

September 2016

Hi Folks,

The executive board and team members have been busy over the summer and I thought we should update y'all on what's been going on.

It looks like we won't get a third quarter meeting in and will need to plan for our usual 4th quarter meeting in early December. I'll be sending an email soon sharing some choices for those December dates so we can get the meeting set.

Common ground committee work: As most of you know, we've begun our Phase II part of our common ground work which included creating a website, outreach material, maps and putting together a presentation for our open houses. We're almost finished with that task and hope to begin the open houses by the 2nd week of October. We will have open houses in Eureka, Libby, Troy, Noxon and Thompson Falls. We'll also be available for any special interest groups who might want us to come present to them in greater details such as rod and gun clubs, chambers, etc. We updated the Lincoln County commissioners on the 14th and were well received and we will be meeting with the Sanders County commissioners as well.

Several of the participating members have made contributions to support production of outreach materials similar to how we contributed to the MBG study. A budget and contribution list will be available next week.

Chas, Mark and I attended the Western Governors Association workshop in Missoula this week. Chas was on a panel representing the KFSC and Mark moderated one of the panel discussions. They both did an outstanding job. Mike Peterson was there representing the Coleville coalition. Below are two articles about the workshop that you might find interesting. You can go to the WGA website and find details about the workshop. And I think you can find videos of the panel discussions. The USFS was well represented and Tom Tidwell joined us as well.

[http://missoulian.com/news/local/forest-stakeholders-round-up-montana-ideas-at-workshop/article\\_83780fd1-4df7-59f0-aaba-0fbb14a70395.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](http://missoulian.com/news/local/forest-stakeholders-round-up-montana-ideas-at-workshop/article_83780fd1-4df7-59f0-aaba-0fbb14a70395.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

[http://missoulian.com/news/local/forest-service-chief-looks-to-partnerships-for-forest-management/article\\_5af508ac-65fc-5ebf-97cc-bee77f48d7ec.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](http://missoulian.com/news/local/forest-service-chief-looks-to-partnerships-for-forest-management/article_5af508ac-65fc-5ebf-97cc-bee77f48d7ec.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

All collaboratives stated the need to have better communication and consistency within the USFS across the board in how to participate in the collaborative process. We all felt that active participation from the agency side could be improved. The WO and RO seem to have a better grasp of how the process should be working and that that same understanding needs to trickle down to the SO, line officers and the ID teams. The agency needs to do a better job at addressing the transition of leadership so collaboratives don't lose momentum. ID team members need to be trained and encouraged/directed to see the value of active participation in the collaborative process since those folks are the ones who tend to stay longer on each forest. They also need to understand how groups like ours are assets to their work. We asked for more training at that level. We also asked that someone from the RO come to our

December meeting to do a workshop with us and the USFS on the collaborative process in general and specifically address the Farm Bill and other authorities so we can all have a more clear picture of how it works. Mo Bookwalter from the State will join in on that discussion as well as she and Tera work closely with the Forest in Focus and Good Neighbor programs. We hope this will help clarify the process for us and the KNF staff.

Chas asked Tom Tidwell to please tell us what he needs for forest reform because if he doesn't, something will be legislated that's going to hurt them instead of help them. (Chas, you might want to expand on that statement a bit more as you said it a lot better than I just did) Everyone expressed frustration in getting work done on the ground in a timely fashion.

Mark, Chas and Mike, please add all of those highlights that I've forgotten. I feel that the WGA is going to be very helpful to us going forward.

I visited with Tester and Daines staff letting them know about our upcoming October meetings.

To recap:

- Sanders County commissioner presentation coming up in the near future
- Open houses start mid-October - we'll let you know and will be asking you to be there to help with the outreach
- Dec membership meeting to be scheduled shortly.

Executive board, please add anything that I've left out.

Stay tuned.

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