

Kootenai Stakeholder Coalition General Meeting

(March 29, 2016)

Attendees:

Board Members-

Robyn King, Yaak Valley Forest Council
Dawain Burgess
John Konzen
Bill Martin
Paul McKenzie, FH Stoltze Land and Lumber
Ed Levert, Lincoln Co. Forester
Amy Robinson, MWA
Mike Petersen, The Lands Council
Tim Dougherty, Idaho Forest Group
Jerry Wandler, Troy Snowmobile Club

Non-Board Members-

Dave Marsh, DNRC
Jessie Grossman, YVFC
Doug Ferrell, Friends of Scotchman Peaks
Scott Mattheis, Montanas For Multiple Use(NLCC)
Shawn Morgan, Thompson River Lumber
Dave Hadden, Headwaters Montana
Greg Larson, Lincoln County Commissioner
Eileen Carney
Wayne Kasworm, USFWS
Mo Bookwalter, DNRC
Matt Arno, DNRC

US Forest Service-

Chris Savage, Kootenai National Forest
Bryan Donner
John Gubel
Kirsten Kaiser
Nate Gassman

Following a welcome and introductions, Chair Robyn King opened the meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes as written by Duane Burgess and seconded by Bill Martin. They were approved unanimously.

Common Ground Committee-

Jessie Grossman, Chairman of the Common Ground Committee than discussed the next steps needed to implement the recently approved KFSC agreement. Those steps included starting by updating the commissioners and legislators. It also includes a planned presentation to the Forest Landowner Conference-Society of American Foresters meeting in Helena.

Ed brought up the recent discussions on the Federal Advisory Committee Act(FACA) when dealing with the Forest Service. April 13 is a scheduled follow up meeting of the executive committee and the Kootenai Forest Leadership Team.

Forests in Focus-

Mo Bookwalter and Matt Arno of the DNRC office in Missoula explained the governor's "Forests in Focus" program. The objective is to get all agencies and private landowners to work cooperatively. Much of the program is tiered to the 2013 Farm Bill which includes categorical exclusion authorizations. They have spent \$2 million with 15 separate projects in 11 counties. The outputs are jobs. Collaborative involvement is critical. The "Good Neighbor Authority" grants authority to work across Forest Service and private boundaries. There is a need for more projects. Funds for the programs is generated from the state bill that allows the governor discretionary spending authority for excess funds accumulated in the fire fighting fund.

Matt Arno is the new liaison between the DNRC and the FS. He is working with county commissioners and MACO to get counties more involved to address fuel reduction and economic issues. There were lots of questions from selling FS timber to the State to the loss of county funds in stewardship contracts.

State of the Forest-

The comment period for the supplemental Rock Creek EIS is open to April 19. One year is estimated to complete the ROD.

Montanore ROD completed by FS and state DEQ, but the State requires evaluation of different stages of water quality. Waiting on Mines Management to acquire required 500 acres of property and discharge permit.

Young Growth(Y-G) Project analysis is proceeding with two action alternatives. One is for 208,000 acres with harvest limited to 100' from a existing road and the preferred alternative is 438,000 acres with harvest limited to within a half mile of from an open roads, gated and bermed roads. Screens and filters will occur based on resources in this programmatic EIS.

Swapping core areas will be allowed. Roads status will be based on the original decision. Y-G stands can be folded into another project.

Jerry Wandler wondered if treatments along roads might attract bears. Wayne Kasworm said that was possible. Jessie asked about consultation with the USFWS and Chris said the FS would monitor.

The forest has purchased an air curtain burner for burning slash piles.

District Reports-

Libby District- Nate Gassman said that road work is scheduled on the E. Reservoir Project this summer. Harvest planned to start in the fall. The next sale is coming up.

District is working on the Miller –West Fisher objection. Nate asked for more stakeholder involvement in OU-3.

Three River- Kirsten Kaiser reported the district was working on the Oly Project Final EIS. This document is 1100 pages with three sales planned. Starry-Goat is just beginning in the Callahan Drainage. There are lots of regeneration units in the sale. There is a possibility of working with the State. 12,000 acres are planned for burning. Scoping expected by end of July.

Eureka- Bryan Donner said that the Young Dodge ROD was appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court based on grizzly bear effects from large openings. Other projects include: Galton Vegetation and Fuels project, Ten Lakes Travel Management, Pinkam/Meadow and 2015 fire salvage. A field trip is scheduled with the stakeholder project team on May 19.

Cabinet- John Gubel reported that projects on their district included: Helwick, Dry Creek Timber Sale(possibly a 2014 Farm Bill project), Elk Rice and the Dry Creek Sediment Reduction Project. The 2015 fires have slowed down the district's progress on all projects.

Jessie brought the Douglas fir study to our attention that the YVFC has worked on with Mike Giesey and Mike Jacobs from the FS for the last 16 years. This was a study of survival following fires. A presentation will be made on July 14 at the Supervisors Office at 9:30. A field trip will follow.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15. Next meeting to be announced at a later time.

Ed Levert, Secretary/Treasurer

