): Brad Ashwell (Glorieta Camps), Martin Vigil (County emergency manager), Porfirio Chavarria, Alan Barton, Mori Hensley (SFWA), Kayrina (NMFWR), Ariel Patashnik (SFCT), Mike Feulner, Brandon Glenn (USFS), Jacob Key (USFS), Charlene Juanico USFS, Ruben Montes, Brent Bonwell, Ryan Swazo-Hinds, Mike Martinez, Jon Malvig, Esmé Cadiente, Sam Berry, Mateo Pomilia, Carlos Saiz, Eytan Krasilovsky, Steve Romero, Sandy Hurlocker, Jonathon Frenzen, Anthony (Toner) Armijo, Victoria Atencio, Lisa Markovchick (Wildearth Guardians), Teresa Seamster, Alan Hook.

Partner updates:

NMFWR – Hiring his old position.

Santa Fe Fire Department – City is working on an MOU with the state to do project work. Talaya Hill is a thinning project south of Parker Hill. Another project, water info structure. Defensible spacing around city water tanks. Hiring 15 seasonal positions. Ambassador Program, March 18th event at Christ Church; Ambassador hosted.

Watershed Association – Doesn't do direct treatments but does education in the watershed and that will start at the end of March. Getting students to learn about ecology. Public school 5th graders learn about the watershed. They are trying to get private schools involved as well.

Santa Fe Conservation Trust (SFCT)- Owns a section of land in Apache Canyon, off Apache Ridge Rd., digging into management planning. Has been working with Toner on it, looking to be as collaborative as possible on the management of it. Would like help or guidance. Would like to collaborate with the Guild potentially.

Santa Fe County Fire Department (SFCFD): Looking to do more robust work in the county; ready, set, go – last year in April and March he (Toner) was doing 5-6/week. A lot of Airbnbs need to come up to WUI code, inspectors going out to commercial properties. Remington is gone and Toner is in his place. County looking at preseason meeting March 1st with partners. Working to address concerns.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS): - Forest Service staffing – Has a type 4 and type 6, a little short staffed. FS hired a lot of new positions in fire and there isn't much of a pool to choose from so they are moving people around in the agency. Lost one seasonal going to the LANL. We'll still have fully staffed engines. Has RX Updates.

Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project (SFMLRP)- Objections ended on Monday. Last round, we had a total of 40, this round we had 17. A lot of the same folks who have been advocating their opinion the whole time. 14 have standing. A lot of the same information and contentions and the biggest one is they want an EIS. Going into the review for 75 days (it's typically 45 but the Region is

swamped). Should have a resolution for objections April tenth. Already got Suggestions that are being addressed.

Steve R- Leadership changes. Forest Supervisor position has been filled by Shawn Sanchez, native NM from Las Vegas. Begins Feb 6th. Beth Ihle took a new position. Jeremy Marshall is the Acting deputy forest Supervisor. Steve left Pecos -Las Vegas District, there is an acting Paul Hancock, and the position is being flown. A new position has been created as a Deputy District Ranger – James Munos. The Fireshed is still a priority, but so is post fire for HP/CC. Steve is in a new Partnership Coordinator position, newly created.

Nambe Pueblo — New in her position. What they are seeing is debris. Looking for avenues for Nambe to apply for funding for fire mitigation projects. Due to COVID, a lot of projects are at a standstill. Working closely with BOR and Pojoaque conservation district. Working closely with forest service in Glorieta/Pecos area to see how they can collaborate in terms of how to get funding for mitigation after the fires. Fires shut down water quality sites, trying to get them up and running again. Trying to build relationships downstream. Excited to be here. Porfirio asked Victoria if Nambe has a had a chance to look at the Resilience Strategy.

Lisa Markotrick – Guest. Is a Biologist from Kibab NF working for Wild Earth Guardians and has been working on Mycorrhizal issues. Worked with the navy for a decade. Most recently finished her Ph.D. wants to try and provide other tools to the tool kit.

Teresa- In legislature for riparian areas. . Lisa has been helpful in showing us other ways to protect the soil besides thinning and fire. Brought articles that Lisa has written. Just a few things that they are involved with. One bill to get behind 3 to 1 for federal money. Lisa lives in flagstaff will give contact info.

Eytan, Has RX updates

Santa Fe Fat Tire Society – Have crew leaders and volunteer sawyers. Working on new trails. Curious to chat about how trails can be anchor points. Interested in restoration in the fire scar.

Mateo Pomilia, Ambassador program. First quarterly meeting January 26.

Alan Hook – No update.

Santa Fe County Emergency Manager's Office. – Had a significant flash floods post fire this summer. No homes were damaged but vehicles were. Not able to qualify for FEMA because of the private property aspect. Received a lot of damage in the county open space area. Right now, hoping to start the conversation and bring stakeholders together for long term management of the river and the watershed. Open Space and Pueblo of Tesuque will have to be involved to look at long term solutions. If you have a stakeholder that is interested let me know. Did an exercise in La Barbaria Canyon for an evacuation exercise to illustrate why its important to get people out early. It was successful. Had to postpone the next evacuation drill in March.

Pueblo of Tesuque – RTRL program has funding but is on hold for the SFMLRP decision. Upon that decision well have funding for contractors. We also have 4000 acres of RX fire we'll be able to assist anyone with as part of the program. Also have finding for arch surveys on Tesuque Creek. Mike is in touch with Ryan Ream on that. Hiring for a Forestry Tech. Has 240 acre archaeological plot.

RX updates:

Sam Berry (Guild) – We finished up 50 acres at Glorieta yesterday with Brad and Jon and their crews. Want to thank Mike and Toner for helping with the burn. We expected more push back from the community and we had a public community meeting, but no one showed up. Had one significant call with a community member but after a field trip where we took him out, he felt better after that. We did triple the outreach this year than we did last year. We expected more pushback than we got.

Jon Malvig (Glorieta) – we were a little concerned about burning this year, but we were grateful to have the Guild. We had some public concerns, but dispatch was able to smooth it over. We want to do more to protect our campus. We have 120 people who live onsite fulltime. Not forestry organization and need cooperations. We want to do more, and we'll need help.

Mike Fulner – We need to get past the elephant in the room and move forward. We had a moment where we were getting inundated, and we were able to clear it up. Good job, we appreciate you guys (the Guild) for stepping up and taking one for the team.

Sam B – We have another Rx at Aztec Springs that we'll be doing soon (in the Spring).

Eytan K – We also had a person who recognized that the SFMLRP project is good and wondered why his community wasn't included. Same person that went on the field trip. These projects are hard but some people also get the value in it.

Steve R – The push back you did get, was it in general about prescribed burning or the hazards of pile burning in particular, thinking about Calf Canyon being a pile burn from January?

Sam B – We had 2 people reach out. The person we took out was concerned about pile burning but he didn't understand it until we took him out to see it. We also had four different news stories and a reporter came out. The other person Eytan fielded, called the governor's office. Governor's office said to keep them updated on the burn.

Eytan K – The governor's office and forest are taking the prescribed fire issue very seriously.

Teresa S – We didn't vote for the bill to ban Rx fire in the Spring. The bill to ban prescribed burn failed. All organizations were pro-prescribed burns. Not going to vote on such a blunt tool too just ban all together. A bunch of people that were against burning. The more outreach, the better. A lot of anger in the room from people that were affected by the HP/CC.

Brad Ashwell – A lot of people had no idea what a pile burn looked like. When we showed people feelings were eased. Posting a video of what it looks like gives people an understanding.

Brandon Glenn – The review has a lot about communications in it. Our leadership has decided that there will only be one pile burn this winter. Have about 1000 acres of piles. 700 acres that were planned but not going to happen. Puts cutting on hold. Behind a little bit. We don't have many acres ready. I'm not very optimistic that we'll have any broadcast burning on our district from now until next fall.

Porfirio Chavarria – It would be nice if you could get into the watershed.

Alan H – between you, the district and the supervisors office, how do you prioritize what to do?

Sandy Hurtlocker – A lot of the broadcast burning that had been done in the watershed had been piled but then they got smashed down. The decision was made to broadcast burn it. The broadcast burning in the watershed has had piles in them. This method is well tested to be successful.

Porf- The city has no plans to burn. Talaya hill eventually. Help with Aztec springs.

Mike M – we have acres that are ready to be burned. We want to send the message to the public that we are taking the steps to go above and beyond to make sure that nothing escapes. Our plan is Fall of 23 for Aspen Ranch. Don't hesitate to reach out lets get the agreements we need in place. Just bought 100 acres for both broadcast and pile burns. Going to go above and beyond with aspen ranch on containment lines.

Communications:

Road show- Mike got the SF Indian school Gymnasium that we can use. What are we doing? Wants to narrow it down to figure out how to organize the event with the venue. Let's narrow down dates and times.

Porf C – End of March? Line it up with the State's wildfire awareness week.

Eytan K- End of March feels like enough time to prepare. We should shoot for the evening.

Mike F – Consider REI, overlaps with the County and is more visible. County doesn't need to be a presenter, but we can support the effort.

Ryan – hHw about a Saturday?

Jon – We can use the Camp also. Have a video set up to show what a pile burn looks like.

Sandy H- Goals for this are to organize support for SFMLRP and for the Resilience Strategy. If we did something in March, that would help the community understand whatever decision comes out of that process.

Teresa – There is another bill about public health to deal with public emergencies in rural areas. It might be a good public info thing to wrap in community resiliency with forest resiliency. To set up an office for emergency purposes. Is an epidemiologist. Very good tool for public resiliency. Pueblos are the best for outreach. Tesuque projects could be a good show case for the public.

Sandy H: The Dec 15th event went well with the three scientists. There were more than 2500 views. The result was a good effort to get the science out rather than the misinformation. It was a good way to get one story ahead of the other. It was unprofessional and disrespectful how the County disregarded the Forest at the county commissioner meeting. We want our events to not be a response to the negative stuff but to get the story out as we see it. Is it still on the table to do a Wildfire Wednesday Live event on the Rx review?

Jacob – Yes, but Julieanne retired. Chantelle her assistant is still on. Jacob will talk to Terrance about it since she said he would do a Wildfire Wednesday Live about the Review.

Sandy H – send in letters of support! – it really helps if someone higher up hears that we all support the decision, it can influence whether they proceed to an EIS or not. Now is a good time to think about the importance of this project and the Coalition itself and the new supervisor will have a lot on his plate. The more support they can see from the community the less likely they will find some technicality. Letters can be sent to Forest Supervisor or Sandy Imler Jacques. It will be the Regional Forester who will ultimately review the objections and come up with a plan.

Alan B – Can you send out bullet points of what to include in the letter?

Jonathon F – looking into installing cameras in NM to see if fire appears in the landscape. An operator can click on the pixels and see where that fire is located. Sim table person, Steve, is trying to kickstart the effort in NM and Jonathon is helping. They want to install on the Opera House roof. We're looking for other locations to put more cameras. Please contact me. Alertwildfire.org to replace staffed look out towers with cameras. Each pixel is related to lat. Long. and altitude. 2 benefits, operational and community engagement.

Monitoring/Implementation Committee:

Esme- To think about implementation Committee. Does not have anybody. Might be combined with the monitoring committee. What do we expect with the implementation committee? Will be vital with communication with the public. Before, the implementation committee tracked projects. Might be some small scale stuff like defensible spacing, chipper days, etc. could use help with camera locations. Implementation committee will be vital in sharing monitoring results. Keeping track of the treatments for the Opportunity Map.

Eytan – I think there is a lot of overlap but something the Opportunity map isn't tracking are small scale things like chipper days or treatments around buildings that are also important to track. Rounding up camera locations from an operational standpoint.

Mori – Can we put a place on the website that lists what the committees are and what they do? Maybe at the bottom of each email we can list?

Wrap up:

April 13th next meeting and we'll make it a little longer. Have some presentations

10:30 – 1 at Tesuque Casino.