

Otero County Working Group

December 10, 2014

Summary of Minutes

Present - Rick Merrick, James Duran, Tony McWilliams, Bela Harrington, Lynn Lovelace, Erich Wuerschling, Kim Kuhar, Mark Cadwallader, Mickey Mauter, Andy Olsen, Andrew Loescher, Thora Padilla, Ian Dolly, Rick Baish, Vicky Estrada

Mission Statement – Vicky Estrada passed out draft mission statement for the group to review and finalize. Some discussion occurred about the original purpose of the group and the evolution of the group since that time. The working group agreed that the goals of the group had broadened from looking at fuels reduction and fire suppression to watershed health. Collaboration across boundaries and most efficient use of resources (human, financial...) continue to be important aspects of the mission of the group. Mission statement was edited based on group discussion. Final will be passed out at the next meeting.

Project Priority Area/s Exercise – A GIS based map created by NMFWR (New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute) that displayed 5th and 6th code watersheds, landownership boundaries and past (2004-present), current and future planned projects by landownership was displayed alongside the map used at the previous meeting where preliminary priority areas were identified. Input for this map was received by landowner reps and GIS staff from the various agencies. Additionally, the Focal Area/Fire Risk Analysis Mapping done by State Forestry and The Nature Conservancy, was displayed. Each agency/organization was asked to review all maps and on NMFWR map, identify priority areas following watershed boundaries. For agencies/organizations that had more than one representative present, they were asked to come up with one set of priority areas.

The group then looked at various priority areas and discussion followed on whether priority area should be one large area that included all priority areas or if 2-3 smaller areas should be identified as priority. The group also discussed the importance of having clear rationale for including areas that were not included in the focal area/fire risk analysis map. Group requested that Vicky display options for the group at the next meeting, ranging from one large priority area to 2-3 smaller ones at the next meeting. Vicky asked the group to think about what criteria they used to select their priority areas so that we could list and discuss these at the next meeting.

Clearing House of Maps for Working Group – Vicky showed group the All About Watersheds Website and the option for the working group to have a folder specifically designated to working group documents, particularly maps created for the working group. Given sensitivity of data, it was agreed that only the final product maps and not the data and attributes that were used to create the maps would be

available in this folder. Additionally, GIS personnel from working group organizations could be included in this list to have access to the working group folder. There is also a public folder for each working group on this website. It was agreed that besides the summary of minutes that go into this folder, any other documents or maps going into the public folder would be approved by the group first. NMFWRI is the manager/administrator of this website. Vicky agreed that she would talk to Institute about creating the Otero County Working Group folder within the All About Watersheds Website by the next meeting.