

Kootenai Stakeholder Coalition General Meeting

(4/1/15)

The meeting was opened at 5:30 PM by chair person, Robyn King following introductions. The meeting minutes from the February 4, 2015 meeting were approved by the membership.

Common Ground Report-

Jessie Grossman reported that the committee was making good headway addressing the wilderness/recreation recommendations. Tim Dougherty commented that the discussions were respectful and he appreciated the motorized users participation.

Elections-

The election for board members was conducted with the following 13 members elected: Burgess, Dougherty, King, Konzen, Levert, Martin, McIntyre, Mckenzie, Peck, Petersen, Robinson, Vincent and Wandler. The executive board members elected are: King-chair; Dougherty-co-chair; Levert-Secretary/Treasurer; Mckenzie; and Robinson.

Executive Board Meeting with Chris Savage-

A report was given about the board's meeting with Chris today. We mutually agreed to the need for a new MOU, since our old MOU expired several years ago. Chris suggested the need to make it more pertinent to where we are today, including updates, stewardship contracting and the use of large landscape projects, which might include other ownerships. Chris thought some kind of partnership agreement might be more pertinent.

Tasks assigned from the meeting include: relationship building session between stakeholders and FS: response from stakeholders on 5 year plan(Ed to organize) and a comparison of the stakeholder vegetative guidelines with the new forest plan(Timory Peel, Jessie, Ed and Tim).

Future Presentations(of interest to membership)-

Robyn suggested a presentation from a representative of the Blackfoot Challenge CFLP. This may give our group ideas on how we might become a CFLP. Molly Kiernan was interested in what groups such as ATV clubs, Montana Wilderness Association and others are doing. Tracy suggested information from rural conservation districts such as Wallowa Resources. Doug Ferrell thought industry views of our stakeholders might be of interest.

Bill Martin mentioned the need for clarification of forest plan back country designations such as 5a, 5b and 5c. Chris said some to this confusion may better be handled through the forest travel management plan. Jessie said that she liked the 5 year timber program presentation by the district rangers and would like more working meetings similar to that one.

Chris discussed the recreation strategy being proposed by the Regional Office. This discussion will start sometime this summer and will have nine categories of focus. We might look at this next fall.

Team Reports-

Jessie reported on the Oly Project on the Three Rivers District. The February meeting with the stakeholder committee included a very thorough presentation by the district specialists. The draft EIS is due out this fall and we will be able to comment on that. The area includes over 65,000 acres with much of project focusing on the WUI.

Sarah Alberts, the new timber management assistant, provided more detail of the ownership and treatments planned on the Oly project.

Tim Dougherty said that the ground based skidding on the Sparring Bulls Sale was completed and only the cable units are left. Jessie said that KFSC is putting together a proposal for post sale monitoring that she's hoping to start on the Sparring Bulls and South Fork Fuels projects this season. Tim also mentioned the progress of logging on South Fork Sale.

Shawn Morgan and Doug Ferrell gave an update on stakeholder activities on the Cabinet District including the Elk-Rice Sale. Doug said that there was a good representation of interests on the team. John Gubel said that frequent turnover of members made it difficult.

There were no activities to report on the Libby, Rexford and Fortine districts by the teams.

District Reports-

Three Rivers- The Grizzly Project should wrap up by July 16. A notice of intent to sue was served on the Sparring Bulls Sale based on violations of Sec. 7 of ESA. This is not expected to become an issue. Three fuels units and seven timber harvest units are complete on South Fork Fuels.

The Buckhorn project has road work slated to start next summer on the Spread Thick Timber Sale. This is the largest of the three timber sales within this project. The Lower Yaak/O'Brien/Sheep Project DEIS, which covers 67,499 acres, is scheduled for release in the fall of 2015.

Tim offered our group an opportunity to tour a commercial thinning timber sale this spring on the Idaho Panhandle N.F.

Libby- Nate Gassmann, district ranger gave the report. The district is working on the 5 Mile Stewardship Sale. Miller-West Fisher, which was sold and put on hold is now being redone under new guidelines. The district hopes to begin work on the Flower Creek Project this

summer. The East Libby Project is 8 months out. The Corp of Engineers is planning a fish rehabilitation project on Dunn Creek this summer. The South Flower Ski Area is now closed.

Rexford/Fortine- The Young Dodge is proceeding now that Judge Molloy denied an injunction to enjoin the entire project pending appeal to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The DEIS for the Galton Vegetation and Fuels project is scheduled to be published in early May. The Pinkham/Meadow project is currently on hold until progress on higher priority projects has been made.

Cabinet- The South Hill Project three miles south of Trout Creek includes 4,500 acres of mostly WUI. The NEPA Decision and implementation is planned for FY 2018.

The Elk Rice Project covers 44,000 acres near Heron. On March 11, 2015 the IDT met with the stakeholder team to discuss initial team findings and further refine treatments. The public scoping is planned for August.

The Helwick Project covers 9,000 acres in the Beaver Creek drainage. The decision notice is planned for October, 2015.

Chris Savage- Chris updated us on the sale of Montanore and the Revett holdings to Hecla Mining. The Troy Mine will be closed as a result of this action. The Montanore Project is entering the 45 day objection period lasting until May 18. The Rock Creek Project draft EIS is available for review. May 18th is the final day to submit objections to this project.

The forest received over 300 comments on the Access Management Plan. The report will capture the recommendations and this will go to NEPA under Subpart B of the Travel Rule.

As of this date, there is 136 MMBF of timber under contract to 15 different contractors and 15 different types of businesses operating on the KNF. Chris estimates reaching 45-47 MMBF this year.

The forest received \$100,000 through the Governor's Initiative for NEPA work on thinning of the approximate 400,000 acres of regenerated stands on the Kootenai. The KNF also received some money from the regional office to complete this project. Chris said he expects to bring in outside resources to complete the analysis so as not to take away from the localized work on the districts. This is a new type of project for the region and could set the standard for future projects like it.

Paul Rumelhart gave the group a summary of a possible synthetic bio-diesel plant for Libby. It is the current priority location out of 14 total locations being studied. The plant is estimated to cost \$42,00,000 to construct and would require 45,000 bone/dry/tons a year to operate.

Paul said that one hang up is a subsidy that is currently available for such plants will only cover biomass from private lands.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 PM.

Next Meeting- September 2, 2015

Ed Levert, Secretary