

# Magdalena Collaborative

## Coordinating Team Meeting

### Meeting Notes

Date: June 28, 2018

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Location: Magdalena Village Hall, 108 N. Main Street

#### I. Welcome

Facilitator: Alan Barton, NM Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute

Recorder: Amanda Rael, US Forest Service, Magdalena Ranger District

Meeting Purpose: Initiate a conversation about how to organize the Magdalena Collaborative, and develop an outline that identifies priorities and preferences for the collaborative organization.

Where do we want to focus our efforts? What are the Magdalena Collaborative's priorities and values? We also want to understand the different organizations that participate in the Magdalena Collaborative and their interests in the Collaborative and reasons for participating in the Collaborative.

What kind of collaborative do we want to be? Collaboratives range from very formal organizations that are incorporated, with paid staff, to very informal groups of people who meet for lunch occasionally and discuss what they are doing, and everything in between. The Magdalena Collaborative could have a more formal arrangement, with standing committees and defined roles, or a more informal arrangement with ad hoc committees and fluid participation.

Currently, we have this Coordinating Team and the larger collaborative. Where do we want to go from here?

Question: This process started with the Forest Plan revision. Landscape Teams were formed by local mostly governmental organizations to advise the forest on plan revision. Some groups that were excluded, including private non-governmental organizations, wanted more say. So the Cibola NF decided to form collaborative organizations with broad-based membership. How do these relate to each other?

The USFS directs the landscape teams, but doesn't really direct the collaborative; rather, the Forest Service participates as one organizational member in the collaborative.

#### Objectives for this meeting:

- (1) Consider the geographical area where the collaborative will work
- (2) Identify collaborator priorities and values to protect
- (3) Develop an initial list of elements to include in a statement of purpose and a collaborative vision, and list potential goals and objectives for the collaborative
- (4) Brainstorm ideas for the group's structure, operations, meetings and expectations.
- (5) Identify components for a charter or operating principles for the collaborative.

## II. Introductions

Each participant attending the meeting introduced themselves and their organization, and talked a little about their interests in the Magdalena Collaborative and landscape.

- ◆ Dean Tuck, NM Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance (NMOHVA) – Promote OHV use in the area. Mitigate issues.
- ◆ Chris Greiner – NMOHVA – support as much access as possible for recreational interests
- ◆ Jim Nelson – Economic development, preservation of wilderness, and town of Magdalena Council
- ◆ Richard Rumpf, Mayor of Magdalena – What happens on the national forest impacts the town; concerned with preserving nature, recreation, forest health, tourism and dark skies; people moving into Magdalena improve the town, and tourists traveling through are good for the economy
- ◆ Dan Klinglesmith, Magdalena Ridge Observatory – Wants to keep the skies dark and mitigate light pollution
- ◆ Bill Ferranti, NM Forest Industry Association – Natural Resources specialist for Alamo Pueblo, concerned about jobs, mills, etc.
- ◆ Ron Burnett, Rancher and Permittee – Cows on USFS land, permits, collaborating on access and watershed
- ◆ Mahona Burnett, Datil
- ◆ David Williams, Senator Tom Udall's office – Natural resources, agriculture and water issues in central NM; provide assistance and extra partners to the table
- ◆ Hannah Bundy, Intern for Senator Tom Udall
- ◆ Doug Boykin, EMNRD/NM State Forestry Division, Socorro District Forester – Work closely with the USFS and other land management agencies and organizations.
- ◆ Amy Erickson, Save Our Bosque Task Force, Director
- ◆ Ruth Ann Harriet, Quemado and Salado SWCDs – Interested in San Augustin claims and water on the forest
- ◆ Susan Ostlie, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Rio Grande Broad Band – Took lots of pictures of the area
- ◆ Linda Starr, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Rio Grande Broad Band
- ◆ Sarah Browne, Acting USFS Planner on the Cibola NF – Provide info on the Cibola Forest Plan
- ◆ Jay Turner, USFS, Mountainair District Ranger – Wants to visit all collaboratives and interact with participants
- ◆ Amanda Rael, USFS, Magdalena RD wildlife biologist – Notetaker for this meeting
- ◆ Kim Obele, USFS Magdalena District Ranger
- ◆ Alan Barton, NM Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute – Facilitator for the Magdalena Collaborative

## III. Review of the Kickoff Partners Workshop

Most of the people here today were also at the Kickoff Meeting on April 6, so we don't need to review what was done at that meeting.

## IV. Update on Plan Revision

Sarah Browne, Acting Planner for the Cibola National Forest, gave an update on the plan revision process. She said the Cibola NF has a new Forest Supervisor, Steve Hattenbach, who has been on the job for about 6 weeks. He is moving the plan revision process forward with the goal of wrapping up the draft plan to release to the public in January, 2019.

The Cibola NF's plan revision process has been delayed as many of the members of the planning team retired or left, and only 2 members remain. There was a lot of good momentum in 2016, and comments from public meetings held then have been incorporated into the draft of the revised plan. Over the past year, the Cibola NF planning team has been coordinating with planners from the Santa Fe NF and the Carson NF to make the plans for the three national forests more consistent.

The Cibola NF planners want to engage the public and the Collaboratives again once the draft revised plan comes out early next year. The draft will be submitted to the Forest Service's Southwest Regional Office (Region 3) in Albuquerque in August and then, once the Regional Office approves it, the plan will be sent to the USFS Washington Office. Once the Washington Office gives the green light, the draft plan and environmental impact statement (EIS) will be published. If everything goes smoothly, this Fall the Cibola NF will work on how to engage the public in commenting on the draft plan.

There will be a 90-day formal scoping period for public comments, and this can be extended if necessary. The goal is to take the comments from public input, incorporate them into the plan, and issue the final plan in early 2020.

The Cibola NF appreciates the patience that interested members of the public have shown, and now there is more to come, as the national forest wants to get more public input.

The planning team also needs to update the website. Once the draft plan is issued, the documentation will be posted on the Cibola NF website.

The national forest also needs to link the website to the collaboratives.

Question: How will the revised plan reflect wilderness recommendations?

The planning team got a good amount of input in 2016 on wilderness, including field work and photo points provided by the Alliance. These were taken into consideration along with all the other comments; inventory, recommendations, and analysis. The planning team will be sharing the results of all of these at a public meeting to review the results. The Cibola NF can recommend proposed wilderness, but cannot designate wilderness. Only Congress can actually designate new wilderness areas. Congress considers the recommendations made by each national forest, but it is up to them to act.

Sarah will send out her email address and phone number to the group.

#### Websites:

There is a website for the Cibola Shared Stewardship Council, which is the overarching collaborative group for the whole national forest. The web address is:

<https://www.cibolasharedstewardship.org/>

The Magdalena Collaborative also has a new website, hosted by the NM Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute. You can link to the Magdalena Collaborative website on the Cibola Shared Stewardship Council website.

The Magdalena Collaborative can use the website for anything members want. You can send any information to go on the Magdalena Collaborative website to Alan Barton at awbarton@nmhu.edu. Currently, meeting notes are posted on the website.

## V. Discussion on Organizing the Collaborative

The Coordinating Team discussed how to put together an organizational structure for the Magdalena Collaborative.

### Project Area

First, the Team defined a project area. Members viewed a topo map of the landscape and discussed where the boundaries should be. Members agreed that defining the boundaries was a good idea, so that we wouldn't spread out too far. The Gila NF is forming a new collaborative, and the Magdalena Collaborative didn't want to encroach on areas that would fit better with the Gila folks, so, for example, members agreed that the Luera Mountains are outside of the Magdalena area, and fit better with the Gila NF and their collaborative.

The members drew a boundary line around the ranger district and adjacent areas. Members agreed this was a good starting point. The boundary will be presented to the full Collaborative at the next meeting for approval.

### Purpose

The members discussed defining a purpose for the Collaborative. In the introductions, participants noted their interests (e.g. recreation, tourism, dark skies, wilderness, community) and reasons for participating in the Collaborative, and areas of concentration.

### Landscape Values and Values at Risk

Collaborative members also discussed values at risk, or landscape values that should be protected. This topic generated a lot of discussion.

One landscape value is a need for solitude, which can be protected through wilderness, or by limiting access to certain areas in the national forest. Protecting existing wilderness and inventorying roadless areas for possible expansion of designated wilderness is an interest of some members.

Ranchers stressed preserving the traditions, history and way of life of the region. Ranchers are good stewards of the land, who work for conservation on their own land and on national forest land, where they have an interest as permittees. They are not just tax paying citizens who have an interest in Forest Service land, they also use the land and conserve large parcels of Forest Service land. This often means placing conservation efforts over their own return on their investments, and working to balance conservation and preservation. Part of this is sharing and providing resources for wildlife, which eat the grass and drink the water their cattle rely on. This is always in disproportionate numbers, as much as a 50 to 1 wildlife to livestock balance, where the ranchers have invested in windmills, dirt tanks and grazing. Ranchers also continuously monitor USFS lands, because it's their life and they maintain a constant watch over these lands, more than hunters, wood cutters, outdoor enthusiasts, and even USFS staff.

Timber interests and the NM Forest Industry Association are concerned with watershed health. The current drought is hurting everyone. As treatments are necessary on the national forest, the NMFIA would like to see local New Mexico industry folks working on them, rather than giving contracts to out of state operators. Utilization for forest products is important. Landscape scale projects are more feasible if there is a place to go with the wood, as part of a revitalized New Mexico forest products industry. This would allow increased removal of wood volume, which improves forest health and reduces the risk of destructive wildfires.

In addition, watershed health is important. This means keeping the forest healthy to prevent catastrophic wildfires. Thinning treatments help to mitigate some of the catastrophic wildfires and the destructive after wildfire impacts.

The Magdalena area is great for astronomy and maintaining dark skies is a key landscape value. This is a great spot to observe the Milky Way galaxy because it's so dark, and keeping the lights down in town and on the ranches would preserve this natural beauty. The New Mexico Legislature enacted the innovative Night Skies Protection Act, which makes maintaining dark skies a statewide priority.

The geology of this area is important, and of interest to the geologists at NM Tech in Socorro. Mining is an important economic asset and maintaining access to mines is a priority and a landscape value.

Protecting birdlife is important to the Audubon Society and the Save Our Bosque Task Force. It is important to protect ecosystem functions and natural habitats, so that native plants and species can thrive. Protecting wildlife corridors, and extending them to protect all wildlife and not just animals in the forest, is a value some members advocate. Although this might not be popular with everyone, respecting predators and considering reintroduction is something the Collaborative should discuss.

Recreation interests want to ensure there are designated places for off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. This is part of a plan to protect and encourage a variety of recreational opportunities. OHV advocates recognize the need for other values, such as solitude, and want to work with others to resolve any conflicts in use to ensure all interests are represented across the landscape. Education of non-compliant individuals is important and responsible OHV users monitor and keep non-compliance in check, including notifying law enforcement if necessary. Recreation users want to be good stewards of the land, and want to maintain access to areas for their preferred forms of recreation.

Community development is another landscape value. Magdalena is losing its Wells Fargo Bank branch, but 1<sup>st</sup> State Bank has agreed to open a branch on a limited basis. A new owner has also purchased the Valero gas station and will open soon. The town is doing its part to clean up to make the area more attractive to visitor, which promotes job growth and economic development. The Village needs revenue to survive, and want to promote tourism. The Very Large Array attracts visitors, expanding hunting and outfitting is another possible tourism opportunity.

The Cibola National Forest stresses three core values: relationships, sustainable recreation, and restoration

The Soil and Water Conservation District advocates multiple use, and keeping the national forest open to everyone. The SWCD is concerned with watershed health, and controlling junipers, which are taking over pinyon-juniper habitat. Thinning out invading junipers would provide a healthy grassland once again. Forest health is an important value.

The Socorro District Forester with NM State Forestry Division noted that when you get the trees right everything else works well. Taking care of the trees helps control invasive non-native species by encouraging native species, and also controls wildfire risk.

Protecting cultural values and sacred sites is also important.

## Roles

The Magdalena Collaborative has the following roles:

1. Facilitator

Alan Barton is the current facilitator

The job of the facilitator is to assist in planning meetings and to manage the flow of the meetings

2. Point of Contact (POC) with the Cibola Shared Stewardship Council

RuthAnn Harriet is the current Point of Contact

RuthAnn works part-time with the Salado SWCD and tries to attend as many meetings as possible. She attends most meetings pertaining to local issues.

We should have an Alternate POC as well, to work with RuthAnn. There were no volunteers at the meeting but the Collaborative needs someone to step forward to take on this role

3. USFS Magdalena District Ranger

Kim Obele is the District Ranger

Kim sees her role as being a really good listener and making connections between concepts, people and organizations. She helps to solve problems and works for interdependence as a LISTENER and a CONNECTOR. The USFS is one of the many collaborators in the Magdalena Collaborative.

4. Collaborators

What do we call collaborators? Participants, Members, Partners, etc.

Do we want multiple types of participation? Partner, collaborator, contact, etc.

How are new organizations admitted to the collaborative?

Take these questions back to your organizations and we'll talk about this at the next meeting

5. Committees

Do we want to have standing committees or ad hoc committees as needed?

What should be the topics for committees?

Think about: How to organize to get things done.

Question: What happened to groups developed at last meeting?

We should have designated groups, as that's the only way things will be able to get done. The groups formulate objectives and bring them to the larger group. The consensus among the Coordinating Team was to keep the groups going.

We will discuss this at the next large collaborative meeting.

### Decision-making

How does the group want to make decisions?

Many collaboratives strive for a consensus, with all members agreeing before a decision is finalized. This requires a lot of discussion and negotiation, but over time builds strong relationships. Another possibility is a modified consensus, with 80 percent (or whatever the group decides) agreement constituting a consensus. Minority positions can also be noted. A third approach is voting, with a majority vote or a supermajority vote (e.g., 75 percent required) determining the decision. Again, minority positions may be noted.

The Coordinating Team discussed an approach to making decisions.

Members liked the idea of working toward a consensus, or a modified consensus. One suggestion was to work through committees, and a committee would reach a decision by consensus, then it would be brought back to the whole Collaborative and ratified by the whole group. This could be done by consensus or by voting. Some members discussed specific groups having a vote.

New Mexico First uses an 80% rule. If you can get to 80 percent agreement on an issue, then you move forward. You cannot move forward until 80 percent agree.

Take this back to groups and discuss, and we'll raise it at the next meeting.

### VI. Mission, Vision, Goals and Objectives

Due to time constraints, we did not address these. Instead, members agreed to send their thoughts to Alan. For the vision, the question is what do you want the landscape to look like in 10 years? Send in ideas for a mission, vision, goals and objectives.

### VIII. Wrap up (5 minutes)

The next meeting will be held on August 17, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The group expressed a preference for meeting in Magdalena, if possible. The group also agreed that meeting late on Friday afternoons is a good time.

The Coordinating Team Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.