

Otero County Planning Group Meeting

May 20, 2015

Summary of Minutes

Participants

Field Trip to Westside CFRP Project Area – Participants included - Rick Merrick, Tony McWilliams, Frank Silva, Mark Cadwallader, Beth Humphrey (Acting DR), Leland Pullman (Mescalero DRMP, Ricky Cox (BLM), David Nunnelley and Vicky Estrada

Meeting at Lincoln NF Supervisors Office was held following the field trip. Meeting Participants included: all of the above and in addition: Vicky Milne (Otero SWCD) and Ryan Whiteaker (USFS).

We drove to the project area located in the Maruchi area where USFS borders Mescalero. We discussed options for thinning and what to do with material. Given the domination of pinon and juniper vegetation, use of fire in this project was not likely as there is not adequate grass to carry fire between trees. Mastication of trees and shredding of alligator juniper to limit regeneration was also discussed by group.

City of Alamogordo mentioned the importance of source water for the city and pointed out the water monitoring stations that exist on city of Alamogordo inholdings in this area.

While there are many individual houses in this area, there are no organized subdivisions. Largest landowner identified in the area is Bob Nichols with 500 + acres.

During the office meeting we went over observations in the field. Mark C. shared with the group the timeline for public scoping and completion of the NEPA for the CFRP project.

Next Meeting Items

Next Meeting of Working Group will be held at the USFS Supervisor's Office in Alamogordo on Wed. June 17th at 1:00.