

Meeting Notes

Mountainair Collaborative Team Workshop

May 23, 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:

- Established 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: Understanding shared stewardship and its importance.

NOTES:

1. Defined the Collaboration's area of interest as the Mountainair Ranger District Landscape
2. Landscape Values. Discussion of the landscape values managed, protected, and shared within the Mountainair Ranger District and the surrounding communities. The group identified the following as things and activities they value in the Mountainair District Landscape.
 - Healthy lands
 - Wilderness – habitat
 - Culture/cultural – spiritual
 - Subjective ideas of what is good
 - Naturalness
 - Public safety
 - Local infrastructure – accessibility, roads
 - Harvesting – trees, livestock, hunting
 - Public access – trails, roads
 - Overall integrity of the landscape – beauty, views
 - Communities that border the forest
 - Watersheds
 - Fire resilience
 - Healthy soil conditions

- Solitude
- Educating youth – appreciation for non-ownership
- Social well-being, awareness
- Provide democracy through collaboration efforts in forest plan
- Public knowledge, input to problems

Jay Turner (District Ranger) handed out a list of Mountainair RD values

3. Shared Stewardship. Discussion of the meaning of the term stewardship within the context of natural resources and the importance of collaboration in achieving effective stewardship.

Issues around shared stewardship

- Sense of non-ownership/non-sharing feeling
- Illegitimacy of federal lands
- Federal government does not manage lands properly
- Mismanagement
- Federal budgets not sufficient to maintain forest – invite politicians to ‘step up’
- Look for local guidance and resources with needed work on maintenance

Some ideas on the meaning of stewardship

- Stewardship and ownership run hand in hand
- Stewardship means “taking care of”
- Management of ecology, sense of stability – tied back to values; supporting and sustaining
- Stewardship contracts: USFS tool useful for contracting through the private sector (Jay)
- Stewardship, ownership, and management are much the same. Differences include:
 - Responsibilities
 - Authorities
 - Abilities to respond
 - Resources available/management

Working definitions of stewardship developed by subgroups

- Preserve, restore qualities; create new ways to think
 - Values of use
 - Qualities, characteristics
 - How to create those attributes
- Managing natural and cultural resources
 - Values for future generations
 - Building a cooperative approach to the use of natural resources, including recreational use
 - Utilize democratic processes
- Definitions:
 - Values – a person’s judgement of something
 - Stewardship – the job of taking care of something; sense of management, responsibility
- Definitions:

- Stewardship – shared personal stake in resources; identifying opportunities to find common ground
- Values – what is important to an individual or group
- Include the strengths of individuals

General observation from the group: Stewardship requires a sense of ownership

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

Need to develop a process for communication and collaboration in the Mountainair RD landscape.

Action items

- Email announcement for next meeting to this and wider group, including Mountainair Landscape Team members (facilitator)
- Rotate meeting location (decide next location at each meeting)
- Meet quarterly
- Share notes and definitions with the group. (facilitator)

Next meeting: Aug 22, 2017, 1:30 pm, Edgewood SWCD