

**Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition**  
**May 3rd, 2022 meeting notes**

12:30	Introductions
12:45	Resiliency Strategy check-in
12:55	Funding strategy for Fireshed Coalition manager
1:05	Hermit's Peak/ Calf Canyon Fire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the Fireshed's communication/ outreach strategy in response to the Hermits Peak fire?</li> <li>- Other topics that need to be addressed.</li> </ul>
1:30	Outreach opportunity: Landowner outreach in the Glorieta area
1:45	Accomplishments Report
2:00	Partner updates
2:30	End Meeting

**Introductions (name and what you've been working on):**

Esme Cadiente- FSG, working on rio chama CFLRP

Porfirio Chavarria- SFFD

Elliese Wright- NMFWR

Mar Reddy- Hjelmfelt- Outgoing communications working group lead, communications consultant.

Sandy Hurlocker- Retired district ranger, working with a monitoring group

Alan Barton- NMFWR.

Eleanore Mearns- NMFWR Americorps VISTA

Alan Hook- City of SF water resource coordinator

Eytan- Forest Stewards Guild,

Janella Cruz- NRCS, here of behalf of David Griego.

Kristin Chavez- NRCS

Lawrence Crane- Acting district forester NMSF Bernalillo dist.

Mannie Lopez- NM landscapes field station, working on fire history research and post fire debris flow analysis.

Nate Miller- City of SF wildland superintendent

Rachel Wood- consulting forester in SF

Ryan Swazo-Hinds- Biologist in Pueblo of Tesuque

Jonathan Frenzen- retired professor, and community volunteer

Teresa Seamster-

Nickolas Tsarri- Assistant WUI specialist

Anne Bradley- TNC

Sarah Hyden- The Forest Advocate

### **Resilience Strategy Check in:**

- We are collecting signatures now. What else is needed to get the last people to sign.
- We have six signatures.
  - FSG
  - NMFWR
  - Pueblo of Tesuque
  - SFNF
  - TNC
  - USGS
- Still waiting on a signature from the City of SF.
- Are there questions about if your signature is required on this document (if you are a partner vs advisor)
- We will move to going one on one with people.
- What is the goal number of signatures?
  - **All partners should sign onto the strategy. All signatories are partners.**

### **Fireshed Coalition Manager Funding**

- The Guild applied for the COCO AIM grant for Fireshed Coalition Manager funding and Ambassador Coordinator funding
  - Proposal got accepted and funded, will begin in June 2022 for one year.
- Fireshed Manager work plan will be focused on implementing CMAT recommendations
- We still need a longer term funding strategy. We can restart these conversations in the fundraising committee after we get the Resilience Strategy wrapped up.
- Ambassador Coordinator will be funded at 8-10 hours/ week to act as a liaison between Ambassadors and the Coalition and to recruit Ambassadors from each focal area identified in the Resilience Strategy.
- Opportunities to fund ambassador coordinator or coalition manager through the infrastructure bill?
  - There is an agreement to get funding for archeological surveys through BIL. At this point, they will fund things that are directly preventing projects from being shovel ready. This does not include collaboration coordination at this point.
  - There could be more money available from BIL from the pot that was designated for CFLR's. This has been decided to be distributed more broadly and could be an opportunity for the coalition.
- Friends of the fireshed as a potential means of fundraising
  - This conversation is still on the table
- AIM grant is federal \$.
  - Supports a manager at 16 hours/ week
  - With match funding from the City of SF water division

### **Hermit's Peak/ Calf Canyon Fire**

- They had been doing rehab on Hermit's peak fire up until the 21st and it was almost contained.

- All the way up until the 21st, they were already doing rehab. On the 19th of April Calf canyon fire got big. At this point, Hermit's was doing rehab and was almost done. And then on the 22nd we had this crazy major wind event and the IC called everyone back due to the high wind warning and a predicted 13 mile run. Basically, that's exactly what happened. At this point, both the Hermit's and Calf Canyon took off. (Porfirio C)
- Where does messaging help from the Fireshed?
- There was a major wind event on the 22nd.
  - Green islands within the Hermit's peak got up and took off with the wind, and the calf canyon fire also took off
  - The combined fire made a 12 mile run
  - This level of fire has not been seen in April - at least not for the last 20 years.
- There is extreme fire activity in the Las Conchas burn scar because of undergrowth and the broken logs and small fuels adding a lot of fuel to the flame. The fire behavior with the high winds is what has been spreading this fire. There has been discussion on if there should have been other treatments between then and now. This burn scar is not stopping this fire. (Lawrence Crane)
  - Fuel models to predict fire spread aren't predicting correctly. That's another issue. (LC)
- The fire has been active even at 2:00 in the morning. (Nathan Miller)
- Yes, we saw that in June in 2013 on Thompson ridge so this being in April is crazy - (Sandy H)
- Messaging to think about. (Sandy H)
  - There is going to be second guessing on 'how could you light off a fire in April?'. But the beginning of April was somewhat wet, there was plenty of moisture coming through in those pulses so everyone should keep this in mind before saying we'll never burn in the spring again, because I could this heading that way.. we should not have the conversation about not ever burning in spring.
  - In Santa Fe we prefer spring burning because of the smoke. Thinking about the tradeoffs, yes the fall may be safer to burn, but you are more likely to get inversions that pushes the smoke down into town. In the Spring you get some wind, not this kind of wind typically, but the smoke impacts are lessened.
  - Before jumping on any idea that we should never burn in the spring again, we also need to think about all the times we have burned in the Spring and everything works fine. We burned a year ago Easter in Pacheco and a few years ago in the same area and **if we hadn't burned that year, the Medio wildfire would have come out totally differently.**
- Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham brought that up... I said, we never need to say "let's not rx burn" she took that well and she understands the importance of continuing to use prescribed burns. (LC)

- Concern for the people who did start the Hermits peak fire. (Rachel Wood)
  - Sending them emotional support. I heard last week that the guy who lit Cerro Grande committed suicide and I want to make sure they have support. I am putting messages out to the public about how many rx fires have worked out and everyone's intentions are the good.
  - I don't think the FS usually does salvage logging but this is something we could look into after burns that could be beneficial.
  
- Julie-Anne:
  - To what Rachel was saying, the forest service is providing peer support to the team on the prescribed fire from April 6th.
  - I wanted to add a couple thoughts to what Sandy was saying,
  - Some things we should keep in mind, the fact that a couple of spots jumped the perimeter of that prescribed burn, everything was within prescription that day when they started, and then they got some crazy erratic winds at four in the afternoon and got a couple of spots. The fact that a few spots were able to get away like that and take off like it did shows the dire state of the forest and shows why we need to do this work. This illustrates to me why restoration treatments are so important. It's kind of like our last best hope or we won't have these forests anymore.
  - The second thing is, we are under a mandate from congress and the administration. the infrastructure bill provided a lot of \$\$ for forest restoration and the mandate from Washington is to increase the pace of work on the forests.
  - Prescribed burning is still the best tool we have in the toolbox.
  - There will be lessons learned from this, but prescribed burning will keep happening.
  
- Lawrence Crane: sawmills do not have enough to keep going, there is a disconnect here. If we could have kept them going and figured out how to market small diameter wood we might have more forest restoration options.
  
- Eytan:
  - We need to support the crew on the rx burn, they were working within their duty with good intentions.
  - There is a lot of anger right now. There is stress and trauma in society right now, and especially in the communities that are impacted by this fire.
  - We need to wait for some of this to calm down before we engage on this topic so that everyone is more ready for that engagement.
  
- Sarah Hyden:
  - I just got in late, sorry if I missed something. I'm Sarah Hyden from The Forest Advocate, that's my website.
  - I agree that the specific people who were handing the burn shouldn't be focused on but there is more burning being done than you have appropriate burn windows. With the warming a drying climate there are less safe burn windows and you should

reduce the amount of burning and be more targeted about where and how you burn because there isn't enough safe time to burn anymore.

- More burning is in the plan with vastly reducing burn windows, we need to reduce numbers of burns
- We need to be more strategic about where and when we burn and reduce the number of burns
- Rachel Wood: moving forward, what did we learn and this is a different ballgame.
- Porfirio: One night of this fire the relative humidity peaked at 20% at 1am and then was already going down to 13 when we did our briefing and I've never heard that before. Humidities keep going up all night until the sun comes up.

#### **Wildfire awareness event:**

- Shannon Atencio reached out about a landowner wanting a tour in the Glorieta area.
- Glorieta is a great place to highlight the different types of treatments and different \$
- Lawerence is working with a landowner nearby who put in for NRCS funds for prescribed fire.
- The Guild treated about 30 acres with thinning and burning in La Cueva in 2014-2016. And they probably still have contact lists.
- Janella: they used to do town halls at NRCS. There are grants for forest management and CTA (Conservation technical assistance)
- One problem with outreach and education: before when this has been done, the pots of money are not very clear. We need to be clear about where the pots of money are.
- Anne: get the county, county fire involved. Community meetings maybe where the coalition comes and talks and brings other landowners who have had success treating their land
- We could do an NRCS sponsored event
- How do you keep the ball rolling between the landowner filling out the form and getting to the project being completed.
  - NRCS does follow up on this

#### **Accomplishments Report Brainstorming:**

- Everyone should continue to use this link to add any accomplishments of the Fireshed that they can think of until our next meeting.
- Miro link: [https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVO4dQTQg=](https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVO4dQTQg=/)

#### **Partner updates:**

- City of Santa Fe Fire Dept: Struggling with hiring. They have two temporary positions with the wildfire research center. They sent out surveys to homeowners on what their risk is and their attitudes on forest treatment and the coalition. There was lots of support for getting people involved, more of these results will be coming out soon
- Pueblo of Tesuque: In March they had an RFP out for implantation work in the Pacheco Canyon project: 6 acres of work to be done in Aspen Ranch, and more between Aspen Ranch and Vigil grant. More handline construction to be done. They are securing a contractor for

this. They have a few vacancies for forestry positions and are in need of an engine boss. They are planning to fence the Vigil grant.

- The Nature Conservancy: They are short staffed, but will soon have a new forest and watershed health manager on board joining next week.
- New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute: They have a few new staff members including Meredith Prentise who is a Monitoring Crew lead. They are getting infrastructure money in the next few months and increasing GIS staff by 2. The infrastructure money will be used for turning their NM treatment database into a national database. Patti and Katie will now be in the project. The Pacheco Canyon event two weeks ago was great!
- Forest Stewards Guild: They are getting close to being fully hired for the youth program. Now they are hiring for the fall youth program. See the application here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQfJDEI3CAceCW3TC54lVgh01FO9Kn45kbn-laMEPjriaThw/viewform>. They are also now hiring for other FTE positions in the SW. All but one of the HEPA filters are out. They got a call from the state Department of Health, and there is a conversation happening about how smoke is a serious issue and how we can support people who are challenged by the smoke. The Pacheco Canyon event was great, having learning opportunities across landscapes is great. Fire adapted communities NM learning network was at the event and will be putting out a video. Northern CO fireshed will also have a blog post about it. <https://nocofireshed.org/fireshed-peer-learning-exchange/>
  - And the general page where they will post the 2022 positions so stay tuned - <https://foreststewardsguild.org/fsyc-fallfirefuels/>
- Mar: The communications team needs a new chair.
- City of Santa Fe Water: They are doing public hikes with The Watershed Association. Another one is happening May 21st. Rio Chama planning project coming up.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service: Rio Chama CFLRP is officially funded and will receive 3 million over ten years. It touches on the Coalition.
- Sandy Hurlocker: John Bow retired in March. They will be looking to replace him. The Fireshed coordinator position was filled. Santa Fe mountain EA is out for objection. Closes on the 12th.
- Rachel Wood: We need to be continuing the conversation that the real cause of these big wildfires is the fossil fuel industry.
- **July 14th Afternoon is when we will hold our next meeting, likely in person. Stay tuned.**

**Meeting adjourned.**