



## RWEACT Board Meeting Agenda

February 23, 2017 – Windsor Hotel in Del Norte

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 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 (January 2017)

### On-Going Business

- Executive Director's Report
- ACTION ITEM Adopt (or not) Financial Procedures and Protocol (included in packet)
- SLV CCI / Wetland Dynamics Grant Application (submitted February 17, 2017)
  - ACTION ITEM Ratification required of three documents, Letter of Support / Letter of Organizational Background / Memorandum of Understanding (included in packet)
- Next steps for Stewardship Agreement
- Communication Strategy (included in packet)
- Grants Path discussion

### New Business

- Letters of Support
  - Fall Creek (ACTION ITEM: ratification required; included in packet)
  - Trout Unlimited (ACTION ITEM: ratification required; included in packet)
- Discussion: DRAFT Overhead Cost Allocation Policy (included in packet)
- Discussion and Update: Doppler

### Financial Update

- Discussion and Update: Task Order #6 (extension)
- Discussion and Update: Proposed Task Order #9

### Committee Reports

Emergency Managers (FPP updated); Economic Recovery / Communication (video) / Forest Plan Revision; Hydrology; Natural Resources

### Other Business

- Set dates for next three meetings?

### Adjourn



**Rio Grande Watershed**  
**Emergency Action Coordination Team**

**RWEACT Board Meeting**

January 31, 2017

Present: Travis Smith, Heather Dutton, Kevin Terry, Commissioner Jason Anderson, Zeke Ward, Dan Dallas, Commissioner Ramona Weber, Commissioner Karla Shriver, Kristie Borchers, Commissioner Susan Thompson (telephone)

The RWEACT board congratulated Chairman Travis Smith on the Wayne Aspinall award, presented at last week's Water Congress.

Ramona Weber made the motion to approve the October 2016 minutes with the corrected spelling of Christi Bode, Emma Reesor, and Cary Aloia; Karla Shriver seconded; motion passed unanimously.

DRAFT Fiscal Policies and Procedures were included in the packet and reviewed. Policies and Procedures tie to the Bylaws.

Chairman Smith asked Zeke Ward to provide a brief synopsis of his written report which was distributed at the meeting. His presentation included an update about his formal presentations to partners, a Hill 71 update, and further information about the proposed Mr. Zeedyk workshop. The board asked that a press release be issued on Hill 71.

Karla Shriver made the motion to ratify three letters of support for the La Garita Hills vegetative management project, the Blue Park vegetative management project, and the Emergency Generator project seconded by Ramona Weber; motion passed unanimously. Heather Dutton asked if these letters had been sent previously; Borchers responded all had been emailed to the board prior to submission.

The board discussed the difference between stewardship contracts and stewardship agreements. Zeke Ward asked about attendance at an upcoming Grants & Agreements workshop hosted by the USDA Forest Service in Durango on February 7, 2017. The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) regrettably is unable to provide RWEACT with training related to stewardship agreements. The Conejos Peak Ranger District is moving forward with the NWTF on a stewardship agreement. There may be opportunities in the future for a partnership. Kevin Terry met with Kevin Duda to review the Forest Service materials for stewardship agreements; Kevin Terry provided a four-page synopsis of these materials to Zeke Ward. The Colorado State Forest Service provided additional information about the Good Neighbor Authority. The green sheet (which has been used previously by the Forest Service) can cover a small timber sale / vegetative management on a very small scale, within identified areas.

"The Colorado State Forest Service and the USDA Forest Service, Rio Grande National Forest (US Forest Service) enter into this agreement as a cooperative effort to manage effects of ongoing insect and disease infestations. The activities under this agreement help maintain watershed health, improve public safety, recover economic value, and provide public goods and services. The activities under this agreement pertain only to trees that are dead or dying as a result of insect and disease infestations, as authorized under Good Neighbor Authority."

Dan Dallas reminded the group that the second organizational meetings of RWEACT included the concepts of stewardship, and that those who have a common interest can work together to leverage the ability to accomplish work. The Forest Service is bound by the forest boundary and additional work can be done privately. Dan Dallas provided the example of a yurt-property where there is interest in taking hazard trees down and lumber is provided by company removing it. Chairman Smith described potential roles of RWEACT as the contracting entity, as a subcontractor, or as a facilitator. Karla Shriver reiterated the value of RWEACT being the connector. Jason Anderson asked for additional clarification on the sideboards of Stewardship Agreements and whether this is the private-public model RWEACT should

be involved with. Karla Shriver reminded group of importance of income-generation. Dan Dallas also indicated economic benefit opportunities through forest restoration work.

Zeke Ward indicated that Kevin Terry has identified opportunities in a juniper ecosystem. Kevin provided information on the Zapata Homeowners Association project (which is also a FireWise Community). Rather than burning the removed juniper; the wood was used in a stream habitat project in San Luis, Colorado. This was funded in 2016 by a SLV CCI grant. RWEACT may provide a role of connecting people from Point A to Point B. Colorado State Forest Service provided encouragement to work with 1) Colorado College in Crestone, Peter May (potentially using that material in Crestone Creek); 2) Zapata Ranch; 3) Forbes Park; 4) Alamosa Canyon; 5) Conejos Canyon; 6) Carnero Canyon; 7) Willow Creek; 8) Bonanza; 9) Bear Creek and Alder Creek. Adam Moore with Colorado State Forest Service is interested in RWEACT helping with outreach and connecting landowners to opportunities. Discussion about possibility of Energy Impact #8056 capacity funds towards stewardship agreements.

Zeke Ward presented information about Mr. Seligman and Wood Source Fuels. Included in the packet is a Memorandum of Understanding, a Briefing Paper, and a February 2011 letter from the Rocky Mountain Research Station. Zeke Ward said that the Pigeye Sale (near Ptarmigan Meadows) cannot be completed under a Stewardship Agreement. Mr. Seligman has also put forward the concept of a Cooperative. He is also interested in retrofitting inexpensive railroad cars for economic transport of biomass materials. Zeke Ward achieved a level of comfort based on the documentation that was presented from Mr. Seligman. Mr. David Broyles is handling the financial part of this operation. Zeke Ward clarified that RWEACT would provide outreach and monitoring using in-house staff. Dan Dallas further clarified that RWEACT's role and reach into communities could assist Mr. Seligman. A grant application has been submitted to the Wood Innovation Funding program that includes a \$28,700 line item for the work proposed by Zeke Ward for RWEACT. Dan Dallas provided information about secured stakeholders in the project. Currently, alfalfa pellets are being hauled by Mr. Seligman in the south portion of the Valley. Heather Dutton asked for a discussion about the risks. Dan Dallas provided more information about the proof of concept, the niche and the market. Jason Anderson indicated that our opportunities may be greater as a nimble organization, and we can use our influence to cast a net. Karla Shriver asked what the specific requirements would be for the RWEACT staff; Zeke Ward provided information that the letter of support was provided conditionally upon board approval. A discussion occurred around costs and the possibility of moving from line item to line item, if approved and needed.

Jason Anderson made the motion; Karla Shriver made the motion to ratify the letter of support dated January 18, 2017; discussion indicated that the letter is a fairly safe bet; DRG will be the fiscal agent of this grant; further clarification would be required if the grant is funded; motion passed unanimously.

Zeke Ward provided information about the proposed Zeedyk workshop. Numbers will include equipment costs and purchasing material; if successful in getting donated equipment and materials, that will reduce the expense of the workshop (the hope is that materials will be available locally). Contingency would be rolled into the second year if needed; 100% of match would be provided by in-kind contributions and equipment time (and the \$5,000 completed prior during field work).

Kevin Terry distributed design for the Palisade Campground Boat Ramp Improvement project; Trout Unlimited will use the RWEACT matched design costs to submit a SLV CCI grant application; RWEACT will provide a letter of support.

Ramona Weber provided information about Creede Mineral Action Committee; attended community builders training in Durango. They may ask for a letter of support from RWEACT; this is tied to the Post-Disaster Plan and Community Assessment work with Main Street. Karla Shriver provided information that the Town of South Fork also attended this training.

Review of the Strategic Vision draft; board members encouraged to provide comments to Zeke Ward.

Heather Dutton provided information on the DRAFT Grants Path which was distributed at the meeting. Information included priority, grantor, grant program, goal RWEACT program best fit, use of funds, application process, match requirements, and comments. This will be distributed to Committee Chairs, Executive Director, and Board for review;

Zeke Ward said that he had contacted them in regards to a Proposed Task Order #9. Heather Dutton shared an idea from Dale Gomez where we may look at funding a Divide Ranger District youth crew.

The Communication Strategy will be reviewed by the Committee and emailed to the Board. Priority will be for safety messaging in preparation of a high run-off in 2017 campaign. Messaging will be consistent and strategic; increasing media presence, branding, and community engagement. RWEACT needs to identify difference between RWEACT overall messaging and specific projects where we are a partner.

Chairman Smith provided information that CWCB has increased radar set-aside from \$600,000 to \$800,000. Further discussion of authority and operating needs to be determined. RWEACT may have a role in this.

The Financial Snapshot was distributed through December 31, 2016.

Chairman Smith has been in communication about the extension of Governor's Order with CWCB.

Borchers will prepare an extension justification and new budget for Task Order #6 expiring March 31, 2017.

Task Order #8 will expire December 31, 2017.

The proposed Task Order #9 scope will be developed as committees identify projects and endeavors and the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment may guide efforts.

Committee Reports provided in the packet included Economic Recovery / Communication / Forest Plan Revision and Hydrology. Reports from the Emergency Managers, Natural Resources, and Executive Director were distributed at the meeting.

Ramona Weber made the motion; Heather Dutton seconded; motion passed unanimously to adjourn.

Next meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on February 23, 2017, at The Windsor Hotel in Del Norte, Colorado.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Borchers  
January 31, 2017



**Rio Grande Watershed**  
**Emergency Action Coordination Team**

2016-2017  
www.rgw-watershed.org

Executive Director Report

February 23, 2017

Ongoing efforts:

- Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment continues to move along.
- Hill Seventy One continues to see progress made toward improving the power production and storage. I will continue to make myself available to help where and when needed.
- Christi Bodi continues to interview folks and a big “Thank You” to Mineral County Search and Rescue, for making a snowmobile trip possible.
- The Stream Restoration Workshop grant proposal was submitted on time and we await the outcome.
- I continue to contact partners for continued support in time available. None have turned us down.
- We should hear about the outcome of the Wood Source Fuels grant proposal in late March.
- I attended the workshop in Durango and there are some definite possibilities for incorporating those funding mechanisms into our pursuit of Stewardship efforts. The program is targeted for “Value Added Ag” but products removed from the forest on public lands qualify.
- Research into Stewardship is progressing and proving to be very interesting. It seems to involve every aspect of our mission and all of the stakeholders. This could be one of our best efforts. The next time I report on this I am anticipating we will have much to discuss.

Other projects I have been engaged in will be discussed in other reports: Boat ramps, Stream Gauges, and grant path.

I was approached by Lisa McClure for assistance with replacing a foot/stock bridge on the Wiminuche Creek trail. The bridge is at the end of its life and since the need for replacement isn’t due to fire or debris, it doesn’t look like our funding is appropriate but I would like to see us help find some funding and assistance to help with this project. Your suggestions are welcome.

I have been in communication with Joe Busto, (CWCB), talking about the Doppler Radar installation. This is an agenda item for discussion so all I will report here is that RWEACT can be a very positive partner in this worthwhile effort.

I hope to see all of you at the board meeting. As always feel free to call me if you have any questions or wish to discuss anything.

Zeke



February 6, 2017

To Whom it May Concern

Re: Support for the application from Trout Unlimited for a Boat Ramp

The Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT) supports the grant application from Trout Unlimited for a hard-bottom boat ramp at Palisades Campground that will reduce siltation into the Rio Grande. This proposed project addresses values that the organization of RWEACT supports, primarily stewardship of our natural resources through proactive restoration. This type of project specifically addresses natural resource conservation while continuing to promote river access by boaters for economic development in the Rio Grande Valley. In order to kick-start this valuable project RWEACT paid \$4,500 to complete the survey and design work performed by Riverbend Engineering for the Palisade Boat Ramp upgrade.

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 and Alamosa 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, purchased an unmanned drone for increased safety for Search & Rescue personnel, and improved communication including the purchase of a mobile command unit. 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](http://www.rweact.org) Please let us know if you'd like more information.

Respectfully,  
Marvin K "Zeke" Ward  
Executive Director, RWEACT  
[zeke@rweact.org](mailto:zeke@rweact.org)  
719-480-1813



February 14, 2017

## Re: Organizational Background

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 and Alamosa counties.

The West Fork Complex fire increased collaboration between counties and other local governments. RWEACT has accomplished overall visioning and implemented a functioning nonprofit organization for RWEACT. This included 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), receiving 501c3 status, participating in a Strategic Visioning process (on-going), reviewing the CO/NM Cohesive Strategy, and assistance provided to Agnew::Beck Consulting through an Energy Impact grant award for community engagement in the Rio Grande National Forest's Forest Plan Revision process.

The Natural Resource committee is led by Emma Reesor and projects include a three-year Water Quality Study (nine probes that monitor seven characteristics; 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; Design work for boat ramps to reduce siltation; and Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment to guide all further projects (in progress) with SGM.

The Communications Committee is led by Kristine Borchers and 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, community workshops and presentations. We are working on a partnership with the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable on two video vignettes.

The Hydrology Committee is led by Steve Belz of Black Creek Hydrology to install 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.

The Emergency Managers Committee is led by Terry Wetherill, Mineral County Emergency Manager and hosted a Tabletop Exercise held on May 17, 2016; purchased 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 including Hill 71 batteries; annually updates the Upper Rio Grande Emergency Notification Plan (Three County Plan); and participate in ongoing discussions about permanent radar in the region (2013/2014/2015 temporary radar placed).

The Economic Recovery Committee is led by Karla Shriver, Rio Grande County and Kristie Borchers, RWEACT and participated in an August 4th Biomass Utilization Workshop in Alamosa (with multiple partners), is providing assistance to the Rio Grande National Forest with funding for the evaluation of business plans received, commissioned a Buck &

Fell Study and Spruce Mortality Report to determine economic value of standing beetle-kill, and is working with Wood Source Fuels for identify and implement economic transport of biomass materials.

The RWEACT Board of Directors currently has eight directors – Travis Smith, Karla Shriver, Ramona Weber, Susan Thompson, Jason Anderson, Darius Allen, Heather Dutton, and Kevin Terry. We have in place Fiscal Policies and Procedures. Currently, we are in the fourth year of management of Governor’s Executive Order 17 for \$2.5 million, processed through the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Hinsdale County serves as our fiscal agent for this grant. We are under contract for eight Task Orders within this grant and anticipate an additional two Task Orders. RWEACT successfully implemented Governor’s Executive Order 22 for \$195,000 through the Emergency Management Services office with Rio Grande County as a fiscal agent. RWEACT successfully implemented a Department of Local Affairs grant for \$100,000 for economic recovery with Rio Grande County as a fiscal agent. RWEACT is currently implementing an Energy Impact grant with Rio Grande County as the fiscal agent for capacity building towards a stewardship agreement and assistance with the Forest Plan Revision for \$118,750. We have developed a Grants Path and are working to put best-practices into place as we transition into an independent nonprofit organization.

Please let us know if additional information is required. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

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



## Memorandum of Understanding Agreement

Wetland Dynamics, LLC and RWEACT (Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team) Inc, wishing to establish relations between the two institutions, agree to cooperate with each other in the manner set forth in this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

### 1. Purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding:

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding is to jointly outline the process, time frame and issues related to the relationship between Wetland Dynamics, LLC and RWEACT.

### 2. Definitions:

“Funds” shall be defined as monies related to the SLV Conservation & Connection Initiative Grant.

### 3. Responsibilities:

- a. RWEACT will sign a grant agreement with SLVCCI.
- b. Funds will be provided to RWEACT resulting from an SLV Conservation & Connection Initiative (SLVCCI) Grant.
- c. RWEACT will receive and account for all funds intended for use on behalf of Wetland Dynamics, LLC. RWEACT has Fiscal Policies and Procedures in place.
- d. Wetland Dynamics, LLC shall provide an invoice to RWEACT to be forwarded to a representative with SLVCCI. This invoice shall include work completed and cost per item.
- e. RWEACT will receive funds from SLVCCI and disburse invoiced funds to Wetland Dynamics, LLC.
- f. Wetland Dynamics, LLC will provide reports to the grantor and such other financial reports that may be requested from time to time.
- g. From the date of this document forward it is understood by all entities and persons involved that the relationship between RWEACT and the Wetland Dynamics, LLC shall be as a Fiscal Agent only.
- h. Wetland Dynamics LLC will provide a copy of general liability insurance to RWEACT.

### 4. Fee for Service:

RWEACT shall assess Wetland Dynamics, LLC a flat fee of \$5,000.00 for providing the services described in this Memorandum of Understanding.

### 5. Renewal and Termination:

This Memorandum of understanding shall remain in place for the period of February 14, 2017 through June 30, 2019, with the understanding that it may be terminated earlier if the project is completed and all of the funds have been disbursed. This Memorandum of Understanding may be renewed for additional 6 month periods upon agreement of both parties.

## 6. Notices & Coordination of Communication:

Representatives of both entities will meet as needed to discuss and evaluate issues that have been identified by either party. The individual named below shall be the contact person for each party and shall receive communications on behalf of the agency he/she represents. Either party may compel a meeting with the other party within fifteen (7) days by providing written notice of such request.

### Contact Person for Wetland Dynamics, LLC

Cary Aloia  
Biologist / Partner  
3393 E CR 9 S  
Monte Vista, CO 81144  
719-850-2562  
E-mail: [Cary\\_Aloia@msn.com](mailto:Cary_Aloia@msn.com)

### Contacts for RWEACT


Zeke Ward, Executive Director  
[zeke@rweact.org](mailto:zeke@rweact.org)  
719-480-1813  
Steve Belz, Hydrologist  
303-810-4992  
[steve@blackcreekhydro.com](mailto:steve@blackcreekhydro.com)  
Kristine Borchers, Admin Assistant  
970-596-9071  
[kristineborchers@yahoo.com](mailto:kristineborchers@yahoo.com)  
PO Box 721  
Lake City, CO 81235

## 7. Miscellaneous:

- a. Any changes in the governing laws, rules and regulations during the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding shall apply, but do not require an amendment.
- b. The invalidity of any provision of this Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect the remainder hereof.
- c. This Memorandum of Understanding represents the entirety of the agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and may not be amended except by mutual written consent of the two parties.

The parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

FOR:  
Wetland Dynamics, LLC

  
By: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR:  
RWEACT

By: /s/ Marvin K "Zeke" Ward

Authorization to be ratified at the February 23, 2017 RWEACT Board Meeting.



February 12, 2017

RE: 'Bill Zeedyk Stream and Road Restoration Workshop #1' Grant Application

SLV Conservation & Connection Initiative Board Members,

The Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Team (RWEACT) will serve as fiscal agent for Wetland Dynamics, LLC (WDLLC) to coordinate and work closely with natural resource agencies, organizations, and contractors in the SLV to plan and accomplish the 'Bill Zeedyk Stream and Road Restoration Workshop #1'. This workshop is designed to bring together stakeholders that work to repair and maintain roads along with those working to restore streams and wetlands in an effort to provide hands-on training of a variety of restoration techniques. Bill Zeedyk, workshop instructor with more than 280 completed restoration projects on both public and private lands in the US and Mexico, will teach the participants how to restore roads and streams in modified systems that are easy to install, reduce the cost of maintenance in the long term, and make the most of available water resources. The proposed workshop will be free and available to 40 participants that will actively help build and create stream and road restoration structures over 3 days within the West Fork Fire area in the Rio Grande National Forest. Ultimately this workshop will provide a base of knowledge for the participants that can be expanded upon in two future workshops and passed on to other individuals conducting similar work for future conservation and cooperative efforts among stakeholders.

Planning and coordination of this workshop includes local staff time and support from the U.S. Forest Service, RWEACT, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Foundation, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and numerous other individuals, agencies and organizations dedicated to promoting cooperative partnerships to restore and conserve habitat resources and to provide and improve public recreation across the SLV. Partners hope that through this effort a strong collaborative network can be built across all natural resource agencies, counties, and contractors in the SLV that will promote the use of consistent methods across public lands that improve habitat quality and recreational opportunities. This network is integral to the sustainability of our natural resources and continued access to the public. This project is well timed to help improve stream health, improve water quality, and maintain public access for a variety of recreational activities.

RWEACT has provided \$5,000 cash match towards field work identifying workshop locations and anticipates providing an additional \$3,500 in in-kind assistance.

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](http://www.rweact.org) Please let us know if you'd like more information.

Respectfully,

Marvin K "Zeke" Ward  
Executive Director, RWEACT  
[zeke@rweact.org](mailto:zeke@rweact.org)  
719-480-1813



## **Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team**

Hinsdale County • Mineral County • Rio Grande County

[www.rweact.org](http://www.rweact.org)

The Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment will map and evaluate the ecological condition of the headwaters of the Rio Grande and surrounding area.

“This Assessment will give us a road map for our current watershed health and recommendations for future stewardship projects,” says Emma Reesor 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. Future projects will be tied to this Assessment.

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).

Field work, research, evaluation, and mapping will be conducted by Schmueser Gordon Meyer, Inc (SGM) out of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, along with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, Trout Unlimited, Willow Creek Reclamation together with a Working Group.

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](http://www.rweact.org)



**Rio Grande Watershed**  
**Emergency Action Coordination Team**

## Communication Goals (2017)

### Overall Projects

- Revamp website and outreach mechanisms for RWEACT messaging / project support
  - Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment project
  - Water Quality Study and results
  - Emergency Communication improvements – Hill 71, Bristolhead, command center, drone (letting each respective County weigh in on how to communicate with public)
  - Forest Plan Revision process and community engagement
  - Capacity building and expansion of RWEACT
  - Move Up Not Out safety messaging in conjunction with Team (Flood Plan Protocol)
  - Other projects identified by board / Communications Committee
- Complete video project in partnership with Rio Grande Basin Roundtable
- Implement informative and interpretive signage projects
- Participate and provide support to Silver Thread Scenic & Historic Byway Council

### ACTION ITEMS

- Press releases: to be released to regional media outlets every other week
- Social media posting: to be posted once weekly
- Article generation: one interview scheduled per month per source (if possible) and as requested
- Newsletter (electronic): to be developed and released quarterly (using revamped web system)
  - Mailing list development
- Published articles: work with Committees to determine appropriateness
- Reports: follow requirements and requests for verbal / written reports per funding source
- Partnerships: maintaining and creating partnerships through mission-aligned projects
- Signs: evaluate need for Move Up / Not Out and Shop Local projects (previous)
- Signs: interpretive signs relating to WFCF and RWEACT along Silver Thread (proposed)
- Poster: distribute remaining posters; evaluate need for post-fire poster
- Rack cards: Move Up / Not Out messaging – distribute existing rack cards
- Public meetings: previously held regularly to disseminate information to public / stakeholders
- RWEACT email list: distribute press releases / public statements / information from partners

### For Committee Chairs:

- Majority of communication is project-based so outreach is tied to deliverables
- Committee chairs will be included in media interviews / can provide content and photographs
- Participate in all communication methods, as appropriate
- Role of communications is to support Committee chairs

### For Board of Directors:

- Board meetings held regularly which include written / verbal communication / updates
- Board packets archived online
- On email list for press releases / statements



February 11, 2017

District Ranger Kevin Khung  
Pagosa Springs Ranger Station  
PO Box 310  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Re: Proposed Fall Creek Spruce Salvage project

The Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT) supports the findings in the Environmental Assessment of the Fall Creek Spruce Salvage project. This salvage harvest of beetle-killed spruce trees and fuel reduction work on 800 acres in Mineral County will improve wildlife habitat and increase public safety. The additional proposed activities on 190 acres for reforestation, erosion control, fisheries improvement, and allotment improvements support values that RWEACT supports, primarily improved forest health and watershed stewardship. As we saw during the Wolf Creek Pass closure during the 2013 West Fork Complex Fire (WFCF), the economics of our local communities and access to public lands are intricately tied. This type of project may reduce impacts from future wildfires.

RWEACT was established in July 2013 in response to the WFCF. 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. During the aftermath of the fire, Archuleta County partnered with RWEACT and Hinsdale, Mineral, and Rio Grande counties to implement an Economic Recovery grant.

The West Fork Complex fire increased collaboration between counties and other local governments. 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, 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 implements a Communication Strategy.

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 within the organization. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Marvin K "Zeke" Ward  
Executive Director, RWEACT  
[zeke@rweact.org](mailto:zeke@rweact.org) 719-480-1813

DRAFT

# Overhead Cost Allocation Policy

## RWEACT

Purpose: This policy will set guidelines for RWEACT to attribute overhead costs for programs and grants that it is asked or required to oversee. Charges will attempt to capture real cost for management, reporting and supplies.

Background: RWEACT is a non-profit organization who works to promote partnerships and actions that provide for public safety and resiliency of communities and watersheds of the Rio Grande Basin of Colorado.

Policy: To be able to maintain its operational status, RWEACT will implement a percentage of \_\_\_\_ when operating as a fiscal agent.

RWEACT may negotiate attributed overhead cost percentage per project based on funding source and appropriateness.

RWEACT may negotiate additional assistance for project management and implementation, on a per project basis.

---

Travis Smith, President

Approved by the Board of Directors

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## NEWS RELEASE

### Contact for Reporters:

Ryan Lockwood  
970.491.8970 or 970.491.6303  
[ryan.lockwood@colostate.edu](mailto:ryan.lockwood@colostate.edu)  
[csfs.colostate.edu](http://csfs.colostate.edu)

## 800 Million Standing Dead Trees in Colorado

**FORT COLLINS, Colo. – February 15, 2017** – Over the last seven years, the number of dead standing trees in Colorado forests increased almost 30 percent, to an estimated 834 million trees – or nearly one in every 14 standing trees. And this trend of increasing tree mortality – which is most observable in spruce-fir and lodgepole pine forests impacted by bark beetles – may result in forests conducive to large, intense wildfires like the 2016 Beaver Creek Fire that burned through beetle-kill timber northwest of Walden.

The *2016 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests*, distributed today by the Colorado State Forest Service at the annual Joint Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Hearing at the State Capitol, highlighted this and other observed forest trends for the state. The theme of this year's report is "Fire and Water," focusing on how wildfires and unhealthy forest conditions impact human populations, water supplies and forested environments.

"When so many trees die and large wildfires follow, our forests quickly turn from a carbon sink into a carbon source," said Mike Lester, State Forester and Director of the CSFS. "Beyond the implications for our atmosphere, forests in poor health have implications for our water supplies, public safety, wildlife and recreation opportunities."

Highlights from this year's report include:

- Colorado's decades-long mountain pine beetle epidemic resulted in almost 3.4 million acres with some degree of tree mortality; an ongoing spruce beetle epidemic has thus far resulted in 1.7 million impacted acres.
- Approximately 80 percent of the state's population relies on forested watersheds for municipal water supplies.
- Risks ranging from severe wildfires and insect infestations to long-term droughts are likely to be amplified in the future, as climate model projections predict statewide warming between 2.5 F and 6.5 F by 2050.

"With increasing changes in our forests, now is the time for determining how we will manage for projected future conditions," said Lester. He says that actions the CSFS is taking now to address these threats include forest management efforts focused on watershed protection and reducing wildfire risk; providing seedling trees for restoration efforts; wood utilization and marketing; and insect and disease detection, surveys and response.

Much of what the CSFS accomplishes is through key partnerships with other agencies and organizations, including those with the U.S. Forest Service, Denver Water, the Northern Water Conservancy District and Colorado Springs Utilities. The agency also offers or assists with many programs and resources for communities working to become fire-adapted, including Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), Firewise Communities/USA® and the online Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal.



Each year, forest health reports provide information to the Colorado General Assembly and residents of Colorado about the health and condition of forests across the state, including recent data, figures and maps. Information for the reports is derived from an annual aerial forest health survey by the CSFS and the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service, as well as field inspections, CSFS contacts with forest landowners and special surveys.

Copies of the 2016 report are available at all CSFS district offices and at [www.csfs.colostate.edu](http://www.csfs.colostate.edu).

\*\*\*

*The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) provides technical forestry assistance, wildfire mitigation expertise and outreach and education to help landowners and communities achieve their forest management goals. The CSFS is a service and outreach agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University and provides staffing for the Division of Forestry within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. For more information, visit [www.csfs.colostate.edu](http://www.csfs.colostate.edu).*

# SAN LUIS VALLEY CONSERVATION & CONNECTION INITIATIVE

— A Community Re-Granting Program of —

COLORADO OPEN LANDS    LOR  FOUNDATION



**RIO GRANDE**  
HEADWATERS LAND TRUST



**WESTERN RIVERS**  
CONSERVANCY

## Budget Template

<b>Organization Name:</b>							
<b>Project/Proposal Name:</b>	Bill Zeedyk Stream and Road Workshop #1						
<b>Expense Categories*</b>	<b>Amount Requested from SLVCCI</b>	<b>Amount Other Cash Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount Other In-Kind Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount Other In-Kind Funding Source (Federal Partner Time)</b>	<b>Name of Other Cash Funding Source</b>	<b>Name of Other Cash Funding Source</b>	<b>Total Line Item Expense</b>
Salaries and wages	\$16,750.00	\$3,600.00	\$5,694.00	\$10,434.61	RWEACT		\$ 36,478.61
Benefits - Retirement	\$4,175.00	\$900.00			RWEACT		\$ 5,075.00
Travel	\$700.00						\$ 700.00
Postage	\$150.00						\$ 150.00
Workshop Supplies	\$500.00						\$ 500.00
Conference Room Rental Fee	\$150.00						\$ 150.00
Bill Zeedyk Workshop Presenter (4 days)	\$7,250.00						\$ 7,250.00
Heavy Equipment Operator and Equipment			\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00			\$ 4,000.00
Rock for restoration	\$2,500.00						\$ 2,500.00
Road base	\$1,000.00						\$ 1,000.00
Archeaology clearance	\$2,000.00						\$ 2,000.00
Lunch and snacks for workshop participants	\$2,500.00						\$ 2,500.00
Fiscal Agent Fee (11%)	\$5,000.00						\$ 5,000.00
Other (Overhead)	\$2,325.00	\$500.00			RWEACT		\$ 2,825.00

Total Costs	\$45,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 8,694.00	\$ 11,434.61			\$70,128.61
<i>*Not all expense catagoires are required. Please add categories as needed</i>							

<b>Notes</b>
In Kind funding sources are Trout Unlimited, RWEACT, SLV Irrigation District, and RGHRP; Federal Partner in-kind is the U.S. Forest Service
In Kind funding sources is the SLV Irrigation District; Federal Partner in-kind is the U.S. Forest Service


DRAFT 2017 Grants Path - RWEACT										
Priority	Grantor	Grant Program	Goal	RWEACT Program Best Fit	Use of Funds			Application Process	Match Requirements	Comments
					Capacity	One the Ground	Planning			
	Miller Coors Foundation	Sustainable Brewery Watershed Projects	Forest management to protect natural water filtration systems and reduce soil erosion.	Stewardship Agreement		X		Contact Staff - Case by Case Basis	N/A	Donated \$1 mil to TNC in 2014 to complete thinning and fire reduction projects above the brewery.
1	LOR, Western Rivers Conservancy, Right, and COL	SLV Conservation and Connection Initiative	Increase capacity of and collaboration between organizations to achieve land and water conservation, acequia protection, restoration, and outdoor recreation in the SLV.	NR - Zeedyk or Boat Ramps		X		Due February 17, 2017	Strongly encouraged, but not required.	
	CWCB	Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund	Helps support local watershed organizations in their efforts to provide clean water, protect habitat, and improve recreation and accessibility.	NR -Implementation of Assessment		X	X	Due April 30, 2017	Strongly encouraged, but not required.	
	CWCB	Colorado Watershed Restoration Grants	Watershed/stream restoration and flood mitigation projects throughout the state.	NR -Implementation of Assessment	X	X	X	Due November 2017	50% match required - 25% cash	
	CWCB	Water Supply Reserve Fund	Assist Colorado water users in addressing their critical water supply issues and interests.	NR - Implementation of Assessment	X	X	X	Due August 1st for Sept request.	50% match required for State account, 25% for basin	
	Temper of the Times Foundation	Advertising for the Environment	Promotes marketing to increase awareness about environmental issues.	Outreach		X		Due December 15th - temperfund.org	N/A	
2	National Forest Foundation	Matching Awards Program	Provides funding for results-oriented on the ground projects that enhance forest health and outdoor experiences on National Forests and Grasslands.	Stewardship Agreement		X		Deadline January 17, 2017 and June 26, 2017	1:1 Non Federal Cash Match	Requires strong commitment to civic engagement and community involvement
	USFS	Wood Innovations	Expansion of 1. wood energy markets and 2. wood products markets.	Economic Development				January 23, 2017 - <a href="http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/wip/2017-rfp.shtm">http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/wip/2017-rfp.shtm</a>		
	Captain Planet Foundation	Small Grants	Provide hands-on environmental stewardship opportunities for youth	Outreach		X		January 31, 2017 and September 30th - <a href="http://captainplanetfoundation.org/apply-for-grants/">http://captainplanetfoundation.org/apply-for-grants/</a>		This would be good for volunteer days, youth events, etc.
	US Endowment for Forestry and Communities	Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program	Focus is to accelerate the strategic protection of healthy freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds across the county.	Stewardship Agreement		X		February 1, 2017 - <a href="http://www.usendowment.org/healthywatersheds.html">http://www.usendowment.org/healthywatersheds.html</a>		
	Colorado DOLA	Rural Economic Development Initiative	REDI is a program designed to help rural communities comprehensively diversify their local economy and create a more resilient Colorado.	Economic Development		X	X	Due May 31, 2017	Strongly encouraged, but not required.	
	Anschutz Family Foundation	Community and Capacity Building	Special interest in self-sufficiency, community development, and programs aimed at the economically	Economic Development	X		X	Submit Letter of Inquiry - If invited to apply, application Due August 1, 2017		Grants range from \$5,000-\$10,000
	GOCO	Youth Corps Grants	Partnership with CYCA to get youth corps on the ground.	NR - Trails, Infrastructure, etc.		X		Due September 2017		

Others to Research  
El Pomar  
Private Donors  
State Trails Grants