



## RWEACT Board Meeting Agenda

April 28, 2017 – Windsor Hotel in Del Norte

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. follow Up Visioning with Sheryl Trent

11:05 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (working lunch 12:00) regular agenda

Call-In 1-800-511-7983

Access Code 6254628

Opening Comments, Chairman Travis Smith

Introductions

Approve Agenda

ACTION ITEM Approve minutes from previous RWEACT Board meeting (March 2017)

### On-Going Business

- Executive Director's Report
- ACTION ITEM: Approve Ratification of RCPP Application
- Stewardship Agreement update
- Zeedyk Stream Restoration Workshop and SLV CCI Grant update
- Stream gauge/rain gauge plan, flow measurement, water quality discussion
- Permanent Radar update

### New Business

- ACTION ITEMS: Identify Bank and Signatories
- Colorado State Forest Service SFA-WUI grant

### Financial Update

- Discussion and Update: First Quarter 2017 Financials
- Discussion and Update: Task Order #6 (extension)/Task Order # 9
- Discussion and Update: Proposed Task Order #10

### Committee Reports

Emergency Managers; Economic Recovery; Communication; Hydrology; Natural Resources

### Other Business

- Set dates for next meeting/meetings

### Executive Session to discuss contracts

### Adjourn

Board Retreat Agenda  
April 28, 2017      9:30 am - 11:00 pm  
The Windsor Hotel, Del Norte, Colorado

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.

9:30            Purpose of Meeting, Deliverables

9:35            Ground Rules and Agenda Approval

9:40            Review of the First Strategic Planning Retreat

9:45            Reaffirm Mission Statement

*Mission: "To promote partnerships and action that provide for public safety, resiliency of communities, and watershed health of the Rio Grande Basin of Colorado"*  
*(from December Board Strategic Planning Retreat)*

9:50            Creating Definitions for the Core Priorities/Areas of Focus

**External:**

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

**Internal:**

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

10:05            Creating a Vision Statement

10:30            Goals

11:00            Done

Goals (Big, Hairy, SMART Goals)  
Finalizing the Action Steps



## 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."*

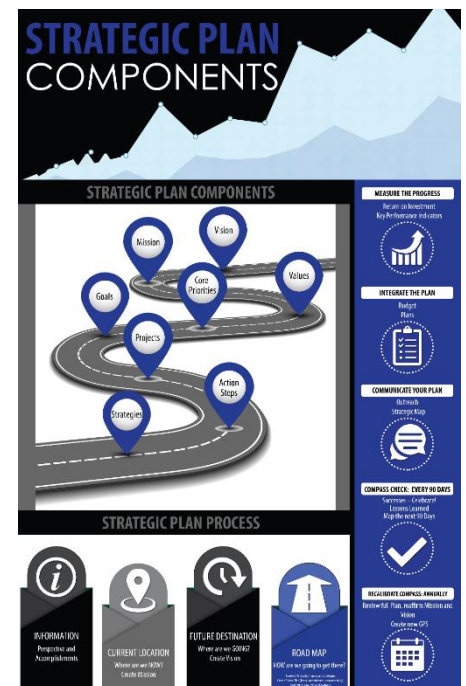
### Quick Review of Mission

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 \$

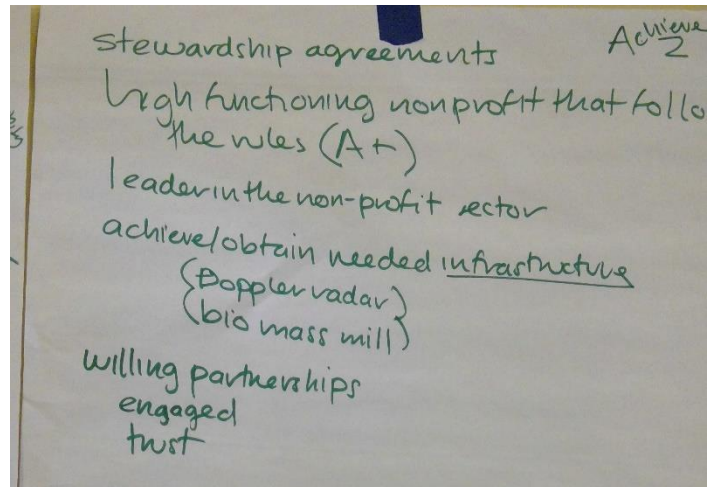
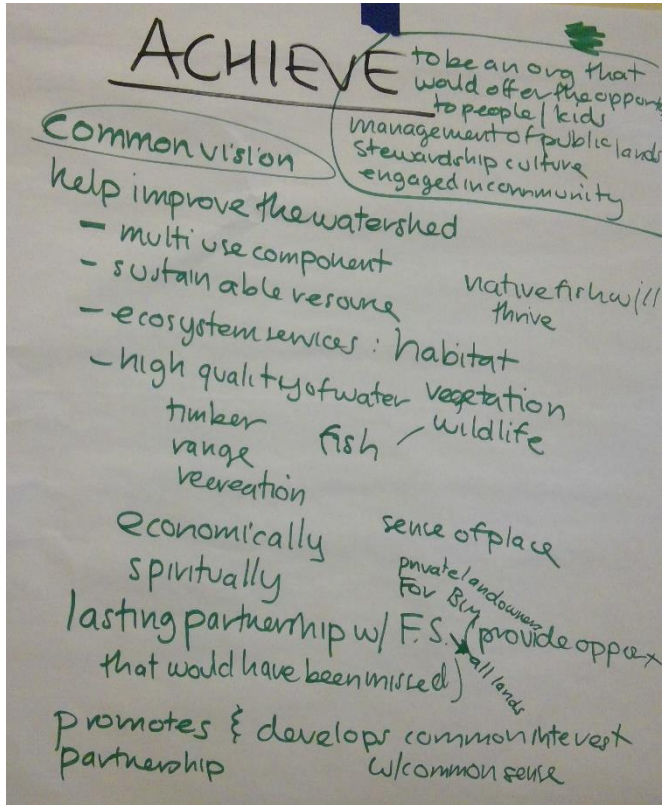
### What's Missing or Confusing?

- ? 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

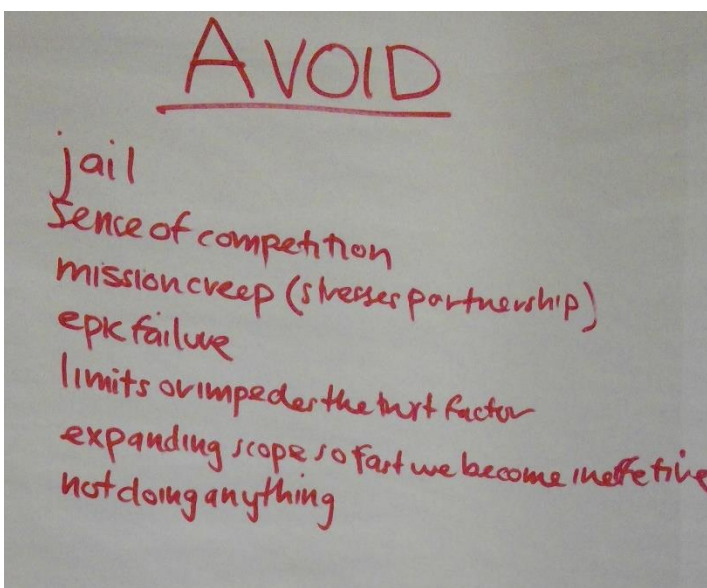
? Priorities/areas of focus

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."

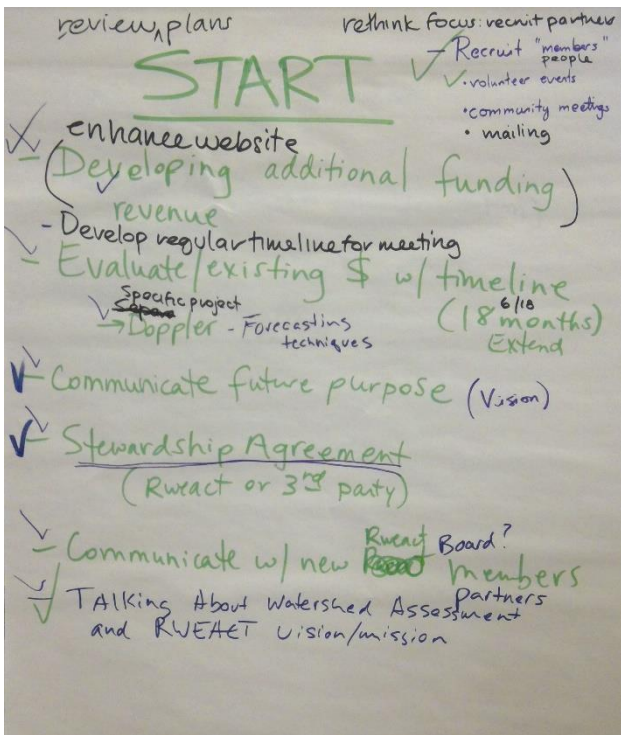
"Our story: From out of the fire RWEACT was forged. Built on past successes...."

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

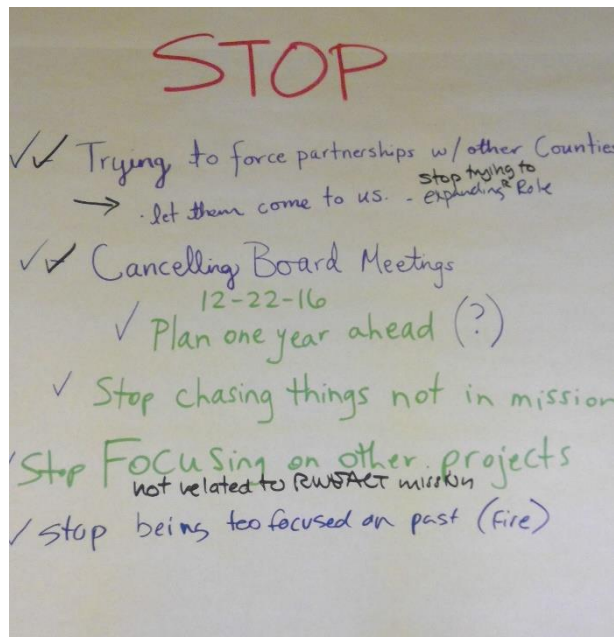


**Are we on the right track?** Based on the Vision conversations, the team then talked about what they needed to do to accomplish their ideal future vision.

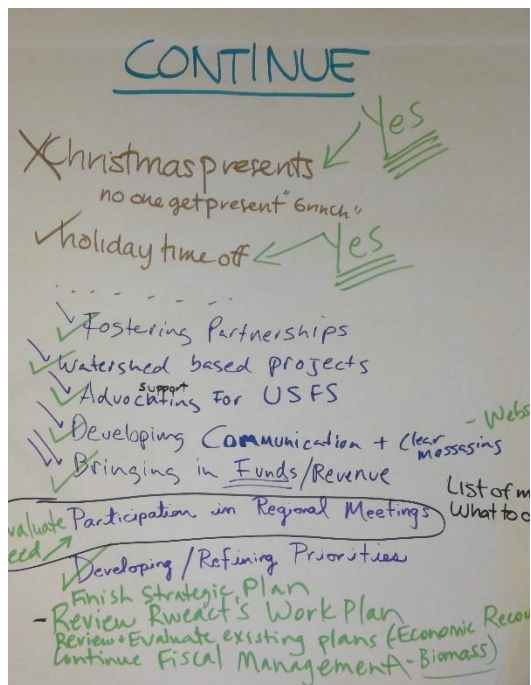
What do we need to START doing to accomplish this? (Funding)



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 ON COMMITTEES)  
also (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 + paperwork) oversight
- Micromanagers
- Push special interests/Agendas
- Not undermine Board decisions Individually
- <sup>(Not)</sup> 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
- <sup>So so</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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





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

Windsor County • Silver County • Rio Grande County  
[rweact.org](http://rweact.org)

March 30, 2017  
RWEACT Board of Directors Meeting

Present: Chairman Travis Smith, Commissioner Ramona Weber, Commissioner Karla Shriver (partial attendance), Commissioner Susan Thompson, Heather Dutton, Kevin Terry, Zeke Ward, Commissioner Darius Allen, Dan Dallas, Emma Reesor, Kristine Borchers.

Chairman Travis Smith welcomed the group to the meeting, indicating that busy people get things done!

Additions to the agenda include approval of an RCPP proposal, a DRAFT Memorandum of Understanding, and a reduction of the grant application with Wetland Dynamics.

Minutes for February 23, 2017, with the correction of the last sentence of the paragraph on the first page to include the words "getting the identified folks together for a meeting." Karla Shriver made the motion; Kevin Terry seconded the motion to approve the minutes with the correction; motion passed unanimously.

Zeke Ward provided his written report with the following additions:

- He presented information about RWEACT to the Lt Governor at a visit to Creede.
- He presented information on the Doppler Radar program to the All-Hazards committee.
- Regarding the Wood Source Fuels grant application, no awards will be made until a new Secretary is named.
- Zeke contacted Brenda Felmlee's office with the Doppler project as a shovel-ready project.

Brief discussion about the Doppler project and next steps, including an April 17<sup>th</sup> All-County meeting agenda item. We can provide a one-page update for the packet.

Chairman Smith encouraged the group to provide changes to the Financial Procedures and Protocol to Borchers.

Discussion about the second meeting for the Strategic Vision and Chairman Smith asked members to consider dates when Sheryl Trent is available.

Zeke Ward provided a stewardship update. Heather Dutton spoke about a meeting attended in La Jara about a recent RCPP grant award with watershed stakeholders in New Mexico communities. NRCS funding is typically only used on private lands, or for permittees. This concept of private ownership onto public lands opens an opportunity for an application that includes the three Ranger Districts, and the entire valley that improves stewardship and restoration. Additional discussions occurred with the Divide Ranger District staff, and peripheral conversations with the Saguache and Conejos Peak. This application will include a targeted approach. This funding is available through the 2014 Farm Bill. Pre-proposals are due April 21<sup>st</sup>. If awarded, the timeline is five years from time of contract. Dan Dallas indicated that the studies commissioned by Jim Webb showed the opportunities for increased right-of-way paths for firebreaks. Martha Williamson took that information and made it into an actionable project.

Next steps for the proposal for RCPP: Natural Resource meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>, work with existing multi-disciplinary team, including the State Forest Service, the USDA Forest Service (District Rangers meet on April 19<sup>th</sup>), and NRCS (Ron Riegenbach). No overhead can be charged against this grant (we would need to leverage those additional funds through alternative sources). The leveraged match can be under the Good Neighbors program. Dan Dallas reminded group to tie to the original reserves purpose; the current use of the

Good Neighbor Authority; leveraged use of existing studies (Woody Biomass Utilization and Buck & Fell Study); and our existing partners.

Commissioner Allen made the motion; Commissioner Weber seconded moving forward with a proposal under the RCPP application as described. Motion passed unanimously.

District Ranger Martha Williamson provided a draft MOU with RWEACT. This is an appropriate next step in our partnership. Discussion about leveraging capacity building in EIAF #8056 for RCPP. This MOU will be between the Rio Grande National Forest and RWEACT.

Zeke Ward provided an update on the Wetland Dynamics grant. Partial award of \$30,000 may be allowed. Confirmation that the archaeology line item for \$2,000 was removed. Several other items can be eliminated from the budget. CCI SLV is asking for a revised budget with a revised Scope of Work. Zeke Ward said that there was concern about the 15% administrative request and that it should be similar to 5 to 10%. Zeke Ward indicated that he isn't charging for his time to work on the Wetland Dynamics workshop. Board discussion about keeping our administrative fee at 10% for \$3,000 and it is up to Wetland Dynamics to revise the budget and the Scope.

Zeke Ward provided information from the Colorado School of Mines and Ashley Rust in their efforts to seek a grant from CDPHE for the Watershed Management Plan, specifically the Water and Power Fund. This is the same pot of funding covering the \$33,000 for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment. Zeke Ward estimates 40 hours of time involved towards this project. Additional match includes RWEACT's instrumentation project, including probes being used to model sediment above and below the Rio Grande Reservoir. Working with Steve Belz, Zeke Ward estimates the in-kind match valued as \$10,000. Heather Dutton encouraged adding language to the letter about the history of RWEACT with the Water Quality Studies and previous investments. Board provided direction to Zeke Ward to further develop the language. Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the in-kind contribution towards this project: Heather Dutton seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Borchers distributed the Financial Snapshot for March 31, 2017. Discussion about remaining funds and proposed Task Order #9, including financial support of the Doppler project.

Emma Reesor provided an update on the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment project. SGM expects a draft report by the end of April.

Chairman Smith provided information on the Flood Plain and Insurance meetings held last week in Monte Vista and South Fork.

Next meeting date: April 28, 2017, which will include Strategic Planning at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristine Borchers  
3/30/2017

## RCPP Narrative Elements for Pre-proposal (4000 character limit per item)

Project Name:

Funding Pool:

State:

**Please review the Pillar and Criteria descriptions in the 2018 APF, and make sure your pre-proposal adequately addresses each pillar in sufficient detail.**

### Preliminary Questions

1. Has this project application (or an application with the same project scope, purpose, or target geographic project area) been submitted to RCPP in previous years?

- If “NO”, skip to question 2.
- IF “YES”, move to question 1.a.

1.a. What was the previous project name(s), and who was/were the Lead Partner(s) who submitted the application(s)? Briefly describe the scope, purpose, and targeted geographic project area of the similar, previously-submitted application. Use the space below if you answered Yes to question 1.



1.b. If this application has been previously submitted to RCPP, was it *withdrawn* prior to project review and final selection?

- If “NO”, skip to question 1.c.
- IF “YES”, move to question 2.

1.c. If this application has been previously submitted to RCPP, was it selected for funding?

- If “NO”, skip to question 2.
- IF “YES”, move to question 1.d.

1.d. If this application was previously selected for funding, did it move forward and become an **existing** project (versus being *selected*, and subsequently *cancelled* prior to agreement finalization)?

1.e. If the application was selected for funding, why are you returning with a proposal? Provide reasons for resubmitted applications. Use the space below if you answered Yes to question 1.c.

1.f. If this application covers an area that currently has or has had a funded RCPP project(s), explain how this project differs from the previous or current project(s). Relate the differences to the four pillars: Solutions, Innovation, Contribution, and Participation. Use the space below for question 1.f.

1.g. Use the space below to detail how the key partners are performing in moving the project forward. Address the following questions:

- Were partner contribution goals met?
- Were project deliverables in the agreement met?
- Was Financial Assistance (FA) fully expended?
- Was partner Technical Assistance (TA) fully utilized if applicable?
- What challenges have arisen since the beginning of the project, and how have partners addressed those challenges?

1.h. Is this project solely for research to address a natural resource concern?

2. Briefly describe your RCPP team. Include a description of each partner's expertise and experience implementing similar projects. If partners are providing cash and/or in-kind services, "Letters of Financial Contribution" will be required in the Full-proposal application phase. Use the space below for question 2.

3. Specify the geographic focus of the project area. Provide background for why and how the project area was selected. (Note that the project area does not need to be contiguous, but all areas should have a common primary resource concern that the project addresses.) In the description, discuss any areas that will be specifically targeted within the project area and explain why those areas are to be prioritized. Is the proposed project an expansion of existing work and/or a funded RCPP project? Use the space below for question 3.

4. Describe the natural resource concern(s) of the project area. Include how the resource concerns were identified through watershed plans, scientific literature, etc. See the listing of priority resource concerns in Section II.B. A complete list of NRCS approved natural resource concerns may be found on the RCPP Web site at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill/rcpp/> Use the space below for question 4.

5. Project Scope: Describe the role of each partner during the project preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases. Identify the NRCS conservation programs to be used (EQIP, CStP, ACEP, etc) and conservation systems selected to address the resource concern(s) in the geographical focal area (conservation practices, activities, enhancements, restoration work, easement acquisition, and other partner approaches). Provide a brief description of the sequence of practice implementation or timeline. Use the space below for question 5.



6. Describe any activities that have already taken place that support the proposed project. Characterize the existing infrastructure and capacity of partner(s) that provide a solid foundation from management of the proposed project. Consider future partnership resource needs and describe any other steps that are needed to ensure project success, such as hiring, coordination, outreach, training, etc. Use the space below for question 6.

7. Detail how project outcomes will be evaluated. This may include monitoring, modeling, measurements, and/or photo points, etc. Specify how the partners will collect data and report progress that demonstrates project objectives have been met or exceeded. If requesting **PL-566 watershed authority**, describe who will complete the watershed plan-environmental assessment and provide the timeline for completing the planning-EA process. Use the space below for question 7.

8. If applicable, indicate how the project will “assist producers in meeting or avoiding the need for natural resource regulatory requirements.” Section 1271B (d) (4)(A) of the 1985 Act. Use the space below for question 8.

**Reminder: The Pillar and Criteria descriptions offer insight into how proposal scoring takes place during the review phase.**

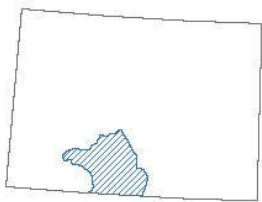
9. Use this space to provide additional information about the project that has not been requested. Only include information and/or examples that will provide a greater understanding of your proposal.

### Additional information

10. Partners are strongly encouraged to work with NRCS to fully understand program purpose and limitations. If **Adjustment of Terms** are needed in order to achieve project objectives, please describe here. Refer to Appendix A in the APF for Definitions. Use the space below for question 10.

11. Does the applicant plan to request **Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA)**? If the project requires AFA, please describe how it will meet the goals and objectives of RCPP. Refer to Section III, Part C. for AFA eligibility and requirements and Appendix A in the APF for Definitions. Use the space below for question 11.

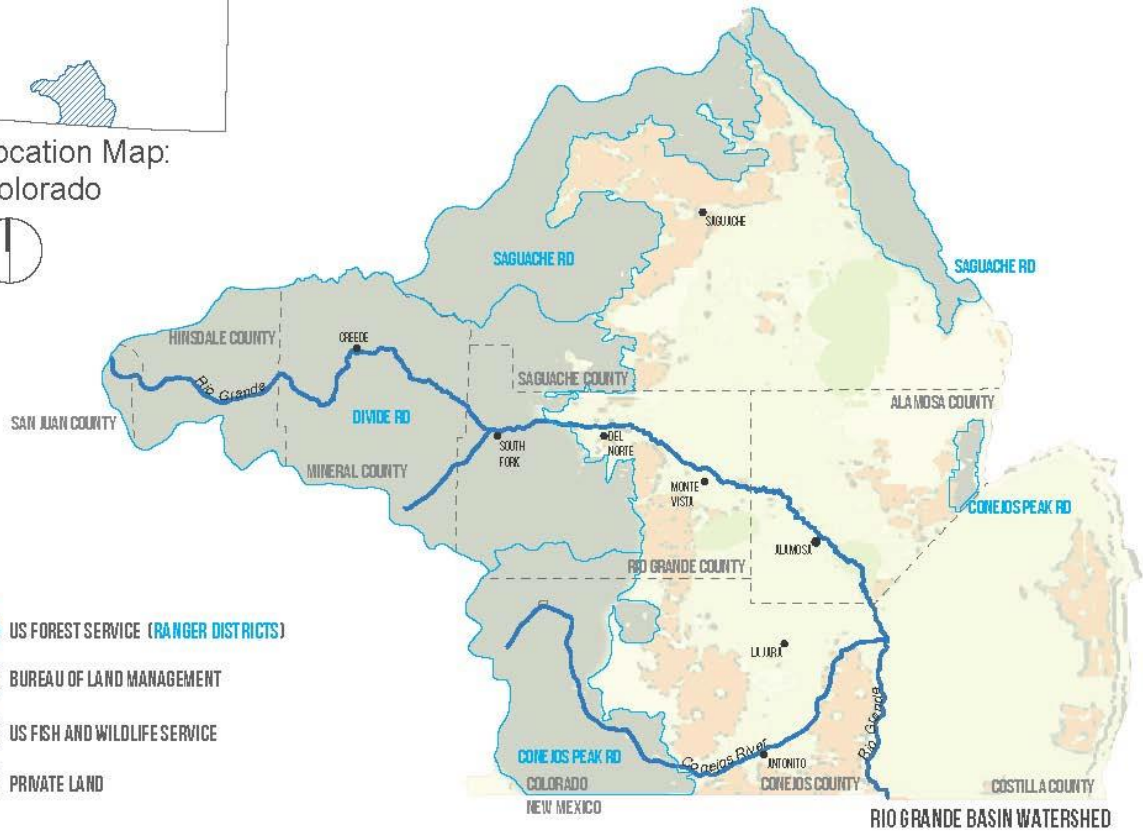
Upper Rio Grande Watershed Protection Project  
Project Area



Location Map:  
Colorado



- KEY
- US FOREST SERVICE (RANGER DISTRICTS)
  - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
  - US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
  - PRIVATE LAND





## Memorandum of Understanding Agreement

Wetland Dynamics, LLC (WDLCC) 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, account, and retain control of all funds intended for use on behalf of Wetland Dynamics, LLC (WDLCC). RWEACT has Fiscal Policies and Procedures in place and is responsible for all legal compliance relating to receiving, reporting, and acknowledging charitable donations.
- 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 WDLCC for the express purposes outlined in the grant.
- f. WDLCC 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 WDLCC shall be as a Fiscal Agent only.
- h. Wetland Dynamics LLC will provide a copy of general liability insurance to RWEACT.
- i. WDLCC is prohibited from carrying on any activities or using funds in any way that jeopardizes RWEACT's tax-exempt status.

### 4. Fee for Service:

RWEACT shall assess Wetland Dynamics, LLC a flat fee of \$3,000.00 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 April 4, 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 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 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.

## Rio Grande Reservoir Water Quality Monitoring 2017

Colorado School of Mines, Hogue Research Group propose to monitor water quality as it enters the Rio Grande Reservoir and below the reservoir at Thirty Mile. The RWEACT Hydrolab MS-5 multi-probes monitor pH, temperature, specific conductivity, total dissolved solids, and turbidity. Additional total suspended solids samples can be taken on site and analyzed in the lab if necessary. We can also do field measures of nitrate, nitrite, and orthophosphate if that is of interest. This proposal will cover the costs of deploying, maintaining and collecting data from the probes. Costs for additional samples (TSS and nutrients) would be minimal since we would already be on-site.

### Equipment:

Deploying & setting up the probes in the field	\$500
Calibration fluids & batteries to power the probe	\$500
Maintenance of a probe if something goes wrong and needs to be fixed	<u>\$1000</u>
<b>Total Equipment Costs Not to Exceed</b>	<b>\$2000</b>

### Labor:

One trip to set-up the probes by mid-May. Check on the probes 1-2 times per month to calibrate and check data through October 1. A total of 9 to 10 trips to check on the probes will be necessary from mid-May to October 1.

Costs for a single trip:

2 days, 2 people at \$100/person/day	<u>\$400 per trip</u>
<b>Total Labor Cost for up to 10 trips</b>	<b>\$4000</b>

**Total cost of water quality monitoring above and below Rio Grande Reservoir not to exceed \$6000.**

Hogue Research Group

Dr. Terri Hogue, Jackie Randell (Field Technician), & Ashley Rust

Contact: [arust@mymail.mines.edu](mailto:arust@mymail.mines.edu), (720) 273-4554 Ashley's cell

**Colorado State Forest Service**  
**SFA WUI Pre-Proposal Process for FY 2018**  
**April 2017**

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) is seeking pre-proposals for projects eligible for the FY 2018 Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program (aka State Fire Assistance WUI Grant). This document provides the background information and templates needed to have a project considered by the CSFS for submission to the SFA WUI Grant program.

**Background Information**

Federal funds to mitigate risk from wildland fire within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) are awarded through a competitive process, with emphasis on hazard fuel reduction in the WUI as well as information and education, assessment and planning, and monitoring through community and landowner action. Colorado competes in the Western Region that includes 17 western states and five Pacific island territories. Funding is delivered through and managed by the CSFS. Payments are made on a reimbursement basis (after work is successfully completed and paid for by recipient).

Proposals should address issues identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), broad goals within Colorado's Forest Action Plan (FAP), and the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The FAP identifies overall goals and the most critical issues with respect to the state's forests across all ownerships, and lists strategies for addressing these issues within Priority Landscape Areas.

**Process**

**This announcement is to solicit pre-proposals from which projects will be selected for full proposal development.** CSFS will submit up to 10 proposals for competition. CSFS and a contracted grant-writer will work with the selected pre-proposal applicants to develop complete grant proposals for the western competition. Grant applications will be finalized by August 25, 2017.

**Timeline**

Date	Task
April 7	Internal CSFS conference call re: pre-proposal process and instructions
May 8	Pre-proposals due to CSFS Program Manager (submitted through CSFS Districts)
May 19	CSFS Program Manager notify applicants of successful pre-proposals
May 25	Internal CSFS conference call to discuss full application process
June 2	Budgets finalized
June 2 – Aug 24	Applicants work with contract grant-writer to refine applications
August 25	Applications finalized and submitted to CSFS Program Manager (submitted through CSFS Districts)

**Eligible Applicants**

CSFS is accepting pre-proposals from CSFS district offices and cooperators. Cooperators must work closely with the CSFS district office as all applications have to be submitted through the local CSFS district office. Find District contact information [here](#).

**Project Purpose**

Only SFA WUI projects that fall into the following categories will be considered:

- Reduce hazardous fuels / restore fire-adapted ecosystems in the WUI.
- Improve prevention/education in the WUI.
- Planning (ex. creation of CWPPs).

Collaboration among multiple entities on the project is important and encouraged. See FY 2017 instructions [here](#). Note that FY 2018 materials have not yet been released.

**Funding Request Amount:**

Cooperators may request funds up to \$245,000 for projects. CSFS will include indirect and other associated administrative costs as all funding comes to the CSFS as a sub-grant. CSFS is responsible for providing the match for CSFS administrative costs. The state is eligible to apply for \$300,000 per grant and wishes to submit robust applications; projects that request the maximum funding available (\$245,000) will be more competitive.

**Project Time Frame:**

One to three years.

**Eligible Lands:**

While project work can occur on all lands, grant funds can only be used for activities on non-federal lands. Project coordination with the USFS and other public land management agencies is encouraged when federal lands are within the vicinity of the project area.

**Ineligible Activities (not all inclusive)**

Maintenance of previous federally funded projects  
Preparedness and suppression capacity building (ex. equipment)  
Small business start-up  
Research and development projects  
GIS/database development  
Equipment purchases

**Pre-Proposal Guidance:**

Successful pre-proposals start with well-planned project ideas. Pre-proposals that clearly address a pressing need or issue in a high-priority landscape using efficient, timely and cost-effective methods are most likely to be selected for full proposal development. Projects that leverage resources through partnerships and are designed to be sustainable will improve competitiveness among regional applicants. Projects that build on prior work (planning or on-the-ground) and feed into future work are highly attractive. **Pre-proposals should be for specific projects not merely concepts.** Projects ready or near ready to implement will compete better.

**Instructions for Pre-Proposal Narrative Form and Budget Template**

Applicants must complete a Pre-Proposal Narrative Form and Budget Template and provide a PDF map in order for their project to be considered. The Narrative Form and Budget Template are modeled on the FY 2017 application materials. The FY 2018 materials have not yet been published. Applicants can expect slight changes for FY 2018. See FY 2017 instructions [here](#). There are strict character limits on the final online application forms, but pre-proposals will not be required to fit into these character limits.

For an example of previously submitted proposals, see Colorado's highest scored application from FY 2017 (CO-Aspen Park) as well as the highest scored application for the Western Region (WA-SE-West Blues) - both attached. To see all FY 2017 applications, click [here](#).

**Pre-Proposal Narrative Categories:**

Please provide a narrative on the Pre-Proposal Narrative Form, below, for the following categories:

- Box 1 – CSFS District contact and cooperator contact information
- Box 2 - Project title and names of affected communities, counties and Congressional Districts
- Box 3 – Budget Grid – no narrative, to be completed on attached Excel Budget Template
- Box 4 - Budget Narrative
- Box 5 - Project Area Description and Challenges
- Box 6 - Relation to Forest Action Plan | CWPP
- Box 7 – Proposed Activities
- Box 8 - Landscape
- Box 9 - Project Collaboration
- Box 10 - Project Timeline
- Box 11 - Project Sustainability

The box numbers directly tie to the SFA WUI grant application and instructions. Please refer to these instructions when providing information for each box.

**Include a map of the project area in PDF format.** Please note maps are not included with the final application.

## **SFA-WUI FY 2018 Pre-Proposal Narrative Form**

Please complete the sections titled Box 1 through 11. These boxes correlate to the sections in the final proposal template.

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**Box 1:**

**CSFS District Contact Information (name, title, email, phone, address):**

**Cooperator Contact Information (name, title, email, phone, address):**

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**Box 2:**

**Project title:**

**Names of affected communities (towns and or names of subdivisions):**

**Counties:**

**Congressional Districts:**

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**Box 3 – Budget Template**

Do not provide any narrative for this section. Complete the attached Excel Budget Template. The total cash requested must be no more than \$245,000.

Provide detail for all expenses such as personnel/labor/fringe, travel, equipment rental, supplies, funds for hiring contractor (listed as contractual), etc.

Match – SFA WUI grants require a minimum of 1:1 match. Match shown on the budget cannot come from a federal source and needs to be for work dedicated to the project. Cash match is defined as actual dollars spent on the project (non-federal only). In-kind match is defined as services dedicated to specific project activities valued at the current volunteer rate. Both types of match should be reflected on the Budget Grid. The *CSFS Guidance for Allowable/Unallowable Costs for Reimbursement and Match* document provides more guidance on what is allowed as match.



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**Box 4 - Budget Narrative** - Provide specific details for the **expenses** included in the Excel Budget Template. Do not describe matching funds. These will be described in Box 9. Be specific about each cost and which partner will incur each expense.

**Example:**

Personnel/labor/fringe: Fire protection district crew wages (salary and fringe) - \$50,000

Supplies: flagging, tree paint, publications, printing, mailing, signs - \$10,000

Travel: Project manager to meet with landowners and partners, conduct meetings - \$800

Contractual: Grant funds will be passed through and used by landowners and communities to hire contractors, equipment rental such as chippers, do the work themselves - \$150,000

**PLEASE KEEP ANSWERS FOR BOXES 5 – 11 TO ONE PAGE ONLY**

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**Box 5 - Project Area Description and Challenges** - Give an overview of the project, describe the hazards, describe why the project area was chosen (why it is different, unique, important), and clearly show the need for work in this area. If applying for a fuels reduction project, describe the vegetation types. It is important to define the problems and challenges so when you get to Box 7 you are clearly stating how the funding will be used to address the challenges. Describe the project benefits to land and people – direct and indirect.

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**Box 6 - Relation to Forest Action Plan | CWPP** - Clearly describe how the project fits into the specific goals of the FAP; the national goals of Enhancing, Protecting and or Conserving; and specific CWPP goals and objectives. It is important to describe how the project meets the goals of these planning documents. Do not provide page number references; describe how the project relates to both documents. [See FAP here](#).

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**Box 7 – Proposed Activities** - Clearly explain exactly how the grant dollars will be spent on this project and outline what will be accomplished. Use measurable units where applicable. Specify the location of the project, how many communities, the names of the communities, total acreage, and identify how many people will be directly and indirectly impacted. Describe treatment methodology, vegetation type, and who will be doing the project work.

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**Box 8: Landscape** - Describe the landscape this project influences. Show how the project has or will have impact outside the immediate project area. For example, a project in a community may compliment a USFS project to create a fuel break around your community defensible space project. Give specifics on how this project will tie into the larger picture of community protection or education. For information/education and/or planning projects, explain how your project compliments or enhances those by other agencies or groups and/or ties into a greater goal. Explain the who, what, when, where, why and how of its anticipated impacts. Note, be specific when naming USFS, private, or other related projects. Include information on the broader acreage, number of communities, or other CWPPs that this project will connect with. Think global (watershed) not local (subdivision).

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**Box 9 - Project Collaboration** - Describe the contributions each partner will make to the project by stating the collaborating partners name and what the specific activities they will be contributing to the project such as labor, equipment, matching funds, etc. This should include the partners listed in Box 3/Budget Template (matching share). The partner list needs to state what they are contributing – the specific activity AND the dollar values of the activity. All items listed as match in this section MUST equal the match listed in the budget grid (Box 3/attached Budget Template).

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**Box 10 - Project Timeline** – Provide a concise timeline for the significant activities, broken down by year, included in *the Proposed Activities* section including: begin/end dates, milestones, annual accomplishments, deliverables (e.g. number of homes with defensible space completed per year, number of community meetings held with # of attendees at each), and who is responsible for each activity.

**EXAMPLE:**

*YEAR 1 (2017-18)*

- Finalize paperwork and project details months 1-2*
- Project layout completed - months 2-3*
- Coordinate 2 meetings between cooperators- months 3-4*
- Monitoring (pre-treatment)- months 3-8*
- Contracting- competitive bid process, hire contractor(s), collect damage deposit- months 5-6*
- Begin project implementation by contractor(s) (weather dependent)-months 6-8*
- Project implementation (weather dependent)-months 8-12*
- Interim reporting-months 11-2*
- Seasonal Target: 30 acres completed*

*YEAR 2 (2018-19)*

- Project implementation -months 1-12*
- Interim reporting months 11-12*
- Seasonal Target: 120 acres completed*

*YEAR 3 (2019-20)*

- Final paperwork processing months 1-2*
- Monitoring (post-treatment)- months 1-2*
- Final report submittal months 2-6*
- Goal: Process & submit final paperwork*

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**Box 11 - Project Sustainability** - Clearly describe the who, what, when, where and why of how this project will remain effective and be sustained over time for each of the four elements below. When answering, be concise and provide only relevant details.

**1 - Environmental Factors (vegetation regrowth):** describe the maintenance requirements unique to this project based on site characteristics i.e., present and future vegetation occupying the site, growth rates, natural fire return intervals or any other environmental factor that affects the continued maintenance of this project

**2 - Education (programs and methods):** describe how landowners have been trained and educated to **maintain the project** and explain their understanding of the needs and expectations for the project's maintenance. If this is an information/education project, make sure to explain how it will be delivered, the audience you are targeting, and specific deliverables.

**3 - Commitment:** describe the commitment by the individual/community to maintain this project into the future, i.e. state laws, CWPP maintenance, signed landowner agreements or other documents or agreements that hold the sub-grantee accountable for project maintenance over time. If this is an information/education project, make sure you explain the commitment to carry this program forward and update as necessary.

**4 - Monitoring:** describe who will be responsible for monitoring the project, what qualifications they have if they are not obvious (i.e. State Forestry personnel, Fire Safe Council member, Fire Department personnel, etc.), and at what intervals they will be checking (i.e. yearly, quarterly, etc.); clearly describe timelines, and milestones.



## Guidance For Allowable/Unallowable Costs For Reimbursement and Match

### Costs/Match Must Support Activities Listed in the Scope of Work

Category	Description
Actual Cost	Out of pocket expenses <b>must provide paid receipts</b> (ex. Contracted services)
Recipient Labor	Valued at volunteer labor rate (at time work occurred) and must be documented using the CSFS In-Kind Documentation Form. If the award recipient passes funds to individual landowners the landowner's labor is reimbursable and valued at the volunteer labor rate. Payment will be made to original award recipient.
Salaried Staff	Labor of Recipient's Employees to be valued at actual Salary amount and must be documented
Supplies (recipient)	Out of pocket expense <b>(with receipts)</b> or valued at fair market value if donated by recipient (ex. bar oil, two cycle fuel)
Rented equipment, etc.	Rental equipment <b>with receipts</b> or use of recipient-owned equipment to be valued at current market rental rate
Meeting room rental / printing	Meeting room rental with receipts, meeting room provided by recipient to be valued at current market price
Non-recipient Labor (Match Only)	Valued at volunteer labor rate (at time work occurred) and must be documented using the CSFS In-Kind Documentation Form, does <b>not</b> qualify for reimbursement
Non-recipient Cost (Match Only)	Equipment or Supplies donated by non-recipient, does <b>not</b> qualify for reimbursement

### Unallowable Costs on Federal Grant Awards:

All costs applied to Federal Grant Awards should pass the test of being reasonable, allowable, allocable, and consistently treated. **Items that are not allowed for reimbursement, are likewise not allowed to be used as match and should not be included on Form 3.**

#### Examples of Unallowable Costs for Reimbursement and Match:

Repairs or other parts for equipment (ex. Chains, sparkplugs)  
Tires for equipment  
Food Costs  
Decorations  
Alcoholic beverages  
Fund raising and investment costs  
Office Supplies

Maintenance for equipment (ex. Oil changes, tire rotations)  
Equipment purchases (ex. Chainsaws, tools, pruning shears)  
Postage  
Selling and Marketing Costs  
Telephone Charges  
Computers or other technological devices  
Landowner Mileage to and from work site  
Landowner Travel time to and from work site

**Budget & Timeline Table**

Task	Description	Target Start Date	Target Completion Date	CWCB Funds	Other Funding Cash*	Other Funding In-Kind*
1 -- TO6E	Hill 71	4/1/2017	7/31/2018	\$42,400		
2 --TO6E	Executive Director RWEACT position	4/1/2017	7/31/2018	\$88,000.00		
3 -- TO6E	Administrative Assistant RWEACT position	4/1/2017	7/31/2018	\$75,000.00		
4 -- TO6E	Natural Resource Committee partnership	4/1/2017	7/31/2017	\$8,800.00		
5 -- TO6E	Hydrologist program	4/1/2017	7/31/2018	\$50,000.00		
6 -- TO6E	Emergency Management partnership	4/1/2017	7/31/2018	\$36,000.00		
				\$300,200.00		
	5% administrative fee			\$15,010.00		
	<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>\$315,400.00</b>		

This table is a guide. Variations may be submitted. For example, if a task includes purchase of materials, a column that identifies cost per unit should be included.

\*Please include new columns for different sources of cash and/or in-kind funding sources. Identify the funding source.



**Scope of Work, Task Order #6 EXTENSION**

TODAY'S DATE: March 23, 2017

GRANTEE and FISCAL AGENT (if different)  
Grantee and Fiscal Agent; Hinsdale County, Colorado

PRIMARY CONTACT  
Zeke Ward, RWEACT Executive Director  
zeke@rweact.org  
719-480-1813

ADDRESS  
Hinsdale County, PO Box 277, Lake City, CO 81235

PHONE  
970-944-2225, Administrator Deanna Cooper  
970-596-9071, Grant Writer Kristine Borchers

PROJECT NAME: RWEACT Task Order #6 EXTENSION

THIS REQUEST EXTENDS DEADLINE FROM MARCH 31, 2017, TO CORRELATE WITH EXPIRATION OF THE GOVERNOR'S ORDER JULY 31, 2018

BALANCE REMAINING IN TASK ORDER 6 (CURRENT): \$ 315,400.00

EXTENSION Amount includes the Balance of \$300,200.00 and 5% fiscal agent administration

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND  
Provide a brief description of the project. (Please limit to half a page)

On June 5, 2013, lightning started the West Fork Fire in the San Juan National Forest in Mineral County. By June 21, 2013, the West Fork Complex fire had grown to over 29,000 acres. By July 23, 2013, the West Fork Complex fire had grown to 109,615 and at that time was 66% contained. The West Fork Complex Fire was declared 100% contained on December 31, 2013. The large amount of beetle-kill trees along with hot, dry weather and high winds in July and August contributed to extreme fire behavior during this catastrophic event.

The West Fork Complex fire severely damaged critical watershed and forest soils, resulting in threats to water supplies and increasing the likelihood of severe flooding. Rainfall runoff in



wildfire burn areas is significantly increased from pre-fire conditions due to loss of vegetation and changed soil characteristics. As a result, lands within and downstream of burned areas will experience an increased threat of flooding and debris flow for several years after a significant fire event. Until burned watersheds recover, effective flood damage reduction tools include local preparedness and awareness, flood insurance policies, and preventative actions for mitigating post-fire threats.

Formed during and in response to the West Fork Complex fire, RWEACT (Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team) is comprised of more than 70 partners including Hinsdale, Rio Grande and Mineral counties, the Rio Grande National Forest, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board to address effects of the West Fork Complex fire in south central Colorado. This effective, coordinated approach provides immediate actions for fire-caused hazards intended to protect human life, property, and the natural health of the Rio Grande watershed and its environment. RWEACT operates six standing committees – Core leadership, communications, economic recovery, hydrological, natural resources, and emergency management.

Task Order #1 established RWEACT structure, protocol and procedures; developed and implemented a Communications Plan, identified economic recovery actions; installed monitoring instrumentation and created early-warning plans; and provided additional field condition studies.

Task Order #2 established the Little Squaw Creek Restoration/Protection Project within the Little Squaw Treatment site.

Task Order #3 served to procure additional stream instrumentation, cost share in the installation of a debris boom, trash rack and the dredging of sediment deposited as a result of the burn scar, purchase and install a 300-watt National Weather radio system as a permanent public warning of significant storm events in the Upper Rio Grande and purchase of native seed to use with the Hydro-Mulch project planned along FS Road 520.

Task Order #4 reauthorized funding needed to continue the administration of the RWEACT structure, function and activities that were outlined in the original Scope of Work and Task Order #1 and as RWEACT moves from the “Emergent” phase into the more “long-term, strategic planning” phase for the positions of Executive Director and Assistant for RWEACT. In addition, Task Order #4 provided cost-share re-numeration to the Rio Grande Restoration Foundation for the services provided to RWEACT by the Foundation through Executive Director Heather Dutton’s time and specific expenses allocated to the Natural Resources Committee effort for RWEACT. Task Order #4 also allocated funding for the continued installation, monitoring and maintenance of rain/stream gauges and water quality monitoring devices.

Task Order #5 installed temporary Doppler radar, mapped Wildfire Flood Risk Potential, continued Communications support, and continued support from Rio Grande Restoration Foundation.

Task Order #6 developed the Upper Rio Grande VHF Communications Project and reauthorized funding needed to continue the administration of the RWEACT structure, function and activities that were outlined in the original Scope of Work and Task Order #1 for the positions of Executive Director and Assistant for RWEACT. In addition, Task Order #6 provides cost-share funds to the Rio Grande Restoration Foundation for the services provided to RWEACT by the Foundation time and specific expenses allocated to the Natural Resources Committee effort for RWEACT. Task Order #6 also allocates funding for the continued installation, monitoring and maintenance of rain/stream gauges and water quality monitoring devices.

Task Order #7 provided temporary Doppler radar installation on Lobo Overlook for the 2015 fall season and data subscription for the rain / stream gauges.

Task Order #8 provides funding for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment project, associated GIS funding, instruments in the Alpine Gulch area, communications support, and emergency communication and training needs as identified by the Emergency Managers committee.

## OBJECTIVES

The original objectives of Task Order #6 included development of the Upper Rio Grande VHF Communications Project and reauthorize funding needed to continue the administration of the RWEACT structure, function and activities that were outlined in the original Scope of Work and Task Order #1 and Task Order #4 for the positions of Executive Director and Assistant for RWEACT. In addition, Task Order #6 provides on-going cost-share funds to the Rio Grande Restoration Foundation for the services provided to RWEACT by the Foundation through time and specific expenses and projects identified by the Natural Resources Committee effort for RWEACT, as approved by the Board of Directors. Task Order #6 allocates funding for the continued work of the Emergency Managers projects and endeavors, as approved by the Committee and Board of Directors. Task Order #6 also allocates funding for the continued installation, monitoring and maintenance of rain/stream gauges and water quality monitoring devices.

**This extension is requested due to savings within line items, evolving priorities, and a request of timelines to correlate with the Governor's Order expiration.**

## Tasks for Task Order #6 EXTENSION

### Task 6:1EXT Hill 71 Communications Project

#### Description of Task

RWEACT will work closely with the Hill 71 work group of the Emergency Managers, Hinsdale County Board of County Commissioners, Hinsdale County Sheriff's Office, and other communication experts to identify and immediately implement Hill 71 requirements. This is the primary communication site for Hinsdale County and its continued failure is catastrophic on emergency communications. This project is the top priority for Hinsdale County and regional communication needs.

#### Deliverable:

Task 6:1EXT will review options, install and implement recommendations for Hill 71 continued operation.

### Task 6:2EXT Executive Director Position

#### Description of Task

In addition to the Tasks outlined in previous Task Orders #1 and #4, the Executive Director position will serve to:

- continue to support and facilitate all Tasks outlined in Task Order #1 and Task Order #4;
- provide the leadership for and attendance at all CORE Team committees and meetings as well as full RWEACT meetings, and for communications, interactions, functions and operational decisions related to RWEACT;
- serve as the public point of contact and the face of RWEACT to all agencies, organizations, media and the public;
- provide the day to day operational decision making necessary for the functions of RWEACT;
- coordinate and facilitate the procurement of all goods, services and projects for RWEACT;
- serve to further develop the relationships with the CWCB, Forest Service, RGNF level, Boards of County Commissioners, local government, State agencies, State legislators and congressional representatives and NGOs on matters related to RWEACT as well as the long-term forest management and watershed protection efforts both post fire and in a pro-active planning capacity representing the broad-base constituency that has been established by RWEACT;
- serve as the primary point of contact for RWEACT with the fiscal agents of RWEACT, Hinsdale County and Rio Grande County and in the continued development of those relationships and implementation of fiscal process;

- serve as the primary point of contact with the CWCB staff responsible for the funding administration afforded to RWEACT by the Governor's Executive Order and to further continue the development of the relationship and formal processes involved in this function;
- continue to provide the long-term vision for RWEACT activities related to forest health, watershed protection, public safety and awareness related to the post-fire impacts created by the West Fork Complex fire;
- serve as the lead for RWEACT in development of a Forest Health Watershed Protection Collaborative with the USDA Forest Service;
- continue to provide the direct interface with the Leadership body of RWEACT and to provide the leadership vision to the RWEACT CORE in carrying out the mission of RWEACT;
- provide monthly reports to the Board of Directors;
- and implement projects that are first approved by the Board of Directors.

**Deliverable:**

Task 6:2EXT will provide a fully functioning Executive Director and leadership role for RWEACT which will enable a fully functioning, effective and efficient working entity representing the multi-jurisdictional agency, organization and public stakeholder body known as RWEACT.

**Task 6:3EXT – Administrative Assistant position**

**Description of Task**

In addition to the Tasks outlined in previous Task Order #1 and Task Order #4, the Administrative Assistant position will serve to:

- continue to support the Executive Director and support and facilitate all Tasks outlined in previous Task Orders;
- serve as database manager and records-keeper for RWEACT;
- provide logistical and administrative support at direction of Executive Director and as the Assistant to the Board;
- serve as lead Public Information Officer for RWEACT by facilitating written and electronic communication both internally and externally;
- serve as Project Lead for Communication Committee to facilitate collaborative partnership and leveraged communication outreach;
- draft, develop and continue to monitor Communication Plan for RWEACT for key messages and relevant, successful communication;
- draft, develop and facilitate publication / distribution of RWEACT communication products (website, newsletter, facebook, rack cards, etc; initial products identified in Task Order #1 and additional products developed by the Communication Committee as appropriate in budget and within approved, subsequent Task Orders);

- provide assistance to Committee Leads both administratively at direction of Executive Director and for public information and implementation of projects per Committee and at the direction of the Board of Directors;
- provide assistance and liaison between RWEACT and the fiscal agents of Hinsdale County and Rio Grande County to ensure timely payment of approved invoices, reporting, reimbursement requests, and subcontracting including participating in audits;
- implement Capacity Building efforts related to requirements from CWCB;
- coordinate logistics for Board of Directors including agendas, board packets, preparation and follow-up of monthly board meetings; and
- additional tasks and projects identified by the Executive Director and the Board of Directors.

#### Deliverable

Task 6:3EXT will result in Administrative Support for the Executive Director, the Board of Directors, and Committees of RWEACT, and effective distribution of public information both internally and externally.

#### Task 6:4EXT— Natural Resources Committee Projects

##### Description of Task

The Natural Resource Committee is led by the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation executive director. This committee includes representatives from the United States Forest Service (USFS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Trout Unlimited (TU), Willow Creek Reclamation Committee (WCRC), Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), and the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation (CRGRF); and additional appropriate partners. Committee chair will:

- Participate in RWEACT meetings and planning discussions;
- Solicit input from the Natural Resources Committee and RWEACT to identify and vet appropriate projects;
- Assist with implementation of the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment;
- Assist with all previous and on-going projects of the Natural Resources Committee;
- Serve as liaison between NRCS and RWEACT;
- Meet with landowners and stakeholders to evaluate potential hazards and develop mitigation measures;
- Coordinate with Colorado School of Mines (CSM) in development and implementation of water quality monitoring plan and work with Colorado Division of Water Resources and CSM to carry out implementation of the Water Quality Study;
- Work to develop hard-bottom boat ramp design to reduce siltation in the Rio Grande River;
- Continue monitoring soil stabilization and revegetation test plots over the long term;
- Work with the Communications Team to share pictures and information about projects with the public in conjunction with the RWEACT Communications Plan.



- In conjunction with the Board of Directors, the Natural Resources Committee will work towards Stewardship Agreement activities and capacity building development;
- the Natural Resources Committee will evaluate projects identified in the final Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment work and work closely with RWEACT staff and the Board of Directors to design Task Order #9 to meet high-priority watershed restoration needs; and
- additional projects assigned by the Board of Directors.

#### Deliverable

Task 6:4EXT results in a functioning Natural Resources Committee and specific projects, which meet priorities in restoration ecology, ecosystem function, wildlife management, fisheries biology, soils, hydrology, and geomorphology.

Task 6:5EXT Oversight of Hydrology program, including continued operation and maintenance of 6 Rain Gauges and Stream Gauges

#### Description of Task:

- Hydrologist will oversee RWEACT's hydrology program;
- Inspect and maintain 6 rain gauges to ensure optimal operation. Two rain gauges are easily accessible while the remaining ones are in remote locations;
- Monthly inspections are typical but unlikely in remote areas. RWEACT hydrologist proposes three inspections to occur in mid-May, early July and early September.
- Inspections will include checking connections, wiring, structural supports, solar panel orientation, tipping bucket calibration, install upgraded electronics and verify general operation.
- If replacement parts or additional repairs are required, a follow-up trip will be made as needed.
- Additional work for Hydrologist includes providing guidance, oversight, technical support, review of data and modeling, liaison with Emergency Management, determining appropriate levels, oversight of Hydrological Committee, participation with RWEACT Board of Directors; and
- additional projects assigned by the Board of Directors.

#### Background of Task:

Six rain gauges were installed in the West Fork Complex burn areas in 2013 and two additional stream/rain gauges were installed in 2014. Some snow removal may be necessary during the early May site visits at a couple of the higher altitude gauges if we have a heavy snow year (Task Order #1). Two stream/rain gauge systems and an alarm are installed on Little Squaw Creek. (Task Order #3). Task Order #7 continued to subscription for data collection and needed upgrades for this equipment.

Continued operation and maintenance of the six rain gauges is a vital part of the weather monitoring and early warning system implemented following the West Fork Complex fire. The rain gauge network was successful in allowing emergency management personnel and staff from the National Weather Service to monitor storm events. While no life-threatening rain events occurred in the late summer months of 2013 or 2014, precipitation intensity alarm thresholds were exceeded multiple times and alerted NWS staff to closely monitor those heavier rainfall events. The importance of these rain gauges is now elevated because all of the temporary USFS RAWs will have been removed and the temporary Doppler system is expected to be replaced with a more permanent solution.

**Deliverable:**

Deliverable 6:5EXT results in a fully functioning Hydrological Committee and Hydrological Oversight / Assistance, including continued and successful functioning and operation of rain gauges and other Hydrology-related projects identified by the Board of Directors.

**Task 6.6EXT Emergency Managers Committee**

The Emergency Manager (EM) Lead position serves RWEACT by coordinating the EM function for RWEACT with other Emergency Management and Sheriff's Office personnel from Hinsdale, Mineral and Rio Grande Counties and the State Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

**Description of Tasks;**

- Position serves as the lead on behalf of RWEACT;
- Position also serves as RWEACT's on-the-ground lead for the 3-County Emergency Response Protocol in the forecasting and public notification and safety in the event of severe weather and the potential for flash flood or debris flow events as identified in the Annual Upper Rio Grande Communications Plan (A Communication, Notification, and Information Sharing Plan);
- Appropriate projects to be vetted by the Committee and approved by the Board of Directors

**Deliverable:**

Deliverable 6:6EXT results in a fully functioning Emergency Management Committee and Emergency Management projects appropriate in accordance with the Governor's Order.

**REPORTING AND FINAL DELIVERABLE**

**Reporting**

RWEACT, in partnership with Hinsdale County, will provide the CWCB a progress report (via a presentation to the CWCB Board at a regular meeting) within 6 months, beginning from the date of the approved Task Order #6 EXTENSION. The written progress report shall describe the

completion or partial completion of the tasks identified in the statement of work, implementation progress and end results at task completion.

#### Final Deliverable

At completion of Task Order #6 EXTENSION, RWEACT in partnership with Hinsdale County, will provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how goals and objectives were met. No specific report format is required. This report may contain photographs, summaries of meetings, end results of Tasks, engineering reports/designs, and various data sets.

RWEACT will continue to provide written Quarterly Reports to CWCB that includes progress on all Task Orders.



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

Hinsdale County • Mineral County • Rio Grande County

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kristine Borchers  
970-596-9071  
[kristineborchers@yahoo.com](mailto:kristineborchers@yahoo.com)  
[www.rweact.org](http://www.rweact.org)

### **Summitville Heritage Project Celebration**

DEL NORTE, CO., (April 15, 2017): Join us for an April 22<sup>nd</sup> celebration at the Rio Grande County Museum in Del Norte honoring the Summitville heritage site from 10 am to 4 pm. This fun-filled day will include live music by Steve and Konnie Crawford (at 1:30 pm) and story-telling beginning at 2:00 pm with Floyd and Glen Getz, Gene Fuchs, and Bill Ellithorpe. The new Summitville exhibit will also be on display before being relocated to the site.

In 2013, the West Fork Complex Fire burned in the Upper Rio Grande. Economic Recovery funds from the Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Local Affairs were awarded to Rio Grande County. A post-disaster plan was developed. One goal sought to increase heritage tourism sites in the region. In Rio Grande County, the Summitville project was identified as the highest priority. At 11,500 feet above sea level and located 25 miles south of Del Norte, gold was discovered in Wightman Creek on South Mountain in 1861; mining operations didn't begin until ten years later. By 1885, more than 250 individual claims were being actively mined. For decades, operations were sporadic. In 1984, Galactic Resources, Ltd. began large-scale open-pit operations. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Colorado became stewards Summitville in 1992. Come learn more about the history of the site, and future plans for historic preservation and outdoor recreation.

The Bachelor Loop in Mineral County and the Ute Ulay in Hinsdale County also received funding. This regional emphasis between the three counties increases opportunities for residents and visitors who have an interest in Colorado mining history and connects our geographical locations of historic mining operations.

Funders and partners in the Summitville project in addition to RWEACT and Rio Grande County include the Rio Grande National Forest, Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), San Luis Valley Development Resources, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Interpretive Designs, and the Rio Grande County Museum.

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

For more information on the event, please contact the Rio Grande County Museum.

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