



**4FRI Stakeholder Group Meeting  
Minutes**

Wednesday, August 25, 2021, 9 am – Noon  
ZOOM Audio Meeting  
MEETING WAS RECORDED

**In attendance:** Brett Crary, Melanie Colavito, Adam Cooley, Adam Bringhurst, Art Babbott, Bob Seidler, Cerissa Hoglander, Elvy Barton, Evan Hjerpe, Ericka Luna, Judy Palmer, Greg Smith, Jay Smith, Jeremy Kruger, Joe Miller, John Godfrey, John Souther, Keith Brekhus, Keith Watkins, Kenna Belsky, Laura Jo West, Linda Wadleigh, Mark Nigrelli, Matt McGrath, Michelle Paduani, Neil Chapman, Patrick Moore, Paul Tetterton, Rob Nelson, Tabi Bolton, Tami Conner, Todd Schulke, Travis Wooley, Elaine Kohrman, Alicyn Gitlin, Alex Seung, Brett Crary, Kara Kirkpatrick-Kreitinger, Julian Wolff, Justin Schofer, Michele Ralston, Randy Fuller, Steve Horner, Adam Livermore, Kevin McCully, Tayloe Dubay, Brad Worsley, and Carol Covington taking minutes.

**Approve minutes from the July 28, 2021 Stakeholder Group meeting**— Melanie Colavito

**Review action items from the July 28, 2021 Stakeholder Group meeting** — Melanie Colavito

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. Request Elaine Kohrman or Loren Ebner from USFS to attend the next SHG meeting to address RFP questions.	Jeremy Kruger	See agenda below
2. All of SHG to review questions posed in Forest Service powerpoint regarding purpose of the Aug 17 field trip, and potential sites to visit. Offer comments to the Forest Service.	Entire Stakeholder Group - Melanie Colavito to gather comments and relay	Trip postponed
3. SHG members volunteer to be a part of co-chair rotation. Contact Melanie Colavito.	Melanie Colavito	Ongoing
4. RSVP for Burnt Corral field trip sent to whom?	Melanie Colavito will clarify and post on BaseCamp	Trip postponed

**Call to the Public** – Adam Bringhurst, PhD candidate at NAU, with a stream channel restoration focus to his work. He noted an absence in the literature is a consistent and repeatable method to prioritize site selection in ephemeral steam channels. He is hoping to collect data through an [online survey](#) of participants, representing the whole suite of restoration activities associated with 4FRI. He invited interested parties in 4FRI to participate in his survey (link above).

**USFS Update** – Jeremy Kruger

- Good Neighbor Agreements – He outlined two new programs where the state is removing wood from the forests in collaboration with SRP and DFFM.
- Operations – Brett Crary reported on acreage treated. There was an uptick in activity last

month perhaps because lumber prices are anticipated to decline.

- Rim Country – Kenna Belskey offered a brief update on the goings on with Rim Country FEIS.
- Update on Fire Management Directions – Judy Palmer reported that because of the severity of wildfires currently, personnel are scattered in western states battling these fires. She provided background information on the letter issued by the Forest Service Chief. Joe Miller noted that the letter indicated that there would be resumption of fire procedures with fire management. He suggested that it would be useful for the 4FRI group to receive a briefing on innovations in fire management techniques, science, and results. Jeremy Kruger offered to follow up and explore this option perhaps for the fall.
- RFP – Jeremy Kruger reported that initial discussions with the offerors have concluded. There are no additional significant announcements until mid-September. The USFS continues to pursue a thoughtful and methodical review of the proposals submitted. Paul Chapman asked who are the folks making the decisions, and suggested that the length of time that this has been under review is doing damage to the whole process and project. He asked that this message be relayed to those in the decision-making process. They need to know that the USFS can be counted on to fulfill their commitments. Elaine Kohrman responded that there is a well-honed leadership structure involved in the review process. She acknowledged that a year is a long time for a financial commitment, but reminded the group that the decision being made has a 20-year impact. Brad Worsley described how the delay has a long chain of impacts across industry, placing organizations at risk of failure while waiting. Elaine Kohrman responded that she hears the concerns being shared and has empathy. Paul Chapman interjected that for a private industry to secure capital is difficult, and when the process requires that they maintain that capital availability for a year or longer, is very unusual and difficult.

**Burnt Corral Field Trip Update** – Melanie Colavito noted that a new date for the field trip has not yet been identified, but she will update the group as a date is identified.

**Progress on Cragin CWPP Efforts under EA** – Linda Wadleigh District Ranger, Mogollon Rim District. She reported that the CWPP Cragin Watershed Protection Project encompasses roughly 64,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat and critical watershed. The agreement is designed to reduce fire behavior with 39,000 acres of mechanical treatment, prescribed fire, and managed wildfire. This area has been divided into smaller treatment areas and scheduled according to impacts around critical infrastructure and urban interface. She underscored the importance of the Baker Project as part of the Good Neighbor Agreements, which will remove smaller diameter material to prevent crown fire near Baker Butte.

**The Nature Conservancy Master Stewardship Agreement: Progress on Modernization & Efficiencies Update** – Travis Wooley and Tabi Bolton – Travis Wooley shared a [powerpoint presentation](#) summarizing the Master Stewardship Agreement: Progress on Modernization and Efficiencies. The goals of this agreement are to 1) innovate and modernize through new technologies and business practices, 2) provide a steady wood supply to a local market to incentivize industry investment, and 3) mutual learning between USFS/TNC/Industry. He offered an overview of the partnership and results to date of the effort, noting the tremendous success of the work. The work focused on three harvesting operations, Chimney Springs, Parks West, and Clover, totaling about 8200 acres. There has been an increased wood supply to markets, and have implemented tablet marking and in-cab tablet harvesting which has increased productivity. He described their use of the USFS [Virtual Boundary Desk Guide](#) to create virtual boundaries in the study area. Requests for access to this document were made. He described use of LiDAR technology to estimate volume to be removed. He noted the use of load averaging and an Iron Ranger for dropping tickets, thus avoiding weigh stations. Highlighted were some considerations for future

projects. Art Babbott asked if TNC is to continue with new projects and wondered what the new areas might be. Travis Wooley responded that they are looking at Walker Hill as one opportunity, but there will be more information available once the RFP is awarded.

### Industry Updates

Brad Worsley Novo Power, noted updates and mentioned an [LA Times article](#) that shares a point of view that is contrary to the work of 4FRI in forest management techniques. He asked for feedback from other stakeholders. Melanie Colavito mentioned a [series of articles](#) that outlines science to controvert the LA Times article and she will share the links. Travis Wooley addressed the article as well, and noted that treatments are designed not to stop fire, but to change fire behavior. Alicyn Gitlin offered a concern about opening up forests to more wind damage.

Adam Cooley NewLife Forest Products, operations are going well. Waiting for air quality permits to be issued for construction of sawmill in Belmont.

Tabi Bolton Campbell Global, reported that permits for heavy truck loads are becoming much more difficult to obtain through ADOT.

### Working Group Updates

- Final Environmental Impact Statement WG – Seeking a new co-chair following retirement of Steve Rosenstock.
- Industry/Biomass WG - None
- Communication WG - Tayloe Dubay shared the Summer 2021 4FRI newsletter, and asked for any updates or corrections by close of business tomorrow.
- Multi-Party Monitoring Board WG – Cerissa Hoglander provided a brief update on specific restoration sites and upcoming monitoring sites.
- Stakeholder Engagement WG - Melanie Colavito noted that Pascal Berlioux has offered to co-chair this group since the retirement of Steve Rosenstock.
- Comprehensive Implementation WG – Hannah Griscom provided a summary of the work completed in recent weeks in large part thanks to volunteers with the Grand Canyon Trust.

**Stakeholder Disclosures** – Joe Miller mentioned that there is a draft East Verde Headwaters action plan open for comment until September 10. It is a planning document used by Tonto National Forest for watershed restoration. He urged the group to offer comments as inclined to.

### Review Action Items

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Innovations in fire management briefing – SHG agenda item for fall	Jeremy Kruger	
2. Burnt Corral field trip rescheduled – convey information	Melanie Colavito	

**Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

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**2020 Meeting Schedule** – these dates are posted on the 4FRI website.

- Zoom - 9/22/2021, 10/27/2021, 12/17/2021, 1/19/2022, 2/23/2022, 3/23/2022, 4/27/2022

	2021	
	Hot Chair	Cold Chair
January	Jay Smith	A Mottek
February	Jay Smith	A Mottek
March	A Mottek	M Colavito
April	A Mottek	M Colavito
May	A Mottek	M Colavito
June	M Colavito	P Berlioux
July	M Colavito	P Berlioux
August	M Colavito	P Berlioux
September	P Berlioux	N Chapman
October	P Berlioux	N Chapman
November	P Berlioux	N Chapman
December	NO SHG MTG	NO SHG MTG