

# **Otero County WUI Working Group**

**March 9, 2016**

## **Summary of Minutes**

### **Participants**

Present – Rick Merrick, Frank Silva, Adrian Tafoya, James Cadwallader, Tony McWilliams, Beth Humphrey, Mark Klaene, Sue Dreikosen, Mark Cadwallader, Andres Bolanos, and Vicky Estrada

### **Tularosa Creek and Two Goats-High Rolls-Maruchi Focus Area Boundaries**

The group reviewed the revised focus area boundary maps based on input from last meeting. Group made decisions on boundary lines with the exception of the boundary line going through Mescalero land. Agreed that Thora and Erica should make final decision on this boundary line (follow watershed boundary or line further north). Vicky will communicate with Thora and Erica and hope to finalize all boundary lines for Two Goats.. and Tularosa Creek Focus Areas by the next meeting. Working Group members agreed that group could not move forward in identifying potential partners and stakeholders in the Tularosa Creek Focus Area.

### **Westside CFRP Project**

Mark provided an update on CFRP project including the results of scoping meetings. The planning process is on track and hope to have a NEPA decision signed in the fall of 2016. USFS is looking at options to fund the implementation and are considering developing an Implementation focus CFRP project proposal to submit next spring. Mark will keep group posted on planning progress.

### **NRCS Activities, Staffing and Grant Programs**

Adrian Tafoya, from NRCS, shared information about their current program, staffing levels and potential grants and funding sources available to the working group for watershed restoration activities. He briefly described the Conservation Innovation Grant criteria, watershed planning and the Joint Chiefs grant. He referred the group to the website where more detailed information could be found.

### **Private Land Project Work in Two Goats-High Rolls-Maruchi Area**

Frank visited with Martinez family and received approval to locate weather station on their land. He will work with Vicky Milne to get station transported and set up. Frank will let group know when weather station is up and running.

### **South Sacramento Restoration Project**

Tony and Mark shared draft maps and provided information about the work done thus far to identify boundaries and potential projects for the South Sacramento Restoration Project (SSRP). Game and Fish is contributing funds towards the planning for this project. This Funding will allow for contracting out of some of the survey (biological and archeological) work that will need to be done in the early planning stages. Tony will keep working group updated on status of this project to ensure that it is aligning with the Sacramento River Focus Area work (within this same boundary) being planned and implemented by the working group organizations.

### **Regional Water Planning Coordination**

Vicky passed out the last five year project list and narrative created by the Regional Water Planning Group. She asked all to review and ensure that all potential projects for the next five years are included in this project list. Peter Haraden of USFS Lincoln NF, and Rick Merrick of this working group, are the two main conduits to ensure that activities of this working group are incorporated into the efforts of the regional group. Vicky agreed to pass on any changes to Pete and Rick so that the regional list can be updated for the next regional meeting.

### **Sacramento Mountain Wood Industry Summit - Update**

Summit meeting planned for end of this month (March 30-31) is on schedule. Rick reminded working group members to register and make hotel reservations. Various radio interviews have been done by Rick and Mark to ensure local contractors are aware of the meeting. Additionally, banners and electronic signs have been posted throughout Ruidoso. Final travel, purchases and convention preparations are underway.

Next Otero Working Group Meeting will be April 20, 2016 at 10:00am at Cloudcroft Ranger Station.