

**RWEACT Quarterly Reports**

**Fourth Quarter 2015**

**October, November, December**

**Introduction and Background**

RWEACT (Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team) is a collaborative formed during the West Fork Complex fire and the Rio Grande portion threatened the public safety and person property of residents hear the towns of Lake City, Creede, South Fork, and Del Norte. The fire was situated at the headwaters along the watershed of the main stem of the Rio Grande River and many of its tributaries. The primary economic industry of these communities and counties are tourist-driven and public-lands-based. The intensity of the fire was fueled by steep terrain, “beetle-killed” spruce trees, hot and dry winds, lack of precipitation, and minimal road access which resulted in extreme fire behavior. Massive impacts to the environment and natural resources increase the need to take emergent and immediate measures to prevent loss of human life and property.

**Task Order / Purposes /Timeline**

Task Order 1: Approved $519,056

Task Order 1: Task 1: Establish Coordinator and Assistant

 Deliverables: Fully functioning RWEACT effort and all tasks identified in Scope

 Scope of Work & Budget for CWCB review

 Future reports to CWCB surrounding the RWEACT effort

Task Order 1: Task 2: Develop communications plan and implement

 Deliverables: Form Communications Committee

 Identify key messages

 Create identified public information pieces

 Print identified pieces

 Identify graphics artist for design elements

 Purchase advertising

 Purchase and distribute electronic public outreach

 Fabricate and purchase signs

 Develop additional deliverables

 Work with BAER team

 Task Order 1: Task 3: Identify economic recovery actions and implementation

 Deliverables: Buy Local program

 Survey analyzing impacts of wildfire on local businesses

 Task Order 1: Task 4: Establish hydro sub-committee

 Deliverables: Install and operate early detection and warning systems

 Protect human life and property

 Protection of watershed characteristics

 Task Order 1: Task 5: Establish Natural Resources Sub-committee

Deliverables: Protection of small acreage, high hazard areas in the Riverhill area

Reduced sediment, ash and timber flows in the upper Rio Grande

watershed resulting in maintenance of water flow within river course

Establish NR Committee to interface with BAER team for longer-term watershed reclamation efforts

Install 6 water quality probes

Develop Debris Flow Potential Mapping modeling

 TASK ORDER 1 EXPIRED 12/2014

Task Order 2 Approved: $587,485 (Little Squaw)

 Task Order 2: Task 1: Treatment Site Safety Action

 Deliverable: Provide safe area safe for workers to perform Little Squaw project.

 Mulch on-site.

 Task Order 2: Task 2: Create preliminary and final design documents and drawings.

 Deliverable: Preliminary and final, stamped design documents and drawings.

 Task Order 2: Task 3: Manage Construction

 Deliverable: Award, permit, and oversee project appropriately.

 Task Order 2: Task 4: Create structure for debris to deposit on the alluvial fan of Little Squaw

 Deliverables: Debris-flow diversion and depositional structure

 Construct physical barrier with on-site materials

 Establish treatment site free of fallen hazard debris

 Task Order 2: Task 5: Maintain structure annually

 Deliverable: Onsite inspection Year 2 and Year 3

 TASK ORDER 2 CLOSED / LIQUIDATED SUMMER 2015

Task Order 3 approved with $76,427.78

 Task Order 3: Task 1: Purchase 2 stream gauges with alarm system

 Deliverable: Monitor debris flow at Little Squaw Resort & install notification system

 Task Order 3: Task 2: Lake Humphreys Protection & restoration project

 Deliverable: Cost-share assistance with dredging

 Design of trash rack

 Design of debris boom

 Task Order 3: Task 3: Seed purchase for mulched test plots

Deliverable: 6 test plots seeded with mixture of native seed mixture and hydro-mulched prior to winter snow fall. Each test plot will be monitored.

 Task Order 3: Task 4: National Weather Radio transmitter

 Deliverable: Increase wattage to 300 watts at Aqua Ramon (National Weather site)

Task Order 4 approved with $232,061.55

 Task Order 4: Task 1: Executive Director position

 Deliverable: Fully functioning team & provide leadership

 Task Order 4: Task 2: Administrative Assistant position

Deliverable: Administrative support for Executive Director and effective Communication program

 Task Order 4: Task 3: Natural Resources Committee Lead Position

 Deliverable: Fully functioning NR Committee

 Task Order 4: Task 4: Oversight of hydrology committee

Deliverable: Fully functioning Hydrology committee and oversight of successful instrumentation / early notification systems

 TASK ORDER 4 EXPIRED 12/2014

Task Order 5 approved with $115,185.00

 Task Order 5: Task 1: Install temporary Doppler radar

 Deliverable: Temporary Doppler radar to be installed on Bristolhead (Sept through Oct)

 Task Order 5: Task 2: Map Wildfire Flood Risk Potential

 Deliverable: Michael Baker Inc provided a proposal for RWEACT’s review

 Task Order 5: Task 3: Continue Communications support

 Deliverable: Continue to implement the Communication Strategy

 Task Order 5: Task 4: Continue support from the Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

 Deliverable: Functioning Natural Resources committee

Task Order 6 approved with $638,253.00

 Task Order 6: Task 1: VHF repeater including installation and warranty

Deliverable: Review Hill 71 and Bristolhead VHF capabilities; install one 100 watt VHF repeater at Bristolhead; install solar equipment and support at Bristolhead; install one 100 watt VHF repeater at Hill 71; purchase five year extended repeater warranty

 Task Order 6: Task 2: Executive Director position

 Deliverable: Fully functioning RWEACT organization, strategic leadership, presentations

Task Order 6: Task 3: Administrative Assistant position

 Deliverable: Support position for Executive Director and all committees

 Task Order 6: Task 4: Natural Resources Committee Lead Position

 Deliverable: Lead Natural Resources Committee

 Task Order 6: Task 5: Hydrology program oversight

 Deliverable: Lead and oversee hydrology efforts

 Task Order 6: Task 6: Emergency Management Lead Position

 Deliverable: Lead and oversee Emergency Managers committee

Task Order 7 approved with $103,360.95

 Task Order 7: Task 1: Gap Filling Temporary Radar / Doppler Installation

 Deliverable: Operate Doppler / Radar at Lobo Overlook in conjunction with University of Oklahoma

 Task Order 7: Task 2: Data collection for rain and stream gauges

 Deliverable: Subscription for data collection from remote locations of rain and stream gauges for use in threshold / notifications

**TASK ORDER 1 EXPIRED AND CLOSED**

**TASK ORDER 2 CLOSED AND LIQUIDATED**

**TASK ORDER 3**

**Deliverables Provided during Reporting Period**

* Review of Summary / inclusion on website

**TASK ORDER 4 EXPIRED AND CLOSED**

**TASK ORDER 5**

**Deliverables Provided during Reporting Period**

* Purchase of website revamp with b4 Studio to reach new goals for communication
* Discussions about potential project for Wildfire Flood Risk mapping (decision to not proceed)
* Task Order expired 12/31/2015
* Balance liquidated

**TASK ORDER 6**

**Deliverables Provided during Reporting Period**

* Fully functioning executive director / administrative assistant for October, November, and December
* Change in administration / interim director identified
* Oversight of the hydrology program through preparing gauges for winter conditions with Black Creek Hydrology
* Natural Resource partnership October (17 hours) and November (10 hours)
* Award received for $118,750 EIAF #8056 for capacity building efforts
* October 16th RWEACT meeting with Core leadership / USDA Forest Service
* November 4th RWEACT meeting
* November 9th RWEACT meeting
* November 10th RWEACT / USDA Forest Service staff meeting
* November 11th RWEACT meeting with web-designer
* IRS application for 501c3 completed / submitted
* Presentation prepared for the Upper Gunnison Water Conservation District (postponed to January 2016)

**TASK ORDER 7**

**Deliverables Provided during Reporting Period**

* Operation of Doppler project
* Demobilization of Doppler radar
* Winterization of rain / stream gauges

**Complementary Project**

Attached is the Spruce Mortality Report. This was begun during the previous quarter and completed during the Fourth Quarter of 2015. This project was funded under the OEM Governor’s Order.

**Financials during Reporting Period**

See attached Financial Report for October through December 2015 from Hinsdale County.

Note: The INCODE report in the Fourth Quarter 2015 incorrectly identifies a description of “Admin/Coroner” which should read “Constant Contact”. This expenditure is approved and an appropriate RWEACT expense. The description cannot be changed.

**Match**

DOLA Regional Marketing grant to improve economic recovery through increased regional marketing, $100,000.

**Methods**

Methods employed during Reporting Period include public meetings, discussions, project planning, and project implementation utilized best practices.

**Monitoring Data (attached, if applicable)**

**Conclusions / Lessons Learned during Reporting Period**

The West Fork Complex fire has been a galvanizing event for our region, bringing together collaborative partners such as private citizens and business owners, nonprofit organizations, and local, state and federal agencies.

Further information can be requested by emailing kristineborchers@yahoo.com or 970-596-9071.