

2016 Los Alamos County CWPP Update Core Team Meeting

Meeting notes

March 8th, 2016, 10-12pm

Attendees: Todd Haines (NM State Forestry), Dan W. McCarn (resident), Eric Peterson (Los Alamos County Open Space), Ramon Garcia (Los Alamos County Fire Department), Stephen Rinaldi (Los Alamos County Fire Department), Rich Sack, (Santa Fe National Forest), Beverley Simpson (Los Alamos County), Matt Piccarello (Forest Stewards Guild)

- After introductions, core team members identified additional stakeholders who should be extended an invitation to participate in the core team meetings or public meetings. These include Carlos Valdez (Agricultural extension agent with NMSU), and Mike Feulner (Santa Fe County Fire Department).
- The current draft of the CWPP update was approved by the County and Los Alamos County Fire Department in 2015. NM State Forestry recommended a more robust public participation process in order to approve the plan.
- Engaging more stakeholders and having them as signatories on the final version of the CWPP will make for a stronger document.
- Forest Stewards Guild staff has developed a resident survey to garner public input and will work with core team members to distribute the survey to residents.
- Some community members are concerned about mitigation measures following wildfires, grass seeding in particular.
 - Selection of appropriate grass mixes and methods for reclamation use following wildfires and prescribed burns.
 - Stockpiling 100 acres (about \$5,000-\$10,000) of grass mix in preparation for wildfire. Stockpile should be used and replaced by the County for regular maintenance of county lands. Stockpiling grass seed is essential because appropriate grasses are not often available on short notice, especially the quantity required to restore a moderate fire. Grass seeds have a long storage life as long as they are kept cool and dry. The stockpile can be used by county agencies on an ongoing basis as long as a replacement program is implemented and monitored.
 - Mowing practices that consider vegetation type, timing, and stubble height are important to consider for improving native grass recovery and keeping non-native species at bay. Additionally, selective and appropriate use of broadleaf defoliant such as 2, 4-d Amine to suppress annual weeds and encourage native grasses should be considered,.
 - Mowing practices that consider stubble height are important to consider for improving native grass recovery and keeping non-native species at bay.
 - During the Cerro Grande fire, optimal grass mixes were hard to find and a quick compromise had to be made for re-seeding.
 - During the last two years, some important components of grass mixes have simply not been available, or limited quantities are available at

exorbitant rates. Planning to maintain a stockpile can be accomplished by purchasing grass seeds at relatively low costs, waiting until rarer grass seeds become abundant to add to the stockpile. Seeds should be stored separately and mixed when needed.

- Los Alamos County staff will work to reconstruct GIS modeling methodology for determining community hazard ratings. County ratings will align with NM State Forestry's 3 rating system.
- A "cross-over" section that aligns the CWPP update with other management plans, such as the hazard mitigation plan, would be a useful addition to the CWPP update.
- Core team members worked together to identify progress and potential action items for the 2016 update by reviewing action items from the 2009 CWPP. A separate document captures the notes from this effort and will be shared with core team members.
- A biological assessment for federal lands in the County can be included as an appendix. Are existing biological assessments still valid?
- A test of the County's reverse 911 system is a good action item to include in the CWPP update.
- The Bandelier National Park staff resources page (p. 31) in the CWPP update needs to be updated.

Additional information:

- Project webpage has been created and can be accessed at <http://www.forestguild.org/losalamosCWPP>