

Otero County WUI Planning Group

October 21, 2015

Summary of Minutes

Participants

Present – Rick Merrick, Frank Silva, Mark Cadwallader, Jay Northcott, Tony McWilliams, and Vicky Estrada

Two Goats-High RollsMaruchi Focus Area Partners and Stakeholders List and Potential Contractors List

Vicky reviewed revised lists based on input from the working group members at the last meeting. While this list can continue to be revised and partners and stakeholders added, the group considers it complete enough to take it off the working group agenda. The contractors list will continue to be revised based on information gathered in preparation for the Sacramento Mountain Wood Industry Summit.

Focus Area Boundary Discussion and Revision

The Planning Group members reviewed updated map created by Adrienne from NMFWR. While the group had wanted to use 5th and 6th code watersheds to delineate Focus Area and Larger Priority Area Boundary, planning group discussed the need to adjust boundary based on roads and physical delineations that could be found on the ground. Planning group members drew on map to delineate their suggested changes. A revised map, based on these new boundary lines, will be created to share with Working Group at the November meeting.

Next Focus Area –Identify Boundary, Project Status, and Initiate Potential Partners and Stakeholders List

The Sacramento River Focus Area, located south of Two Goats-High Rolls-Maruchi, was identified as the next priority focus area for the group. USFS shared how this area could be folded into the larger landscape project that includes the Sacramento River Focus Area as well as USFS lands to the east. This landscape project, called the South Sacramento Restoration Project (SSRP) has risen to top for planning due to wildlife interests and funding availability. The planning group fully supports this effort to combine Otero Working Group activities and resources with those for the SSRP. All agreed that combining resources will be the most effective way to complete work in this area.

Review of Otero Working Group Annual Report

Vicky handed out copies of the Annual Report she put together summarizing the work of the Otero Working Group during the first year of her and NMFWRRI involvement. Various individuals in the planning group and reviewed and provided input into the report. She shared the location of report on NMFWRRI website if anyone wanted to look at or refer others to the report (nmfwri.org/collaboration/newmexicowatershedcollaborations/OteroCountyWorkingGroup). She also mentioned that both the District Ranger of the Sacramento R.D. as well as Forest Supervisor received copies of the report.

Review of Summary Document on Agreements and Potential Funding Sources

Entire working group can review at the next working group meeting in November.

Sacramento Mountain Wood Industry Summit - Update

Rick provided an update on status of efforts by the Steering Committee involved in planning the summit. This meeting will be jointly sponsored and hosted by the Otero Working Group and the Greater Ruidoso Working Group. Date for the Summit has now been locked in and location confirmed. Summit will be held on March 30-31, 2016 at the Ruidoso Convention Center. Target audience for this summit is forest industry and wood product contractors interested in working in the Sacramento Mountains. Invitation Letter to vendors, signed by both Chairs of Working Groups, is scheduled to go out in November. Committee is working to identify potential vendors and confirm sponsors to include in letter. Discussion of potential topics and presenters has started and will be further discussed at next meeting. Group was asked to provide suggestions on topics and presenters and to solicit input, from contractors they know, on topics they would want presented.

Next Otero Working Group Meeting will be Nov. 18, 2015 at 10:00am at Cloudcroft Ranger Station.