

## Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition General Membership Meeting 1/23/19

Present: Robyn King, Jane Jacoby, Paul McKenzie, Jessie Grossman, Mike Peterson, Bill Martin, Phil Hough, Annie Gassmann, Scott Matthias, Ed Levert, Doug Ferrell, Grete Gansauer, Nick Reins

### **Membership/Admin Information**

We want people to be engaged. If people want to be members or actively involved they need to fill out membership forms.

Robyn, Paul, and Grete met with new commissioner Josh Letcher and he may be able to help us generate interest in Eureka area. Scott Matthias and Jennifer Nelson are also interested in being involved.

There is a list serv through Google Groups anyone can join. Contact Jessie or Robyn or another member of the board to get on this list.

Committees/boards include the executive board, common ground committee, legislative committee, PNT committee, and project teams for each district.

### **Community Outreach**

Grete shared list of supporters for 2018. Total 66 supporters including local businesses and organizations. We received a letter of support from the Libby city council and recently made a presentation to the Troy city council. KFSC executive board will also meet with Lincoln County Commissioners next week. Grete sent a letter to supporters for the New Year and invited them to the general meeting. Grete suggested we do a brewery night to interface with the public, answer questions, and gain supporters and member.

The Libby Area Trails Group is gaining steam and could be an opportunity for KFSC to engage with them.

### **Forest Reform Workshop**

Jim Buirchfield with facilitate it. Mark Peck is putting it together and has invited KFSC to participate. Will review all new authorities and how they crosswalk with existing authorities. Possible NEPA workshop for government, NGO's, clubs, etc. USFS will be involved.

### **Team Updates**

Three Rivers: Working on Black Ram project and it has been challenging. Yaak residents are involved beyond KFSC membership. Some want to comment on their own. WE don't know if the timeline will change due to the shutdown. We are using the silv. Guidelines to inform our comments. A lot of discussions of warm/moist sites and what it means in the context of climate change.

Cabinet: Ranger Gubel is very interested in the guidelines. Strong, diverse team working together. Current project is called Purple Martin. A lot of regen harvest, overstocked doug fir. Have had field trips. The project includes an ATV trail and recommendation to close a trail designated for motorized use and make it non-motorized. The FS is probably going to separate out the recreation and timber portions of the project because of difficulty finding common ground and move forward with the timber portion. The

Cub Fire Salvage project was supported by KFSC and occurred in July. The BMU 4 project is a challenging situation that hopefully can be resolved.

Libby: Ripley project-we wanted to have a field trip in the fall but couldn't make it happen. Ed listed off a long and diverse list of people participating from the area. The project is 90,000 acres. KFSC submitted comments on the proposed action but it was difficult because the team didn't have a chance to get into the field.

Rexford district is working on gaining membership to participate in projects.

### **Legislative Committee**

The goal is to be ready and have agreements in place so when opportunities arise we can take advantage of them. Current content includes improving efficiencies and modifying them to apply to collaboratives and collaborative projects. Legislation would also be required for wilderness and recreation designations. Next steps are to make a recommendation to the board and put the legislative recs up to a vote. Then do public outreach. KFSC has been informally keeping the commissioners and MT delegation informed. The committee plans to roll out the language by the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter meeting.

### **Common Ground Committee**

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho approached KFSC about the PNT and the need to look at the route through MT as has been done in Idaho. KFSC took a position of supporting a robust collaborative process for the final trail route and management. KTOI asked if KFSC would take on a collaborative process in MT. The board agreed to form an exploratory committee. We want to make sure it's a good process with a complete analysis. If anyone is interested in joining this committee please contact Robyn. The first meeting will be in April. The University of Montana may be involved.

Nick gave an update on Hecla's activities in the area including restoring the Troy mine and reclamation in the Cabinets as well as the Montanore and Rock Creek processes.

We will schedule the next meeting once the government is open. It will be a working meeting with the 5-year plan.

Notes taken by //Jessie Grossman//