

# Sublette County Forest Collaborative Agenda

March 9, 2021

## **Welcome and Introductions– Commissioner Joel Bousman**

Attendees: Shari Meeks, Jessica Western, Joel Bousman, Austin Mansell, Jennifer Hayward, Julie Kraft, Larry Dennis, Paul Swenson, Rich Stem, Jennifer Lamb, Matthew Gaffney, Nate Wilson, Barry Tye, Michael Henn, Rob Hoelscher, Shad Cooper, Troy Fieseler, Doug Linn, Terry Pollard.

## **Member Updates**

- 1) Jessica reviewed the topics mentioned by breakout groups from last meeting.
- 2) Julie Kraft (SCWP): Cheatgrass monitoring update; will continue monitoring this year. BLM is going through the lengthy process to use new herbicides to treat cheatgrass.
- 3) Rich Stem: Continuing to work with the Forest Lab to develop options for entrepreneurs and a demonstration “on the ground” of what materials are here in the County.
- 4) Shad Cooper: CWPP grant application is due on March 15. *Action item: Shad will draft a letter of support to be signed by the “Collaborative” in support of a CWPP grant.*

## **Blowdown Updates**

Rob Hoelscher: Shared a Wilderness Trail Clearing Report (2020) which is a document that shares the extent of trail clearing that was completed and current status of those trails as of the end of 2020 field season. *Action Item: Rob will share this document with the group.*

- Rob also shared that the trail crew team is gearing up to get in the field as soon as snow allows to start clearing.
- Rob has had discussion with internal staff and the Friends of the BT to work together to get trails cleared for this summer. These discussions will continue.

Paul Swenson: Shared a map that intersects trails and Lidar-detected blowdown. Paul shared another map that zooms into the Big Sandy area, which gives the observer a better opportunity to assess acres affected and potential for trail intersect. *Action item: Paul will share the maps with the group.*

- Paul discussed using Collector to compile data for the blowdown. This will help with the widespread coordination as the blowdown is tackled throughout the year.

## **WGFD Wildlife Priority Areas**

Troy Fieseler shared a maps regarding

- Terrestrial Crucial Priority Areas, which shows the project areas discussed in the Collaborative meetings, on top of the Big Game Crucial (Pronghorn, Moose, Elk, Mule Deer) and Pinedale WGFD Priority Areas, to show overlap.
- Terrestrial Restoration Priority Areas. These are areas identified by WGFD. There is most overlap with the Transitional and Aspen habitats identified.

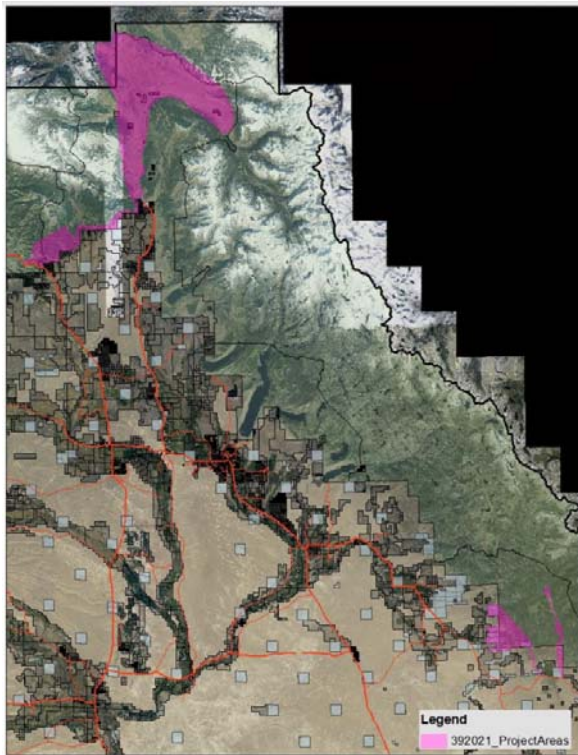


- Aquatic Crucial Priority Areas: These are the areas identified by WGFD for mesic habitats and riparian restoration. WGFD recommends analyzing stream restoration techniques with any upcoming projects.
- Aquatic Restoration Priority Areas: These are areas that the WGFD fish crew is looking at active restoration in the next 5 years.
- Designated and Identified Migration Routes: This map shows migration routes and stopover areas for Mule Deer in Sublette County. The map also shows Pronghorn migration routes.
- Troy discussed the human aspect of Wildlife management- including hunter and angler access, which WGFD would support projects that include providing access, such as trail clearing.
- WGFD now has a program which can upload project polygons and then allows WGFD to prioritize the projects in terms of wildlife.  
*Action item. Troy will provide the maps to the group.*

### **Start exploring options for recommendations on maps**

#### Group 1

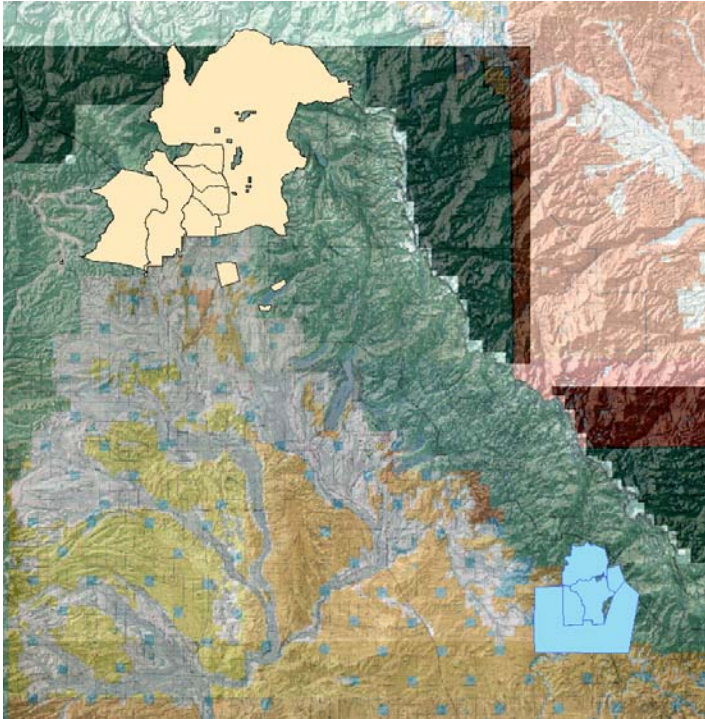
Very supportive of projects already discussed. Ingress/Egress travel corridors and infrastructure, muddy ridge, wildland/urban interface areas, captured Roosevelt fire salvage opportunities



#### Group 2

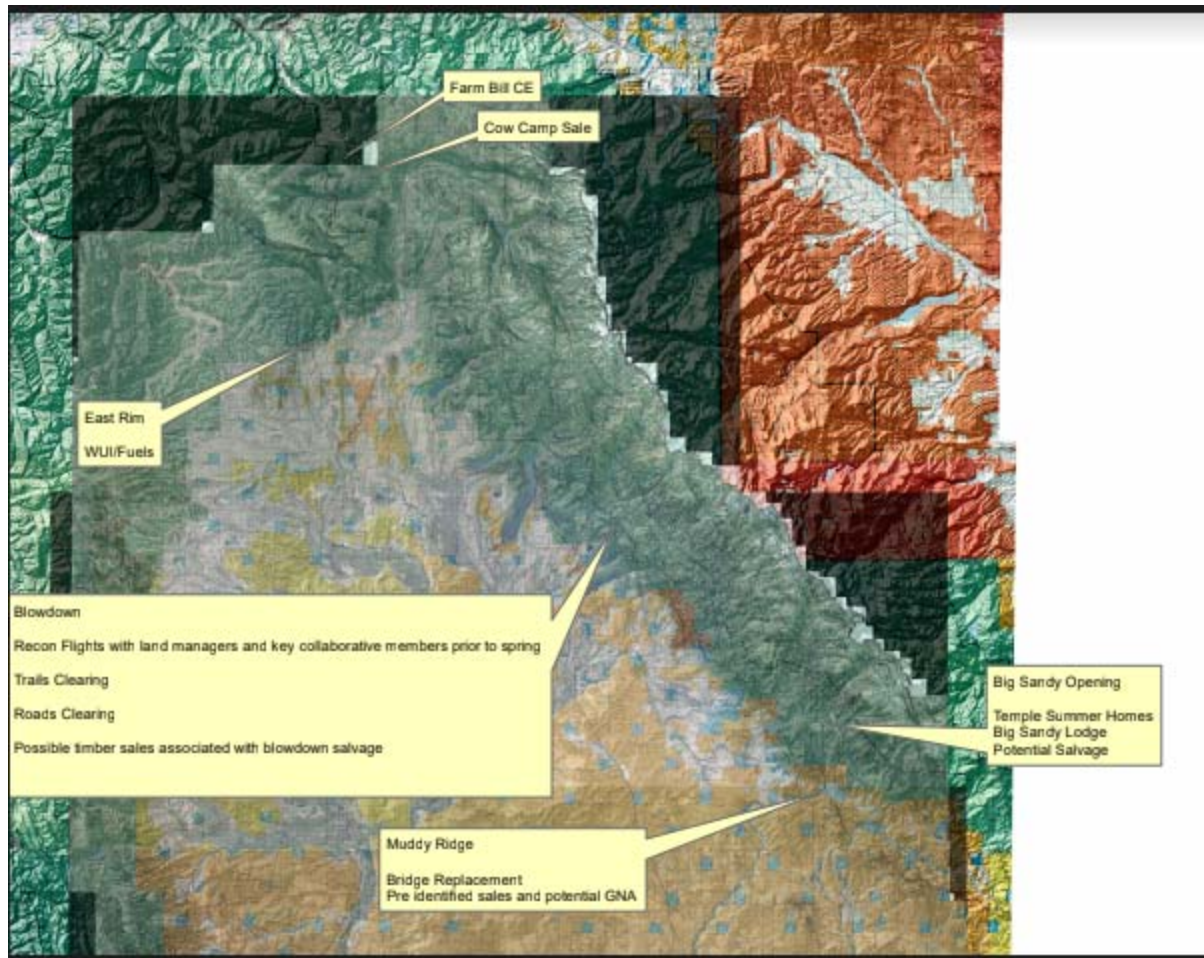
Created large polygons that would encapsulate projects already identified.





### Group 3

The group created points with project ideas. The recon flights to ground-truth Lidar were emphasized which could pin-point low-hanging fruit projects...



**Agenda Items for April 8**

Jessica will provide DRAFT recommendations for the April 8 meeting.

**Next Meetings**

April 8 Zoom 9am-12pm

April 20 in Person (time TBD)

