

Meeting Notes

Mountainair Collaborative Team Workshop

August 22, 2017, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Edgewood SWCD, Moriarty, New Mexico

WORKSHOP PURPOSE:

Bring partners and stakeholders in the **Mountainair Ranger District** landscape together to create a collaborative infrastructure and process to build on current relationships and create new relationships for working together.

WORKSHOP GOALS:

- Establish shared and agreed-upon principles for working together, dealing with conflict, promoting transparency, and establishing inclusiveness for the people and their interests.
- Develop a collaborative charter that defines a collective vision.
- Begin exploring ways to work together to establish mutual priorities that will leverage resources and funding of all partners and stakeholders for the betterment of the Mountainair Ranger District.

MEETING FOCUS: Communication and collaborative processes.

NOTES:

1. *Welcome and review of Workshop Purpose*

Meeting called to order at 1:38 pm

Joe Zebrowski introduced himself as the meeting facilitator and introduced the topic of the meeting – communication and collaborative processes.

2. *Introductions*

Attendees introduced themselves.

Jay from USFS gave a brief background on similar collaboratives occurring at other mountain districts to develop communication early on in planning processes.

3. *Review of last workshop accomplishments*

Joe gave a brief overview of the previous meetings topics which included:

Landscape Values – things in the landscape we care about

Shared Stewardship – how we demonstrate that care

4. *Development of a process for communication and collaboration for the Mountainair Collaborative.*

a. *Review of the primary projects that are in planning and implementation on the Mountainair Ranger District*

Jay from USFS gave an overview of the primary projects that are being planned or implemented in the Mountainair Ranger District. These included:

- Currently in Forest Plan Revision, and Wilderness Evaluations
- Work on recovery of Dog Head Fire
- East Torrance Noxious Weed work
- Land line survey/land grant fence replacement, creating new water sources for livestock, improving access
- 2 CFRPs with SWCDs – both projects are vegetation management for fuels reduction, currently doing cultural resource surveys
- Activity occurring on Isleta project – mastication and cut/skid
- Romero LLC CFRP in Red Canyon
- Barranco allotment – doing work soon
- Prescribed burns planned for Thunderbird and Red Canyon areas
- Planned thinning
- Range Improvement projects through EQIP
- NM Game and Fish Bighorn Sheep Habitat project
- Cleanup Chato area
- Priest Canyon Fuels Reduction
- YCC projects- trails, burns, fence reconstruction, recreation maintenance

Jay discussed the processes to come up with projects:

- Inheritance (those projects that were already planned/undergoing implementation when he entered his position)
- Need (for example, arising from Dog Head Fire)
- Capacity (what can be accomplished with the personnel available)
- Budget
- Prioritization
- Efficiency

b. *Defining collaboration*

The question “What do you want this collaborative to be?” was posed to the group. Responses included:

- Gives a better chance to collaborate on projects and allows for a wide variety of ideas and capacity
- Opportunity for stakeholders to address concerns early on in planning process to make projects more efficient. Provide opportunity to share information with Forest Service
- Forest to non-Forest technical transfer and communication
- Information communication – learn how neighboring lands / projects will affect each other.
- Preserving local knowledge in decision making
- Building stronger grant proposals through shared knowledge
- Providing feedback on policy

A discussion occurred about providing feedback and opinions to the Forest Service -- whether the feedback needs to be a group consensus or whether it can be an individual opinion or issue. It will likely

be some of both. Kerri Romero, NM Council of Outfitters and Guides, described a situation in which she was asked to present feedback to the USFS on permitting policy through groups such as this. Is that a desired role of this group? Additional consensus on how the group will adopt positions and conduct voting is needed.

c. Communication processes for the collaborative – discussion

Joe, as the facilitator, will serve as a focal point for administrative correspondence.

A discussion occurred about the best way to communicate and share information. The following ideas were presented:

- Google Drive
- website that Eytan from Forest Guild is building
- any other system that other collaboratives are using.

Joe will contact Rosemary Romero to find out what other groups are using and what steps need to be taken to also use that system.

Joe will create a directory of collaborative members and share it electronically.

A short discussion of whether the collaborative should have a voting membership occurred. The topic was tabled and will be discussed at a future meeting.

5. Wrap up, next steps, and action items.

Action Item #1 – Jay, Susan, and Dee will write a charter statement for group. The draft charter statement will be presented prior to next meeting so that feedback can be given at meeting.

Action Item #2 – Joe will send out Values document. All collaborative members should add to it and treat it as a living document which can be adapted.

Action Item #3 – Joe to send out directory with contact information of Mountainair Collaborative attendees.

Action Item #4 – Joe to contact Rosemary Romero regarding website/cloud sharing opportunities with other Collaborative groups.

Next meeting: Tuesday November 28th, Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District.

Meeting adjourned 3:38.