

**Magdalena Collaborative
General Meeting**

Friday, January 31, 2020
US Forest Service, Magdalena Ranger Station
203 First Street, Magdalena

Agenda

1:30 pm	Introductions	Alan Barton, Facilitator
1:40 pm	Magdalena District Updates	Kim Obele USFS, Cibola NF Magdalena District Ranger
2:00 pm	2019 Review and Priorities for 2020	Alan Barton and Magdalena Collaborative
2:30 pm	Break	
2:35 pm	USFS Recreation Fee for NM	Jessica Dunn, USFS, Cibola NF Recreation Program Manager
		Jeremy Golston USFS, Regional Office Fee Program Manager
3:20 pm	Other Recreation Topics Update on Trails Project	Jim Nelson Village of Magdalena
3:30 pm	Celebration of Kim Obele's tenure as Magdalena District Ranger	Magdalena Collaborative
4:00 pm	End	

Magdalena Collaborative
General Meeting

Friday, January 31, 2020
US Forest Service, Magdalena Ranger Station
203 First St., Magdalena, NM

Attendees: Ray Martinez (Socorro District 5 Commissioner), Jim Nelson (Village of Mag; Human and Natural Historian), Mary Kathrine Ray (Local, Sierra Club), Jim McGrath (Native Plant Society, Botanist), Linda Starr (Great Old Broads), Susan Ostlie (Great Old Broads), Ron Burnett (Local Rancher/Permittees Representative and Point of Contact), and Alan Barton (New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute and Facilitator).

USFS: Kim Obele (District Ranger), Tina Cason (Range and Detailed District Ranger), and David Orozco (Wildlife Biologist)

- Introduction
 - Martinez: Requested further information to receive funding on road repairs to Magdalena RD admin site. Needs additional information to submit proposal
- Magdalena District Updates
 - Amanda Rael (former district Wildlife Biologist) took a lateral to Sandia Ranger District and David Orozco will be temporarily filling behind Amanda.
 - Tina Carson will be official District Ranger while position gets filled
 - Total of 3 detailers will be on district
 - Jessie Montoya will be Range Specialist while Tina is acting as District Ranger
 - Projects:
 - The district is on task with a 5-year plan for the district.
 - The district is making sure all the proper clearances are complete to be able to take advantage of any future burn windows.
 - Most of the district workforce is in the fire program. Fire mostly working on fuel control or fire management.
 - We will continue to manage natural start fires to achieve restoration goals. For example, the Roberts Fire in the south east of the San Mateo Mountains.
 - Recreation:
 - 1 recreation technician is stationed on the district
 - The district will work with the supervisor's office for additional support in recreation.
 - Recreation related projects are good for bringing many interests together.
 - New Mexico's national forest has a proposal for a recreation fee program in establish sites (i.e. Day use areas, established campgrounds, etc.)
 - Wildlife Biologist supports in making sure we are in compliance (i.e. ESA) and leads many projects.
 - Amanda Rael worked on the "adopt-a-tank" program to maintain artificial wildlife water sources.
 - Amanda Rael also led educational program on district.

- Roads
 - New Socorro County Manager has been making progress.
 - FS Road 10 has some serious issues being addressed by engineers in the Cibola Supervisor's Office
- "Secure Rural Schools" act funding authorized by congress has funding available for Socorro county.
 - Title 2 of this act is where FS and Socorro County could receive funding for projects that benefit both entities. Title 2 has smallest fund of the 3 pots available.
 - A Resource Advisory Committee approves projects and members are approved by congress.
 - Southern NM RAC does not have an established committee yet.
 - ~\$100K of funding available for Socorro County
 - Most of Catron County's funding goes to Gila NF due to Cibola NF having so little of its forest in Catron.
 - Kim asked if any member of the collaborative is interested in joining committee and she will connect those interested to people in the Gila NF. Jim Nelson expressed interest.
- Restoration Question from Mary Katherine
 - Are there plans to restore riparian areas? In restoring riparian habitat by removing juniper and re-plant cotton wood.
 - Re-planting has not been explored on the Magdalena RD do to lack of staff with this capacity
 - Kim would like to have a wildlife biologist pursue such projects.
 - Lots of potential for this project but still a need for a workforce.
 - Tina: There has been an attempt to do more inventory and design for wildlife water sources.
 - NRCS in Datil has designs
 - Tribal Community has request a design
 - Each location for water source may need unique designs.

➤ Collaborative Priorities for 2020

- Forest plan going through NEPA Process and undergoing comment process.
 - Forest plan expected to be signed by end of the year, or early 2021.
- Jim Nelson volunteered to attempt to join the Secure Rural School Act Resource Advisory Committee
 - Request to develop list of projects that may qualify for the act.
 - We are in front of the curve in securing funding.
 - Develop a prioritization process.
- There is a desire to find more ways to involve youth.
 - Look for potential programs and groups that utilize local youth, which locals may be more prepared to handle work on the district.
 - Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is one option; Check Alamo Navajo
 - Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) is an option
 - Contact Forest Stewards Guild
 - Magdalena Future Farmers of America (FFA), 4H, or schools may be options

- Recreation Fee Program
 - Concern for implementing fee program potentially may lie in requiring people to pay a fee where there wasn't any to begin with.
 - Fee program was proposed to cover cost in maintaining establish recreation sites (day use, campgrounds, etc.).
 - Forest Supervisor has different levels of priorities on what projects should be accomplished to meet the intent from Congress. Most projects that collaborative desire may fall into low priority categories.
 - Recommendation where made that collaborative could support most of these projects.
 - Ray Martinez volunteered to assist Jim in organizing project for SRS.
 - Jim's Trail Project
 - South Baldy trail 11 project.
 - New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors assisted in the trails project Sept 2019.
 - Ray Martinez shared his concern with getting enough resources for areas that has trails and roads that need to be reconstructed.

- Magdalena Collaborative Point of Contact

The Point of Contact position existed in the Landscape Team, formed as part of the Forest Plan Revision process.

We have carried this position over to the Collaboratives, in part to serve as a liaison between the district collaboratives (including the Magdalena Collaborative) and the Cibola Shared Stewardship Collaborative.

We have had two Points of Contact, but voted to name Ron Burnett our chief Point of Contact going forward.

- Tribute to Kim Obele

The Magdalena Collaborative held a tribute to Kim Obele, who has served as District Ranger on the Magdalena District for the past three years. Kim will move to a District Ranger position in Pocatello, Idaho. Members of the Collaborative expressed their appreciation for the work Kim has done for the community, the national forest, and the Magdalena Collaborative.