



RWEACT Board Meeting Agenda

January 31, 2017 – Windsor Hotel in Del Norte

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Call-In 1-800-511-7983

Access Code 6254628

Opening Comments, Chairman Travis Smith

Introductions

ACTION ITEM Approve minutes from previous RWEACT Board meeting (October 2016)

New Business

- DRAFT Financial Procedures and Protocol (included in packet)
- Letters of Support
 - La Garita Hills (ACTION ITEM: ratification required; included in packet)
 - Blue Park (ACTION ITEM: ratification required; included in packet)
 - Generator (ACTION ITEM: ratification required; included in packet)
- Next steps for Stewardship Agreement
- Wood Source Fuels, LLC / Phil Seligman partnership
 - ACTION ITEM: Approve (or not) RWEACT's role in Wood Source Fuels project
 - Letter of Support for project (ACTION ITEM: ratification required; included in packet)
 - \$28,700 proposal including later opportunity for revised Scope of Work (budget in packet)
- SLV CCI grant
 - Mr. Zeedyk's Project
 - Proposed Actions: ACTION ITEM: Approve (or not) SLVCCI grant application next steps
 - Identify RWEACT's role in project including Wetland Dynamics proposal to write the grant
 - Other RWEACT project possibilities

On-Going Business

Next steps for Strategic Vision (DRAFT in packet; schedule meeting #2)

Review Grants Path

Review Communication Strategy

Financial Update (provided in writing)

- Snapshot (CWCB and EIAF)
- Board discussion about Governor's Order Exp 7/2018; Task Order #6 (extension) and Task Order #8
- Board discussion about Proposed Task Order #9

Committee Reports (provided in writing)

Emergency Managers; Economic Recovery / Communication / Forest Plan Revision; Hydrology

Natural Resources; Executive Director

Other Business

Adjourn



Rio Grande Watershed
Emergency Action Coordination Team
Hinsdale County • Mineral County • Rio Grande County
info@rweact.org

RWEACT Board Meeting
October 13, 2016

Board Members Present: Chairman Travis Smith, Commissioner Jason Anderson (approved during this meeting), Commissioner Susan Thompson (by phone), Kevin Terry, Heather Dutton

Others Present: Forest Supervisor Dan Dallas, Kristie Borchers, Steve Belz, Rio de la Vista, Zeke Ward, Kara Aloia & Jenny Nehring (Wetland Dynamics), Christy Body, Emma Reeser.

Chairman Smith welcomed the group and led a round of introductions.

Director Dutton made a motion to approve the agenda as amended (moving Supervisor Dallas' comments earlier in the meeting); Director Terry seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Director Terry made a motion to approve the July 2016 minutes as amended (correction that Director Dutton made the motion to adjourn); Director Dutton seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Discussion about the beginning of RWEACT, and the geographical expansion now. Commissioner Anderson thanked the group for the opportunity to sit at the table, on behalf of Saguache County.

Director Dutton made a motion to approve Saguache County Commissioner Jason Anderson to the RWEACT Board of Directors; Director Terry seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Chairman Smith welcomed Director Anderson to the board.

Chairman Smith had a conversation with Alamosa County Commissioner Darius Allen who is willing and excited to be involved with this effort. Director Anderson made a motion to approve Commissioner Darius Allen to the board; Director Dutton seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Director Anderson commented that he and Commissioner Allen both served on the Public Lands Council and Mr. Allen will be a great asset.

Discussion about regular meeting schedule. For the next three months, the Board will meet on the Fourth Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and then re-evaluate if this time works for the Directors.

Chairman Smith introduced Rio Grande National Forest Supervisor Dan Dallas who provided an update on the Forest Plan Revision, including the September 12, 2016 information distributed which calls for comment letters before October 28, 2016. The board directed staff to provide a letter of comment to the Forest Service (to be circulated to the board prior to submission).

Guests Rio de la Vista and representatives from Wetland Dynamics provided a request for \$5,000 for pre-work for a February grant application. Proposal will be forwarded to the board. Director Terry encouraged Hope Creek work within the burn scar. Steve Belz indicated connection with the ongoing Test Plot findings. Executive Director Ward will follow up with each RWEACT board member for an emailed vote prior to proceeding. Borchers will review budget options. Discussion included keeping Steve Belz (hydrologist) involved in this project

Tom Troxel, Executive Director of the Intermountain Forest Association, called in to the meeting to request a Letter of Support (draft provided in the board packet) for the Rio Grande National Forest to look at the Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment as it relates to Forest Plan Revision. Discussion include past efforts of RWEACT with science-based study of habitat. The board directed staff to provide a general letter.

Director Terry made a motion to ratify the letter to the Colorado Tourism Office in support of the Silver Thread Scenic & Historic Byway Council's ongoing regional marketing efforts; Director Dutton seconded; motion passed unanimously. Extensive regional efforts began under the DOLA / Governor's Order 22 with the RWEACT Economic Recovery / Communications committee. This grant may be able to further financially support these.

Discussion regarding the La Garita Hills restoration and management project included this work as based on best science and meeting RWEACT goals of public safety, forest health and restoration. Project to occur over ten years and is landscape-based. Director Anderson made the motion to provide a letter of support to the Rio Grande National Forest for this proposed work; Director Terry seconded; motion carried unanimously. Ward directed Borchers to draft.

The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan proposal, including background information for this project. Board directed staff to contact Sheryl Trent about a long one-day option (as opposed to two-day workshop) with pre-work required.

Filmmaker Christy Bode was introduced. The board – by email – was previously made aware of the project and her proposal. This is a cost-sharing Video Vignette project with the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable. Her example Vignettes can be viewed on their website under Education & Outreach. She will be focusing one of the videos on the Story of RWEACT.

Work Plans (through December 2016) were provided in the packet.

Executive Director Ward updated the board that a request for a Budget Revision in Task Order #6 has been provided to CWCB, allocating \$117,000 to the Assessment (the GIS assistance line item which is already tied to the Assessment outcomes, and the Alpine Gulch instrumentation line item which will not be moving forward).

There was a review of the Borchers independent subcontractor agreement. Director Terry made the motion; Director Thompson seconded; Director Anderson abstained; motion carried to approve agreement with a Not To Exceed amount of \$45,000.

There was no need to discuss the Resource Advisory Council (RAC) appointment.

Next steps for the Stewardship Agreement will be included in the Strategic Planning discussion.

Current financial information was provided in the packet. Discussion included Governor's Order 22, upcoming Task Orders tied to Assessment projects.

Committee updates:

Emergency Managers – Terry Wetherill provided a written report.

Natural Resources – Emma Reeser provided information on the Assessment (kick-off meeting to be held October 14th with contractor), test plot findings will be provided in the fall for consistency.

Hydrology – Steve Belz provided information on retrieving the instruments and winterizing the program.

Communication / Economic Recovery – the latest update is included in the packet.

Supervisor Dan Dallas made closing comments that we (our partnership) are positioning ourselves for Coca-Cola funding with the Assessment work.

Director Anderson made the motion to adjourn; Director Terry seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Next regularly scheduled board meeting: Fourth Thursday is Thanksgiving (revised schedule will follow)

Respectfully submitted,
Kristine Borchers
Administrative Assistant
10/14/16

RWEACT

FISCAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION 1 – FINANCIAL RECORDS AND REPORTING

1. RWEACT's fiscal period begins January 1 and ends December 31.
2. The financial records of the organization shall be maintained on a cash basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
3. All financial records of the organization must be properly maintained in a locked cabinet or area with limited access by fiscal staff, Board President and / or Treasurer.
4. On a monthly basis, the Board's designee will reconcile the bank statement(s) to the general ledger.
5. The purpose of the accounting system is to systematically record, summarize, and report all financial transactions of the organization. The system shall be designed so that all aspects of RWEACT's operations are included in the system.
6. Effective control and accountability must be maintained for all assets of the organization, including cash, investments, fixed assets, and other assets. RWEACT must adequately safeguard all assets of the organization and assure that all assets are used for authorized purposes. RWEACT will develop an Asset-Tracking Protocol and adhere to such policy.

SECTION 2 – CASH DISBURSEMENTS

1. All disbursements are to be made by issuing checks drawn on the established agency cash accounts, with only the following exceptions: EFT (electronic funds transfer) will be allowed for Internal Revenue Service payments and Colorado Department of Revenue.
2. Where appropriate, the request for cash disbursement must be supported by original documentation that justifies the purpose of the disbursement and is attached to the request.
3. Authorized check signers must be reflected in adopted minutes by the Board of Directors, no less regularly than every other year.
4. All checks must be signed by two authorized and disinterested check signers for the RWEACT bank account. Signers must be on the bank's signature card on file, in accordance with bank policies.
5. The organization should carry appropriate insurance coverage for any director, officer, or employee who handles agency funds.

SECTION 3 – PURCHASE AND CONTRACTS

1. All purchases over \$250 must be pre-approved by the Board of Directors or be provided for in the annual budget.
2. Unbudgeted purchases that are more than 130% of the respective line item in the budget require prior authorization by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.
3. The Board of Directors must approve or specifically authorize any contract, lease, or commitment for the organization that is longer than one year and over \$3,000.
4. The following Procurement Policy shall apply:
 - 4.1. All RWEACT board members, employees, or agents who participate in the selection or acceptance of a contract for goods or services must comply with RWEACT's conflict of interest policy. No items purchased for shall be used for personal use.
 - 4.2. Since RWEACT spends public funds it must be cost conscious. In accordance with IRS policy, all payments for goods and services must be "reasonable". Goods or Services having a value less than \$3,000 may be procured by RWEACT's staff (among others) without a requirement for public notice, advertising or competitive bidding, if tied to an approved Task Order or Grant Budget. For Goods and Services having a value greater than \$3,000 board approval is required and one of the following procurement procedures shall be used:
 - 4.2.1. RWEACT will search in the open market through a competitive and open bid process to ensure an advantageous price and quality.
 - 4.2.2. The procurement file shall document the inquiries made and offers received. Competitive quotes, in writing, from a number of sources. Effort will be made, when feasible, to solicit quotes and bids from local vendors and contractors. The file shall document each invitation made and offer received. Bids will follow a best practice sealed bid process, contain the phrase "Equal Opportunity Employer", and all solicitations will be posted on the RWEACT website and in the RWEACT newspaper of record for no less than seven days.
 - 4.2.3. Procurement file should include all documentation and board actions.

SECTION 4 – CASH ADVANCES OR OTHER PAYMENTS TO STAFF

1. The organization will reimburse staff for reasonable business expenses incurred in connection with the business of the organization that have been properly approved and are submitted for payment with proper documentation.
2. No loans or advances on payroll will be made to a staff person.

SECTION 5 – PAYMENTS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. No compensation will be paid to any member of the Board of Directors for services as a member of the Board. Reasonable expenses may be allowed for attendance at regular or special meetings of the Board or committees thereof as approved by the Board.
2. Board members may be reimbursed for reasonable travel expenses submitted in writing within 30 days of attendance at a conference or meeting as approved by the Board. Reasonable travel expenses may include airfare (not first class), airport shuttle service, taxi, and/or mileage reimbursement. Mileage will be paid at the prevailing IRS approved rate for round-trip mileage (in excess of 75 miles).
3. Airfare will be reimbursed only for trips exceeding a two-hour, one-way driving time.
4. Reimbursement will be made within 15 days of submission for reimbursement.
5. No loans will be made to any member of the Board of Directors.
6. Board of Directors must adhere to the Conflict of Interest policy (Section 10).

SECTION 6 – CASH RECEIPTS AND DEPOSITS

1. Funds received by the organization will be deposited timely to the credit of the organization in a financial institution that the Board of Directors has authorized; provided however, that each institution in which funds are deposited must be an institution where such deposits are insured by an agency of the federal government.
2. Procedures will exist to identify, evaluate, and to determine the acceptance of restricted contributions.
3. Acceptance of unusual non-cash donations, such as charitable lead trusts, perpetual trusts held by third parties, charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, pooled income funds and donations of land, property, partnership interests, assets subject to lien, etc. need prior approval by the Board of Directors.
4. All contributions should be acknowledged in writing and in a timely manner. Each private contributor will receive an IRS-appropriate letter of receipt.
5. As a general rule, all stock gifts should be liquidated within three business days of receipt; any exceptions must be approved by the Treasurer or Board Chair.
6. Cashing of checks out of currency receipts is prohibited.

SECTION 7 – BUDGET

1. An annual operating budget for the upcoming year will be established and approved by the Board of Directors in December of each year.
2. The actual operating results of the organization will be compared to the budget on a quarterly basis by the Treasurer and significant variances explained by management to the Board of Directors.

3. RWEACT staff and board chair or treasurer may approve changes to the operating budget without Board approval provided that total budget amount does not change and that the change in the category of the budget does not change more than 10% (plus or minus) from the approved budget.

SECTION 9 – BORROWING

1. Any action by and on behalf of the organization in borrowing money, establishing or canceling lines of credit, and or mortgaging, pledging, or authorizing liens on the property of the organization must be specifically authorized by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 10 – CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

1. A directorship on a nonprofit board is a trust created in the interest of the good of the nonprofit corporation for the benefit of the nonprofit corporation. A conflict of interest can arise when a Director is unable to devote her / himself with complete loyalty and singleness of purpose. A conflict of interest is a personal, pecuniary interest that is immediate, definite, and demonstratable and which is or may be in conflict with RWEACT's interest.
2. A member of the Board of Directors who has a personal or private interest in a matter proposed or pending shall disclose such interest to the Board, shall not vote on it, shall not attempt to influence the decisions of other Board members in voting on this matter.

Approved by the RWEACT Board of Directors:

Print Name / Title

Date



October 17, 2016

District Ranger
46525 State Highway 114
Saguache, CO 81149

Re: La Garita Hills Project

The Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT) supports the proposed La Garita Hills Project of treatment of 145,000 acres of National Forest System land and 33,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land. This salvage harvest of beetle-killed spruce trees and fuel reduction work will improve wildlife habitat and increase public safety. This proposed project addresses values that the organization of RWEACT supports, primarily improved forest health and watershed stewardship, and seeks to do so in a broad-based, landscape-wide approach that is based on best science.

RWEACT was established in July 2013 in response to the West Fork Complex Fire. RWEACT brings together local, state and federal agencies, organizations and individuals in a coordinated approach to address fire-caused hazards, early notification, and future resiliency of our natural and economic communities. Working closely with the Rio Grande National Forest, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the counties of Hinsdale, Mineral, and Rio Grande, and more than 70 additional partners, RWEACT has implemented 200 projects and endeavors. We have increased the geographical representation of our Board of Directors now to also include Saguache, Alamosa, and Costilla counties.

The West Fork Complex fire increased collaboration between counties and other local governments. An economic recovery grant was implemented, promoting increased regional marketing. Additional work of RWEACT included our Natural Resources committee who assessed conditions ahead of the BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response) Team, partnered with USGS for a Debris Flow Study, hazard tree removal projects in several area campgrounds, installed Test Plots to determine the effectiveness of post-fire treatments, commissioned a Water Quality Study, partnered with the Forest Service to provide Archaeology Interns, assisted with two Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado work projects on fire-impacted trails, and treated the area surrounding Little Squaw Resort. The Emergency Managers have adopted a Three County Flood Plan & Protocol, improved weather radio service through increased wattage on Aqua Ramon, and improved communication. The Hydrology committee works closely with the National Weather Service to install and monitor instruments to map and assess changing conditions that may create flooding situations. The Economic Recovery committee implemented projects designed to address the resiliency of our small communities through support of existing businesses, increased recreation-based industries, increased heritage tourism, increased marketing in a regional manner, and research into biomass and watershed stewardship opportunities which resulted in a Conditions & Opportunities Evaluation, Spruce Deterioration & Mill Study by Jim Webb. The Communications committee provides emergency messaging to the public (Move Up, Not Out) and supports the organization by telling the RWEACT story utilizing a variety of methods.

RWEACT's mission to promote partnerships and actions that provide for public safety and resiliency of communities and watersheds of the Rio Grande Basin in Colorado. With an emphasis on Watershed Stewardship and the ability to leverage, RWEACT is expanding our geographical focus and representation within the organization. More information about our organization can be found at www.rweact.org Please let us know if you'd like more information.

Respectfully,
Marvin K "Zeke" Ward
Executive Director, RWEACT
zeke@rweact.org
719-480-1813



November 6, 2016

District Ranger Martha Williamson
Divide Ranger Station
1803 West Highway 160
Del Norte, CO 81235

Re: Blue Park Proposed Sale and Treatment

The Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT) supports the proposed Blue Park Project of treatment of 3,350 acres within a larger 10,406-acre area near the community of South Fork, Colorado. This salvage harvest of beetle-killed spruce trees and fuel reduction work will improve wildlife habitat, increase public safety, and utilize wood products for an economic benefit. This proposed project addresses values that the organization of RWEACT supports, primarily improved forest health and watershed stewardship.

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Respectfully,
Marvin K "Zeke" Ward
Executive Director, RWEACT
zeke@rweact.org
719-480-1813



December 30, 2016

Lake Fork Community Foundation
Board of Directors
Lake City, CO 81235

Re: Support for Emergency Generator grant

The Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT) supports the grant application from the Town of Lake City towards the purchase of an emergency generator for the community shelter (the Armory). This proposed project addresses values that the organization of RWEACT supports, primarily preparedness for disasters. This type of project specifically addresses making our communities more resilient and successful during events.

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Respectfully,
Marvin K "Zeke" Ward
Executive Director, RWEACT
zeke@rweact.org
719-480-1813

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The U.S. Forest Service Region 2
Rio Grande National Forest
1803 W. Hwy. 160
Monte Vista, CO 81144

and

Woodsource Fuels, LLC
966 Grand Avenue
Del Norte, CO 81132

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between the The U.S. Forest Service, Region 2, Rio Grande National Forest and Woodsource Fuels, LLC (and partners) located at 665 Grand Avenue, Del Norte, CO 81132 to further endorse the Proof of Concept (POC) paper between both parties. See Exhibit A. This MOU facilitates the parties named in the POC to move forward with efforts to establish a Multi-Stakeholder Cooperative (Cooperative) to work with the Forest on the POC and any efforts in stewardship and restoration activities contemplated to improve public safety, forest health and watershed preservation.

Background

In 2003 Congress authorized the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to enter into stewardship contracts and agreements “to achieve land management goals for the national forests that meet local and rural community needs.” The primary focus of this legislation is to achieve land management goals through stewardship projects awarded under contracts or agreements. Unique to the legislation is the ability to exchange goods for services that meet the land management objectives.

Purpose

This MOU is a partnership between the two parties acting as a precursor to a Stewardship Agreement (see exhibit A) or other appropriate instrument of agreement to document the activities for biomass management of the Forest area and the landscape restoration thereof. If a Stewardship Agreement is determined to be the appropriate instrument, then a specified area of coverage involving acreages to be specified in a Master Stewardship Agreement with the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) will be negotiated and documented with the appropriate members of the Cooperative.

This will be accomplished by undertaking the following activities:

- 1) Establish a Multi-Stakeholder Cooperative business with loggers, mills, transportation companies, landowners, marketers, exporters and investors that will present a modified

stewardship agreement or other appropriate instrument of agreement to the USFS for consideration. A Cooperative is currently in the process of being established comprising of individuals and businesses engaged in the forest products supply chain (i.e. harvesting, transportation, processing, manufacturing and logistics, including infrastructure development) and the marketing of forest stewardship services and its related products.

- 2) Harvest, process and transport timber and other products from activities conducted under these agreements.
- 3) Map forest areas and associated products, including timber and Products other than saw logs (POL), covered in this MOU.
- 4) Engage directly with key stakeholders, including the public and other interested parties, to provide information about the Cooperative and its activities under stewardship agreements.

Reporting

The RGNF and the Cooperative will evaluate effectiveness and adherence to the agreement at the culmination of each Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) issued under the Master Stewardship Agreement. If some other form of instrument of agreement is used, an appropriate form of project monitoring will be agreed to by both parties prior to the implementation of any project associated with this MOU.

Funding

This MOU is not a commitment of funds to either party.

Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from Woodsource Fuels, LLC and RGNF. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from Woodsource Fuels, LLC and RGNF and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent.

Assignment

Responsibility of the Cooperative

This MOU is assignable to the Cooperative, upon mutual agreement in writing by parties to this document. The Cooperative is responsible for drafting a modified Stewardship Agreement (hereinafter to be known as the MSA) and presenting this document to the USFS for review and discussion. The Forest reserves the right to suggest and negotiate with the Cooperative on the type and form of agreement for future work of mutual interest, should technical advice from agency Grants and Agreements or Budget and Finance functions indicate another type of agreement is more efficient and/or appropriate to meet the needs of the MOU parties.

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of this document will be the USFS and the public should the concept prove successful and the USFS implements this management style as an additional tool to help with the challenges of a rapid increase of forest mortality.

Term

The MSA as currently contemplated by the parties to this MOU would include a 10 year rolling-forward term and set acreage to mutually agreed upon amount. These modifications do not circumvent the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) nor replace any current USFS policies and procedures, including those governing timber sales, stewardship contracts and other stewardship agreements. The forest can also include in this aggregate acreage the areas that would normally be treated by paying for services.

Objective

The objective of this document is to assist the Forest and the USFS to leverage congressionally appropriated vegetation management funds to meet timber harvest and forest restoration objectives described in the forest plan and improve forest management and the efficiency of forest treatments, thus allowing more acreage to be treated in any given fiscal year.

Contact Information

Rio Grande National Forest
Mr. Dan Dallas
Forest Supervisor
1803 W. Hwy. 160
Monte Vista, CO. 81144
Telephone: (719) 852-2355
Mobile: (719) 850-2355
E-mail: ddallas@fs.fed.us

Woodsource Fuels, LLC
Mr. Philip Seligman
President
966 Grand Avenue, Del Norte, CO 81132
Telephone: (303) 731-3113
Mobile: (719) 588-5437
E-mail: wsflc.west@gmail.com

Date:
Mr. Dan Dallas
USFS/RGNF Forest Supervisor

Date:
Mr. Philip Seligman, Pres.
Woodsource Fuels, LLC

EXHIBIT A

USDA Forest Service

Rio Grande National Forest

Briefing Paper

Topic: Proof of Concept Project; Alternative Management Tool, Transportation and Treatment of Restoration Projects and Small Diameter Programs.

Issue: The Rio Grande National Forest is proposing a project to test a “Concept” to meet objectives identified as follows:

1. Test alternative strategies to reduce transportation costs for moving primary wood products (merchantable timber and biomass) off USFS lands.
2. Test alternative strategies for post-harvest treatments to create and provide economic benefits to private industry associated with implementation of the project and the agency.
3. Improve efficiency in planning and implementation of watershed health and public safety projects on the Rio Grande National Forest.

Background: The Rio Grande National Forest was approached and has been working with on a conceptual basis with Wood Source Fuels (WSF) who is deeply knowledgeable about moving primary wood products and other commodities by rail. WSF has extensive experience with railroad operations and the timber industry through a business he operates in the southwest and southeastern regions of the United States. WSF has a larger concept of using existing railroad locations in the western US to move large quantities of biomass efficiently and more cheaply to market in order to assist the Forest Service to meet the needs of increasing the restoration and the resiliency of agency managed forests and watersheds within those forests that are increasingly susceptible to insect and disease outbreaks and harmful fires on large landscapes. WSF has approached the Rio Grande National Forest with a proof of concept or demonstration project that would assist it in showing others, most notably the primary railroad infrastructure companies and large volume end users (non-traditional forest products), that this concept can be expanded to other areas profitably, provided a steady sustainable supply of wood from public lands exists, thus creating efficiency in transportation and a steady market demand that would be an asset to land management agencies and the public in general.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to provide a representative area for the above objectives to be tested and measured before, during and after implementation. One of the areas, called Pigseye, is a planned project in the 5-year plan for the Rio Grande National Forest Vegetation Management Program. The treatment area is completed and ready for implementation through the planning process for a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through a decision made by the Divide District Ranger on the Rio Grande National Forest. Pigseye salvage sale was analyzed under the Black Mesa Vegetation Management Project with the Record of Decision signed in March of 2013. The analysis area included over 49,000 acres was designed to address the spruce beetle outbreak and spruce mortality on the western portion of the Divide Ranger District of the Rio Grande NF. Some of the objectives of the EIS is to salvage dead and dying trees; regenerate treated portions to accelerate the rate of forest and ecological recovery over long term; treat hazard trees in areas of concern; reduce accumulation of large diameter fuels;

and provide forest and wood products to people of the San Luis Valley and/or other areas. Pigseye salvage will treat approximately 897 acres and provide approximately 3,381 CCF of saw timber. The implementation of this project would be different than a traditional treatment in that: 1) the main transportation method to get the material to market (primary market for product development or end use, for example, sawmills or biomass treatment plant etc.) will be by railroad. A short (less than 60 miles) traditional haul (logging or chip truck) will be used initially to bring raw materials from the treatment site to a railroad siding. 2) The normal post-harvest treatments usually encountered and paid for by the agency (slash removal and pile burning) would be removed by the proponent partner and, therefore, not a downstream cost to the agency. Other areas from the forest can be added as well as private, state and tribal as the project develops.

Proposal: A coop of individuals and businesses experienced in harvesting, transporting, processing, infrastructure development and marketing will be formed. This group will then draft a modified Stewardship Agreement and present this document to the USFS for review and discussion. Upon acceptance and execution of this agreement the coop will then engage RMRS and CSFS/CSU to monitor this project.

The collected data will be used to compile a report that demonstrates this innovative concept can be profitable for private enterprise and as an additional management tool (very low cost) for the USFS.

During this project period (2-3 years) the coop and the railroad will also offer their services for any USFS contracts or work already in progress outside the project area. This would also include any pre-existing and future traditional stewardship agreements with 501c3's or other non-profit organizations within or outside the project area.

By doing this work outside the project area, we wish to demonstrate that this concept can also benefit the USFS by the ease of incorporating this tool into existing forms of forest management.

Cost: Costs associated with this Proof of Concept proposal would be the Forest Service contributed costs for this proposal. Normal costs for preparing a vegetation treatment of this nature are the costs for preparing the NEPA analysis and decision document, Presale costs (Forester appraisal, Forester layout, marking and cruising), Sale Administration, and Brush Disposal following the implementation of the project (Pile Burning). Costs are captured through the Work Plan accounting system used by the Forest Service for the project.

Forest Service Contributed Cost:

• NEPA	20,000
• Pre-Sale	17,100
• Sale Administration	15,760
• Brush Disposal	<u>5,000</u>
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	\$60,860

- NOTE: The brush disposal cost is currently a planned cost but under this Proof of Concept proposal it would not be contributed, it would be an immediate savings to the Forest Service.

- Stewardship Agreement advantage; Attachment-A
- Multi-stakeholder Coop advantage; Attachment-B

Contact: Dan Dallas, Forest Supervisor, Rio Grande National Forest. 719-852-6247.
ddallas@fs.fed.us

Attachment-A

Stewardship Agreements have existed for many years on a small scale. These have historically been issued to various non-profit organizations for the purpose of research, demonstration projects, etc. The duration of these agreements was generally determined by the Agreement holder and were not considered long term.

During a biomass project on the Uncompahgre Plateau in SW Colorado (2009-2011) the participants realized there was another use for a Stewardship Agreement that would benefit this project and the USFS.

The biomass project was a 20% co-fire at a 100MW power plant owned and operated by Tri-State Generation and Transmission (a co-op). The research and feasibility group determined that a power producer needed to see a long term feedstock supply much as they do with a coal mine. Core drilling a potential coal mine allows a producer to determine the approximate length of time they can expect to have a relatively steady fixed supply and cost of their feedstock. A Stewardship Agreement is like a core drilling in that it can help provide estimates of long term feedstock of wood products.

The group determined that modifying the existing Stewardship Agreement would allow the producer to view a woody biomass feedstock in much the same way they view a coal feedstock. The major modifications would, but not limited to, increase the duration to a 10 year rolling-forward term and set acreage to 200,000 acres also rolling-forward. These modifications did not circumvent NEPA or replace any current USFS treatment procedures including timber sales. The forest can also include in these aggregate acre's the area's that would normally be treated by paying for services. This would allow for the Forest to use the money they retain to be used for additional NEPA, marking and admin to increase the amount of treatable acres. This agreement was developed not only for the power producer but as an additional "tool" for the USFS to use against the problems being experienced in our NF systems throughout the country.

The project on the Plateau was never executed because the power plant operator decided not to invest any funds to modify a plant that was running out of a local (cheap) coal source.

In April of 2013 some of the group started looking at a Stewardship Agreement again. This time with the intent to make a source of biomass from public lands more attractive and stable for large volume end users. These large volume users have been hesitant to plan a business around a supply from public lands due to limited quantities and limited availability and a steady supply.

Currently some of the group is in the process of modifying and reviewing the work to create this Master Stewardship Agreement. Other stakeholders are in the process of organizing and creating the proper entity to join the Master Stewardship Agreement with the USDA/USFS. We are hopeful to be able to implement this Agreement by early spring of 2016.

Attachment-B

Multi-stakeholder cooperatives are organized around a broadly defined goal that encompasses the specific interests of a combination of multiple member types. Consumer (either individuals or businesses), producer, and worker members all use the same cooperative to facilitate buying, selling, or employment transactions between the members. There may even be a class of membership for investors.

The multi-stakeholder cooperative is a newer variation of the cooperative structure, and is built around the interdependencies of a particular set of competing economic interests. This unifying function is counterbalanced by the challenges in meeting member needs that are inherently different. (UWCC)

The ability of this coop to be able to handle every aspect of forest treatment and biomass utilization “in-house” should give the coop enough of an economic advantage to be able to treat the low to no value forest products that have been and are becoming more of a problem for the USFS.

The Swedish forest coop SODRA is very similar in organization to this type of co-op. Over the years SODRA has grown to manage over 50% of southern Sweden’s privately owned forests successfully and economically.

The following is an excerpt from SODRA’s website; <http://www.sodra.com/en/About-Sodra/>

In Södra’s world everything starts with the forest. The forest provides our constant supply of raw materials and is the essential requirement for Södra’s many different operations.

More than 50,000 forest owners in southern Sweden are members of the economic association that is Södra. They own just over half of all privately owned forest in the area, as well as a group of companies that are successful in both Swedish and international markets. This gives them a market for their raw materials from the forest and at the same time provides the foundation for profitable forestry.

Södra is also a large employer. 3,500 people work for the Group, in areas that range from forestry management and environmental conservation to accounting, sales and product development. The Group’s three business areas produce sawn and planed timber goods, interior products, paper pulp and biofuel. In recent years Södra has also become such a large producer of electricity that the Group now produces more electricity than it uses.

For us here in the west a coop similar to SODRA could operate with the bulk of the treatment acreage being public lands and adding in private and tribal. A scenario such as this can help the USFS with mission accomplishment of the USFS advancing the pace and scale of land and forest restoration, watershed protection and restoration and public safety.

Another advantage this coop and Stewardship Agreement scenario can offer the participating Forest and the USFS as a whole is to allow for a leveraging of congressionally appropriated vegetation management funds and allowing more acreage to be treated in any given fiscal year. See (A)

Budget breakdown:

\$12,500.00 For Community outreach, community engagement and education.

Public meetings will be held in Lake City, Creede, and South Fork to present the elements of the proposed plan and communicate the goals and objectives, and give community members an opportunity ask questions and provide input. Presentations will be made to the various agencies and organizations throughout the San Luis Valley. A record of these meetings and presentations will be generated and made available to the public through links to a web site.

\$ 6,000.00 For developing recommendations for reclamation, reforestation, watershed health, and environmental concerns.

RWEACT will utilize the expertise within the organization along with consultants to produce recommendations for best management practices.

\$10,200.00 For monitoring and reports.

Monitoring will be accomplished by contractors and reports will be generated by a combination of in-house staff and contractors.

\$28,700.00 Total

Program of Work & Technical Approach (3 pages)

- Describe the specific activities to be accomplished.
- Describe methods to accomplish goals and objectives.
- Describe work plan and timeline for activities.
- List anticipated project outcomes, deliverables, and desired results.
- How will progress be measured?
- Describe any industry involvement.
- Describe communication and outreach activities.



February 23, 2011

Technology Marketing Unit
U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry
Forest Products Laboratory
One Gifford Pinchot Drive
Madison, WI 53726

To the 2011 Woody Biomass Utilization Grant Committee:

We are writing to offer our support for the grant application submitted by Mr. Phil Seligman, WSF, LLC, and to describe our collaboration with Phil and others in a two-year research project funded by the Rocky Mountain Research Station's Competitive Research Initiative (CRI).

In 2010, we received funding through CRI to assess the economic feasibility, energy balance and net greenhouse gas emissions of producing bioenergy from forest and range treatment residues on the Uncompahgre Plateau in Colorado. The study will: 1) spatially quantify the landscape-level stocks, current biomass flows, and the potential biomass flows that are available from the Uncompahgre Plateau under alternative treatment scenarios, 2) quantify the costs of delivering biomass feedstock from the Uncompahgre Plateau to both existing and potential new bioenergy producers in the region, and 3) quantify the net greenhouse gas emissions, carbon balance, and energy balance associated with alternative configurations of biomass utilization. To accomplish these objectives we are working closely with a wide range of stakeholders including personnel from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, the Bureau of Land Management, and a variety of government, non-profit, and industry partners.

WSF is interested in developing infrastructure for biomass feedstock collection and delivery to end users of biomass in the Uncompahgre Plateau region, including the Tri-State's Nucla, CO, power plant. WSF's future operations are expected to include biomass processing and trucking capacity, as well as a facility close to the Nucla power plant that will store and deliver processed biomass to the boiler through a pneumatic delivery system. As collaborator on the RMRS-CRI project, WSF has agreed to provide relevant information associated with the anticipated productivity and capacity of these operations. In turn, we expect the results of our research to be useful to WSF and other companies specializing in biomass feedstock logistics.

The national forest lands on the Plateau are anticipated to receive intensive restoration treatments that will produce biomass fuel as part of a Collaborative Forest Land Restoration Project (CFLRP), under which the GMUG forests are expected to receive \$10 million over the next 10 years to restore healthy forests and habitat conditions on 166,000 acres. Similarly, BLM is engaged in restoration treatments in pinyon pine-juniper woodlands in the region, which are another source of biomass. Developing efficient systems for biomass collection, processing, delivery and storage will be a critical component of improving the economic efficiency of forest restoration treatments and will provide forest managers with a market alternative to open and broadcast burning of residues from restoration treatments.

A Woody Biomass Utilization Grant (WBU) would provide WSF with the funding needed to complete the design and build a biomass facility close to the Nucla plant. Engineering expertise is particularly needed for the successful design and construction of biomass storage and delivery systems at this site that will effectively meet the needs and demand of 20% co-firing by the Nucla boiler. We are happy to offer our support for this application, and believe that efficient feedstock supply chains like the one WSF is proposing will be critical to providing utilization opportunities for biomass that is produced as a byproduct of restorations treatments on the Plateau.

Sincerely,

Nate Anderson
Research Forester

J. Greg Jones
Supervisory Research Forester

CC:
Phil Seligman, WSF, LLC



413 W Pine Drive
Creede, CO 81130

January 18, 2017

USDA – Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region
740 Simms St.
Golden, CO, 80401

Grant Review Committee,

The RWEACT organization is happy to express our support for the Wood Innovations Grant proposal submitted by Wood Source Fuels, LLC, and the collaborative concept of using a multi-stakeholder cooperative to provide an opportunity to bring additional management capabilities for reducing hazard fuels and promoting forest health here in Southern Colorado.

RWEACT was initially formed in response to the West Fork Complex fire in 2013, and our mission is focused on promoting public safety, forest health, watershed health, and economic resiliency through collaborative and voluntary efforts. We will assist in this effort by providing resources and personnel to accomplish community involvement, community outreach and education. Additionally we can utilize the highly qualified members of our organization to provide recommendations for reclamation, reforestation, water conservation, and habitat improvements with follow up monitoring and reporting.

RWEACT will be willing to participate in the multi-stakeholder cooperative in appropriate ways with an expectation that by demonstrating success, the concept can become a spring board to launch additional efforts.

We appreciate your consideration and encourage funding for the Wood Source Fuels, LLC, grant application.

Sincerely,

Zeke Ward
Executive Director, Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team, (RWEACT)

2017 San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative

Western Rivers Conservancy

Project Information

Project Name*

Name of Project.

Character Limit: 100

Amount Requested*

Requests may not exceed \$75,000

Character Limit: 20

Proposed Start Date*

Please make the start date 05/01/2017, unless cleared for a different start date by the SLVCCI.

Character Limit: 10

Proposed End Date*

Please make the end date 04/30/2018, unless cleared for a different end date by the SLVCCI.

Character Limit: 10

Focus Area(s)*

Choose those that apply

Choices

Acequia

Capacity

Communications

Conservation/Habitat Protection

Environmental Education

Recreation/Trails/Community Access

Restoration

Project Budget*

Please use project budget template provided: [Click here for template.](#)

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Project Matching Funds

Please describe your secured and/or prospective matching fund sources, including in-kind match, for the proposed project. Be sure that these sources and amounts are also listed in your project budget.

Character Limit: 2500

Project Matching Funds Letters of Support

Please upload any matching funds letters of support, if applicable.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Project Budget Explanation*

If your project receives a grant, how will the funds be spent?

Character Limit: 1500

Ensuring funds are restricted*

How will you ensure that the funds are restricted for use on this project (e.g., accounting system, use of other restricted funds, internal controls)?

Character Limit: 1500

Financial Report*

If your project is awarded funding, do you have the ability to provide a detailed (line item) financial report, demonstrating how these funds were spent and how total project funds were spent during the grant period? Explain your financial management capacity, past experience (such as grants awarded and successfully completed) and personnel responsible for grant reporting.

Character Limit: 2000

Other Funding Sources*

Please list your organization's other significant funding sources that support your annual operating budget.

Character Limit: 2500

Organization Information**System Email Confirmation***

Upon creating an account you were asked to confirm that you received an email from the system indicating that you successfully registered. Did you verify that you are receiving system emails from the following email address: San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative ?

NOTE: If the confirmation email was found in your junk folder or spam folder you may click on this [tutorial](#) for instructions on how to remove San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative from your spam filter.

Choices

Yes

No

Training Confirmation*

I have either attended the re-grantee training on January 12 or reviewed the online PowerPoint training presentation.

Choices

Yes

No

Mission Statement*

Provide the mission statement for your organization/agency

Character Limit: 500

Year Organization / Agency Founded*

What year was your organization/agency founded?

Character Limit: 4

Organization/Agency Capacity*

Please describe the organization's capacity, including a brief organization history, number of full and part time staff members and number of volunteers.

Character Limit: 1000

Organization / Agency Board Members or Leadership*

Please upload a list and brief bios/qualifications of the organization/agency's board members or executive team.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Current Annual Operating Budget*

Please upload the organization/agency's current annual operating budget.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

IRS Determination Letter*

Please upload your IRS determination letter (or governmental unit charter, comparable document or fiscal sponsorship agreement including fiscal sponsor's 501(c)3 determination letter).

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Project Overview

Project Summary*

Please provide a summary of your project in 3-4 sentences or less.

Character Limit: 400



Proposal Narrative and Implementation Plan*

- 1) What problems or opportunities does this project address and how does this request address them?
- 2) Describe how your project advances the goal and priorities of the San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative.
- 3) Is this project replicable, and if so, how?
- 4) Please outline the steps, actions, and anticipated timeline for your proposal.

Character Limit: 7500

Partner Organizations*

Please list the partner organizations with which you are working on this project. Please explain their role in the work. How does this project complement or further the work of other related efforts and/or organizations in the San Luis Valley?

Character Limit: 2500

Partner and Collaboration Synopsis*

Please summarize your project's partnership and collaborative aspects and their benefits in 3-4 sentences.

Character Limit: 400

Expected Outcomes*

If this project is successful, describe in detail what the results will be, including what measurable outcomes you are striving for.

Character Limit: 2500

Community/Economic benefit of your project*

Please describe the community/economic benefit of your project in two sentences or less.

Character Limit: 250

Evaluation*

What metrics or process will you use to track outcomes? What do you hope to learn through this project? How will you use the lessons going forward?

Character Limit: 2500

Narrative Update for 2016 SLVCCI Funded Projects/Organizations

If your project/program or organization was funded by the 2016 SLVCCI, please provide a short narrative and financial update on the status of your project, and your reasons for requesting additional funding.

Character Limit: 1500

Additional Uploads

WDLK Please upload any additional documents or photos below that demonstrate the nature of the project: e.g. restoration plan, project map, organization chart project photos. If you have larger files such as videos that you would like to include, please include link(s) below to those and/or via an online server, such as Dropbox.

Character Limit: 250

Additional Uploads

File Size Limit: 3 MB

File Size Limit: 3 MB

File Size Limit: 3 MB

File Size Limit: 3 MB

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Requirements for Successful Applicants*

A grant agreement will be required for all grant awards. It will establish the grant expectations and outline the schedule for disbursements appropriate for the project, as well as reporting requirements for the grant. Please click here to review a sample SLVCCI grant agreement. Please indicate below that you agree to this requirement.

Choices

Agree

REWACT



Strategic Plan Meeting Notes

These notes reflect a summary of the discussion on December 6, 2016. The discussion notes reflect ideas, brainstorming, consensus areas, action items, and next steps.

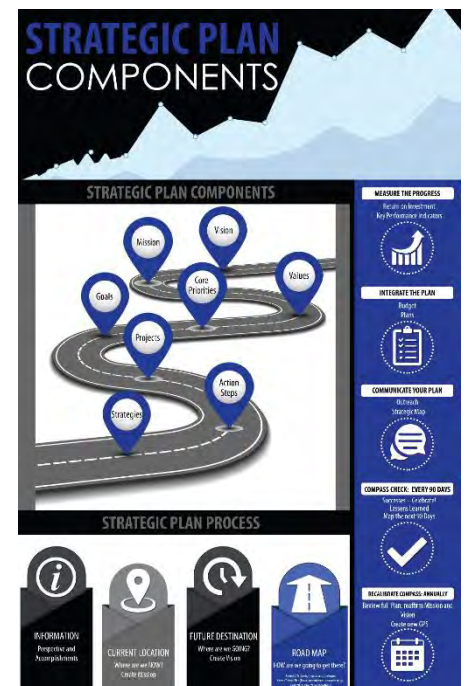
Purpose: The purpose of the meeting is to create a 5-year strategic vision with priorities that is community based, achievable and attainable, has focus and commitment from key stakeholders, has measurable outcomes, and is nimble and adaptable to adjust to quickly changing circumstances.

Mission: *"To promote partnerships and actions that provide for public safety and resiliency of communities in all watersheds of the Rio Grande Basin of Colorado."*

Quick Review of Mission

The team started the day taking a quick look at the existing Mission (above in red) to touch base and start a conversation about the goals of RWEACT. Some of the questions that the team talked about for the Mission included:

- Is it limited to the watershed itself?
- Is the Mission redundant?
- Are we going to work in all the watershed?
- What is public safety?
- Should "in" be changed to "and"?
- Should we add "cooperation" and "coordination"?
- We are one group, speaking with one voice, and it's important to recognize that.
- We represent the community
- We are a resource
- We manage expectations



As a start on a revised and updated Mission statement, this was the first take:

"To promote partnerships and actions that provide for public safety, resiliency of communities, and watershed health of the Rio Grande Basin of Colorado"

The group agreed that inherent in that statement is the issue of economic health and environmental health. Generally, the Mission Statement was working well and may need to be gently revised, which could be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

Strategic Planning usually starts with an overall Vision (the dream), then a Mission (the purpose), followed by Goals, Projects, and Action Steps that lead to daily operations. Any group starting on a planning process can benefit from focusing on three critical areas BEFORE starting on any planning: How did we get HERE? Where are we NOW? And Where are we GOING?

The Perspective and Accomplishments section really addressed the history of the group, or the question: How did we **Get to Now**? That history often informs the reasons the group functions the way it does. There is a great history section on the website for any new Board member or interested party, and a few highlights discussed at the meeting include the following:

A guiding Executive Order from the Governor was signed, funding the group. This Order is still in place and gives three overarching goals for RWEACT projects:

- 1) Public Safety
- 2) Post fire impacts
- 3) Economic recovery

Over 112 years ago, the Rio Grande Forest was established for watershed protection. A good reference book is The Big Burn. Over 10 years ago, the Rio Grande Roundtable was formed to have community involvement in water issues. The Roundtable (which still functions today) serves as an informal forum and venue to share information. After the 2013 West Fork Complex Fire, RWEACT came together very quickly to build better relationships, move forward during the emergency actions, and to address post fire impacts. With just a few community meetings RWEACT was able to start working on issues that affected the stakeholder, with a specific focus on supporting the Forest Service. Finding gaps in funding and support (for example, the Forest Service cannot work on projects not on Forest Service land), RWEACT was able to hire staff and secure funding to move forward. Hinsdale and Rio Grande County serve as the fiscal agents for grants, and the group is organized around sub committees NOT focused on jurisdiction.

Each committee has specific areas of focus and projects with staff leads. RWEACT, which recently became a 501 c3, is now addressing the growing pains of any organization formed during a crisis and continuing to serve the community, with studies and discussion about the future of the group.

The first step in the strategic planning process is to determine Where are we **Now**? There are three main questions to answer here -

What's Working Well?

- ! Revitalized projects
 - o Silverthread
- ! Balance putting \$ to work in focus areas
- ! Communication
- ! Strong financial partners project with Forest Service
- ! Trust – this is also a value of ours
- ! Growing

- ! Progress
- ! Responsiveness to community needs
- ! Present in the community
- ! Whole group works together
- ! Name recognition: state and nationally
- ! Putting \$ to work
- ! Doing
- ! Project completion
- ! Communication
- ! Reputation
- ! Forest Plan Revision partnership
- ! Fostering communication
- ! Taking a step: assessment
- ! Planning

What's Not Working Well?

- ⊗ Website (too much info, clunky)
- ⊗ Don't have a fire (we have no sense of urgency)
- ⊗ Economic recovery \$ (stimulus, development, resiliency)
- ⊗ How we go from emergency response to recovery
- ⊗ Communication with other groups working on the same projects
 - URC Development Council
 - Chambers
 - SLV Development Resource Group
 - Main Street
 - COG
 - DIRT
 - DDA's
 - Creede Community Fund
- ⊗ Facilitation
- ⊗ Transition
- ⊗ Trading water
- ⊗ Focus
- ⊗ Geography: whole basin?
- ⊗ Resistance of other counties – they don't see the need to participate
- ⊗ \$ for all the counties
 - No buy in, no \$

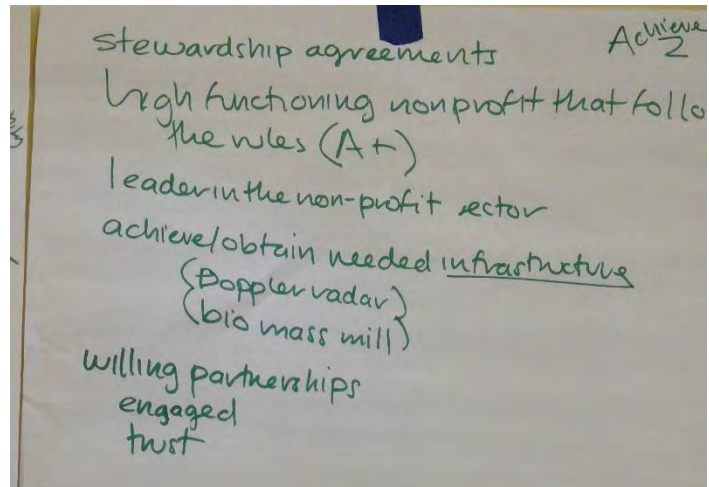
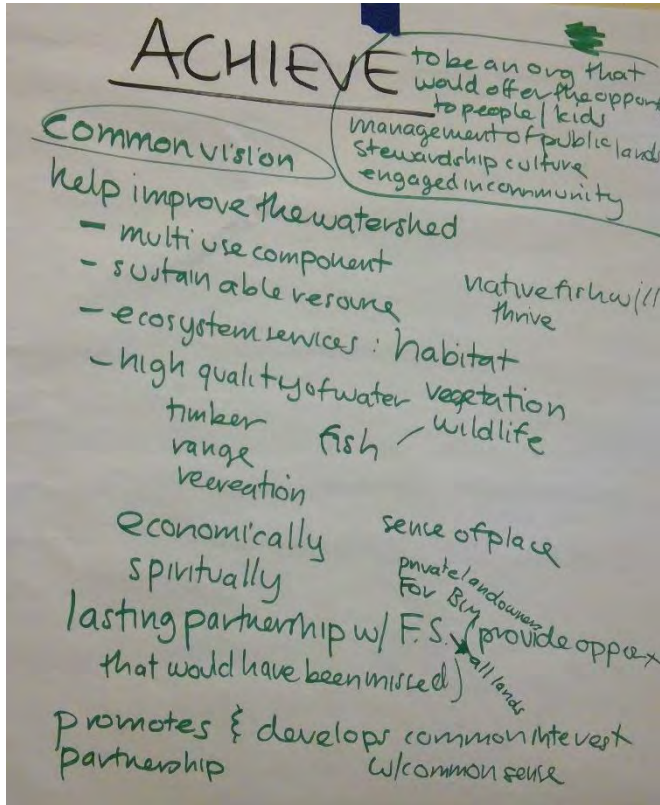
What's Missing or Confusing?

- ? Marketing
- ? Promotions
- ? What does it mean to invite the other Counties?
- ? Should it be forest instead of another descriptor?
- ? What are we selling?
- ? Who are our customers?
- ? Private land owner involvement
- ? Fear of future financial commitment

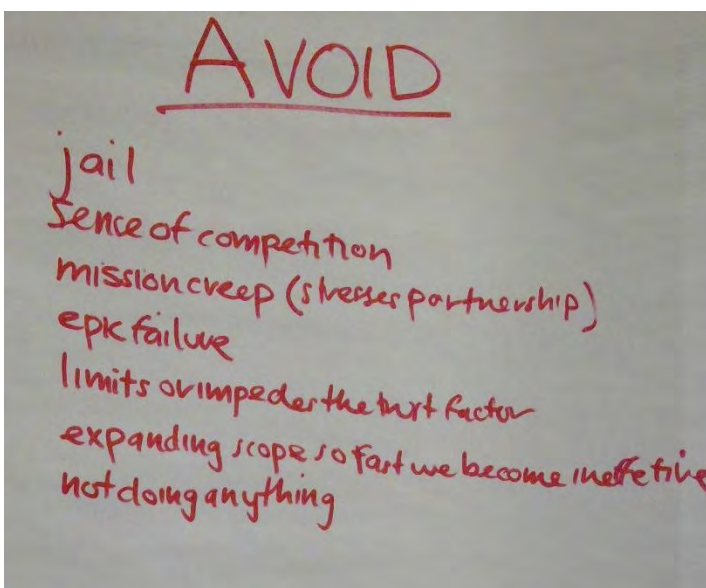
? Priorities/areas of focus

The next step in strategic planning, after gaining a comprehensive view of the NOW, is the question: **Where Do We Want to Go?** 5/10/15 years from now. The two areas the group discussed were

- What do we want to achieve?



What do we want to avoid?



Based on the answer to **Where are We NOW?** And **Where do we want to GO?**, the team then talked about the biggest issues/priorities facing RWEACT.

What are the Biggest Issues?

- ✓ Economic resiliency (strong economy)
- ✓ Continuing building strong partnerships (fostering, reaffirming)
- ✓ Collaboration with other groups, enhancing existing efforts, not duplicating efforts, maintenance of existing relationships. Federal, state, recreation.
- ✓ Financial security/health of the nonprofit organization. INTERNAL
- ✓ Putting \$\$ to work
- ✓ Common vision
- ✓ Messaging and communication
- ✓ Doing
- ✓ Emergency preparedness and safety
- ✓ Continue to be responsive
- ✓ Watershed health and resiliency: improve and sustain water, recreation
- ✓ Infrastructure: tangible projects, recreation
- ✓ Project completion: recreation included too
- ✓ Community engagement and safety protection – engagement of local citizens that leads to stewardship
- ✓ Planning – future based, leads to projects. This could be a value, not an issue.
- ✓

The team then narrowed down the long list to the most important areas of focus (also could be called priorities) for the near-term future – the next 3 to 12 months.

External:

- 1) Economic Resiliency**
- 2) Partnerships and Collaboration**
- 3) Watershed Health and Resiliency**
- 4) Community Engagement**

Internal:

- 5) Financial security and health of RWEACT**
- 6) Planning**

Creating the Vision

The group had a great discussion about the Vision and creating a vision that inspires and motivates, rather than one that states what the group does (which is usually reserved for the Mission statement). First the priorities were reviewed, then an open discussion about works and what to include in the Vision took place. Some language that was discussed included:

- Leveraging individual talents for the greater good
- Common sense
- Protecting people and places
- Doing
- Specific focus
- Local solutions
- Trust
- Respect
- Confidence
- Partnership
- Relationships
- Voluntary
- Preparation
- Common cause
- Common interests

Several versions that often combined mission and vision were worked on during the discussion, including:

"Healthy watershed with amazing recreational and economic opportunities that create safety and fun for the forest animals"

"Through diligent planning and financial responsibility RWEACT engages community members and partnering organizations to protect residents, build resilient economies and improve watershed health."

"Common vision with common sense."

"A respected and trusted community based partnership that is prepared to address common interests of our people and places."

"We use common vision and common sense to accomplish...."

"Leverage our trusted partnerships in our community for the protection of our people and places using common sense to get things done for watershed health and resiliency."

"Engaging in common sense projects for our people and places."

"Leverage partnerships for the greater good of our people and places using common vision and commons sense. Get stuff done based on our local needs."

"Our story: From out of the fire RWEACT was forged. Built on past successes...."

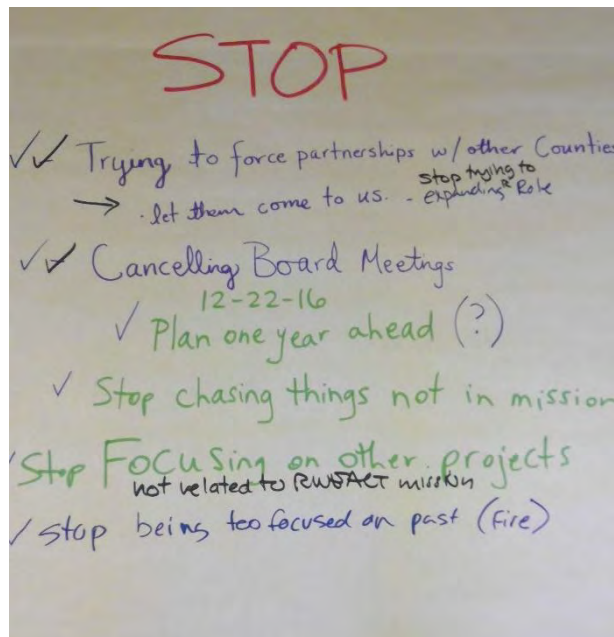
"Promote partnerships and action that provide for public safety and resiliency of community and watersheds in the basis, through common sense and watershed health".

Are we on the right track? Based on the Vision conversations, the team then talked about what they needed to do to accomplish their ideal future vision.

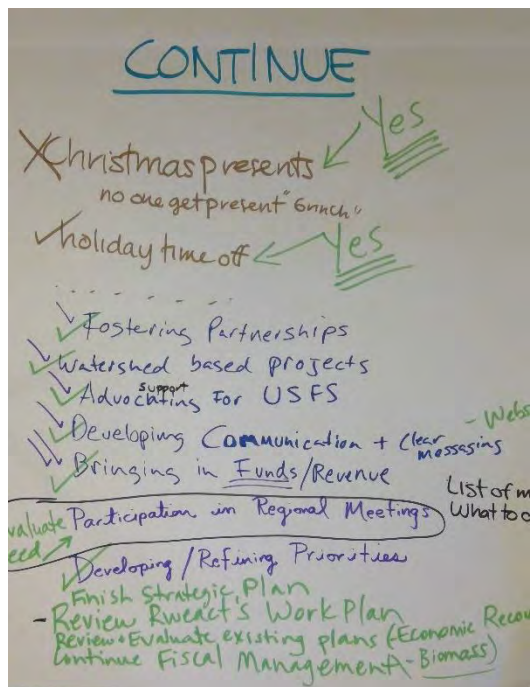
What do we need to START doing to accomplish this? (Funding)



What do we need to STOP doing to accomplish this?



What do we need to CONTINUE doing?



Board and Staff Roles, Responsibilities and Rules of Engagement

The Board Is/Does

BOARD IS/DOES

- AWESOME
- DIVERSE
- REPRESENTATIVE (IN COMMUNITY)
(State + Fed.)
- DECISIVE
- BIG PICTURE
- FISCAL OVERSIGHT
- COMMUNICATORS int/ext
- Set Policy + Sideboards + no double trails
→ not priorities
- Operate as a whole / speak w/ one voice

Decision making
Task orders app by Board
→ take for implement field/ground/CS
nd. Boards
- Supportive of Board decisions

The Board Is Not/Does Not

BOARD IS NOT / DOES NOT

- Daily Operations / (count + paperclips)
oversight
- Micromanagers
- Push special interests/agendas
- Not undermine Board decisions
Individually
- ^(not) ALSO NOT AWESOME
- LIMIT STAFF'S CREATIVITY

Back Door

Staff Is/Does

STAFF IS/DOES

- ALSO AWESOME! *Decision making*
- IMPLEMENTS THE VISION
- DETAIL ORIENTED
- INCLUDES COMMITTEE CHAIRS
- REPRESENTS ORG TO PUBLIC
Face of RWEACT - Listening to community needs + reporting back to the Board
- BUILD / MAINTAIN PARTNERSHIPS
- MANAGE EXPECTATIONS of the Board
- BRING PROJECTS TO BOARD
- Report to Board
GRANTS managing

Staff Is Not/Does Not

STAFF IS NOT / DOES NOT

- Set Policy
- Set Fiscal Parameters
- Staff doesn't assume policy of board
Never assume
- Set vision + Direction
- ^{So so} NOT AWESOME
- SOLE PROJECT IMPLEMENTER (WORKS w/ Board...)
- HINDERED / INFLEXIBLE

With the full day of information and discussion finished, the team reached agreement that the project should move forward with some specific Action Steps. The focus was on what the group needed to focus on moving forward. Taking the four key areas of focus (priorities) from earlier in the day, the strategic planning question was:

Action Steps: What do we need to do **Next?** Action steps need to consider all the following to be successful:

- Operational Issues (Who, When)
- Services/Functions
- Budget/Costs/Funding (Resources)
- Partnerships (Resources)
- Marketing and Promotion (Communication)

Action Steps answer the questions: **What** are we going to do, **Who** specifically will do that (by name), **By When** (specific date), **Resources** needed to accomplish that task, and **Measurable Outcomes** – how will we know we are successful?

Action Step	Who?	By When?
Write a grants path *spreadsheet* for opportunities for 2017: which grants, which projects, deadlines, match. Evaluated by the Board for policy direction	Heather as the lead, committees	2/1/17
Extension of funding from CWCB	Travis	By 3/31/17 (start conversations in January)
Define the scope of the stewardship agreement: read the book, divide the District, talk to Kevin Duda. Define the role of RWEACT in the stewardship agreement, what they are, which ones, how it applies to Vision	Zeke, Kevin	1/26/17 Note: the current grant for this project expires 12/17
Communication plan: website, volunteers, events, assessment/data collector	Kristy, Emma	3/31/17 completed Presented to Board 1/26/17
Contact all partner commitments to partner with RWEACT, communicate that we are now a 501c3, have expanded, moving beyond reacting, looking to the future, looking for commitments. Re engage.	Zeke	3/31/17

Email out existing Work Plan, add new tasks for 1 st quarter and 2017. Include existing obligations, coordinating committees. Goal is to inform, track, plan, create accountability, set expectation, continue process, get input (but don't ask for details), make sure staff and committees don't forget or miss anything	Zeke, Kristy and subcommittee chairs	1/1/7
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Next Steps

Hold a second meeting to finish the Strategic Plan. Items on the agenda will include:

1. Vision
2. Mission
3. Creating Definitions for the Core Priorities/Areas of Focus
4. Goals (Big, Hairy, SMART Goals)
5. Finalizing the Action Steps



RWEACT Quarterly Reports
Fourth Quarter 2016
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 near 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 3 CLOSED (with savings returned)

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 5 EXPIRED / CLOSED (with savings returned)

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 U of O
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 8 approved for \$210,000 (May 5, 2016)

Task Order 8: Task 1: Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment
Deliverable: Match with \$100,000 of additional funds; Assessment completed
Task Order 8: Task 2: Emergency notification equipment and training
Deliverables: Unmanned aircraft, mobile command center, VHF radios, repeaters, training, tabletop exercise, computer for EOC, trunk radios
Task Order 8: Task 3: Communication Support
Task Order 8: Task 4: Stream and Rain Gauge Data and Uplink (existing system)

Task Order 8: Task 5: Install instrument in Alpine Gulch

Task Order 8: Task 6: GIS Assistance

TASK ORDER 1 EXPIRED AND CLOSED

TASK ORDER 2 CLOSED AND LIQUIDATED

TASK ORDER 3 READY TO CLOSE / RETURN SAVINGS

Deliverables Provided during Reporting Period

- Requested closure during Third Quarter Period (had not been done previously)

TASK ORDER 4 EXPIRED AND CLOSED

TASK ORDER 5 EXPIRED AND CLOSED

TASK ORDER 6

Deliverables Provided during Reporting Period

- Fully functioning executive director / administrative assistant for October, November, December
- Work Plans for October through December 2016 provided to board; update mid-December provided
- Asset tracking protocol to be developed (Executive Director)
- Forest Plan Revision public meetings facilitated by Agnew::Beck (contract complete) - under EIAF #8056
- Final accounting for Water Quality Study; coordination occurring by Natural Resources committee / Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation; invoice paid for involvement in the Natural Resources partnership; initial work for boat ramp project
- Wetland Dynamics site assessment for potential project; instruments prepared for winter season
- October board of directors meeting; board packets provided online
- Two additional counties voted onto board of directors (Saguache, Alamosa)
- Introductory Board packets created
- FS / RWEACT monthly staff meetings started again
- Media outreach for projects, including article-generation and press releases; social media utilization
- Meeting #1 of 2 for Strategic Visioning held with Sheryl Trent, December 6, 2016; review of draft strategy
- Video proposal with Video Vignettes and Christy Body (cost-share with Rio Grande Basin Roundtable) – initial meetings held
- Grant Management
- Reimbursement Request #5 of Task Order #6 submitted October 2, 2016
- Reimbursement Request #6 of Task Order #6 to be submitted early January 2017
- Buck & Fell and Mill Study to be published in upcoming Forest Science magazine
- Letter of support provided for Blue Park Salvage Project; Conejos Peak Project; La Garita Hills Project; Beaver Mountain Project to USDA Forest Service, Rio Grande National Forest
- Letter of support provided for Town of Lake City's emergency generator grant application

TASK ORDER 7 – EXPIRED AND READY TO CLOSE (with savings returned)

TASK ORDER 8

- Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment – initial meetings held; first invoice paid; slight change in scope to be requested under Task Order #8
- Emergency notification research into appropriate purchases / specific purchases made
 - Unmanned drone purchase of camera
 - Radio purchase
 - Repeater repair
- Discussions about 2017 instrumentation
- Request for Reimbursement #2 for Task Order #8 submitted October 2, 2016
- Request for Reimbursement #3 for Task Order #8 to be submitted early January 2017

Match

\$12,000 video partnership

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.

RWEACT Hydrology Update - 1/27/2017

- We are about three and half years past the 2013 West Fork Complex fire on the Rio Grande National Forest and the vegetation recovery within the burn areas appears to have reduced the urgency of threats to public safety that were initially caused by the potential increase in runoff from the burn areas. However, there still remain multiple concerns in these watersheds that could benefit from on-going operation of at least a portion of the RWEACT instruments. Therefore, it seems that the operation of a fourth season of RWEACT's rain and stream gauge network should become less active for public safety purposes and more active for water quality assessment, determination of baseline conditions and other concerns.
- In 2016 two rain gauges and one stream gauge were established in the upper Rio Grande watershed in order to begin to collect data in and from areas that are impacted by beetle kill of the spruce forest but have not experienced forest fire in those impacted areas. Those instruments should continue to be operated into the foreseeable future.
- Additional efforts should be put into enhancing the existing upper Rio Grande data collection efforts by working to develop a stream flow/stage rating curve for the Rio Grande stream gauge at Sky Hi Ranch and continue with some scaled-down aspect of the water quality data collection effort performed by Ashley Rust and research staff from the Colorado School of Mines (CSM) at a site upstream of Rio Grande Reservoir.
- The historic and on-going operation by the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) of a stream gauge on the Rio Grande just below Rio Grande Reservoir provides an opportunity to pair water quality data collected at that site with water quality data collected upstream of the reservoir.
- Proposed water quality data collection efforts would dove-tail with the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment that is presently being performed in partnership with RWEACT.
- I recommend that we decommission and retrieve certain RWEACT rain gauges in 2017 including those in the Lake Fork, Trout Creek and Upper Goose Creek watersheds. Because of some uncertainty of the Decker Creek watershed condition upstream of Metroz Reservoir, I believe it would be prudent to operate the Metroz Mountain gauge for one more season. We have two rain gauges and one stream gauge in the Little Squaw Creek watershed and water quality data was collected by the CSM on Little Squaw Creek. Those instruments could continue to be operated if anyone sees value in having data collected from a fire-impacted watershed that could be paired with the Rio Grande data collection. However, if no solid justification can be found for their continuation, they should be removed in 2017 also.
- Travis will contact Dick Wolfe (Colorado State Engineer for the Division of Water Resources) to see if DWR might be able to assist us in stream gauging work needed to develop a rating curve for the RWEACT Rio Grande stream gauge.
- We (Steve or Zeke?) will contact CSM research hydrologist Ashley Rust to determine their interest and cost to continue with a scaled-down water quality monitoring effort. Continued work with the CSM group adds a layer of credibility to on-going water quality data collection.

- Dye tracer stream flow measurements might be something to consider on the Rio Grande since wading measurements are not possible during high flow and the only bridge from which to operate a current meter is the Homsher's where the water level recorder is attached.

- I have contacted the USGS (Grand Junction) to see about their interest/availability in helping us with flow measurement on the Rio Grande for purposes of developing the stage/discharge rating curve. Their response was they typically like to operate a gauge and maintain the data as part of their formal gauge station program rather than acting in a consultant role. Presently, their fee to cooperatively operate, manage and collect rating curve discharge measurements for a gauge on Lake Fork above Lake City is \$16,000 per year.

Thanks,

Steve

Black Creek Hydrology, LLC
Steven Belz, Manager
10998 Patterson Court
Northglenn, CO 80234
Office 303-920-2664
Mobile 303-810-4992
www.BlackCreekHydro.com

RWEACT Communications / Economic Recovery / Forest Plan Revision Update

January 31, 2017

- Communication strategy to be presented to board / reviewed by Committee
- Discovery Agents (program with USDA Forest Service) to be evaluated for future participation
- Support provided to Rio Grande County for USDA Rural Development business opportunity grant to study Creede / South Fork tourist-railroad (ties to Post-Disaster plan)
- Continued participation with Silver Thread Scenic & Historic Byway Council
- Support provided to RWEACT committee's for outreach on projects
- Video project – on-going
- Grant funds need to be secured to fund outcomes from Post-Disaster Economic Recovery plan
 - Trail blog partnership to be further evaluated (RGNF / RWEACT / partners)
 - Weminuche Creek bridge in Hinsdale County request may fall under economic recovery
- Forest Plan Revision – grant reports on schedule for EIAF #8056. Press release from Rio Grande National Forest about current process forwarded to board / RWEACT mailing list.
- Paper copies will be distributed of the Flood Plan & Protocol
- Written updates as requested for CWCB presentations provided
- Continued discussions about streamlining / updating website / social media

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Borchers

1/27/17



Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team

Hinsdale County • Mineral County • Rio Grande County

info@rweact.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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www.rweact.org

The Value of Shopping Local

SAN LUIS VALLEY, CO., (November 20, 2016): This upcoming Saturday is a national celebration of our Small Businesses. Please consider shopping for some of the items on your holiday list at locally-owned and regionally-owned small businesses. The Local Multiplier Effect (LME) refers to how many times dollars are recirculated within the local economy. One hundred years ago, the LME was estimated to be in the 20s or 30s in thriving, industrial communities. This is significantly reduced in today's economic climate. The consumer decision to purchase locally – when possible – can result in dollar turnover five, six, seven, or eight times. This can improve the economic vitality of our region. Come out and enjoy these fun holiday events!

Saguache hosts a December 3rd holiday bazaar that includes homemade fudge, craft-making, vendors, visits with Santa, and the tree lighting. More information can be found at www.saguachechamber.org

Monte Vista has a light parade on December 3rd and offers unique shopping opportunities. Check out www.monte-vista.org

Del Norte hosts December 2nd festivities of a light parade with fireworks at 6 p.m. and Merchant Open Houses from 6 to 8 p.m. More information can be found at www.delnortechamber.org

South Fork has a WinterFest two-day event from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on December 9th and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on December 10th at the Rio Grande Golf Club with sleigh rides, vendors, a bonfire, Santa and his elves, cookie-decorating, arts and crafts, and more. More information at www.southfork.org

Creede hosts the 27th annual Chocolate Festival and Creede Scoop Chase on Black Friday and Small Business Saturday (November 25th and November 26th). More information at www.creede.com

Lake City hosts a town-wide “missing mistletoe” scavenger hunt with prizes and an annual Christmas in Lake City with a fruit cake toss, ugly sweater contest, tree lighting and performances on December 3rd. The full calendar of events for the month of December can be found at www.lakecity.com

Alamosa has the 6th annual Christmas Light Parade on December 16th at 5:30 p.m. More information can be found at www.alamosa.org

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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