

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT)
)
ARCHULETA COUNTY) SS
)
STATE OF COLORADO)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) is scheduled for Monday, December 2, 2024, 4:00 PM (Mountain Standard Time).

The meeting will be at the SJWCD office at 46 Eaton Drive Suite 5, Pagosa Springs, CO. The SJWCD Board anticipates an Executive Session and discussion of shared documents related to the agenda below. This meeting is in-person, but may be attended by Zoom.

San Juan Water Conservancy District is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: SJWCD Public Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting
Time: Dec 2, 2024 04:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86741629298?pwd=3HJcMNou0aFbltw1qWL7X5h7FNkXRz.1>

Meeting ID: 867 4162 9298

Passcode: 708041

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,86741629298#,,,,*708041# US

+16699009128,,86741629298#,,,,*708041# US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86741629298?pwd=3HJcMNou0aFbltw1qWL7X5h7FNkXRz.1>

Proposed Agenda for the Public Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting is as follows:

1. Public 2025 Budget Hearing Call to Order
2. Public Comment (3-minute limit)
3. Consideration of the 2025 Budget
4. Adjourn Hearing
5. Regular Meeting Call to Order
6. Revisions to Agenda and Approval of Agenda

7. Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

8. Public Comment (3-minute limit)

9. *Executive Session. Upon an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present, the San Juan Water Conservancy District will go into executive session pursuant to section 24-6-402(4) of the Colorado Revised Statutes to discuss matters concerning the transfer or sale of real, personal or other property interest pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(a) of the Colorado Revised Statutes, to confer with the District's attorney for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S., and to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(e), C.R.S., all regarding the potential sale of the Running Iron Ranch on the initiative of the Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District.*

10. Consideration of Actions Relating to the Running Iron Ranch

- Potential sale on the initiative of the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District
- Renewal of Weber grazing lease

11. Attorney's Report

12. Treasurer's Report

13. Consideration of Funding San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership – Alex Handloff

14. Consideration of Funding Watershed Enhancement Partnership

15. Consideration of Funding Water Information Program

16. Consideration of Funding Weather Modification Program and authorization to sign Weather Modification Service Contract

17. Consideration of Yeh Engineering Proposal

18. Consideration of authorizing expense to replace damaged boundary maps and follow up with landlord

19. Board Member Reports and Updates

- Weather radar ribbon cutting and workshop – Randy Cooper
- PARC meeting – Bill Nobles
- Division 7 Measurement Rules – presentation slides and CWCB grant announcement
- PEPO Education Committee volunteer request (Elaine Chick)

- San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership – Joe Tedder
- Other Updates

20. Consideration of Approval of Records of Proceedings from 10/14/24, 10/29/24 and 11/7/24 Meetings

21. Updates from Committees Advancing Strategic Objectives and Actions

Objective 1: Advance the San Juan River Headwaters Project (SJRHP) as one resource for meeting agricultural, municipal, environmental, and recreational water needs of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) community. (Directors Riehm, Nobles, Proffitt)

Objective 2: Identify complementary and supplemental uses for the Running Iron Ranch property and initiate programs with suitable partners to develop the particular use cases. (Directors Hagberg, Riehm, Proffitt)

Objective 3: Educate the SJWCD community about water resource issues facing the Upper San Juan River Basin and define the public position on the construction of a reservoir. (Directors Tedder, Nossaman, Hagberg, Nobles)

- Watershed Film Event follow up

22. Schedule Next Meeting and Adjournment

- 2025 objectives and planning work session
- Video event follow-up and video 3 planning work session
- Late December Special Meeting to approve 2025 Budget before submission
- January meeting

SAN JUAN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
By /s/ Sally High
Executive Assistant to the Board of Directors
DISTRICT SEAL

A Public Budget Hearing of **San Juan Water Conservancy District** is scheduled for Monday December 2, 4 p.m., at 46 Eaton Drive Suite 5, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147. A draft budget is posted at www.sjwcd.org.
 2025 Budget Message Pursuant to C.R. S. 29-1-103(1) (e)

The 2025 Budget for the San Juan Water Conservancy District includes the following expectations:
 • revenues to be similar to 2024.
 • engineering studies to determine the suitability of Running Iron Ranch as a reservoir site for the San Juan River Headwaters Project.
 • continuation of community education and engage-

ment activities.
 • legal expenses for water rights defense, opposition to trans-mountain diversions, and opposition to the sale of Running Iron Ranch.
 • continuation of support of forest health, stream planning / enhancement, water education, and advocacy for river health.

2025 SJWCD Budget - For Public Comment

		2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Forecast EOY	2025 Budget
1	Impact Fee Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	
2	Senior Exemption	1,552	1,603	1,580	1,600	1,736	1,700
3	Misc and Grants	83	0	0	0	17,940	2,310
4	General Property Taxes	80,360	90,044	90,641	137,849	135,422	139,542
5	Specific Ownership	8,985	10,484	10,125	9,000	9,000	9,000
6	Current Tax Interest	205	247	255	200	321	250
7	Delinquent Tax Interest	210	65	42	10	80	75
8	Delinquent Tax	147	56	111	40	200	100
9	PILT	60	0	0	0	0	0
10	Interest Income	88	3,209	11,336	11,000	14,072	14,000
11	Personal Property Exemption	0	279	275	0	270	275
12	Other Revenue	0	0	0	0	7,598	0
	TOTAL REVENUE	91,691	105,986	114,365	159,699	186,639	167,252
13	Settlement II	0	0	0	0	0	
14	Engineering / Studies / Surveys	15,126	15,680	31,896	95,000	0	100,000
15	Due Diligence / Application	1,742	2,560	898	2,000	0	0
16	Land Acquisition	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Water Rights Defense	4,832	3,240	10,744	5,000	8,772	9,000
18	General (CDOT, fence, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Ditches and Streams	70	154	198	225	638	650
20	Cloud Seeding	1,000	1,000	1,080	1,100	1,080	1,150
21	Audit Expense	750	750	850	900	850	900
22	Board Expense	1,044	1,269	140	500	140	350
23	Insurance / Bonds	1,413	1,557	1,478	1,600	1,600	1,760
24	Legal / CORA	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Office Supplies	192	318	427	750	615	750
26	Office Lease	5,603	6,000	6,090	6,120	6,370	6,420
27	Legal - District General	12,055	12,951	6,335	12,000	10,355	22,000
28	Publications / Website	32	0	232	250	682	375
29	Support Services	15,237	11,640	11,610	12,000	10,160	12,000
30	Telephone / Internet	733	734	734	800	700	800
31	Dues	862	515	886	1,000	585	1,500
32	Training	325	625	647	2,500	0	1,500
33	Travel	723	886	1,514	2,500	384	2,000
34	Contributions / Sponsorships	0	0	250	500	0	500
35	Water Information Program (WIP)	2,500	2,500	2,875	2,875	2,875	3,000
36	Public Education	0	10,757	9,746	10,000	8,000	10,000
37	County Treasurer's Fees	2,472	2,753	2,777	5,000	4,352	4,800
38	Abatements	105	225	57	150	214	200
39	Election Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	Growing Water Smart	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	SJ Watershed Enhancement	0	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
42	Forest Health Partnership	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,750
43	Grant Project Expense				20,250	17,940	2,310
	EXPENDITURES	69,314	81,113	96,463	188,020	81,311	187,215
43	Contingency	0	0	0	10,000	4,863	10,000
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	69,314	81,113	96,463	198,020	81,311	197,215
	NET INCOME	22,377	24,874	17,902	-38,321	105,329	-29,963
	Cash Balances (Estimated End of Year)						
	Operating Fund (TBK)				33,532	51,259	7,296
	General Savings (Colorado Trust)				232,933	321,400	335,400
	Total Cash Balance				266,465	372,659	342,696





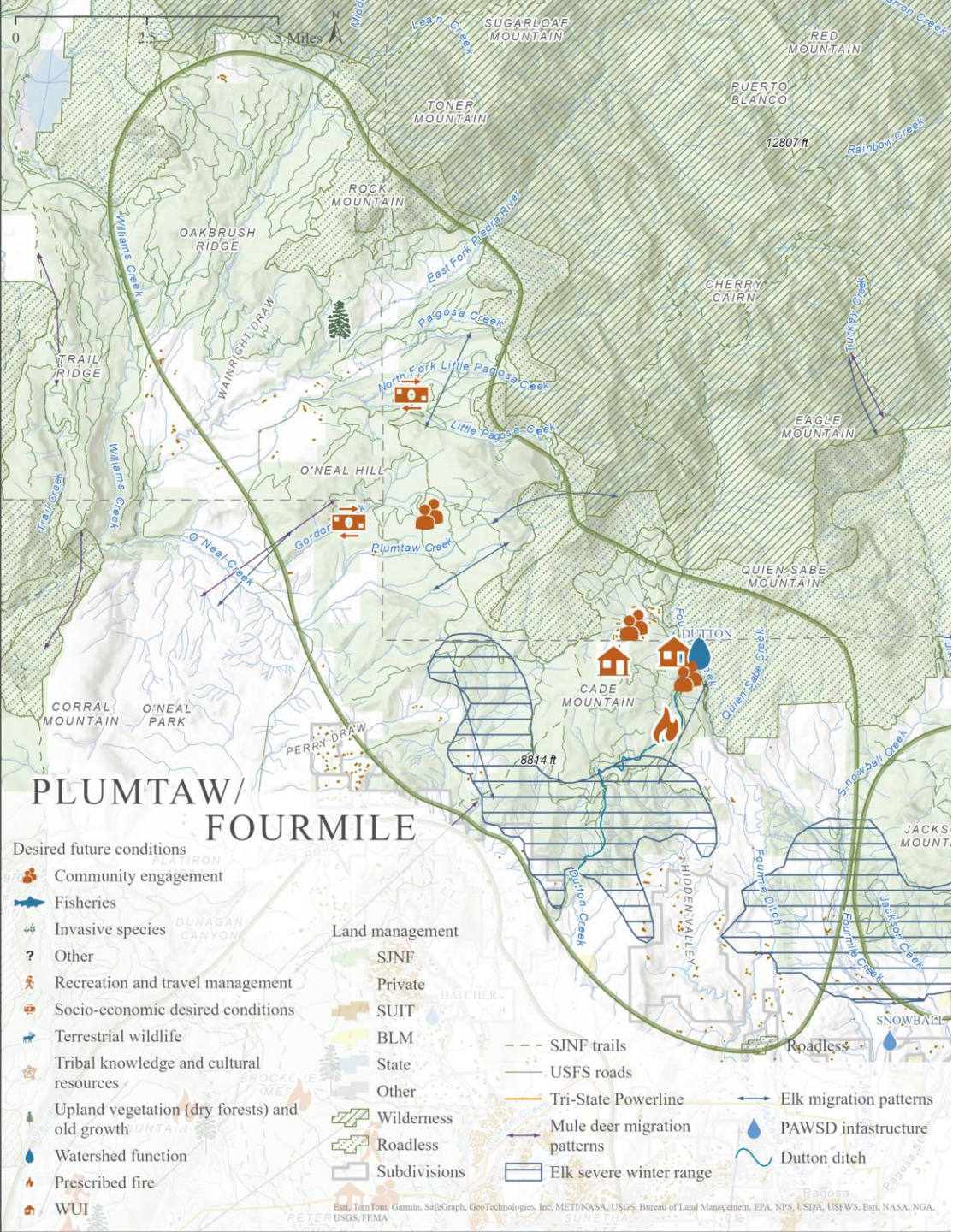
WHAT IS SJHFHP?

We develop science-based, collaborative priorities for the sustainable management of forests, watersheds and essential community resources.



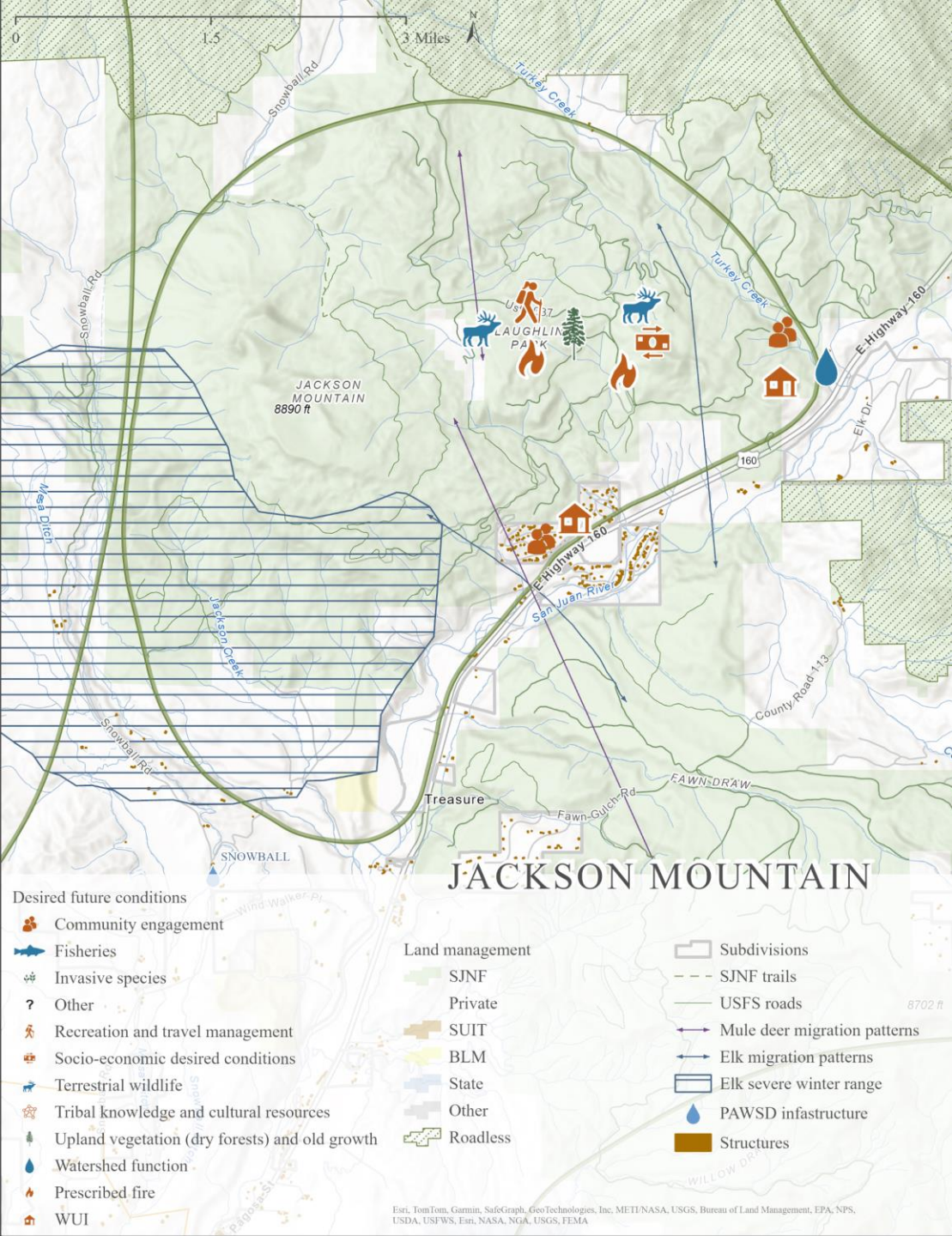
2024

- Prioritizing watersheds and water infrastructure on our Fact Sheets to help direct funding for protection from wildfire and post-wildfire impacts
- Year of data from snowtopography which will help determine what forest management practices support water resources.
- Building relationship with WEP, collaboration on future projects and funding opportunities.
- Private lands wildfire risk mitigation work completed.



Plumtaw/Fourmile

- Prioritization of areas based on values like drinking water
- Maintenance of treatments that contributed to positive outcome of Plumtaw Fire
- Dutton diversion, Snowball treatment
- Upper Piedra planning effort coming soon



Jackson Mountain

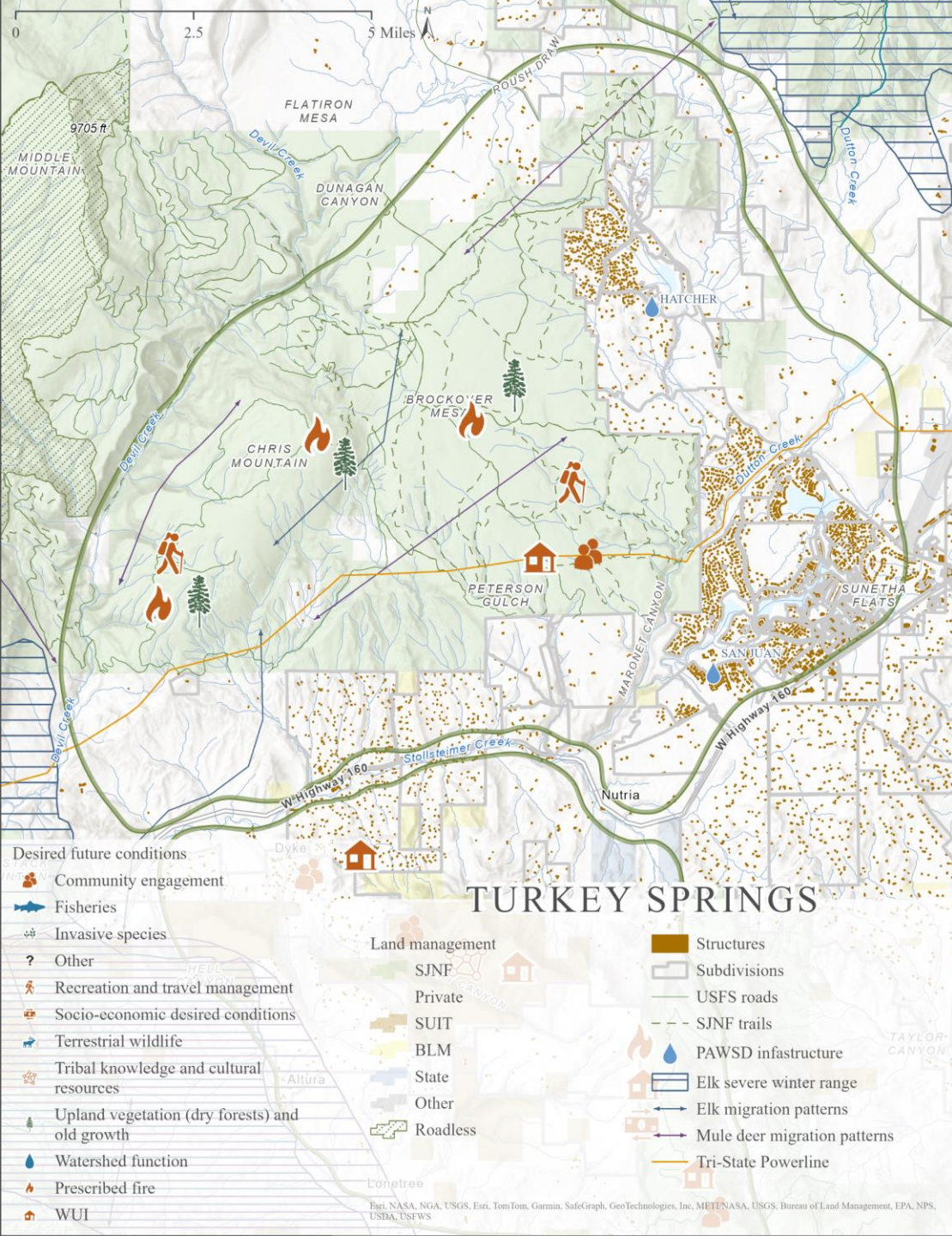
- Continued prioritization of areas surrounding infrastructure and values
- Snowball treatment

Getting to Know Snow on Jackson Mountain

Posted on February 12, 2024 by Post Contributor

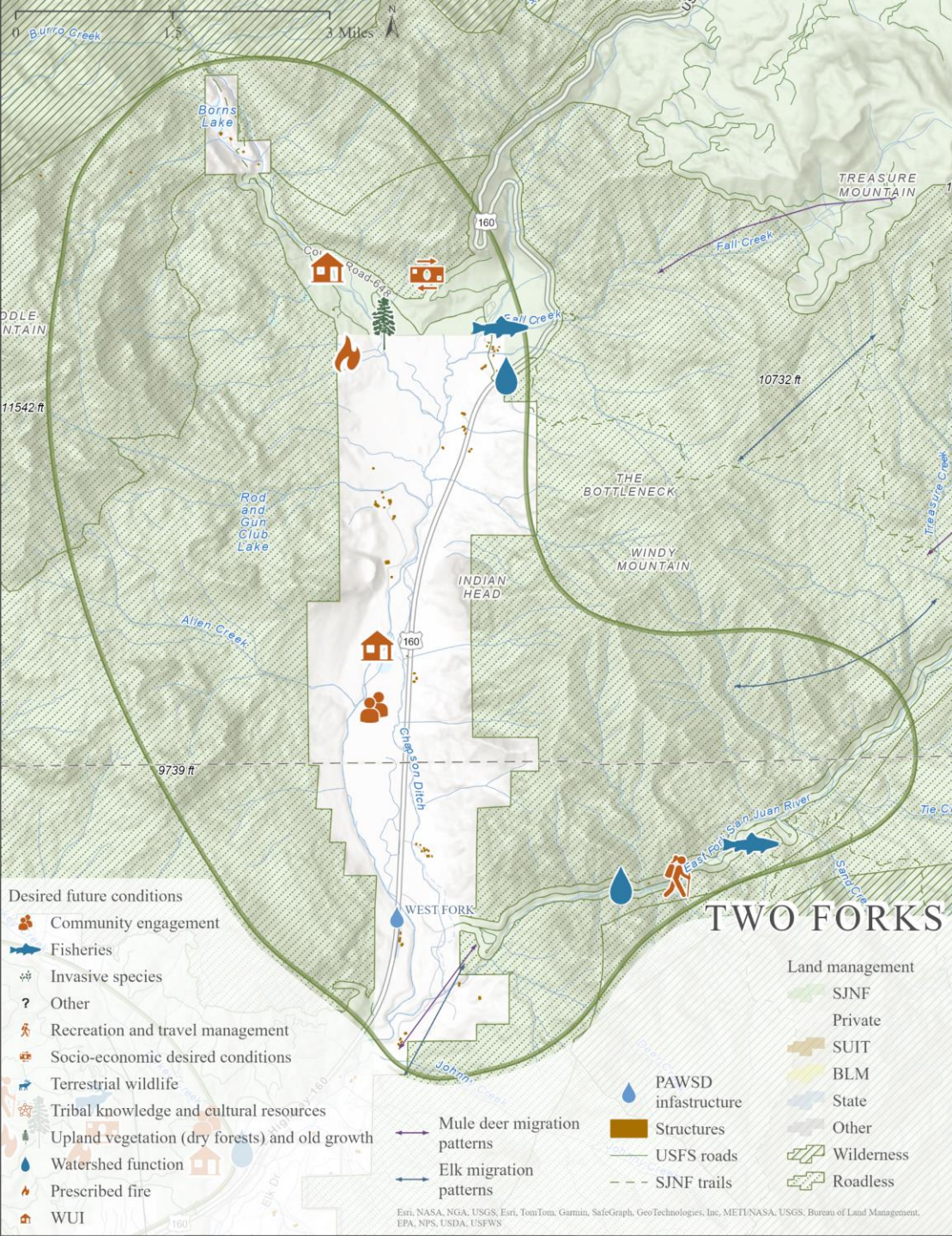


Photo: A trail camera captures the installation of a snowtography research site on Jackson Mountain in the fall of 2023.



Turkey Springs

- Continued prioritization of areas surrounding infrastructure and values
- Hatcher treatment, San Juan treatment
- Pagosa Ranger District of SJNF has planned mastication along POD boundary, several other projects planned in this area



West Fork

- Continued prioritization of areas surrounding infrastructure and values of the headwaters of the San Juan River

The Future of SJHFHP thanks to SJWCD

- CWCB Wildfire Ready Watersheds grant (and other sources) that funds planning and implementation of forestry and water improvement projects in preparation of post-wildfire impacts.
- Plumtaw-like projects that directly protect water infrastructure and water resources.
- SJHFHP has capacity to co-develop new projects with partners – what do you want to see for SJWCD.
- CWPP update that helps entities in the county acquire more funding, be competitive for grants and plan for impact of fire





Pagosa Gateway Project

Progress Report: October 1, 2023 to November 1, 2024

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

The Town of Pagosa Springs and the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP), a community-based watershed group, will improve over 2 miles of the San Juan River to preserve aquatic habitat in the face of declining flows and warming temperatures. The San Juan River is home to native and recreational fisheries. River recreation, including sport fishing, is a significant economic driver in this small rural community.

A recent environmental and recreational water supply needs assessment commissioned by WEP identified concerning changes in stream hydrology driven by prolonged drought. (Lotic 2021). The study concludes that late summer and fall flows may be restricting the availability and quality of aquatic habitat for fish and other aquatic species. Conditions are projected to get worse, based on state scenario planning models which indicate significant reduction in magnitude and frequency of peak flows, further reductions in late summer and fall flows, and increase in stream temperature in the area. (Lotic 2021). The Pagosa Gateway Project will implement a series of measures, including creation of low flow channels, riffle and pool habitat, bank stabilization and revegetation, fish passage to increase the resiliency of the San Juan River and its fisheries in the face of a potentially dry and hot future.

PROGRESS UPDATE

After a delay in finalizing a large percentage of the project funding from the state, the Colorado Water Conservation Board issued a notice to proceed on June 1, 2023. Since then the following activities have been achieved:

Selecting a design-build contractor & project kick off:

- A design-build request for proposal (RFP) was issued on October 13, 2023
- Four qualified bids were received on November 22, 2023
- Award selection was completed on December 22, 2023 when the FlyWater team was chosen
- Project kick off meeting for the Project commenced on February 28, 2024 between WEP & FlyWater

- Bi-weekly meetings have occurred since the kick off meeting
- An environmental and cultural compliance meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation took place on March 22, 2024 where it was determined an Environmental Assessment would be required for the project.

Public outreach & stakeholder engagement:

- Two public outreach meetings have taken place to obtain feedback; May 23, 2024 to present 30% design and October 10th to present the 60% design. The meetings were well attended and valuable comments were received and incorporated into the further development toward 100% design.
- Property owners: since this project is along private property The WEP has met with 18 property owners at least three times in this reporting period to obtain input and buy-in. All property owners are in support of this project.

Design update:

- Rapid riparian health assessments were accomplished throughout the project site and vegetation surveys, FEMA cross sections, longitudinal profile through entire stream reach, water surface elevations, and refinement of floodplain profiles have been completed.
- The 30% and [60% designs](#) for the project were completed during this reporting period.
- NEPA Compliance:
 - All field assessments were completed including environmental and cultural. (Natural Resource Surveys, Wetland Delineation & Cultural Resource Surveys)
 - Cultural – project assessments have been completed and are being used in the design and NEPA permitting process.
 - Biological – All biological assessments have been completed and are being used for design and NEPA permitting processes. Initial consultation with the USFWS and CPW has been made.
 - NEPA documents Draft: NEPA related BA and EA outlines and documents have been shared with the Bureau of Reclamation.

Next Steps: NEPA EA process and record of decision; Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County floodplain development permit applications; ACOE NWP#27 PCN submittal; Final design, project specifications, and total construction cost.

- Forecast for the 100% design is April 2025
- Construction is scheduled for the fall of 2025 and is to be completed by November 30, 2025.

BUDGET SUMMARY UPDATE

Due to time sensitive grants expiring in 2024, no SJWCD grant funds have been spent on the project to date.

November 6, 2024

Proposal No. 224-459

San Juan Water Conservancy District
6 Eaton Drive, Suite 5
Pagosa Springs, CO, 81147

Attn: Ms. Candace Jones

Subject: Proposal for Geotechnical Services, Running Iron Ranch Reservoir, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Dear Ms. Jones:

Yeh and Associates, Inc. is pleased to submit this proposal to provide geotechnical services for a feasibility study of the Running Iron Ranch Reservoir project near Pagosa Springs, Colorado. This proposal was prepared in response to our meeting on October 25, 2024 and the scoping document provided by you on the same date. The project will consist of a new water supply reservoir that will impound approximately 11,000 acre-feet of water in the Dry Gulch draw northeast of Pagosa Springs. The limits of the new reservoir will be within the limits previously proposed for the Dry Gulch Reservoir shown on Figure 5-4 of the Davis Engineering Service and Harris Water Engineering (2001) Preliminary Engineering Study¹. Preliminary drawings prepared by MWH (2008)² show a dam height of approximately 100 feet to impound a 12,500 acre-foot reservoir, so it is anticipated the dam height would be slightly less for an 11,000 acre-foot reservoir.

Yeh will review existing project studies, review publicly available geologic maps and historical aerial photographs, and prepare a Preliminary Geotechnical and Geologic Hazards Report as input to the project feasibility study. The report will provide a summary of the existing studies and aerial photos reviewed, pertinent geologic maps and data, and a discussion of the geologic hazards and geotechnical considerations, and associated potential impacts to the design, construction, schedule, or cost of the project. The report will include our opinion of potential gaps in available geotechnical information relative to the feasibility study and recommendations for further study. The report will be issued in portable document file (PDF) format and will discuss the following:

¹ Davis Engineering Service and Harris Water Engineering (2001), Draft Preliminary Engineering Study of Water Supply Alternatives for Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, dated July.

² MWH Americas (MWH 2008), Dry Gulch Reservoir and San Juan Diversion Projects, Conceptual Level Opinion of Probable Construction Costs for Raw Water Supply Facilities, dated September.

- Regional and site geology;
- Anticipated soil, rock and groundwater conditions;
- Regional faulting;
- Potential for geologic hazards to impact the site (active faulting, liquefaction, seismic settlement, lateral spreading, erosion, slope instability, landslides, debris flows) and potential mitigation measures. Exploratory work such as drilling or fault-trenching is not included in this scope of work;
- Potential for consolidation, expansive or collapsible soil below the proposed dam, reservoir rim stability, reservoir area leakage; and
- Adverse geologic conditions that should be considered in the design of the dam and anticipated excavations.

A draft report can be submitted for review within about 8 weeks after receiving notice to proceed. The final report can be submitted within about 2 weeks after receiving comments. Services will be provided on a lump sum basis according to fee schedule rates at the time of work. Our estimated fee and rate schedule for the scope of services described in this proposal is attached. Yeh will not exceed the estimated amount without prior authorization of the Client.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. Please contact Gresh Eckrich at 805-616-0399 geckrich@yeh-eng.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,
YEH AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

Gresham D. Eckrich, PE, PG, CEG
Senior Project Manager

Fee Schedule (2024 CA)
Estimate of Fees



FEE ESTIMATE WORKSHEET
Running Iron Ranch Reservoir, Pagosa Springs, Colorado
Geotechnical Services

PREPARED BY: G.Eckrich										DATE: October 10, 2024		
PROJECT No.: 224-459										CLIENT: SJWCD		
PHASE	Principal Engineer or Geologist	Sr. Project Manager	Sr. Project Specialist	Project Manager	Sr. Project Engineer or Geologist	Project Engineer or Geologist	Sr. Staff Engineer or Geologist	Staff Engineer or Geologist	CAD Designer	Engineer Intern	HOURS	COSTS
Geotechnical Services:												
1 Initiation and Review of Existing Studies/Data		8			8						16	
2 Evaluation and Graphics		8	8		16				8		40	
3 Draft - Prelim Geotech & Geologic Hazards Report	6	16	8		32				4		66	
4 Final - Prelim Geotech & Geologic Hazards Report	2	4			8						14	
SUBTOTAL	8	36	16	0	64	0	0	0	12	0	136	\$ 25,580
Unit Costs and Direct Expenses:												
Aerial Photo Decade Package												\$ 300
SUBTOTAL												\$ 300
RATE, PER HOUR (2024)	\$ 235	\$ 220	\$ 210	\$ 190	\$ 165	\$ 150	\$ 135	\$ 120	\$ 155	\$ 75		
ESTIMATED TOTAL FEE												\$ 25,880