



RWEACT Board Meeting Agenda

October 13, 2106 – Windsor Hotel in Del Norte

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

FOLLOW UP COFFEE at Milagro's, October 20th at 10:30 a.m.

Call-in 1-800-511-7983

Code 6254628

Opening Comments, Chairman Travis Smith

Introductions

Approve minutes from previous RWEACT Board meeting (July 2016)

New Business

- New Board Appointments (requires board vote)
 - Joe Gallegos (Costilla County)
 - Jason Anderson (Saguache County)
 - Darius Allen (Alamosa County)
- Establish regular board meeting schedule
- Mr. Zeedyk's Project, next steps (Rio de La Vista / Wetland Dynamics) – 10-minute time limit
- Letters of Support
 - Colorado Tourism Office grant application Silver Thread (ratification required; included in packet)
 - Tom Troxel / Molly Pitts (Colorado Timber Industry Association) for the importance of looking at the Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment/Forest Plan Revision process (call-in; 11:00 a.m., 10-minutes)
 - La Garita Hills project (press release included in packet; provide direction to staff)
- Next steps for Strategic Plan (proposal included in packet)
- Video Vignettes (proposal included in packet; Christy Bodi)
- Work Plans (included in packet)
- Budget Revision Request, Task Order #8
- Borchers subcontract (requires board vote)
- Resource Advisory Council (RAC) appointment discussion
- Next steps for Stewardship Agreement conversation

Financial Update ([provided in writing])

- Snapshot (CWCB and EIAF)

Committee Reports (provided in writing)

- Emergency Managers
- Economic Recovery / Communication / Forest Plan Revision
- Hydrology
- Natural Resources (Assessment)
- Executive Director

Other Business

Adjourn



Rio Grande Watershed

Emergency Action Coordination Team

Hinsdale County • Mineral County • Rio Grande County
rweact.org

July 18, 2016
RWEACT Board of Directors Meeting

Present: Travis Smith, Ramona Weber, Karla Shriver, Susan Thompson, Heather Dutton, Kevin Terry, Zeke Ward, Terry Wetherill, Kristie Borchers

Martha Williamson and Kent Smith attended a portion to provide a Current Fire Situation update.

Opening comments by Travis Smith including a welcome to Zeke Ward.

Terry Wetherill provided an update from Emergency Managers including the unmanned drone (need to access an additional \$4,000 for this project), command center, Bristolhead repeater has been installed, and discussion about safety for Search & Rescue. The communication plan will be updated and provided out later this month

Kent Smith provided an update on the Rio Grande National Forest has had a fairly uneventful fire season Farmer's Creek was a small fire that occurred while snow was still on the ground; small fire on private land adjacent to Coller Wildlife Area; and Spanish Creek fire from a lightning strike near the Baca Grande subdivision near Crestone. Conditions in the forest – fairly wet – reduces the likelihood of fire spread. Martha Williamson provided information about how fire reporting / evaluation occurs and discussion about staffing decisions and firefighter safety. Discussion about decision-making process and how RWEACT can support the Forest Service efforts.

The Board discussed developing a piece similar to the KUNC radio program with Professor Tony Cheng. The Communications team will follow up on.

Steve Belz provided a written report which will be forwarded to the board.

Karla Shriver and Kristie Borchers provided an update on the August 4th Workshop, the Collection Agreement for the Prospectus, the need for additional grant funds, and the "Board Members" section on the rweact.org website

Heather Dutton provided an update about the toad ponds to be installed soon; test plot research ongoing and Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment RFP meetings to be held this week. She will send a written report.

Discussion about the Forest Plan Revision process – Second Quarterly reports and Request for Reimbursement have been submitted for Rio Grande County; discussion about concerns with Rules of Engagement for the upcoming public meetings to make sure everyone is able to provide comments.

Zeke Ward provided an update on meetings attended, and the Wilderness Ranch site visit / report, and additional details will be provided in writing.

Financial update provided by Borchers. RFR for Hinsdale County will be submitted this week for \$95,448.93 (#4 Task Order #6) and \$10,466.56 (#1 Task Order #8). RFR for Rio Grande County has been submitted for the Agnew::Beck Consulting work. Detailed Incode will be provided following additional work with Hinsdale County.

New Business

Ramona Weber made a motion and Karla Shriver seconded to appoint Heather Dutton and Kevin Terry to the Board of Directors of RWEACT; motion passed unanimously. Kevin Terry will be the Recreation / Tourism Representative; Heather Dutton will be the Environmental Representative.

Zeke Ward discussed the Bylaws for the 501c3. Discussion occurred regarding Page 2 of the proposed Bylaws requesting a change to reduce the minimum of nine dropped down to six. A quorum would remain at 51%. Travis Smith made a motion to adopt the Bylaws as presented, with the amendment of changing the Board of Directors members from 9 to 12 to 6 to 12; motion seconded by Ramona Weber; motion carries unanimously.

Board of Directors discussion

- Ramona Weber made the motion; Susan Thompson seconded nominating Travis Smith as Chair.
- Heather Dutton made the motion; Ramona Weber seconded nominating Karla Shriver as Vice Chair.
- Susan Thompson made the motion; Ramona Weber seconded nominating Heather Dutton as Secretary / Treasurer.
- Susan Thompson made the motion; Ramona Weber seconded that nominations cease.
- Susan Thompson made the motion; Ramona Weber seconded to approve the slate.
- All motions carried unanimously.

Discussion of the roles of board; officers of the board; staff and committee chairs.

The Strategic Plan was discussed. Conversations had been held with Karla Brown along with a menu for potential professional development opportunities. DOLA has hired Sheryl Trent to work with watershed collectives. Board discussion about additional Counties, value, and pathways. Board directed staff to communicate with Sheryl Trent for a morning meeting with a clear agenda on the next steps. Ideal timing would be in October.

Zeke Ward said that the website will be reviewed and updated for current information. Zeke presented the concept of developing the cohesive RWEACT story by pulling from various reports, narrative, write-ups, and creating additional information, what lessons did we learn in a way that could be beneficial to others. Travis Smith brought up the idea of Vignettes (must be less than four minutes). Kristi Bodhi may be able to help with filming / multimedia. The Executive Order has language in it about how the money evolved and was made available.

Expansion of the board included an update about the Trinchera ranch, and suggestions for who to identify in new Counties.

A general discussion occurred about Task Order #9 focused on Communications which could be interpretive signs, the Story of RWEACT, etc. This can be discussed further.

Discussion about opportunities with the Wildfire Risk Reduction grant due August 8th.

Travis Smith asked for clarification of the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment and Stream Management Plans and how those fit with each other; Heather Dutton is attending upcoming workshops to find out more as well. This occurs in Steamboat Springs in August.

Travis Smith made the motion; Ramona Weber seconded the motion to adjourn; motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Borchers
7/18/2016



Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team

Hinsdale County • Mineral County • Rio Grande County

rio-grande-watershed.org

October 7, 2016

Colorado Tourism Office
Marketing Matching Grant Program

Re: Silver Thread Scenic Byway Application

RWEACT supports the application submitted by the Silver Thread Scenic & Historic Byway Commission to increase regional marketing efforts. By working together and leveraging time and efforts, all of our counties and communities benefit.

The Silver Thread Scenic Byway connects the communities of South Fork, Creede, and Lake City to Highway 50 (just outside of Gunnison, Colorado). Arguably some of the most spectacular scenery in the state of Colorado, this Byway also highlights historic mining operations, frontier towns with intact downtown corridors, and an abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities.

The 2013 West Fork Complex fire brought together our region to address fire-caused impacts. One such impact was a decline in the 2013 and 2014 economic gains realized for tourism. The Economic Recovery committee of RWEACT worked to implement Governor's Order 22 matched with a Department of Local Affairs grant to address this recovery work as a region. Partnering closely with the three counties – Hinsdale, Mineral, and Rio Grande – we created a Post-Disaster Economic Recovery & Marketing Strategy. One outcome was to increase regional, effective marketing (such as with the Silver Thread Scenic Byway). This application ties to the Post-Disaster plan and has broad support in three counties.

RWEACT (Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team) -- together with the Rio Grande National Forest and funded through the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Department of Local Affairs, and the Office of Emergency Management – works to promote partnerships and actions that provide for public safety and resiliency of communities and watersheds of the Rio Grande Basin of Colorado. More organizational information can be found at www.rweact.org

Thank you for your consideration of this request. For specific information on Economic Recovery activities, please contact our administrative assistant Kristine Borchers at 970-596-9071 or kristineborchers@yahoo.com

Respectfully,

Marvin K. "Zeke" Ward
Executive Director
PO Box 721
Lake City, CO 81235

zeke@rweact.org

October 13, 2016

Mr. Dan Dallas
Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF)
1803 W. Highway 160
Monte Vista, CO 81144

The SRLA Record of Decision requires the Forest Service to review and reconsider the direction in the Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment (SRLA) when the forest plan for each of the affected national forests is revised. As you review the SRLA as part of the RGNF forest plan revision, we ~~recommend that you consider~~ encourage you to consider the following:

1-What has been learned about lynx in the RGNF since the SRLA was approved and implemented in 2008? The RGNF has been implementing the recommendations in the Lynx Conservation Assessment and Status since 2000 and has been implementing the SRLA since 2008. What has been learned from effectiveness monitoring and how will those results be considered and incorporated into the revised forest plan? Similarly, what new scientific information is available about lynx populations and habitat requirements? In particular, what new information is available from Dr. John Squires' research on the RGNF?

2-What will be the effects going forward of implementing the SRLA or other lynx direction on the management of the RGNF, outputs from the RGNF, access to or use of the RGNF, the forest products industry, and social and economic sustainability, and are there ways to reduce the effects of lynx management? In particular, the RGNF includes a very high proportion of undevelopable acres and a relatively low proportion of timber harvest acres. Specifically, of the RGNF's 1,837,661 total acres, 392,190 acres are designated Wilderness (21%), 518,600 acres are Colorado Roadless Areas (28%), and only 291,325 acres are suited timberlands (16%).

In particular, how has completion of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and Colorado Roadless Rule and the consequential change in the proportion of national forest lands in developmental versus non-developmental allocations since the decision to list the Canada lynx in March 2000 changed the US Fish & Wildlife Service's assessment of the adequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms?

Revision of the forest plan, including lynx habitat direction, should consider predicted long-term stand structure development, associated wildlife habitat values, and timber outputs (in cubic feet and board feet) at a landscape scale.

3-We urge you to give more emphasis to Desired Conditions and Objectives for lynx habitat, such as VEG 01 and VEG 02 from the SRLA and the first conservation measure in the 2013 Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy (LCAS) -

- VEG 01 - Manage vegetation to mimic or approximate natural succession and disturbance processes while maintaining habitat components necessary for the conservation of lynx.

- VEG 02 - Provide a mosaic of habitat conditions through time that support dense horizontal cover, and high densities of snowshoe hare. Provide winter snowshoe hare habitat in both the stand initiation structural stage and in mature, multi-story conifer vegetation.

- August 2013 LCAS - Provide a mosaic that includes dense early successional coniferous and mixed-coniferous-deciduous stands, along with a component of mature multi-story coniferous stands to produce the desired snowshoe hare density.

We also recommend that the RGNF analyze and model long-term desired conditions and objectives for long-term biodiversity, including lynx habitat.

4-What is the best available scientific information regarding connectivity, linkage corridors, and winter snow compaction, and what direction, if any, to address those issues should be included in the revised forest plan?

5-The Responsible Official should make a decision on which acres of the RGNF will be managed for lynx habitat, and that decision should be informed by public review and comment. According to the Lynx Assessment, lynx habitat was most recently mapped for the RGNF in 2011. That mapping included 867,241 acres of primary habitat and 170,847 acres of secondary habitat, for a total of 1,038,088 acres of suitable lynx habitat. Previously, the RGNF has not allowed public review of or comment on lynx habitat mapping or even the protocols for lynx habitat mapping. We view that as a serious shortcoming considering the significant effects of whether a particular acre is mapped, or not mapped, as lynx habitat.

Thank you for your consideration.

xxx



United States Department of Agriculture

Rio Grande National Forest

1803 W. Highway 160
Monte Vista, CO 81144
(719) 852-5941

www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande



News Release

Media Contact: Mike Blakeman
(719) 852-6212

mblakeman@fs.fed.us

Rio Grande National Forest seeks public input on La Garita Hills analysis

SAGUACHE, Colo. - The Rio Grande National Forest and Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office invites public input on the draft environmental impact statement for the La Garita Hills Restoration Project. The proposed project area is located southwest of Saguache and includes more than 145,000 acres of National Forest System land and 33,000 acres of land managed by the BLM.

Several projects would be generated from this large analysis that covers a diversity of forested and non-forested ecosystems ranging from low elevation foothills to subalpine spruce-fir forests. Proposed activities include: salvage harvest of beetle-killed spruce trees followed by planting seedlings in areas with inadequate natural regeneration; fuel reduction treatments adjacent to developed private lands; and in drier vegetation zones further from private land, thinning of commercial and non-commercial sized trees and prescribed burning to meet a variety of resource objectives, such as improving wildlife habitat and reducing the potential for uncharacteristically severe wildfires.

Comments will be used in the development of the final environmental impact statement and are most useful if received by November 14, 2016.

Comment letters may be emailed to comments-rocky-mountain-rio-grande-saguache@fs.fed.us; faxed to 719-655-2502 with subject line of La Garita Hills Project; or mailed to District Ranger, 46525 State Hwy 114, Saguache, CO 81149.

The draft environmental impact statement and supporting information is available for review at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/riogrande/landmanagement/projects>.

-USDA-

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Understanding of Project

RWEACT has a long standing tradition of providing exceptional service to the people that live within the watershed. Formed in 2013 after the fire, and recently becoming a 501 c 3, RWEACT is expanding services to additional counties in the area and is in the process of adding to the Board.

RWEACT desires a long range strategic vision that is community based, has focus and commitment from key stakeholders, has measurable outcomes, and is nimble and adaptable to adjust to quickly changing circumstances. This should be a document with a clear five-year vision that is implemented through a series of steps and projects that can be completed within the next one to two years. The Plan should be based on community consensus and reality – concrete actions that are achievable and attainable.

The **heart** of this project will be participation from all the key stakeholders in the community (and possibly the surrounding area if necessary). A critical part of this will be communication, and RWEACT may want to plan on a media campaign. Social media, newsletters, and the website can help share the information.

From my perspective, many communities have done outstanding work on a vision document, but don't have any way to move forward with implementing that vision and proving (through ROI or other measurements) success. The **deliverable** at the culmination of this process is a written Strategic Plan with an Implementation Action Chart that is adopted by the Board.

Scope of Services

Inherent in this Scope of Services will be our responsibility to:

- ✓ Research and review all documents, plans, strategies and surveys.
- ✓ Know and understand the RWEACT community.
- ✓ Conduct phone interviews with key participants
- ✓ Facilitate a Board retreat of the Board, staff, stakeholders and partner agencies to drive the Vision and implementation of a Plan
- ✓ Present a Strategic Plan for RWEACT with a Vision, Mission, Priorities, long term Goals, Projects and Strategies. The Plan will have agreed upon measurable outcomes (ROI) and specific Action Steps.



Phase I: Informational Meetings and Gathering Background Data

This approach can be very flexible, but would include:

- Individual phone calls with key stakeholders (up to 15 by phone)
- Review and research all of the data as recommended and requested
- “Homework” for the participants to complete prior to the Retreat.

Goal: to obtain as much background information as possible to craft a great agenda for the retreat. This information will drive Phase II and Phase III.

Phase II: Facilitated Retreat

The interviews will lead to the creation of an agenda and activities for the Retreat, Phase II would include:

- A facilitated 2 -day retreat
- Information to share via media channels (if requested by RWEACT)

Goals:

- 1) To determine the long range strategic vision for the community
- 2) To determine specific priority areas on which to focus
- 3) To develop goals, projects and strategies in each priority area for reaching that vision
- 4) To draft an Action Plan with measurable outcomes

Phase III: Written Community Vision and Strategic Implementation Plan

The Retreat will establish a clear idea of what is important to RWEACT and how to move forward with realizing specific goals.

- Draft documents for review and discussion
- As requested, information to share on any media channel
- One additional Board meeting to present the document for adoption.
-

Goal: The goal is the deliverable of a Vision Plan that has a clear Strategic Implementation Plan as a key component. It will be community based and have strong support across the stakeholders.

Timeline

The goal is to hold the retreat and have an adopted document prior to the end of the year. It is my suggestion to AVOID the holidays, and schedule time in October.



Cost Proposal

Project	Deliverable	Pricing
Phase I – Informational Phone Calls and Gathering Data	Individual phone calls with up to 15 by phone Review any data requested Compile aggregate information to create retreat agenda	\$1,000
Phase II – Retreat	Facilitated two-day retreat held in the Rio Grande County area (back to back days)	\$5,000
Phase III – Written Strategic Plan	Creation of Written Documents, including a Strategic Plan and Action Plan	Included
Option	Attendance at one Board for Adoption of Plan	\$500
Option	Creation of a survey and analyzing survey results	\$500
	Creation of content for media efforts (Facebook, website, Twitter, newsletter)	Included

This is an “all-inclusive proposal” and neither travel costs nor or other fees will be charged. Copies of written documents will be billed at direct pass through pricing if necessary. Price Guarantee for 90 days from the date of this proposal.

Heather's Edits

08/17/16



Video Proposal

Prepared For
RWEACT - Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team
August 12, 2016



Christi Bode, Executive Producer
Moxiecran Media LLC
17525 Wilde Ave
Unit #202
Parker, CO 80134

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

RWEACT (Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team) expresses interest in producing multimedia content about RWEACT and its coordinated approach in addressing the watershed health of the Rio Grande Basin. This subject matter will be communicated in two proposed videos:

Video #1: "About RWEACT: a collaborative approach", estimated TRT: 3-4 min

RWEACT was established in July 2013 in response to the West Fork Fire Complex, bringing together local, state and federal agencies, organizations and individuals to develop an effective, coordinated approach to address fire-caused hazards resulting in the protection of human life, property, economy and natural health of the Rio Grande watershed. RWEACT is an advocate for adaptive management in forest planning and implementation, as sound forest stewardship is key to mitigating long-term impacts on watershed conditions.

Video #2: "Protecting the Rio Grande Basin watershed", estimated TRT: 5-6 min

The Upper Rio Grande Basin plays a significant environmental and economic role that stretches far beyond its borders. This short documentary highlights the importance and vulnerability of this critical watershed through the impassioned voices of those who rely on its health and work for its protection. Topics of discussion include hydrologic and soil functions, water quality and quantity, aquatic ecosystems, wildlife habitat and economic vitality.

ecology
of and
current state
of forests

Deliverables to include two (2) versions of each video, formatted for web streaming (720p) and on-site presentations (1080p). Anticipated final delivery date TBD.

PROJECT ESTIMATE - Video #1: "About RWEACT"

Description	Total
Pre-production - research, development, communications	\$320
Field production - Executive producer/camera op	\$930

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - estimated 1.5 days at various locations within Rio Grande basin - travel/mileage 	
Post production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - project prep (broll organization, footage selection, timeline) - Sound cut - graphics (titles, buzzwords, design elements) - music (selection, purchase, license) - color & audio mix - revisions (includes 2 hrs) - render/export/conversion 	\$1,250 - \$1,500
Total Estimate for Video #1	\$2,500 - \$2,750

PROJECT ESTIMATE - Video #2: "Protecting the Rio Grande Basin watershed"

Description	Total
Field production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Executive producer/camera op - estimated 3 days at various locations within SLV & outside of region - travel/mileage 	\$3,530
Post production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sound cut & footage selection - graphics (as determined) - music (as determined) - color & audio mix - render/export/conversion 	\$2,000 - \$2,500
Total Estimate for Video #2	\$5,530 - \$6,030

Next Steps

Accept the proposal as is or discuss desired changes.

Approval of Proposal: _____ Date: _____

Video #1 outline - "About RWEACT", TRT estimated 4-5 min

Introduction: Igniting the change - Wildfires in Colorado

- X ^{Spruce} Mountain pine beetle epidemic have killed most mature ^{Engelmann Spruce} pines, resulting in extreme fire behavior ^{has}
- X Lack of staffing & funding to treat forests ← (True - but did not influence the fire.)
- West Fork Complex fire: posed threat to Rio Grande & San Juan watersheds; public safety and personal property; threat to the main stem of the Rio Grande & its tributaries.

- WFCF was driven by ↑ wind, ↓ humidity, ↑ temps, ↑ fuel loading

Creating an effective, coordinated approach for immediate response

- Various local, state and federal agencies, organizations, and individuals meet one month after fire starts to address fire-caused hazards in the interest of public safety
- Recognition of West Fork Fire burn scar combined with existing beetle infested forests creates a forest/watershed health challenge of significant magnitude and urgency
- A partnership develops between RWEACT and the US Forest Service, Rio Grande National Forest with a shared vision of improving forest health and protecting the Rio Grande watershed through management activities
- through the collaboration and cooperation with USDA Forest Service, data provided from a "BAER" report

RWEACT evolves: the catalyst for sound public land management

- RWEACT seeks to become an advocate for watershed/forest health and community vitality in light of the fact that the RGNF was embarking on a 3 year process to revise its forest plan
- focus on ^{supporting} improving active forest management in a way that may reduce the ^{impacts} threat of future landscape scale wildfires and improve economic resilience
- develop strategies for watershed protection (identifying short-term goals) and watershed restoration (short-term & long-term goals)

Video #2 outline - "Protecting the Rio Grande Basin watershed", TRT estimated 6-7 min

Introduction: ^{The} ~~Vulnerable~~ watersheds and forests in the Rio Grande Basin (2 min)

- Water originating in Colorado forests ^{is} are highly valued: consumptive and nonconsumptive needs
- Insect or disease activities, wildfire, variable climate change: subsequent and significant ^{impacts} to environment and natural resources ^{changes}

▲ Forests provide many ecosystem services, such as water...

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timber
habitat
clean air
recreation

(A lot of the burned area was in areas NOT suitable for treatment - wilderness, steep)

save this for the 2nd video where you discuss present forest condition

We are not going to stop big fires in the spruce forests because they evolved with fire. We can manage these forests to protect values at risk.

I think ~~we~~ we really need to start video #2 by talking about spruce-fir forests:

- system evolved with disturbance: fire, beetles, and disease; after disturbance aspen and Douglas fir dominate, you can see old disturbances by noticing patches of aspen; aspen gives way to ^{Engelmann} Spruce and ~~the~~ sub-alpine fir, which grow into dark, dense, old forests until another disturbance, when the cycle repeats.

+ recreation economy

- Water quality and quantity are major forest management issues: impact timing and amount of water produced
- Vulnerable communities: impacts and risks associated with forest disturbance resulting in an impaired watershed; forests and river health go hand in hand
- Quantifying watershed condition is not straightforward: involves combined knowledge of science, geology, hydrology, meteorology, social studies and law

How does the Rio Grande Basin improve and protect its watershed? (1.5 min)

- The need for change and the role of RWEACT: "If one of us can't do it, another of us likely can."
- Collaboration a fundamental part of the solution: foundation for partners to work together towards mutual goals and objectives
- Develop strategies for watershed protection and restoration
- Need for ground data to make predictions for the future (ecosystem recovery after fire)

What does a healthy watershed look like? (2 min)

- Functioning watersheds have terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic ecosystems that capture, store and release water, sediment, wood and nutrients within their range of natural variability (natural processes)
- ~~Resilient and recover rapidly from natural and human disturbances~~
- Takes all natural resource attributes of the watershed including consumptive and nonconsumptive elements into account (land, plants, water and wildlife)
- Resilient forests that can endure disturbances and retains its functions, ability to organize and renew itself

more and combine

- Economic vitality: Primary economic industry of the upper basin is tourism and agricultural economy of the San Luis Valley dependent on runoff/river flows for irrigation and aquifer recharge
- Current projects that are monitoring change and collecting data (post fire studies completed by Hogue Research Group)

What does the future hold for the Rio Grande watershed? (30 sec)

- Continued collaborative efforts between public and private partnerships are necessary for success
- Drawing from similar experiences in the past. It has happened in our forests before and looking back at such events provides perspective as we try to respond responsibly and shows us a window into what our forests might look like as they recover; learning to see favorite places in new ways
- What do we want this place to look like in 20, 30, 40 years?

RWEACT Work Plans
October through December 2016

Due Dates	Description	Responsibility	Budget	Notes
	Nonprofit Management			
	501c3 Status			
	Quarterly Report filings			
	Establish regular board meeting dates			
	Board expansion			
	Alamosa County			
	Saguache County			
	Costilla County			
	Conejos County			
	Development of Board materials			
	Host October Board meeting			
	Host November Board meeting			
	Purchase General Liability Insurance			
	Forest Plan Revision / Capacity Building			
	Implementation of EIAF #8056			
	Quarterly Reports EIAF # 8056			
	Financial Management			
	Development of Scope for "Capacity Building"			
	Final reports with USDA Forest Service / Agnew			
	Identification of next steps for Stewardship Agmts			
	Strategic Visioning with Sheryl Trent			
	Policies & Procedures			
	Asset Tracking Protocol Developed	Zeke		
	Grants Path Developed	Borchers		
	DRAFT Financial Protocl & Processes	Borchers		
	DRAFT Best Practices for Nonprofit	Borchers		
	Regional Efforts			
	CO/NM Cohesive Strategy	Zeke		

RWEACT Work Plans
October through December 2016

		CWCB Governor's Order Implementation					
		Financial Management / Reporting		Zeke / Borchers			
		Task Order #6					
		Task Order #8					
		Development of new Task Orders					
		Requests for Reimbursements					
		Grant Reporting					
		Presentations to CWCB board					

RWEACT Work Plans October through December 2016

[illegible]

RWEACT Work Plans
October through December 2016

Due Dates	Description	Responsibility	Budget	Notes
	Unmanned Drone			
	Purchase			
	Training			
	Mobile Command Unit			
	Set-up			
	Tabletop Exercise			
	Annual Event			
	Remainder of Task Order #6			
	Emergency Management Partnership			
	Upper Rio Grande Communications / Protocol			
	Annual Approval			
	Copies for Three Counties / distributed			
	Remainder of Task Order #8			
	Rio Grande (trunk radios, etc)	Karla Shriver		
	Hinsdale (laptop, ham base, etc)	Rick / Jerry		
	Mineral (Terrain Navigator, Bristolhead Ham, etc)	Terry Wetherill		
	Hill 71 Assistance			
	Consultation	Zeke		
	Temporary / Permanent Radar			
	Ongoing discussions			

RWEACT Work Plans
October through December 2016

Due Dates	Description	Responsibility	Budget	Notes
	Upper RG Watershed Assessment			
	Formally request additional budget funds	Borchers		
	Kick-off meeting with SGM / Technical group	Emma (lead)		
	Contracts executed			
	GIS Assistance (under Task Order #8)			
	Borreal Toad Project			
	Water Quality Study			
	Results presented to RG Basin Roundtable			
	PSA issued / information on website			
	Removal of probes	Ashley		
	Final report	Ashley		
	Test Plot Monitoring			
	Monitoring Field Work	Emma / Heather		
	Annual Report			
	Boat Ramps			
	Finalize budget / next steps			
	Site Visit / Training			
	Bill Zeedyk visit / future projects	Rio de la Vista		
		Zeke Ward		

RWEACT Work Plans

October through December 2016

[illegible]

RWEACT Work Plans

October through December 2016

[illegible]

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT

This Agreement is effective on the _____ day of _____, 2016, by and between the **Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team** ("RWEACT"), the address of which is P.O. Box 721, Lake City, CO 81235, **Hinsdale County, Colorado**, the address of which is P.O. Box 277, Lake City, CO 81235 ("County"), and **Kristie Borchers**, whose address is P.O. Box 398, Lake City, CO 81235 ("Contractor"). RWEACT, the County and Contractor are referred to in this Agreement collectively as the "Parties."

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to use this Agreement to specify the work RWEACT may offer Contractor and how Contractor will be compensated for any work it accepts from RWEACT; and

WHEREAS, Contractor understands RWEACT's offer to contract with Contractor and willingness to continue to refer work to Contractor are conditioned on Contractor's good faith Agreement to comply with the spirit and terms of this Agreement.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State of Colorado's Office of the Governor Executive Order D 2013-022 dated July 25, 2013 and the "State of Colorado Colorado Water Conservation Board Master Task Order Contract with Hinsdale County," Hinsdale County serves as the fiscal agent to carry out RWEACT's purposes, including but not limited to, filling its Executive Director position.

THEREFORE, in consideration of the Parties' rights and obligations set out below, the Parties agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

1. **TERM.** This Agreement shall have an effective date as first stated above and will continue in effect for one (1) year from said date at which time this Agreement shall terminate, unless sooner terminated as provided herein.

2. **CONTRACTOR'S DUTIES.** Contractor shall serve as RWEACT's Executive Assistant and provide RWEACT with any and all duties required by RWEACT's Executive Director and/or RWEACT's Board of Directors.

3. **COMPENSATION.**

3.1 For all services that Contractor performs pursuant to this Agreement, RWEACT shall pay Contractor an amount not to exceed \$_____ at the rate of \$40.00 per hour. Contractor's compensation shall not include reimbursable expenses, which may be reimbursed as outlined in Section 3.2 below.

3.2 RWEACT may reimburse Contractor for actual expenses incurred for services performed pursuant to this Agreement. However, preapproval for such expenses, which include, but are not limited to, mileage, meals, lodging and meeting expenses, is required from RWEACT's Board of Directors prior to billing for such expenses. Contractor may be reimbursed thereafter only upon presentation of a detailed invoice and copies of receipts for any such expenses. Invoices for repayment of expenses must be submitted by Contractor to the RWEACT Board of Directors by hand or email within 60 days of the date incurred to be eligible for reimbursement.

3.3 Hinsdale County serves as the fiscal agent for RWEACT. As such, Contractor shall submit all invoices to Hinsdale County, on behalf of RWEACT, at P.O. Box 277, Lake City, CO 81235. Upon submission of an invoice to Hinsdale County, Hinsdale County shall,

on behalf of RWEACT, pay Contractor within thirty (30) days of the submission, provided there are no problems with the invoice. All such amounts hereunder shall be paid pursuant to funds available through the Colorado Water Conservation Board and is subject to the availability of such funds.

3.4 Contractor shall provide RWEACT's Board of Directors and Hinsdale County with a summary statement of hours worked under this Agreement and a statement of any expenses (consistent with Section 3.2 above) with each invoice.

3.5 Contractor acknowledges and understands that the existence of an hourly rate in no way renders Contractor as an employee of RWEACT or Hinsdale County for purposes of the Colorado Wage Compensation Act or Colorado Workman's Compensation purposes.

4. TERMINATION.

4.1 If RWEACT fails to pay, in a timely manner, any sum owed to Contractor or to otherwise perform under this Agreement, Contractor may discontinue performance hereunder ten (10) days after providing written notice thereof to RWEACT; and

4.2 RWEACT may terminate this Agreement with or without cause at any time, so long as RWEACT first provides Contractor with ten (10) days written notice. Upon RWEACT's termination, Contractor shall be paid for all work that accrued prior to the date of such termination notice and nothing more.

5. AGREEMENT TO PERFORM SERVICES AS AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. As recognized in §§ 8-40-202(2)(b)(II) and 8-70-115 (1)(c), Colorado Revised Statutes, the Parties agree that RWEACT will not:

5.1 Require Contractor to work exclusively for RWEACT;

5.2 Establish a quality standard for Contractor, except the Parties agree that Contractor's services and products will be consistent with generally accepted industry standards for Contractor's customary services;

5.3 Pay Contractor in any other manner, except as according to the compensation stated in Section 3 above;

5.4 Terminate Contractor's current services for particular work that Contractor accepts from RWEACT, unless Contractor violates the terms of this Agreement or fails to produce a result that meets the specifications of this Agreement;

5.5 Provide more than minimal training for Contractor;

5.6 Provide tools or benefits to Contractor, except that materials and equipment may be supplied;

5.7 Dictate time of performance, except that a completion schedule and a range of mutually agreeable work hours may be established through this Agreement or another agreement mutually acceptable to both Parties for particular work Contractor accepts from RWEACT; and

5.8 Combine its business operations in any way with Contractor's business, but instead both Parties shall maintain their own operations as separate and distinct.

6. TIME DEVOTED TO WORK. In the performance of the services contemplated by this Agreement, the hours Contractor is to work on any given day will be entirely within

Contractor's control and RWEACT will rely upon Contractor to put in such hours as are reasonably necessary to fulfill the spirit and purposes of this Agreement.

7. NO UNAUTHORIZED USE OF NAMES.

7.1 Neither Party will use the other Party's name in any advertisement, promotion, business card, etc. without the other Party's prior written consent; and

7.2 Consistent with the provisions of this Section, Contractor agrees not to use RWEACT's name in any advertisement, promotion, business card, etc. without RWEACT's prior written consent. Contractor further agrees not to advertise, promote or represent to any customer, potential customer, supplier or any other third party that Contractor is RWEACT's employee or agent. Instead, Contractor may represent only that the Parties have an independent contractor relationship under which Contractor may from time to time be offered by, and may accept, from RWEACT an opportunity to provide Contractor's customary services.

8. INSURANCE. Neither RWEACT, nor Hinsdale County will include Contractor as an insured under any policy either entity has for itself, including, without limitation, any liability, life, collision, comprehensive, health, medical, worker's compensation or unemployment compensation insurance policy. Any such insurance required of Contractor shall be at Contractor's sole cost and expense.

9. NO WITHHOLDINGS OR BENEFITS. As provided in §§ 8-40-202(2)(b)(II) and 8-70-115(2), Colorado Revised Statutes, Contractor expressly agrees that, as an independent contractor, Contractor is not entitled to any employee benefits from RWEACT or Hinsdale County, including, but not limited to, any employer withholdings or liability for taxes, FICA, Medicare or Medicaid, medical or disability insurance, vacation or leave, pension, unemployment insurance, or worker's compensation insurance (collectively, "Employee Benefits"). Contractor is obligated to pay federal and state income taxes on any moneys paid pursuant to the Parties' contractual relationship.

10. INDEMNIFICATION. To the maximum extent permitted by law, Contractor waives all claims against RWEACT and Hinsdale County for any Employee Benefits. Contractor shall also defend RWEACT and/or Hinsdale County from any claim and shall indemnify RWEACT and Hinsdale County against any liability for any Employee Benefits for Contractor imposed on RWEACT or Hinsdale County; and Contractor shall reimburse RWEACT and/or Hinsdale County for any award, judgment or fine based on the position that Contractor was ever RWEACT's or Hinsdale County's employee, and all attorneys' fees and costs RWEACT and/or Hinsdale County reasonably incurs defending itself against any such liability. Contractor further agrees to indemnify and hold harmless RWEACT and Hinsdale County, and their agents, members, officers and employees, from and against any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, arising out of performance of the work herein, that is for any injury, economic or otherwise, including loss of use, caused in whole or in part by Contractor's intentional or negligent act(s) or omission(s), or that of a subcontractor, or that of anyone employed by them or for whose acts Contractor or any subcontractor that Contractor hires may be liable.

11. CONTRACTOR'S QUALIFICATIONS. As of the effective date of this Agreement, and during the term of this Agreement, Contractor shall be fully qualified and shall have all approvals and registrations needed, if any, to perform his obligations under this Agreement. Contractor shall have and maintain all licenses, permits, certificates, insurance and registrations needed to perform Contractor's duties under this Agreement.

12. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND CUSTOMER RECORDS BELONG SOLELY TO RWEACT. RWEACT's confidential information and data relating to RWEACT's business are RWEACT's exclusive property, and Contractor therefore agrees that:

12.1 All notes, data, reference materials, sketches, drawings, memoranda, disks, documentation, records and recipes, including but not limited to, information incorporating or reflecting anything that may be construed as confidential ("Confidential Information") and all proprietary rights in the Confidential Information, including copyrights, trade secrets and patents shall belong exclusively to RWEACT;

12.2 At all times while this Agreement is in effect, Contractor shall keep secret and shall not disclose to any third party, take or misuse any of RWEACT's Confidential Information;

12.3 At all times while this Agreement is in effect, Contractor shall not use or seek to use any of RWEACT's Confidential Information for Contractor's own benefit or for the benefit of any other person or business or in any way adverse to RWEACT's interests;

12.4 At RWEACT's request or on termination of this Agreement, Contractor shall promptly return to RWEACT all its property, specifically including documents, disks, recipes, computers or any other materials in Contractor's possession or control that contain any of RWEACT's Confidential Information;

12.5 After termination of this Agreement, Contractor shall preserve the secrecy of and will not disclose directly or indirectly to any other person or business any of RWEACT's Confidential Information;

12.6 Contractor shall promptly advise RWEACT of any unauthorized disclosure or use of RWEACT's Confidential Information by any person or entity; and

12.7 The Parties agree this Section 12 is intended to express RWEACT's rights and Contractor's duties to RWEACT under the Colorado Uniform Trade Secrets Act, §§ 7-74-101 through 110, Colorado Revised Statutes.

13. RELIEF RWEACT MAY SEEK. Contractor hereby agrees that, if Contractor violates the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement, it would be difficult to determine the damages RWEACT would suffer, including but not limited to, losses attributable to lost Confidential Information. Accordingly, Contractor agrees that if Contractor violates any of the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement, RWEACT shall be entitled to an order for injunctive relief and/or for specific performance, or their equivalent, from a court of competent jurisdiction, including requirements that Contractor take action or refrain from action to preserve the secrecy of RWEACT's Confidential Information and to protect RWEACT from additional damages; and Contractor agrees RWEACT does not need to post a bond to obtain an injunction and waives Contractor's right to require such a bond.

14. ENTIRE AGREEMENT; AMENDMENT; ENFORCEABILITY; INTERPRETATION. This Agreement expresses the entire understanding about its subject matter and is the only Agreement, promise or understanding on which the Parties are relying in performing the duties of this Agreement. The only way this Agreement may be amended changed or waived will be through a written document signed by both Parties. This Agreement is enforceable by and against each Party and anyone else who has or obtains rights under this Agreement from either Party. This Agreement will be interpreted and enforced under Colorado law. No part of this Agreement should be construed against either Party based upon authorship. An unenforceable provision of this Agreement will be modified to the extent necessary to make it enforceable or, if that is not possible, will be severed from this Agreement, and the remainder of this Agreement will be enforced.

15. NOTICES. Any notice this Agreement requires must be in writing and will be effective only if hand-delivered or sent by certified U.S. mail, returned receipt requested, to the Party entitled to receive notice at the Party's address first stated above or at such other address as that Party may later give notice to the other Party.

16. ASSIGNMENT. RWEACT and Contractor, respectively, bind themselves, their partners, successors, assigns and legal representatives to the other Party to this Agreement and to the partners, successors, assigns and legal representatives of such other Party with respect to all covenants of this Agreement. The Contractor shall not assign this Agreement without the prior written consent of RWEACT.

17. CONTINGENT FEES. Prohibition against contingent fees: Contractor warrants that Contractor has not employed or retained any company or person (other than a bona fide employee working solely for Contractor) to solicit or secure this Agreement, and that Contractor has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual or firm (other than a bona fide employee working solely for Contractor) any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or any other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement.

18. OPEN RECORDS. This Agreement may be unilaterally cancelled by RWEACT for refusal by Contractor to allow public access to any documents, papers, letters, or other material subject to the Colorado Open Records Act and Sunshine Law and made or received by Contractor in conjunction with this contract, unless RWEACT, in its sole discretion, deems such information not subject to disclosure pursuant to the aforementioned laws.

19. GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY. Nothing in this Agreement is, or shall be construed to be a waiver, in whole or in part, by RWEACT of the governmental immunity provided by the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act or otherwise.

20. LEGAL REPRESENTATION. Both Parties represent and warrant that they have carefully reviewed this Agreement, they have had the opportunity to have legal representation in connection with the decision to enter into this Agreement, and the contents hereof are known and understood by them.

21. VENUE. Claims, disputes or other matters in question between the Parties to this Agreement arising out of or relating to this Agreement or breach thereof shall be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction in Hinsdale County, Colorado.

22. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS. Contractor shall strictly comply with all applicable local, federal and state laws, rules, and regulations in effect or hereafter established, including, without limitation, laws applicable to discrimination and unfair employment practices.

23. SOFTWARE PIRACY PROHIBITION. State or other public funds payable under this Agreement shall not be used for the acquisition, operation, or maintenance of computer software in violation of federal copyright laws or applicable licensing restrictions. Contractor hereby certifies and warrants that, during the term of this Agreement and any extensions, Contractor has and shall maintain in place appropriate systems and controls to prevent such improper use of public funds. If RWEACT determines that Contractor is in violation of this provision, RWEACT may exercise any remedy available at law or in equity or under this Agreement, including, without limitation, immediate termination of this Agreement and any remedy consistent with federal copyright laws or applicable licensing restrictions.

24. PUBLIC CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES. Contractor certifies, warrants, and agrees that it does not knowingly employ or contract with any illegal alien who will perform work under this Agreement and will confirm the employment eligibility of all employees who are newly hired for employment in the United States to perform work under this Agreement, through participation in the E-Verify Program or the Department program established pursuant to C.R.S. § 8-17.5-102(5)(c). Contractor shall not knowingly employ or contract with an illegal alien to perform work under this Agreement or enter into a contract with a sub-consultant that fails to certify to Contractor that the sub-consultant shall not knowingly employ or contract with an illegal alien to perform work under this Agreement. Contractor (a) shall not use E-Verify Program or Department program procedures to undertake pre-employment screening of job applicants

while this Agreement is being performed, (b) shall notify the sub-consultant and RWEACT within three days if Contractor has actual knowledge that a sub-consultant is employing or contracting with an illegal alien for work under this Agreement, (c) shall terminate the subcontract if a sub-consultant does not stop employing or contracting with the illegal alien within three days of receiving the notice, and (d) shall comply with reasonable requests made in the course of an investigation, undertaken pursuant to C.R.S. § 8-17.5-102(5), by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. If Contractor participates in the Department program, Contractor shall deliver to the contracting State agency, Institution of Higher Education or political subdivision a written, notarized affirmation, affirming that Contractor has examined the legal work status of such employee, and shall comply with all of the other requirements of the Department program. If Contractor fails to comply with any requirement of this provision or C.R.S. § 8-17.5-101, *et seq.*, RWEACT may terminate this Agreement for breach and, if so terminated, Contractor shall be liable for damages.

25. **COPYRIGHT/PATENT VIOLATION LIABILITY.** Contractor shall pay all license fees for the use of any copyright and shall be responsible for and hold RWEACT and Hinsdale County harmless from and against all losses from copyright infringement contained in this Agreement or in the product resulting from Contractor instruments of service, in accordance with the Indemnification provisions herein. Contractor shall also be responsible for and hold RWEACT and Hinsdale County harmless from and against all losses from patent infringement based on specified processes contained in this Agreement, in accordance with the Indemnification provisions herein, unless the existence of patents on such processes are brought to the attention of RWEACT and Contractor. On request of RWEACT and/or Hinsdale County, Contractor shall defend against any such suits or claims of copyright or patent infringement.

26. **WAIVER.** Waiver of any breach under a term, provision, or requirement of this Agreement, or any right or remedy hereunder, whether explicitly or by lack of enforcement, shall not be construed or deemed as a waiver of any subsequent breach of such term, provision or requirement, or of any other term, provision, or requirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, RWEACT and the Contractor have executed this Agreement on the date(s) indicated below with an effective date of June 1, 2016.

RWEACT:

Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team

By: _____ Date: _____, 2016

_____ (print name)

Its: _____ (title)

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF _____)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this ____ day of _____, 2016, by _____, as _____ of the Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT).

Witness my hand and official seal.

My Commission expires: _____

[SEAL]

Notary Public

COUNTY:

HINSDALE COUNTY

By: _____
 Stan Whinnery, Chair
 Hinsdale County Board of County Commissioners

Date: _____, 2016.

Attest: _____
Hinsdale County Clerk

CONTRACTOR:

By: Kristie Borchers

Date: _____, 2016

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF _____)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this ____ day of _____, 2016, by **Kristie Borchers**.

Witness my hand and official seal.

My Commission expires: _____

[SEAL]

Notary Public



**RWEACT Financial Snapshot
Through September 30, 2016**

	Approved	Expended (through 9/30/2016)	Remaining
Task Order 1 – EXPIRED	\$ 519,056.00	\$ 464,130.31	(\$ 54,925.69 was “returned” to general fund)
Task Order 2 – CLOSED	\$ 587,485.00	\$ 326,724.85	(\$ 260,760.15 was “returned” to general fund)
Task Order 3 – CLOSED Requested Closure in Jan 2016	\$ 76,427.78	\$ 62,177.77	(\$14,250.01 will be “returned” to general fund)
Task Order 4 – EXPIRED	\$ 232,061.55	\$ 215,849.18	(\$16,212.37 was “returned” to general fund)
Task Order 5 – EXPIRED	\$ 115,185.00	\$ 94,082.54	(\$21,102.46 was “returned” to general fund)
Task Order 6	\$ 638,253.00	\$ 247,570.72	CURRENT BALANCE: \$390,682.22
Task Order 7 – CLOSED	\$ 103,360.95	\$ 100,307.95	(\$3,053.00 was “returned” to general fund)
Task Order 8	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 33,689.26	CURRENT BALANCE: \$176,310.74 Assessment \$114,000; EM \$30,000
Allocated Total	\$2,481,829.28		
Unallocated Balance	\$ 18,170.72		
Closed / Expired Liquidation Sum	\$ 370,303.68		
Unallocated /Closed	\$ 388,474.40		
EIAF #8056	\$ 118,750.00	Agnew::Beck contract expires this fall 2016, \$ 59,000	
DOLA Regional Grant – EXPIRED	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	
OEM Economic Recovery - EXPIRED	\$ 195,000	\$ 195,000	

Invoice to: Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Project Name: RIO GRANDE WATERSHED EMERGENCY ACTION COORDINATION TEAM (RWEACT)

Grantee: HINSDALE COUNTY

Address: PO Box 277
Lake City, CO 81235

Phone No.: 970-944-2225

CWCB Contract or Purchase Order No: CMS# 59899
CMS Routing #81565
Grant Amount: \$ 2,500,000

Date of Invoice: September 30, 2016

Reimbursement Request #2 TASK ORDER #8

Task	Description	Total Budget Grant Funds	Previously Invoiced	Current Invoice	Remaining Total	Percent Complete
1—TO8	Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.0%
2—TO8	Emergency Notification Equipment/Training	63,000.00	2,470.51	22,116.86	38,412.63	39.0%
3—TO8	Communication Support	3,000.00	347.64	0.00	2,652.36	11.6%
4—TO8	Stream and Rain Gauge Data for 2016	17,000.00	7,150.00	0.00	9,850.00	42.1%
5—TO8	Alpine Gulch Rain Gauge / Installation	7,000.00	0.00	0.00	7,000.00	0.0%
6—TO8	GIS Assistance	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.0%
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>200,000.00</i>	<i>9,968.15</i>	<i>22,116.86</i>	<i>167,914.99</i>	<i>16.0%</i>
	Hinsdale County Fiscal Agent 5% Admin Fee	10,000.00	498.41	1,105.84	8,395.75	16.0%
	TOTALS	210,000.00	10,466.56	23,222.70	176,310.74	16.0%

Submitted by:

Title:

Signature:

Invoice to: Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Project Name: RIO GRANDE WATERSHED EMERGENCY ACTION COORDINATION TEAM (RWEACT)

Grantee: HINSDALE COUNTY

Address: PO Box 277
Lake City, CO 81235

Phone No.: 970-944-2225

CWCB Contract or Purchase Order No: CMS# 59899
CMS Routing #81565
Grant Amount: \$ 2,500,000

Date of Invoice: September 30, 2016

Reimbursement Request #5 TASK ORDER #6

Task	Description	Total Budget Grant Funds	Previously Invoiced	Current Invoice	Remaining Total	Percent Complete
1—TO6	VHF Repeaters including support/warranty	40,652.00	37,060.00	2,130.00	1462.00	96.5%
2—TO6	Executive Director RWEACT position	272,448.00	97,921.15	9,932.78	164,594.07	40.0%
3—TO6	Administrative Assistant RWEACT position	108,980.00	28,666.82	7,054.74	73,258.44	32.8%
4—TO6	Natural Resource Committee Partnership	36,000.00	14,302.90	1,838.97	19,858.13	44.8%
5—TO6	Hydrologist RWEACT position	113,780.00	25,832.66	11,041.70	76,905.64	32.4%
6—TO6	Emergency Management Partnership	36,000.00	0.00	0.00	36,000.00	0.0%
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>607,860.00</i>	<i>203,783.50</i>	<i>31,998.19</i>	<i>372,078.31</i>	<i>38.8%</i>
	Hinsdale County Fiscal Agent 5% Admin Fee	30,393.00	10,189.18	1,599.91	18,603.91	38.8%
	TOTALS	638,253.00	213,972.62	33,598.10	390,682.22	38.8%

Submitted by:

Title:

Signature:



Rio Grande Watershed
Emergency Action Coordination Team

September 2016 Update on Current Projects

Overall Visioning and Function of RWEACT

- Expanding the geographical focus and board of directors from 3 West Fork Complex fire counties to 7 watershed-wide counties (Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Hinsdale, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache)
- Executive Director Zeke Ward (zeke@rweact.org or 719-480-1813)
- Received 501c3 status
- Fall 2016 Visioning Process with Consultant Sheryl Trent
- Bridging the Divide community workshop (September 9th & 10th), public tours / presentations
- CO/NM Cohesive Strategy participation
- Forest Plan Revision participation

Natural Resources Committee, led by Emma Regier / Heather Dutton

- Water Quality Study (nine probes that monitor seven characteristics; third and final year of Study)
- Test Plot Monitoring (6 test plots demonstrating variety of land covers; third year of monitoring)
- Construction project for a Boreal Toad Project with Rio Grande National Forest
- Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment to guide all further projects

Communications Committee provides information and multi-media messages about RWEACT, safety in the West Fork Complex burn scar and watershed, and about the various projects and endeavors of RWEACT. This includes videos, social media, website, rack cards, press releases, and presentations. We are working on a partnership with the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable on two video vignettes (fall 2016)

Hydrology Committee, led by Steve Belz, Black Creek Hydrology

Eight rain gauges and two stream gauge water level monitors are installed at strategic locations in, and adjacent to, the West Fork Complex burn scar to monitor significant rainfall or abnormal fluctuations in stream flow. Two rain gauges and one stream gauge were relocated in 2016 to sites upstream of Rio Grande reservoir in order to obtain baseline data on patterns of rainfall/stream response from areas that have experienced significant beetle kill but have not burned. The rain and stream gauge instruments transmit real-time data electronically to a website and are monitored by the National Weather Service staff in Pueblo and Grand Junction who can issue a weather Watches, Warnings, and Advisories.

Emergency Managers Committee, led by Terry Wetherill, Mineral County Emergency Manager

- Tabletop Exercise held on May 17, 2016
- Purchasing equipment to improve communication, early notification, and response equipment including an unmanned drone, a mobile command unit, a Ham repeater on Bristolhead and base and vehicle units, VHF radios, trunk radios, and other miscellaneous items.
- Annual update of the Upper Rio Grande Emergency Notification Plan (Three County Plan)
- Ongoing discussions about permanent radar in the region (2013/2014/2015 temporary radar placed)

Economic Recovery Committee, led by Karla Shriver, Rio Grande County and Kristie Borchers, RWEACT

- August 4th Biomass Utilization Workshop in Alamosa (multiple partners)
- Assist Rio Grande National Forest with funding for the evaluation of business plans received

RWEACT (Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team) -- together with the Rio Grande National Forest and funded through the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Department of Local Affairs, and the Office of Emergency Management – works to promote partnerships and actions that provide for public safety and resiliency of communities and watersheds of the Rio Grande Basin of Colorado. More organizational information can be found at www.rweact.org

Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment

Revised Project Budget compiled for RWEACT Board Meeting

URGWA Project Budget	
Task 3: Aquatic Habitat (Trout Unlimited)	\$15,000
Task 5: Flow Regimes (Trout Unlimited)	\$4,000
Task 6: Water Quality (WCRC)	\$33,000
Task 10: Administration (CRGRF)	\$16,000
Remaining Tasks (SGM)	\$146,000
TOTAL	\$214,000

SGM - Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment Schedule of Costs	
TASK	COST
Project Management and Coordination	\$30,000
Task 1: Riparian Habitat Assessment	
Task 1a: Riparian Habitat Assessment, data collection	\$5,000
Task 1b: Riparian Habitat Assessment, analysis of existing data	\$15,000
Task 1 Subtotal	\$20,000
Task 2: Geomorphology Assessment	\$20,000
Task 4: Recreation Assessment	
Task 4a: Recreation Assessment data collection	\$6,000
Task 4b: Recreation Assessment, analysis of existing data	\$9,000
Task 4 Subtotal	\$15,000
Task 7: Adjacent Uplands	\$13,000
Task 8: Infrastructure	\$8,000
Task 9: Identify Causes of Degradation and Priority Projects and Compile data and reports into Final Assessment	\$40,000
TOTAL BID	\$146,000



Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team

Hinsdale County • Mineral County • Rio Grande County

info@rweact.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kristine Borchers
970-596-9071
kristineborchers@yahoo.com
www.rweact.org

Proposals Sought for Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment

CREEDE, CO., (August 1, 2016): The Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation is soliciting bids for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment. This work will assess the ecological condition of the Upper Rio Grande Watershed.

“This Assessment will give us a road map for our current watershed health and recommendations for future stewardship projects,” says Emma Regier of the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project. Many environmental challenges face the Upper Rio Grande watershed, including extended drought, forest fires, extensive beetle kill, water quality impairments, endangered species, degraded habitat, and other human-caused impacts. This comprehensive Assessment will document current conditions and will bring together watershed groups, federal, state and local entities, and private landowners.

The complete Request can be found at www.riograndeheadwaters.org with proposals due by August 24th. Questions on the RFP should be directed to Emma Regier at 719-589-2230.

Partners for this project include the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Rio Grande National Forest, the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, Trout Unlimited, Willow Creek Reclamation Committee, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, San Luis Valley Irrigation District, the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, and RWEACT. Funding for this project comes from the Colorado Water Conservation Board through RWEACT and the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable and the Colorado Department of Public Health & the Environment (CDPHE).

RWEACT (Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team) works to promote partnerships and actions that provide for public safety and resiliency of communities and watersheds of the Rio Grande Basin of Colorado. More organizational information can be found at www.rweact.org



Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team

Hinsdale County • Mineral County • Rio Grande County

www.rweact.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kristine Borchers
970-596-9071
kristineborchers@yahoo.com
www.rweact.org

After the Fire Water Quality and Aquatic Life Study Results

CREEDE, CO., (September 14, 2016): In 2013, the West Fork Complex Fire burned 110,000 acres in the Upper Rio Grande. The majority of the area burned moderately to severely, where vegetation was removed and the heat altered soils and increased the potential for erosion. A team of researchers from the Colorado School of Mines (CSM) partnered with RWEACT (Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team) to evaluate the fire's impacts on water quality, aquatic insects and fish.

This work seeks to better understand forest fire impacts on water quality and aquatic ecosystem in order to learn and prepare for future fires. The study is currently in its third year with CSM researchers still monitoring water quality, insects and fish populations along the Rio Grande and four of its tributaries. Overall, the Rio Grande appears resilient and remains healthy, though some segments continue to receive higher sediment loads and experience turbid water below the burn scar. When the water has been turbid on the main-stem of the Rio Grande, fish have been able to move away from areas with poorer water quality. Currently, trout populations continue to grow and achieve Gold Medal trout water status as designated by Colorado Parks and Wildlife in much of the Rio Grande. Insect populations in the Rio Grande suffered the initial after the fire but have now recovered.

A few of the Rio Grande's tributaries were impacted more severely by the fire. Fish are unable to escape water quality impacts in smaller tributaries. Some of the fire-impacted tributaries experienced fish kills the summer of 2014 due to high sediment loads driven by monsoon rain events. Trout suffocate and die when exposed to suspended solid concentrations above 50 milligrams per liter for an extended time.

Initial water quality probes were installed in the fall of 2013; additional probes were installed and retrofitted to monitor a total of seven characteristics per probe. Data was remotely transmitted and field monitored through site visits. Additional information from the Study can be found at www.rweact.org under Natural Resource Recovery or by contacting Graduate Candidate Ashley Rust at arust@mymail.mines.edu

RWEACT -- together with the Rio Grande National Forest and funded through the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Department of Local Affairs, and the Office of Emergency Management -- works to promote partnerships and actions that provide for public safety and resiliency of communities and watersheds of the Rio Grande Basin of Colorado. More organizational information can be found at www.rweact.org

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