

Mountainair Collaborative
April 29, 2019
Edgewood SWCD, Moriarty, NM

**Meeting Notes: Mountainair Collaborative
January 27, 2022**

Joe Zebrowski facilitated the meeting.

The meeting began at 1:35 pm.

Attendance

Dee Tarr, Claunch-Pinto Soil & Water Conservation District
Joe Zebrowski, NM Highlands University
Ernest Taylor, USFS, Cibola NF Mountainair District Ranger
Aaron Johnson, USFS Zone Forester
Steve Guetschow, Torrance County Planning & Zoning
Virginia Seiser, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Alan Barton, NM Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute
Susan Ostlie, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Mark Werkmeister, New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance
Gary Lester, Pueblo of Isleta
Cindy Freeman, SunZia/Southwestern Power Group
Jeremy Turner, Pattern Energy
Adam Clark, Pattern Energy
John Ryan, Sun Zia Executive Director
Scott Childress, Power Engineers
Raina Johnson, EC Source Services

Forest Plan Update

Ernest Taylor

The Cibola National Forest Plan is in the objections resolution stage. The goal is to have the plan signed sometime this spring.

Recreation Fees Update

Ernest Taylor

Public comments are being summarized and the report is being prepared to be sent to the Washington Office. Once approved the new fees policy will be sent to the Recreation Advisory Council for approval. If approved, the new fees will be implemented in the third or fourth quarter of 2022.

Desired Conditions

Ernest Taylor

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Desired conditions are the social, economic, and ecological attributes toward which management of the land and resources of the plan area is to be directed. Desired conditions are aspirations and are not commitments or final decisions approving projects and activities and may be achievable only over a long time-period. Desired conditions may be ecological or socio-economic. The presentation described the regulatory nature of desired conditions and how they are developed and implemented in forest management. Several written examples were presented, along with some aerial photos illustrating pre- and post-treatment views of stands treated to achieve desired conditions.

A field tour of treated and untreated sites is being planned for this spring.

SunZia Project Update
Cindy Freeman

The SunZia project consists of two electric transmission lines spanning parts of New Mexico and Arizona. When completed, the 520-mile transmission project will provide an opportunity to deliver up to 4,500 MW of renewable energy from New Mexico and Arizona to homes, offices and communities in the Southwestern United States. Cindy Freeman provided an overview of the project status and routing. While most of the routing has been finalized, several alternative routes in the southern Estancia basin and northern Socorro County area are being considered. These alternatives are in response to Department of Defense concerns about proximity to White Sands Missile Range operating areas and may also take advantage of existing corridors developed for the Western Spirit Power Transmission project. The new lines will be able to handle all current and planned power generation in the area and may provide capacity to support new power generation. Concerns about wildfire mitigation, impact on scenic values, particularly around the Salinas Pueblos National Monument, and impacts on area roads were discussed. The increased amount of heavy truck traffic was a special concern raised by Claunch-Pinto SWCD and it was agreed that additional discussion with NM DOT was needed to address concerns about further degradation of an already degraded road system in the area.

The meeting concluded at 3:30 p.m.

Link to meeting recording:

<https://nmhu.zoom.us/rec/share/jlODKmHd9yryhGxGmvE1rt-Ftfc16X9QZxi9qB9gE8Su2XXInZLh5hfSTLXkCdY6.pln4xJnvg-lAvefn?startTime=1643315825000>