ECOSYSTEM AND FOREST HEALTH

**What sort of partnerships are already out there? What are people doing?**

* GSM – MOU w/ CDOT and SLB to allow control invasive weeds within their (CDOT/SLB) lands
	+ Areas in front of park, adjacent to park
* Conservation Districts working with State Forests on plant sales for conservation projects and mitigation efforts
* Four Corners Air Quality Partnership – meeting for a decade
	+ Looks at needs; assessment
	+ Very productive group
	+ EPA; class 1 airshed managers (BLM, USFS); MSI; state air quality commissions from Colorado, New Mexico
* San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (4 years)
	+ Pagosa Ranger district
	+ Broad-based community group; open membership
		- Firewise; USFS; MSI; CPW; BOCCs; ranching interests; recreation; water and sanitation district
	+ Forum to vet ideas
	+ Project creation
	+ Evolved out of a Conifer workshop that pinpointed need for community group partnership that looks at public health
* State of Colorado responsible for 9000+ animal species and not much land – every project requires a partner for CPW
	+ Improving wildlife habitat NOT multi-use goal
		- Challenges with multi-use management
* Dolores District aspen management and timber industry
	+ Mills need supply from USFS – harvesting trees suffering from sudden aspen decline
	+ Successful partnership that helps aspen
* Cross Watershed Network
	+ Emerging network across arid SW
	+ Creating peer-to-peer engagement through workshops, online presence, etc.
	+ Scope – watershed health
		- Riparian health – branching out to upland restoration
		- Practitioner driven
* Mancos watershed partnership
	+ Run through Mancos conservation district
	+ Goal to find conservation issues of interest to different stake holders
		- Water quality
		- Education
* Animas Watershed Partnership
	+ Focused on local water quality
	+ City of Durango; TU; tribes
* Tamarisk and Russian Olive partnerships across the arid west
* Firewise
	+ Working with private land owners on mitigation
	+ Plays into forest health
* MSI – research and citizen science
	+ Physical, biological projects
* USFS and SCC
	+ Green Veterans program
* Newly formed partnership! SW Colorado Fire Council & Biomass working group
	+ Looking for new sign ons (contact Pam or Thurman)
* Bio fuels working group in Pagosa
	+ J R Ford – prescribed burns; ten year contract with USFS
* Hermosa working group – how does legislative committee morph into implementation group

Shift to Identifying potential new partnerships

1. Strategic effort on invasive weeds or invasive species—pool info, set priorities,
2. Air Quality—Kline/Regional dust issue—dust abatement on agricultural lands
3. Biomass industry on western side of SJNF to use small diameter ponderosa and pinyon-juniper. General forest health, beetle becoming issue.
4. Nonpoint source runoff. Application of fertilizers to uplands
5. Sagebrush systems – sage grouse
6. Recreation Demands – motorized impacts on system health
7. Dgo’s natural lands board – open space Winter habitat, privatization of winter hab. Big game winter habitat colalition
8. Wildfire threats to water quality and water supply.
9. Travel management implementation for USFS

Possible Partnerships:

Low Elevation Forest Health –

WINNER: Regional Invasives –

Desired outcome of a Regional Invasive partnership??

* Buy-in from greater community; recognition that this is a serious problem
	+ Certain level of surrendering of local authority to work across boundaries
	+ Collaborative efforts are in place to manage invasive species across jurisdictional boundaries
	+ Cooperative weed management area – national effort
		- Fell flat about ten years ago
	+ Real World example: Florida Keys invasive species management group
		- Hinged on TNC providing funder for group facilitator/wrangler
* Watershed-wide control effort for conservation
* Agency funding
	+ Real world examples: Dolores district contracts with county which has machinery
* *Connotation of the world regional*

GOALS:

* Reduced and control occurrence of invasives
* Shared “decision making”
* Prioritizing geographic areas
* Central database
	+ GIS resources
* Common vision
	+ What is an invasive?
* Monitor effectiveness
* Promote awareness of potential new invasives
* Engage community
	+ Advocacy groups
	+ Local governments
* Share and leverage resources
* Formal coordinator

ACTION STEPS

1. Shared Decision making
	1. Form a committee
	2. Gather decision makers and their buy-in
		1. Possible MOU
2. Identify priority areas and species
	1. Inventory and review existing prioritization scheme
	2. Identify gaps in knowledge (outdated or doesn’t exist)
	3. Triage of existing issues
		1. Existing control efforts
3. Central database
	1. Engage Colorado Data Network
	2. Possible MOU
		1. Agreement on data gathering
4. Common Vision
	1. Hire a good facilitator
	2. Visioning workshop
5. Control/Reduce occurrence of invasives
	1. Pool resources
	2. Hire/engage crews
	3. *Implementation of vision*
6. Monitoring Effectiveness
	1. Develop standard monitoring protocol
	2. Collect and update existing work
7. Promote awareness
	1. Who is the key audience – what are the best avenues to reach those?
	2. Recruit educational groups
	3. Trainings
8. Engage Community
	1. Define the objective
		1. Who is the community?
	2. Develop communications plan
	3. Incentives and Enforcement
9. Share/leverage resource
	1. Expertise sharing
	2. Program coordinator – match making
	3. Locate funding sources

Next Steps:

* Gary Skiba to call next meeting